

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 April mystery member is Kristine Speers. Kristine has been subbing in local schools on a day-by-day basis – until last month when she accepted a substitute position for the remainder of the school year.

Our mystery member for May is someone who has converted their vehicle’s engine to run on used vegetable oil. 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; Delores Olin; Ken House; Hazel Schaff; Steve Springer; Bob Chamberlin; 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



“For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

- Isaiah 55:12

Prayer for May

O God, you are ever-present and merciful to people on the move. We thank you for the blessings of our own immigrant heritage. Help us as people of faith to call boldly for justice in our immigration laws. May our call be heard and echoed by our legislators and our president. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board	Date	Time
Christian Ed	Sunday – 6 th	11:30
Trustees	Tuesday – 13 th	6:15
Diaconate	Tuesday – 13 th	7:00
Executive	Tuesday – 13 th	8:00

The Parsonage

Our parsonage property will soon become the property of our neighbor, the Central Square Fire Department. Before that changeover takes place, we will hold a special service on **June 17th** as we de-commission that property. Invitations are being sent out to former Pastors and their family members to spend the day with us and share their stories and memories from their days when our parsonage was their home.

If you have any stories to share, please write them down and then share them with us that day. There will be more details in our June Witness.

Witness Articles

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

Church Projects

There is a poster in our Fellowship Hall that lists a number of projects your Board of Trustees feel need attention. Some have people signed up to help with completing them and some do not. If you feel you can assist with any of them, please add your name. When there are enough people involved, then a date, or dates, will be established to make them happen.

This list was posted as a way many of us could donate our time and talent and not have unreachable expenses associated with them in order to keep this Lord's House in shape. Thank you for reading this and please indicate where you'd like to help!

ABW Women's News



May – Date TBA

Spring Association dinner, Central Square hosting.

May, Mother's Day

Church World Service Blanket & Tools Offering

THANK YOU JOE SMITH

Sunday, April 29th was “Joe Smith Day” here. Joe Smith is the Eagle Scout whose Eagle Project is now gracing our kitchen, youth room, and utility room floors. Joe was required to raise funds, procure materials, recruit help, and coordinate all activities related to the installation of the beautiful new flooring in these rooms. We honored Joe for his contribution to our church during our Spotlight Moment and, following our time of worship, we

had a cake and punch reception to celebrate his project.

We are learning first hand the value of having a strong scouting program in our community. We hope Joe is learning the value of having a church that promotes the love of neighbor.

Farewell, Kyle and Joy Funke

It was with deep sadness that we bid farewell and Godspeed to our dear friends, Kyle and Joy Funke. Joy's employment in Syracuse came to an end and the offer she received is to use her skills in Geographic Information Systems for a firm in Wyoming. Kyle will be looking for construction-oriented work and he may even find an opportunity to hunt and fish out there.

During their stay here, Joy and Kyle made deep and personal connections. Such bonds make distant separations difficult yet they are the proof that the Spirit of God brings us many gifts. Bittersweet were those years - bitter as we all mourned the heartbreaking loss of Deegan to cancer at the tender age of 6, and sweet that we were drawn even closer to one another.

Our prayers are that Kyle and Joy continue to be a light that shines wherever there is darkness and are a blessing to all they meet.

Youth Retreat

May 18-20 are the dates for the upcoming **Youth Retreat at Pathfinder Lodge**. To register, call Keith Griffin at 518-747-4838 or email him at GriffinK@localnet.com by **May 12th**. Cost is \$30 per person. For more information, please speak with Grace Shetler (427-6875).

Hospitality does not seek power over others. Cruelty does. Cruelty deliberately causes harm, especially by crushing a person's self-respect. The opposite of cruelty is hospitality – a sharing of power.

Richard M. Gula in To Walk Together Again

To Your Health



Do you or does someone you know need yet another reason to get your weight under control? If so, this may help. A new study indicates that obese women are more likely to give birth to children who develop autism than are normal-weight women. Such children are also more likely to experience developmental delays and be somewhat learning impaired.

Although the findings establish correlations and not causes, the fact that obesity, diabetes, and autism are all on the rise is an attention-getter. And the rate of that relation is huge: obese women are 67% more likely to have a child that develops an autism spectrum disorder. Although a mother who is diabetic during her pregnancy does seem to have an effect on the likelihood for her child to have developmental delays, diabetes seems to have no link to autism.

Reported in "Autism linked to obesity in pregnancy", Nathan Seppa, Science News online April 9, 2012

Parsonage Property Update

Some advancements are being made with details re: the sale of the Parsonage Property. A survey has been completed and, shortly, that paperwork will be in the hands of Attorney David Russell. Approvals will then need to come from the Village of Central Square and the State Attorney General's offices. An initial closing date of July 5, 2012 has been proposed but we're not sure if that will happen so we'll keep you posted.

Meanwhile, a list of potential items to be sold or removed that some have expressed interest in from the parsonage and within the church has been proposed. Some items have already been spoken for and others have not. Here is that proposed list and their status now:

*Windows

Some or all of the porch windows are of interest to 1 family. We plan to have all of the newest windows removed and saved for sale

*Doors

*Floor level Kitchen Cabinets

Potential use in the church

*Hardwood Floors

*Upstairs floor boards

1 person has expressed an interest in some of these

*Stained glass windows

At least 2 people have expressed an interest an interest. Also some interest in using some/all in the church is noted

*Refrigerator

*Stove

*Paneling covering stairwell to upstairs

*Ceiling Fan

Currently in dining room and will be removed for Pastor Bud

*Outdoor plants and flowers

*Old fellowship hall tables

12 total. 6 spoken for. \$20.00 each

If anyone is interested in anything listed or knows of other parsonage items that might be of interest, please let Dion Haury or any of the Trustees know. There is an "Exit/Remembrance Time" planned for June 17th immediately following our Worship Service.

Summer Book Study

From time-to-time, we have had a book study during the Summer months. This Summer we will study the book You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving the Church...and Rethinking Faith by David Kinnaman beginning in mid-June. There is much we can learn from this author. He has collaborated with the Barna Institute on several books relating to Christianity and American culture, including unChristian.

There's a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to participate. Pastor Bud will place an order so each person can have a copy of this book. Single copies are about \$12.00. Volume discounts are available for this book, so please be sure to indicate your desire when you add your name to the list.

Four Sundays in June

June is usually a special month for us as we celebrate many transitions, and this year is no exception. You'll see more about these events in next month's Witness.

June 3 – Teacher Recognition
June 10 – Youth Sunday
June 17 – Parsonage Decommissioning
June 24 – Graduation Sunday

LORD'S PRAYER STUDY

On February 26th, Pastor Bud asked our congregants to contemplate the meaning of Lord's prayer and then to write it down in their own words. As was pointed out that day, many words and phrases that we often hear – and even repeat – in church-related activities have either changed in meaning or have no meaning at all in today's lexicon. Yet we continue with them, satisfied with guessing what such words might mean.

A few did this exercise and turned their results into the church office. It was suggested that delving into the Lord's Prayer in a Bible study format would be helpful.

Our Thursday evening Bible study has been digging into the Gospel of Luke, which contains an early version of this prayer. For all who wish to participate, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Along with your name, please state which Thursday evening you would like this to begin and our group will return to that portion of Luke. Just be warned in advance, this will take more than just one session.

LUNCH BUNCH



Many have been waiting a long time for this, but our Lunch Bunch will be up and running – or, eating – once again. If you are available at 11:45 on Tuesday, May 8th, come to Fellowship Hall for

fellowship and a good meal. Donations are welcome.

Duck Race

InterFaith Works of Central New York will hold its annual Duck Race on Saturday, June 9th at Syracuse's Inner Harbor. This event, which is sponsored by IFW's Community-Wide Dialogue to End Racism, will begin at 12:00 and continue till 4:00. Those ducks are slow, but they're not *that* slow. This will give you time to enjoy many of other entertaining events while you're at the Inner Harbor, including music, dance exhibitions, food, and more. So, mark your calendar and plan to enjoy the afternoon in Syracuse – and sponsor a duck or more.

FINANCIAL CONCERN

At the last Board of Trustees meeting on April 10, 2012 we were faced, once again, with a need to approve bills for operating expenses that far exceeded income received to date. The net balance in our checking account at the end of March was ONLY \$28.97! Anticipated expenses for April were \$4,650.00!! So, we needed to authorize our Treasurer, Marcus Rotundo to use available funds included in our Savings and Vision Funds if needed to pay current expenses. Additionally, through that same period, we were not able to pay any of our Benevolence commitment. However, since that time and thanks to generous giving in our Easter Offering, that portion of our budget is now up-to-date!!

We are now approaching summer months when giving usually falls off because many of us have vacation time, etc. Expenses still continue, so we all need to seriously consider keeping our commitment going so that our financial status does not lag behind any more.

I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

-Elie Wiesel

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

The Constitutional Review Committee held an initial meeting on April 16, 2012 and began a process of looking at our current document and how it fits our current needs and use. Some of the discussion so far has included: the need to separate it as 2 documents – Constitution and By Laws; whether or not to include the Church Covenant (in any case, the newest one would need to be used; potential for considering a one-board system; a need for input from everyone so that whatever is presented includes items representing the majority thought from those who have shared their views; concern about what has been happening when we “waive” constitutional requirements to get approvals and have difficulties filling positions as defined in our current constitution.

If you have suggestions for the committee, please let any of us know. The committee consists of: Pastor Bud, Lynda Heer, Randi Driesen, Mark Heitmann, Joan Haury and Don Haury . The next scheduled meeting of this committee is Sunday, May 20th immediately following worship and our fellowship time.

Visitors from China

Enjoy an evening with visitors from Wuhan, China at Bartlett Baptist Church on Wednesday, May 30th, at 7:00. Bartlett Baptist, located in Rome, is hosting a visit by three ordained Chinese Christians. Among their several ministries, each is involved with Zhongnan Theological Seminary in various capacities.

For more information or to RSVP, please call Vick and Pathfinder Ministries at 315-469-4236 ext 11. An informational flyer is posted in our hallway.

RUMMAGE SALE

Cleaning out your closet, attic, or basement? There are just a few more days until the doors open for our **ABWomen’s Rummage and Bake Sale**. 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. Please contact **Lynda Heer** at **668-1304** for more details.

And, of course, everyone is invited to come in to browse, shop, and find some freshly-baked goods to take home. As always, proceeds will be used to help fund the many mission projects of our ABWomen.

Dates and times:

Friday, May 4th 3:00 to 7:00

Saturday, May 5th 9:00 to 2:00

Directory Update

Larry Boyce is now staying with is daughter, Cindi Teague. Please make this change to your directory:

**4386 Gregate Ct. SW
Concord, NC 28027**

(704) 795-9784

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Hazel Schaff
5 – Aaliyah Ripley; Ben Springer
6 – Rich Bean; Lynn Cuny, Jr.
7 – Hunter Gillette 8 – Nathan Ayre
10 – Kyle Funke 12 – Ken House
28 – Ron Myers

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

29 – Sam & Lynda Heer
31 – Paul & Daisey Ayre

“Patience is not waiting passively until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let’s be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.”

- Henri J. M. Nouwen