

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 March mystery member is actually two persons. One, is Courtney Cuny. She received her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development and is now working in a daycare center. The other is Merrill House, who received his Bachelor's Degree in Counseling and is now working at Harbor Lights as a Chemical Dependency Counselor

Our mystery member for April is a reading teacher. 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



"Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."
-Jeremiah 6:16

Prayer for April

God, we pray today for our heads of state. Give them wisdom and discernment as they move about their day, and grant them the courage to seek help in their own spiritual journey. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

<u>Board</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Trustees	Tuesday – 10 th	6:15
Christian Ed	Sunday - 15 th	11:30
Diaconate	Wednesday – 18 th	6:00
Church Council	Wednesday – 18 th	8:00

Seminary Courses

If you or someone you know may be considering becoming equipped for ministry, perhaps the courses being offered via Northeastern Seminary's extension program is the way to get started. Informational meetings about the offerings being made in Syracuse will be held on April 4th and June 26th. To RSVP or request information, contact John Anderson at **585-594-6832** or at **Anderson_JP@nes.edu**

"Forgiveness does not mean 'forgive and forget.' It stares the beast in the eye, names the hurt, and refuses to return it, seeking not to punish but to heal."
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Food Sense

Food \$en\$e is a program operated by the Food Bank of Central New York designed to increase self-sufficiency by helping people stretch their food dollars. Their quantity purchasing power allows them to purchase at low prices and, in turn, pass those savings along to their customers.

Anyone who needs to stretch their food dollar can participate. The cost per monthly package of food which contains ten to twelve items is \$15.50, and includes fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, and staples. It even includes recipes that use the items in that month's package.

For more information, call 437-1899, go to www.FoodBankCNY.org, or visit the Downstairs Scotty.

Witness Articles

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

Holy Week



The week preceding Easter is known as Holy Week. Because the differences among the various Christian traditions are of human creation, what better time to acknowledge that by worshiping with our Christian neighbors. There are several opportunities for us to unite with some of our neighboring congregations as we observe the most significant events in all of human history.

Maundy Thursday – April 5th

7:00 pm – we are host church

Good Friday – April 6th

7:00 pm – Caughdenoy United Methodist

Easter Sunrise – April 8th

6:30 am – Goettel Park

ABW Women's News



April – Date TBA

Nursing Home visit – date: Grace Fuller

May – Date TBA

Spring Association dinner, Central Square hosting.

May 13th – Mother's Day

Church World Service Blanket & Tools Offering

ABC/DYS Mission Advocates

Our 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 as a special guest. Stan served as a missionary in El Salvador for ten years. After fifteen years at American Baptist Churches' Mission Center in Valley Forge, Stan has been traveling the world teaching theology classes to Baptist pastors and educators.

Joining Stan as a guest will be **Rev. Jeff Johnson**, Evangelism and New Church Planting staff person with American Baptist Home Mission Societies as our key resource leaders. Jeff, who also serves as Senior Pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Hurricane, WV will speak on the topic, "Keeping our Churches Alive and Vibrant."

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes Friday dinner, Saturday morning coffee/tea & lunch, and program expenses. Saturday only is \$22. Registration forms are available at the church office. Questions/Information: Mary Schwarz: 469-4236 ext 10, or MSchwarz@abc-nys.org.

"If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there would be peace."

- John Lennon

CLEAN-UP DAY - APRIL 14

Even light-weight Winters like the one we just had will leave us with grounds and buildings that look like nobody loves them. But we do! We love God's creation and we love the building in which we worship God and plan the many ways we can serve God.

Our Trustees know that working together helps bring fellowship – and that many hands make light work. So, for the benefit of our church property and for our members, they have designated Saturday, April 14th as Clean-Up Day. Festivities begin at 9:00.

Besides arriving early, please bring whatever you think would be helpful to cleaning up our grounds.

Moms' Group

The Mom's group began in November 2007 as the inspiration of three ladies, Joan Haury, Delores Olin, and Genie Rotundo after our church retreat at VanderKamp. At that time, we had several recent mothers or mothers to be and felt a need to support them in some way. We began by naming our group the "New Mom's Group" but have since renamed ourselves the Mom's Group because our moms are now more or less veteran moms.

Our mission still remains the same, to develop a community of support for each mom, an open forum where she feels welcomed, cared for and nurtured, an opportunity to share with each other the unique joys & concerns that they may have and to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ through devotions and stories. We older ladies, Joan and I, are here to listen and encourage but to also allow the moms to come up with helpful suggestions and support for one another. What we have found is that the moms group goes way beyond the walls of our church. Many of the members visit with each other, have play dates, and support one another regularly.

Thanks to Joan for putting the Mom's Group in the modern age with its own Facebook connection. A special thanks to our new member, Margaret Heitmann, who has taken over the craft part of the

group and provides a creative moment the children share with their moms. We have made chocolate, decorated cookies, and made Valentines in the past few months, thanks to her creative initiative

At our March meeting, we had one of our largest gatherings; seven moms, seven children, two babysitters (two wonderful home-schooled girls) and me. Joan was out of town on vacation. We missed you Joan!

If you know of anyone who may find a group like this helpful please let me know. We are always open for new members! Genie Rotundo 675-8646

Sexual Abuse Prevention

The disturbing and traumatic rise in physical and sexual abuse of children has claimed the attention of the nation and our society. The First Baptist Church has an obligation to the children who come here to protect them and keep them safe.

On Wednesday, April 11th at 6:30 we will be hosting an informational seminar on sexual abuse. All young adults & adults who are working with children or would like to work with children, whether it is Sunday school, Junior Church, Nursery duties, or Vacation Bible School are asked to attend this **mandated** instructional meeting.

Please contact Genie Rotundo, Sunday School Superintendent if you have any question 675-8646.

RUMMAGE SALE

May is drawing near and plans are shaping up for our 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.

Prayer Chain 2012

We will try something new this year! Instead of one long chain, we will have two shorter ones. This should help increase the likelihood that more or all prayer chain volunteers will receive the prayer request call. When any person receives a request for prayer, call either Pastor Bud or Delores Olin. They will notify each other and then call the next person on their chain. Remember, if you are prayer chain participant and cannot speak to the next person in your chain, leave a message and continue down the list until you speak to someone in person.

Prayer Chain Participants

Pastor Bud Adams 668-2138
Lynn Bort 317-3864
Art Brooks 668-7064
Genie Rotundo 675-8646 (home) 952-5424 (cell)
Mavis Cooter 452-4693
Diana Baxter 668-7296

Delores Olin 668-2719
Carol Chamberlin 676-7461
Grace Shetler 427-6875
Phyllis Smith 668-6478
Roseann Prouty 668-0253
Lynda Heer 668-1304
Dail & Rich Mizerski 675-3271

In addition to our telephone prayer chain, Pastor Bud maintains an email prayer chain so our prayer requests can reach a wider base of praying persons. If you would like to be added to either chain, please contact Rich Mizerski or the church office.

ACOLYTE TRAINING

We are planning to give our younger children the opportunity to serve at Sunday morning worship services by becoming acolytes. An acolyte is part of the "Worship Team", lighting candles before the beginning of the service, and, after the Benediction, extinguishing the candles and taking the flame down the aisle and into the vestibule. Acolytes must be 10 years of age or older and will serve on a rotating schedule, just like worship and youth leaders. There will be a training session

announced once we have a sufficient number of volunteers.

If your child is interested, please contact Pastor Bud (668-2138) or Rich Mizerski (675-3271) as soon as possible.

Rich Mizerski
Board of Deacons

CWS Kits

Church World Service Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world. In the past, our members have assembled and contributed many emergency kits. Did you know that **CWS School Kits** and **Emergency Clean-up Buckets** are especially needed this month?

School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Emergency Clean-up Buckets enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

For details on what the kits contain, please click on the CWS Kits link under "News Flashes" on our web site **fbcs.com** or contact the church office for a printed description.

IS COLLEGE IN YOUR FUTURE?

Jim Layhew's College Planning Seminar is aimed at assisting 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. 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 look for in their prospective students. Go to www.LayhewCollegePlanning.com for more information.

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

Tick Alert

This is going to be a Summer for all of us to be very cautious about ticks. Carried by chipmunks, squirrels, and mice - and pets - they will drop off their hosts in grass and shrubs as they complete their life cycle. That is where people can very easily and unwittingly become their next host.

We are advised to wear light-colored clothing so ticks can be seen easily; have feet, ankles, and legs covered; spray *clothing* with tick repellent (not your skin); and to give yourself a thorough check when returning from outdoors so you can rid yourself of these pests. They carry five known diseases, none of which we have defenses for.

Camping News

Young campers! You will not want to miss the Youth Retreat at Pathfinder Lodge on the week-end of May 18th through 20th. Rev. Ware of Webster Baptist Church will be the speaker and the music will be provided by the Manlius Praise Band.

This retreat is open to all who are in grades 7-12. The cost for the week-end is only \$30 per person and includes meals Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. Registrations are due by May 9th.

For more information, please contact Grace Shetler or the church office.

FAMILY-STYLE SUNDAY SCHOOL

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:

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.

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 – Nancey Flower	9 – Kathleen DeFeudis
11 – Barb Bailey	17 – Larry Boyce
20 – Rich Mizerski	20 – Art Brooks
24 – Stewart Smith	27 – Dakota Gillette

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

2 – Joe & Alice Silva
Don & Nancy Flower