

CHRISTIAN CARRIER

February 2008



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

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From the Pastor ~

Sometimes I get stuck! I start being pretty much focused on myself. I think about my responsibilities and worry about my ability to do an adequate job. Fear, worry, and concerns for security take over. I get into an “It’s all about me” mode. I know this is a way of death.

I know another way. It’s a way that is lighter, freer and more generous. It’s a way that is concerned for others; a way that experiences joy and notices the beauty of life. It’s a way that gives and receives through acts of love. I want my life to walk in this way. It is the way of life.

For me, prayer has been a key to getting “unstuck.” God-awareness and God-attentiveness makes a major difference.

Sometimes God shakes me from my self-centeredness with some awe-filled scene of beauty. This morning’s run in the cold clear air just as the sun peaked over the hills of the Delaware Water Gap was such a moment. Did you sense God Sunday night on the moonlit sleigh ride through the snow-covered woods at Highland Forest?

Sometimes God nudges me by showing me some gentle act of kindness that inspires me to be more Christ-like in my interactions with others.

One way God-attentiveness grows in me is when I read scripture and sit quietly before God. In those moments, my life is often re-oriented toward the One who gives life.

When I get “unstuck” and move from self-centeredness to God-centeredness, I’m drawn to pray thanks for God’s transforming power and presence.

What about you? Are you aware of God’s transforming power in your life? What is your experience of prayer? How do you pray? What difference does prayer make in your life?

On February 10th, I will begin a Lenten sermon series on prayer. We will listen to some of the stories of scripture that show us people at prayer and consider some of the teaching on prayer. What are your experiences of prayer – your joys, your barriers? Let me know; it will help in my preparations.

On Wednesday, February 13th, we will begin our Lenten suppers and Bible Study. The Bible studies will include time to learn about ways of praying and to talk about our experiences of prayer.

I invite you to be part of a Prayer Triplet during Lent. This will be an opportunity to pray with and learn from each other. I believe the triplets can help us to be more God-aware.

I pray that we will grow in prayer. Please know that I include you in my prayers. I pray for God’s blessing and leading in each of your lives.

Faithfully,

Pastor Leon

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Recent Prayer Requests:

Family of Martin Short – Please pray for support for Martin’s family during this time of grief and sorrow

Please Pray for:

Wanda Baker
Kermit Breed, Jr.
Mike Adams
Jon Perry
Virginia Noble
Barbara, Carol Davenport’s sister
Virginia, Carol Davenport’s aunt
Abigail, Dorcas Ambrosio’s sister
The Bishop Family
Florence Cowles, Barbara Brace’s mother
Mary Jane and Russell Davis
The Konvicka Family

PRAISES

Erma Bullard wants to thank everyone who donated cards for people at Fairport and to other church people. We only have 166 at Fairport Home now. I got some replies. Thanks so much.

“Dear Friends ~ Thank you very much for thinking of Dr. Weeks again this year. Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated.” Fondly, Vivian Waffle

*“Thank you for the gifts you brought my family. You made us all very happy. Thank you. Happy New Year.”
–The Homer Family*

*Thank you to all of the people who were greeters and ushers last year. Your help with this ministry is greatly appreciated.
–Pauline and Harry Cole*

*“We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Church Family for your prayers, cards of sympathy, and memorial donations sent at the time of our loss of our husband and father, Richard Bishop.
A special thanks to Pastor Leon.”
–Nancy Bishop and family*

PRAISES (Cont’d)

*“To my Church Family ~ Happy, healthy, prosperous New Year to all. Many thanks for the many Christmas cards and Christmas letters. Ray and Raymond read them to me. My vision doesn’t get better, but I’m not blind. The cards were a great inspiration to me. Keep them coming. My love and prayers,
Edith Laning.”*

Thank you to all who donated gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, and socks for the “Head-to-toe Tree” project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. All items collected will be well used and were distributed to Seymour Elementary & Shea schools in Syracuse. –Barbara Brace

Please call the Church Office at 682-8941 with prayer requests or praises by Wednesday morning. Thank you.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**Birthstone – Amethyst
Flower – Violet**

1. Betsy Burt
4. Colleen Guynup
Deborah Oley
Charles Struwing
6. Haralds Rikveilis
Jacob Albanese
8. Stephen Burt
13. Walter Ammann
14. Murray Chesebro
16. Karin Davenport
Ken Wales
17. Rick Penhall
20. Adam Baier
Michelle Hotchkiss
26. Jake Everly
Trudy Siegenthaler
Mary Lou Wales
28. Andy Bailey

ANNIVERSARIES

13. Linda & Erich Heller

ABW MINISTRIES

--We are still collecting UPC codes on the back of Campbell's products and also cancelled stamps (with at least 1/4" border) to be sent to Rev. David Vila to benefit his Spanish ministry. There is a box in the Narthex for both items.

--**Blanket Sunday** will be held **February 10th**. Look for details under "Mission News."

--There will be a **White Cross Meeting** in the Chapel on Monday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m.

--**ABW Lenten Bible Study** series will be Mondays at 10:30 a.m. beginning March 3, 10, 17 in the Chapel.

UNITY FELLOWSHIP

The next Unity Fellowship get-together will be **Saturday, February 23rd, 6:30 p.m.** in the Chapel. All are invited to join in the fun☺

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

There is a flower chart in the Narthex for a sign-up if you would like to purchase and have delivered flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. Please sign up and call the church office with information to put in the bulletin. Thank you☺

DAS BLUMEN HAUS

Das Blumen Haus closed its doors January 31st. First Baptist Church was Das Blumen Haus' first customer when they started business in Manlius 29 years ago.



Women & Girls' State Gathering American Baptist Women's Ministries/NYS

"Come to the Edge - Step Out in Faith"



April 25-27, 2008

**DoubleTree Hotel Syracuse
Special AB Girls program for
Girls in grades 7-12**

Special Guests:

- Fri. night Inspirational Concert by Damaris Carbaugh
- Friday – 60th Anniversary Cake & special guests
- Sat. & Sun. Keynote: Teri Peacock
- Missionary: Lynn Nelson
- Sun. Bible Study Leader: Rev. Marie Schilling

A variety of workshops for all ages & interests

Costs for ABWomen & Girls:

Registration: Full time - \$15 Part time - \$10

(Send to ABWM Registrar)

(After 3/31/08 add a \$5.00 late fee)

Hotel Room & Meals:

Single - \$310.00

Double - \$202.00/person

Triple - \$165.00/person

Quad - \$146.50/person

New this year: ABGirls need chaperones, 1 for every 3 girls. The ABGirls are \$20 less/girl on room rates. (Hotel registration to be sent (with your church Tax Exempt form and church check) directly to DoubleTree Hotel) All registrations due by **March 31, 2008** to both ABWM Convention Registrar and DoubleTree Hotel Syracuse
Register early to be sure and secure your room!



LENTEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Perhaps you're looking for a way to help out in the church life, perhaps you want to get to know some of the amazing young people in our church, or perhaps you just love kids and want to spend an hour with them. Well, we have 5 evenings where your help is needed. During the Lenten Bible Study held on Wednesday evenings beginning on Feb. 13th, child care is provided and your help would be appreciated. Contact Kathie Shevchuk @ 682-8678 if you can volunteer to be with these children 7:00-8:00 p.m. Only 5 slots are open for volunteers – call early to avoid missing out on a great opportunity to help!

PRAYER TRIPLETS

During the season of Lent, February 6 thru March 23 (Easter Sunday), our worship focus will be on prayer. In addition to worship and the mid-week Bible study, you are invited to participate in a Prayer Triplet. The Prayer Triplet is an opportunity to grow in your prayer life and to come to know other people at First Baptist. If you sign up you will meet with 2 other people at a time best for all three of you. You are asked to meet 6 times for one hour each time. In each meeting you will share things learned, joys and concerns and pray together.

I would like to be part of a Prayer Triplet during the season of Lent. Please let me know who I will be with so we can schedule our six meetings between Feb. 6 and March 23.

(Name and Phone number)





LENTEN BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

Five Wednesday Evenings
6 – 8 p.m.
February 13 – March 12
Pastor Leon – Bible Study Leader



6 p.m. Fellowship:

Share a meal of soup, salad, bread and dessert. Donations accepted.
(March 12th will be a Pot-Luck meal – see King’s Kids below)

7 p.m. Bible Study:

Pastor Leon will lead us in a study of exploring biblical stories about prayer and ways we can pray.

Each study will be a preparation for the Sunday Lenten Sermon Series.
Child Care will be available.

King’s Kids Family Night Supper

Wednesday, March 12th, 6:00 p.m. in the gym

Come and join the families of our King’s Kids program.

Bring a dish to pass. The King’s Kids Board will provide dessert, beverages, and table service. The Family Lenten Series study will follow this dinner at 7:00 p.m.

ABW Ministries Lenten Series

A 3-week Lenten Bible Study series begins **Monday, March 3rd, 10:30 a.m.** in the Library. A soup luncheon in the Chapel will follow the study.

Monday, March 3rd ~ Leader: Cindy Mapstone

Monday, March 10th ~ Leader: Myrna Benedict

Monday, March 17th ~ Leader: Gail Carlsen



The committee for the luncheons consists of Annette Andrusyszyn, Shirley Mapstone, and Ruby Pfohl.

Easter Sunday, March 23rd - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast in the gym

Come to the Easter Breakfast and celebrate the season with good food and fellowship after the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service and before the 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class has been learning about faith through stories of Abraham. Reading the story where God tells Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac, we were challenged to think of ways that we could show our faith in God through our own sacrifices. We used an acrostic to express some of our ideas, and wanted to share them with the congregation. (The ideas were all from the children; the adult in the room merely clarified spelling and word meanings.)

Share

Appause for someone you're not fond of

Caring response

Right thing

Increase offering

Friendly to someone you don't like

Interface with people you don't understand

Clean

Enjoy offering/giving

Cheyenne, Ian, Morgan and Mrs. Oaks-Lee



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

(Sunday School classes begin at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday)

- 1) "What's So Amazing About Grace?" This is a video series with Phil Yancey. Leader: Ellen Everly (meets in the Chapel)
- 2) Adult Journeys Bible Study led by Erm Ferris (Church Library)
- 3) Bible Discussion Group (focus on the Gospels) Room 206
- 4) Bible Discussion Group (focus on the Psalms) Room 207

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning after Easter, a new small group bible study will start. Meet in the library at First Baptist Church **7:00-8:00 AM**. Start your day with God's word. Contact Mary Schwarz with any questions. All are welcomed.

GOD'S SOLDIERS

Sunday, February 10, 3:30 p.m.

We will be making Valentine's Day cards for children who are in the hospital. Meet at First Baptist at If you have any questions, give Mary Schwarz a call at 432-1540.

See you there☺



MISSION NEWS

We praise and thank the Lord for all the wonderful blessings bestowed on us as a church family. Below is a list of some of the many ways you helped in furthering the mission work at First Baptist Church. For one and all, we are truly thankful.

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering exceeded our goal.
- America for Christ offering exceeded our goal.
- The World Mission Offering exceeded our goal.
- The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering exceeded our goal.
- Several individuals helped serve meals at the Samaritan Center in Syracuse.
- Two successful blood drives were held; both exceeded the goal determined by the Red Cross.
- The FM Food Pantry still needs donations - giving has increased from our Church family.
- We shipped 276 pounds of shoes and summer clothing to Haiti.
- We helped a family at Christmas.
- Our 2007 budget was exceeded by approximately \$1,500.
- Additional gifts in the form of stocks and bonds were given to increase the mission giving by approximately \$3,000.
- Several individuals were able to attend the ABC Biennial this fall.

- The wheelchair ministry continues. We are still praying for an individual to help coordinate this important ministry. Community Covenant Church has agreed to help store some of the wheelchairs.
- The Mission Board continues to correspond with our designated missionaries - you can too!
- We were blessed with visits from two missionaries the Manns and Bonillas.
- The balance of the Mawson Estate was paid out to a Haiti ministry.
- We supported a trip for the Karen ministry from Utica Tabernacle.
- We developed a form to use for requesting money from the Fidelity Funds for mission-related programs or projects that the Mission Board will review and monitor.

We look forward to 2008 and the unexpected ways that we can serve not only in our community but around the world. Thanks one and all for your faithfulness! Let us know if you have a ministry that you'd like us to consider.

Blessings to you from your
Mission Board,

Jill Doss, Shirley Mapstone, Sally Lyon, Jean Lynn Buskey, Tom Shephard and Ann Morales



MISSION NEWS (Cont'd)

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OUT AT THE SAMARITAN CENTER

This past summer, more than a dozen folks from First Baptist, young and older, helped serve meals at the Samaritan Center in

Syracuse. It was a great opportunity to help out and share a smile with those that may be less fortunate than ourselves right here, near to home. In April, the Samaritan Center is in need of three or four people to serve meals on the following Mondays - April 7, 14 and 21. As we helped this summer, we arrive at 3:00pm and are done by about 5:00pm, having served a full meal to more than 120 folks. If you are interested in joining others from church in this service or would like to speak with someone who helped out this summer, contact

Tom Shephard or another member of the Mission Board.

Also, stay tuned for more opportunities in the future - The Samaritan Center began serving breakfast from 6:30-8:30 am on Thursdays this fall and will be expanding this service by one or two more days per week. They will need help in this effort and have contacted people that helped serve in the past. We will let you know more details when we learn of this opportunity; and if you are interested, let Tom or another member of the Mission Board know of your interest."

-Tom Shephard, Missions Board

BLANKET SUNDAY

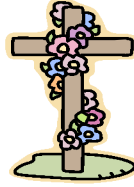
On **February 10, 2008**, we will be celebrating Church World Service Tools and Blanket Sunday. The Tools and Blankets program supports the many life-changing projects of the Church World Service Global Assistance Program.

Each blanket wrapped around the shoulders of a displaced family, each home rebuilt, each hoe placed in the hands of a farmer, and each cup of clean water is an expression of our love and hope for our local and global neighbors. Blankets are supporting the efforts of overseas partner agencies as they reach out to the most vulnerable populations in their regions. Here in the United States, victims of the many flooding emergencies and tornadoes of recent months have felt the warmth and comfort of a CWS blanket.

As God has blanketed us with His love, may we share that love with others as we contribute to this offering. Thank you for all you give and do for others.

JoAnn Mostar





We are now taking orders for **Easter flowers!** The daffodils are available in yellow only. The tulips and mums are available in a variety of spring colors as selected by the greenhouse. The flowers will be displayed in the Sanctuary for **Easter Sunday, March 23rd** and will be available to take home after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please see Jean Lynn Buskey at that time to retrieve your selection. Flowers may also be left at the church for delivery to our shut-ins. Please check below if you would like to take home or donate your plant. **If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lynn Buskey at 682-0252.**

Please fill out the form below and place it and the money in an envelope clearly marked "Easter Flowers" in the offering plate or send it to the Church office **no later than SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24th.**

Name: _____

| | | | |
|--------|-------|----------------------|--------|
| Order: | _____ | 6 bulb pot of tulips | \$6.75 |
| | _____ | 6" pot of mums | \$6.75 |
| | _____ | 7" pot of daffodils | \$8.50 |

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Print the following in the Easter Bulletin:

Joyous Easter from:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Other:

I will leave plant in Church to donate: _____

I will take home plant following worship: _____

Youth News

Youth Group meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

For any youth in Grades 6th – 12th

Upcoming Events:

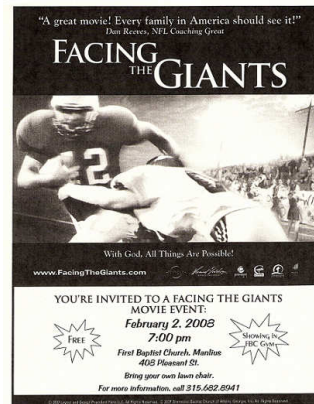
Saturday, February 2nd: *Facing the Giants*, Movie Event (Church-wide) No Youth Group on February 3rd

February 17th: “Regular” Youth Group @ FBC Manlius 6:00 pm

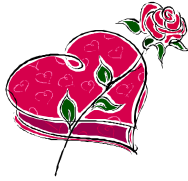
A new “Youth Newsletter” will be sent out mid-February – keep an eye out for the Latest Youth News!

Any questions, contact a member of the Youth Team:

Christy Brownell, Jillian Everly, Pastor Leon Oaks-lee, Rosey Oaks-lee, George Oley, Tom Shephard, & Kathie Shevchuk.



From the award-winning producers of FLYWHEEL comes a new, action-packed, family-friendly drama about a high school football coach who draws up a new game plan for his team ... and himself. In his six years of coaching, Grant Taylor has never had a winning season. Even the hope of a new season is squelched when the best player on his Shiloh Eagles decides to transfer schools. After losing their first three games of the season, the coach discovers a group of fathers are plotting to have him fired. Combined with pressures at home, Coach Taylor has lost hope in his battle against fear and failure. However, an unexpected challenge helps him find a purpose bigger than just victories. Daring to trust God to do the impossible, Coach Taylor and the Eagles discover how faith plays out on the field ... and off. With God, all things are possible ... Sponsored by Christian Education



FEBRUARY 2008



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 9:30-11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym) | 2 7:00 pm <u>All-Church</u> <u>Movie Night</u> (gym) |
| 3 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Ministry</u> <u>Support</u> | 4 | 5 6:30 pm <u>Christian</u> <u>Education</u> <u>Board</u> <u>Meeting</u> | 6 | 7 6:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym) | 8 9:30-11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym) | 9 |
| 10 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Missions</u> 3:30 pm <u>God's Soldiers</u> 6:00 pm <u>Trustees</u> | 11 10:00 am <u>ABW White</u> <u>Cross</u> <u>Meeting</u> (Chapel) 6:15 pm <u>Diaconate</u> <u>Board</u> <u>Meeting</u> | 12 | 13 6:00-7:00 pm <u>Light Supper</u> (gym) 7:00-8:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> (Chapel) | 14 7:00-8:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> (Library)- <i>Postponed!</i> <i>These will</i> <i>begin after</i> <i>Easter</i> 6:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym) | 15 9:30-11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym) | 16 |
| 17 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 6:00 pm <u>Youth</u> | 18 <u>School</u> <u>Break</u> <u>Week:</u> No <u>Playschool</u> | 19 | 20 6:00-7:00 pm <u>Light Supper</u> (gym) 7:00-8:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> (Chapel) | 21 6:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym) | 22 No Stay 'n <u>Play Today</u> | 23 6:30 pm <u>Unity</u> <u>Fellowship</u> (Chapel) |
| 24 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> | 25 | 26 | 27 6:00-7:00 pm <u>Light Supper</u> (gym) 7:00-8:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> (Chapel) | 28 6:30 pm <u>Basketball</u> (gym) | 29 9:30-11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play</u> (gym) | |

EVENTS IN MARCH

Mon., March 3, 10, & 17 – ABW Lenten Bible Series

Wed., March 5 & 12 – Lenten Supper/Bible Study

Sunday, March 16 – Palm Sunday (Joyful Sounds Choir)

Maundy Thursday, March 20 – 6 pm Dinner, 7 pm, Worship (at Manlius Methodist)

Good Friday, March 21 – 7 pm (a simple service in our Sanctuary)

Sunday, March 23 – Easter Sunday (8:30 am Worship, 9:30 am Breakfast, 11:00 am Worship)

www.firstbaptist-manlius.org

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408 Pleasant Street
Manlius, NY 13104**

**NON-PROFIT
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**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.