

CHRISTIAN CARRIER

January 2009



**First Baptist Church
408 Pleasant Street
Manlius, NY 13104**

Church Office Telephone: (315) 682-8941

Website: www.firstbaptist-manlius.org

Church email: fbcman@twcny.rr.com

Pastor Leon's email: fbcman-pastor@twcny.rr.com

From Your Pastor ~

My family has always done things a bit out of the ordinary. For instance, my siblings and our families generally celebrate Christmas on New Year's Eve.

This year our "out of the ordinary" trait took another "out of the ordinary" twist. The next generation (all in their 20s and early 30s) began to communicate, in a few emails before Thanksgiving, their dissatisfaction about our traditional Christmas gift exchange.

They were saying things like, "I don't need more stuff" or "I don't like all the expectations and anxiety about what to buy." The proposal was that instead of buying gifts for each other, we donate money to help people in need.

Post-Thanksgiving dinner conversation grew pretty intense as people shared their ideas and listened to understand what others have experienced. In the end, we dropped the gift exchange and agreed to be generous toward others.

On New Year's Eve, in place of the gift exchange, we'll each tell how we donated to help someone in need and why we chose what we did. It will be interesting to learn what is important to each person.

Now apparently our "out of the ordinary" is not so unique. I've been hearing this kind of talk in various Christian circles. But I hadn't imagined that apparently my family has been drawn into a conspiracy. There are actually people planning and plotting to change our attachment to a consumer-driven Christmas.

I saw this in its most blatant form when someone pointed me to the web site of an organization called, "Advent Conspiracy". Check it out at adventconspiracy.org.

One article I read stated, "Advent Conspiracy is an international movement 'restoring the scandal of Christmas by worshipping Jesus through compassion, not consumption.'" The organization's mission, according to its website, is to encourage people to worship more, spend less, give more and love all. "Christmas was meant to change the world. It still can." is one of the group's mottos.

The web site suggests that Americans spend an average of \$450 billion a year on Christmas. Some have estimated that \$10 billion could solve the global water crisis.

The web site suggests that people buy one less present this year and in its place, donate to help people in need. The words sounded a lot like our Thanksgiving family discussion. Hmm! I've got some questions to ask of members of this younger generation on New Year's Eve.

Faithfully,

Leon

p.s. Rosey and I send our best wishes to each of you that this Christmas season will be filled with joy and peace for you and your family.

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for ~

Wanda Baker Kermit Breed, Jr.
Loretta Beuchert Mike Adams
Ruth Costello Virginia Noble
Courtney H. Connor
Virginia, Carol Davenport's aunt Zulauf
Ann and Gene Spradling Levi & Paige
Russell and Mary Jane Davis Helen Jenks
Marian Pollock Mike McCartney
Florence Cowles, Barbara Brace's mother
Marilyn Fowler Mills Nehemiah Team
Peggy, Marg Kerr's sister & Peggy's son,
Greg Tom Conley

PRAISES

*Dear Secret Pal ~ Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas scarf! It is so pretty and will make such a nice addition to my holiday wardrobe. Blessings to you and have a wonderful Christmas!
Love, Mary Jane Davis*

~ ~ ~

Colleen Guynup would like to thank her Secret Pal for the cute angel. Thanks for the Dove dark chocolate, too. They are my favorite!

~ ~ ~

ABW Ministries ~ "Thank you for the very generous and delicious fruit plate you sent to Ken & I. We are going to enjoy it so much and appreciate your kindness." Sincerely, Ken and Ada

~ ~ ~

Do you have a prayer request
or praise to share?

Please call Elaine in the Church office
(682-8941) by Wednesday morning.

ATTENTION

On **Sunday, January 11th**, during the
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, we are
blessed to have:

The "Belle Air" Bell Trio

Please come and enjoy this very talented
group. You won't want to miss this!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone – Garnet; Flower – Carnation

2. Tony Gaudio
3. George Davenport
5. Fred Goddard
Judy Morningstar
7. Selena Short
8. Jeffrey Loope
10. Frank Adams
12. Elwin Richardson
13. Lauren Mapstone
Rich Griffith
20. Ann Morales
21. Ellen Butler
23. Wendy Mapstone
24. Erman Ferris
27. Tim Endy
28. McKenna Oley
29. Pete Shevchuk
31. Dick Barber
Lucy Shephard

ANNIVERSARIES


20. Linda & David Tessier



You are very special to us, and we
want to remember your special
dates. Please contact the church
office if you have additions to our
Birthday/Anniversary list.

Thank you ☺

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY (Cont'd)



February Newsletter
items are due:
Thursday, January 15th
You may email the items to
fbcman@twcny.rr.com or place them in
the secretary's mail slot. Thank you☺

UNITY FELLOWSHIP

Unity Fellowship for December will be on **Wednesday, New Year's Eve, December 31st, 6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the Chapel for appetizers, and there will be a Progressive Dinner and Game Night (Bingo/Bunko).

The committee is Art and Shirley Mapstone, Guynups, Wares, and Richardsons. **All are invited!**

January's meeting will be on **Saturday, January 24th, 6:30 p.m.** in the Chapel. The Salvation Army will be doing a presentation. This is a potluck event; please bring a dish to pass. Jim Mitscher and Erika Buchanan are in charge. **All are invited!**

FINANCIAL NOTES

This is your friendly reminder to submit all donations for 2008 to the church no later than **Wednesday, December 31, 2008.** All bank deposits will be made on December 31st. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. -Carole Guynup, Financial Secretary and Barbara Richardson, Treasurer



ABW Ministries

There will be no meeting in January. A White Cross Work meeting is scheduled for February 9th in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m. The committee is Ruth Ware and Annette Andrusyszyn. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided. Fifty (50) bandages will be rolled for hospitals in the Congo.

We would like more UPC codes found on the back of a variety of Campbell's products. These labels go to Springbrook to buy materials for the schools, etc. There is a box for UPC codes and cancelled stamps in the Narthex. We have not been able to find a place for our cancelled stamps at this time. Suggestions are welcome.

Scholarships are available to High School Graduates and continuing College students from American Baptist Women's Ministries through the ABW Ministries Scholarship Fund. Applications are available in the church office.

Due date: **March 1st**

SAM'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Now is the time to give Barbara Richardson a call to receive a membership to Sam's Club through First Baptist Church. The fee is \$35. There are 4 openings (first come/first served). So, don't delay and give Barbara a call at 632-4384.

2009 CALENDARS

New calendars will soon be available in the Narthex for you to take home. Thank you, Schepp Family Funeral Homes, for these calendars.

BOARD NEWS

MISSION NEWS

RMMO OFFERING

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) for the month of December raised **\$850.00** as of December 14, 2008.

A goal of **\$1,200** had been set.

SAMARITAN CENTER

Wednesdays – serve at 3:00 out by 5:00 at 310 Montgomery Street in Syracuse. Call Tom Shephard at 655-8448 for more details.

FM FOOD PANTRY

Here is the list of items needed at this time for the FM Food Pantry. Please place all items in the shopping cart by the elevator ~ thank you☺

Canned Soup (not tomato), Canned Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Toilet Paper, Baked Beans and Cookie Mix.

A THANK YOU FROM SUE LANDAS, DIRECTOR OF THE F-M COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

"I would like to thank each and every one of you who made this past year at the F-M Community Food Pantry a success. A success as defined by the number of our neighbors who struggle to make ends meet that we were able to assist. As the economy has worsened and our numbers have grown, we have still been very fortunate to provide for our clients due to your generosity. We provide not only food they put on their tables, but assistance in paying their bills, buying their medications and taking care of their families, while allowing them dignity in their struggle. Thank you to all of our volunteers who work at the Pantry, to our local churches, to the community leaders who support us,, to the BSA, GSA, Chamber of Commerce, the F-M Schools and all of the individuals who made donations, whether it be one can of soup or a check for \$1,000.00. All of it is appreciated equally. With sincerest thanks,

–Sue Landas

MITTEN, SCARF & HAT TREE

The Mission Board extends their sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who so generously supported the Samaritan Center hat, scarf and mitten tree. You are all so wonderful and generous in your giving. So many heads and hands will be warmed by not only these items, but knowing the warmth of the people who gave them! Thank you hardly seems enough to say to all of you, but THANK YOU!!! God bless one and all for your love, Your Mission Board

KAREN BURMESE REFUGEE FAMILIES

The Mission Board offered yet another project to you to help welcome two Karen Burmese refugee families. The challenge was presented to you rather late in December, but in true First Baptist fashion, you embraced the project and donated generously so that we could share God's love with these two families and their children who live in Syracuse to give them a warm winter welcome. We thank you for responding with gifts and help! Blessings to you, Your Mission Board

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2009

**The meeting will follow the
11:00 a.m. Worship Service.
(Lunch and meeting will be
in the gym)**

**Please email all Annual Reports
to: fbcman@twcny.rr.com or
place in the secretary's mail slot
no later than
Monday, January 5th**

WORSHIP SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. Children's Service ~ Pastor Leon

7:30 p.m. Family Service ~ Pastor Leon

11:00 p.m. Communion Service
Rev. John Buskey



"Merry Christmas"



Sunday, December 28th

There will be no 8:30 Service today

9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

~ ~ ~

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

"Happy New Year"

Sunday, January 4th ~ Communion Sunday

**Sunday, January 11th ~ "Belle Air" Bell Trio will be our
guests at the 11:00 am
Worship Service**

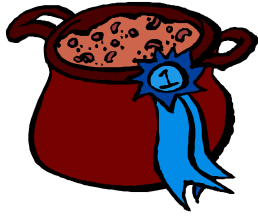
Pastor Leon will begin a three-part series:

"Empowered for God's Kingdom"

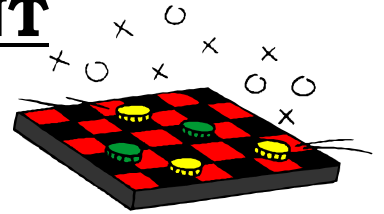
The series is based on the major themes of our
Nehemiah Envisioning process.

Sunday, January 25th ~ Annual Meeting

HIGHLAND FOREST EVENT



JANUARY 18, 2009



6:00-11:00 p.m. at the Lodge

Don't miss the Annual Highland Forest Event!!
There is no school on Monday!

Come one come all. Bring your family and any friends who would like to share the evening with you and our Church family. Bring any board game or other game you think will add to the fun. Join us for great food, fellowship, sleigh rides, hot cocoa around the fireplace and a night of fun.

Please email or call Deb Oley if you would like to bring anything to share. No ideas? Please check with me.

Also can you guess who I am??
Between now and then please email me at mollyoley@aol.com a little know or obscure fact about you that your church family most likely does not know about you. I will compile these facts on a piece of poster board and you can see how many people you "recognize" by their life tidbits. I may call you to participate if I don't hear from you so start thinking!

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Youth News

Youth Group meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

For youth in Grades 6th - 12th

Upcoming Events:

January 4th – We don't want to let go of Christmas yet! It's too important of a day to limit it! So...we'll be playing some festive fun games & a famous Elf might help us with our discussion!

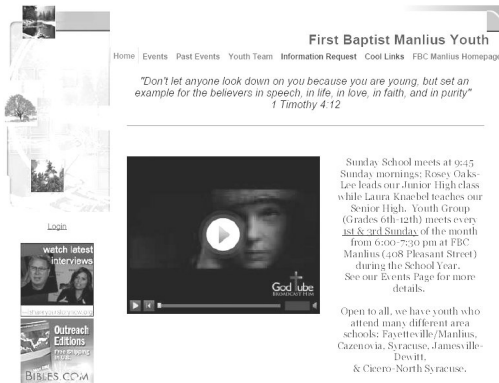
January 18th – Church-wide family event at Highland Forest. Invite your family & friends! Bring games & warm clothes for the sleigh ride.



Miss Lucy painting the baseboard in the renovated Youth Room!

Check out the room & let the youth know what a great job they did!

Because of scheduling, the 30 Hour Famine has been postponed until February. Details to come...



Have you checked out the Youth Website yet?!

Go to the FBC Manlius homepage (www.firstbaptist-manlius.org)

& click on "Youth Ministries"

It contains:

- **Description of who we are & what we do**
- **Schedule of Youth Events**
- **Introduction of Youth Team**
- **Pictures from Past Events**
- **Information Request for parents &/or youth**

Youth Team: Christy Brownell, Jillian Everly, Pastor Leon Oaks-lee, Rosey Oaks-lee, George Oley & Tom Shephard.

Questions or comments for the Youth Team? Email us at:

FManliusyouth@gmail.com

Away From the Manger

December 14, 2008



Thank you to Mary Schwarz and the cast for making us chuckle and wonder, and reminding us to overcome those things that keep us from the manger at Christmas!



Bill Carlsen Retires

The ABC/NYS family gathered on November 22 to celebrate the ministry of Bill Carlsen as Executive Minister of our American Baptist Region.

Bill and Gail, we wish you God's richest blessings as you enter this new phase of your Christian journey.

Picture at left: Bill and Gail Carlsen, sons Mark and Andy and families



INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL!!

**Sunday, December 28th
9:45-10:45 a.m.**

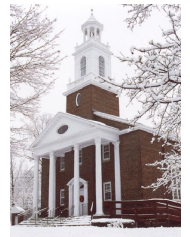


Everyone, young and old, gather in the Chapel for a fun, interactive Christmas theme.

CHURCH LEADER GATHERING



**Saturday, January 24th
9:00 a.m. – Noon (Chapel)**



You are invited to join other leaders as we ask,

“How can I really make a difference at First Baptist Church?”

**“How can we better serve God’s Kingdom with our
time and talents?”**

**Our Leader Gathering will aim at helping all of us to be more
responsive to God’s leading and more effective in
carrying out his ministries.**



JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 No School ~No Stay 'n Play today Church office-closed	3
4 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Ministry</u> Support Committee Mtg. 6-7:30 pm <u>Youth Group</u>	5	6 6:30 pm <u>Trustees</u> <u>Board</u> <u>Meeting</u>	7	8 6:30-8:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym)	9 9:30- 11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym)	10
11 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Missions Board</u>	12	13	14 7:00 pm <u>Executive</u> <u>Committee</u> <u>Meeting</u>	15 February Newsletter Items Due☺ 6:30-8:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym)	16 9:30- 11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym)	17
18 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 6-11 pm <u>Annual</u> <u>Highland Forest Event</u> 	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Church office open	Pastor Leon will be attending the Nehemiah Leaders Network Annual Conference Jan. 20-22 in Mt. Bethel, PA.		22 6:30-8:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym)	23 9:30- 11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym)	24 9-Noon <u>Church</u> <u>Leader</u> <u>Gathering</u> (chapel) 6:30 pm <u>Unity</u> <u>Fellowship</u> (chapel)
25 <u>Annual Meeting</u> 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> <u>Annual Meeting after</u> <u>11am Worship</u> <u>Service</u>	26	27	28 8:00 am <u>Staff Meeting</u>	29 6:30-8:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym)	30 No School ~ No Stay 'n Play today	31
Events in February Sunday, February 1st ~ Blanket Sunday Lent begins: Wednesday, February 25th						

www.firstbaptist-manlius.org

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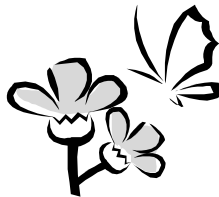
**NON-PROFIT
ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID**

**Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee, Pastor
All the Believers, Ministers**

Address Service Requested



Inviting People to New Life



Mission Statement

In celebration of the good news shown to us in Jesus Christ,
we will invite others to unite with us as part of the family of
God,

Sharing the Gospel through

Worship,

Education,

Encouragement of one another and the

Support of Mission

As we serve Manlius and our surrounding communities.