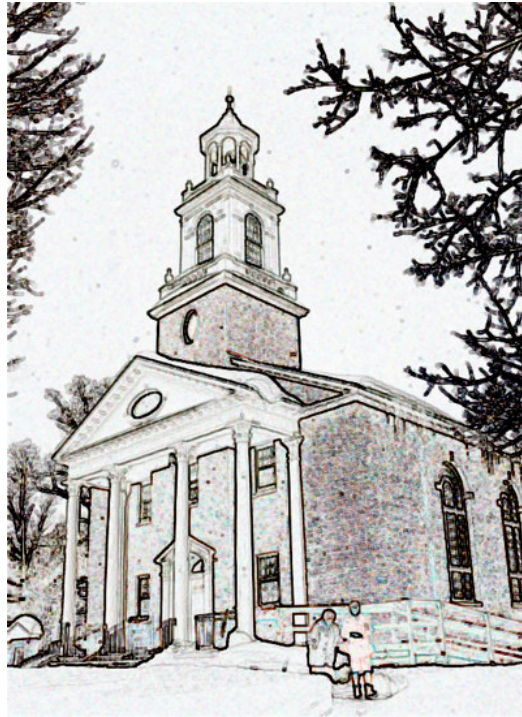


CHRISTIAN CARRIER

DECEMBER 2006



**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: fbcm-pastor@twcny.rr.com

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Our 40 Days of Purpose has drawn to a close. This past Sunday we celebrated the things we have learned, the new commitments we have made, the affirmation of basic beliefs we hold and rejoiced in new possibilities we see.

I am thankful that we journeyed together as a congregation. I have heard people encourage each other, ask questions, share new thoughts, resist some thoughts and be challenged by others. All of this is healthy and good. Most often I heard appreciation for the small groups. “I came to know people better.” “I learned new things about people I have known for a long time.” “I made a new friend.” All of these are typical comments shared with me. Clearly, strengthening our connections is crucial for being Christ’s church.

Sunday, December 3rd is the First Sunday in Advent. We will light a candle and begin our movement toward the manger.

Have you ever noticed that almost all the main characters in the Christmas story at some point must confront their fears? My sermons during Advent will look at 4 biblical characters: John the Baptist, Joseph, Mary and the Shepherds as they overcome their fear and respond to God’s leading.

We are living in days when fear is evident in our culture and in our individual lives. How do we live beyond our fears? What does faith teach us? How might we respond?

December Worship Services:

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent:
Focus: Matthew 3:1-12 and the story of John the Baptist.
Communion Service

Sunday, December 10th –

Second Sunday in Advent:
Focus: Matthew 3:18-25 and the story of Joseph.

Sunday, December 17th –

Third Sunday in Advent:
Focus: Luke 1:36-46 and the story of Mary.

In the evening, we will gather for our church Christmas program with a musical play, “A Mountain Christmas Memory”.

Sunday, December 24th –

Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas.
Focus: Luke 2:8-20 and the story of the Shepherds.

Christmas Eve Services:
5:00 p.m. – Children’s Service
7:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m. – Communion Service

Faithfully,

Pastor Leon

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Recent requests for prayers:

Dorothy Benor

Howard Blood – Ellen Everly's brother died in Seattle, Washington, Nov. 20th.

Please Pray for: Virginia Noble
Wanda Baker Anita
Rev. Bill Kerr Al Parker
Ken Bex Ruth Costello
Chester Smith Frances Cowles
Eugene White/Cecile White's Aunt Irene
Dean Morningstar's mother
John Newsom's grandmother died in November

Pray for the family of Martha Trivelpiece, who died on November 3rd.

Pray for the Radell Family. Ron's mother, Ethel, died on November 7th.

PRAISES

*This is a note which came from Janet Congdon, Mildred Babcock's niece:
"I want to thank all the parishioners at First Baptist Church for being so kind to Mildred. When she was able, she really enjoyed attending services. Thank you all for your kindness."*

New Address:

Ms. Mildred Babcock
VanDuyn Home and Hospital
5075 West Seneca Turnpike,
Room 415-4C
Syracuse, NY 13215-2292
~ ~ ~

"To my loving Church Family ~ Life goes on less as it does everywhere. My problem is that everything is dimmer. Oh, but it could be so much worse. Seeing others so much worse in health and ability, I praise the Lord! My family is in my prayers every day and I'm so grateful to the Lord for them. Much love and prayers, Edith Laning."

Please call Elaine in the church office (682-8941) by Wednesday morning with prayer requests or praises.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone – Turquoise
Flower – Narcissus

3. Bill Davison
Jessica Haase
Gary Johnson
7. Linda Tessier
10. Michael Binder
Ethan Ros
16. David Kerwin
Erin Kerwin
17. Courtney
Shevchuk
18. Nancy Albanese
19. Micah Granata
20. Marjorie Lincoln
21. Jason Morales
24. Pauline Cole
25. Jean Gaudio
28. Virginia Noble
29. Steven Ware

ANNIVERSARIES

4. Cindy & Mark
Mapstone
12. Carol & George
Davenport
22. Shirley & Bob
Mapstone
31. Jean & Gary
Baker



ABW Ministries

**On Saturday,
December 8th,**

9-3:00 p.m. a luncheon will take place for the ABC/NYS Board of Mission. Greg Short will be the chef.



Way to Go, Lexi !

Congratulations to Lexi Dominy on her second great season of Pop Warner Football. This year, Lexi's Jr. Pee Wee Team placed 3rd in the CNY Division. On Sunday, November 12, her team played against Ironduquoit at the Central Square Redman Invitational Bowl Game. They played a good game and won, 13 - 0. Lexi was recognized at her Football Banquet for her academic achievement. She is now a member of the Pop Warner *Little Scholars* program, State Level, for 2006 - 07. Way to go, Lexi !

FINANCIAL NOTES

This is your friendly reminder to submit all donations for 2006 to the church no later than **Sunday, December 31, 2006**. 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

"Treat everyone you meet as if they are the most important person in the world because they are. If not to you, then to someone; and if not today, then perhaps tomorrow."

--from the book The Power of Nice

The Master's Touch Chorale will perform a concert in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. A reception will follow in the Chapel, and the hostesses will be Jill Doss, Sally Lyon, and Wendy Bireline.

Fruit baskets for our Special people will be prepared and distributed on Sunday morning, December 10th. Please bring several pieces of fruit that morning to help fill the baskets. There will be a box in the Narthex for collecting the fruit. Ruth Ware and Annette Andrusyszyn are in charge.

Please remember that we are still collecting Campbell products UPC codes (on the back of cans).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS

CHILD

Thank you all so much for the shoe boxes you contributed. We collected a grand total of **74 boxes!** Thanks goes out to Colleen Guynup for doing such a great job in organizing and promoting this event.

UNITY FELLOWSHIP

The December meeting will be on New Year's Eve, December 31st. Appetizers will be served in the Library at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. in the Chapel. Please bring only your table service. Dinner is provided. Following the entertainment, Rich Richardson's fabulous homemade ice cream will be served (before midnight!).

ALL ARE INVITED!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

There will be a new Sunday School class beginning on December 3rd.

The topic will be The Fruit of the Spirit.

There will be a workbook to go along with the study.

This study will be led by Betsy Burt. If you have any questions, please call at 655-2741. Let me know if you are interested in joining this group.

Betsy

HELP STILL NEEDED - The Sunday School program has an opportunity for you to get involved (short term). Rotational Curriculum will start on Nov. 26th and will run for 4 weeks. Curriculum discussing the birth of Jesus is provided.

Job Openings:

(1) Opening and Closing Leader – The Depot - 10 minutes with large group at start and end of sessions.

(4) Venture Center Leaders – will conduct learning opportunity 2 times during the 4 week rotation. Areas include: drama, cooking, games and art.

(2-4) Group leaders – Bible Venture Buddies - supervising children to and from centers; provide additional “hands on” help at center if necessary.

Please contact Kathie Shevchuk @ 682-8678 or xstitchkath@twcny.rr.com to let her know where you'd like to help.

YOUTH NEWS

ATTENTION JR. & SR. HIGH:

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 26 & Sunday, December 10

Holiday Service Project

**Our Plan: Meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month,
6-7:30 p.m.**

Anyone with questions may contact Kathie Shevchuk at 682-8678 or email Kathie at: xstitchkath@twcny.rr.com.

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHOIR

Joyful Sounds will be singing at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 17th. The choir will also take part in the Christmas program, *A Mountain Christmas Memory* on Sunday evening the 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Rehearsals for the Joyful Sounds Choir will be Sunday, December 10th after the 11:00 a.m. worship and a dress rehearsal on

Saturday, December 16th, 11:00 a.m. to Noon. On Sunday, December 17th, the Joyful Sounds choir members need to report to the Choir room at 5:15 p.m.

MISSION NEWS UPDATE

**WHEELS FOR THE WORLD
MINISTRY**

Do you know someone in need of a wheelchair, a walker, cane or crutches? We have these items available. Do you know someone who wants to donate these types of items? Please call Al Dominy at 637-4964. Thank you.

BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, November 18th, First Baptist Church hosted the blood drive and **59** pints of blood were collected. We exceeded our goal of 49 pints!! Thank you to all who helped out that day, especially Shirley Mapstone for organizing this worthwhile event.

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Final amount collected:
Our Goal: \$2,000.00
To Date: \$1,528.27



Thank you for your giving!

The following are excerpts from a thank you from Pastor Mark Caruana at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica on behalf of their Refugee Ministry Team:

“Your support enables a team of dedicated volunteers to minister to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of the growing ethnic Karen community* in Utica. About 250 Karen Christians are part of our congregation.

- “These refugees face many challenges.
- learning a new culture and language
 - working at low-wage jobs.
 - purchasing warm winter clothing.

- Providing clothes, books and supplies for school-age children.
- Finding good daycare and nursery school settings for pre-school age children.

“Working with a regional food bank, we provide low-cost food items, diapers, and personal care items. Through the generosity of friends like you, we have made certain that each new refugee has warm boots, coat, gloves, and hats.

“Most important of all, we build relationships of trust and mutuality. We have discovered that as we reach out with the love of Christ to the newest residents of our community, we receive far more than we give. Your gift will enable us to continue this vital ministry of Christian hospitality and caring. Thank you for joining us in serving others in Jesus’ name.”

* The Karen refugees are Baptists from Burma whose ancestors came to faith through the work of Adoniram Judson in the 1800s.



Alexis and Melissa win the Food Pantry scavenger hunt at the November 12th Youth Group Get Together.



Kyle and Jeremy tally points with Mrs. Shevchuk in the Food Pantry scavenger hunt at the November 12th Youth Group Get Together.

December 2006

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in August 2005, the Rev. Thom Black, age 80, and his wife Doris, 75, lost their home in Slidell, Louisiana. All that remained were the few things—documents, medications, photographs, a few clothes, and Thom’s motorized scooter and walker—they had packed in their station wagon before escaping to their son’s home in Foxworth, Mississippi.

“When we left, we thought we would be back in a few days, little realizing we would not see our home again,” the couple wrote in their Christmas letter to family and friends. “Katrina was very unkind to us.”

Thom, along with more than 3,000 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses, received a Thank You check in the fall of 2005. His check went to a new address in Ohio, where the Blacks had relocated to be near their three daughters. Thom and Doris sent the following note to American Baptist congregations:

“We received our Thank You check with gratitude following our great loss. Any gift we received was a blessing to us. We appreciate everyone who gives to this offering every year—it helps and blesses in many different ways.”

Thank You checks, as well as emergency financial assistance, are made possible by the contributions of American Baptist congregations to the annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

The RMMO materials call us to *Remember with Love, Give with Gratitude*. We invite you to join in making a generous contribution to the RMMO. Your gift makes a difference.

Your Mission Board,

Jill Doss
Jean Lynn Buskey

Sally Lyon
Shirley Mapstone

You're invited - Please come!
Family Craft Night

**Tuesday, December 5, 2006
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Gym**



**Bring the kids to make crafts for
Christmas gifts or decorations!**

**It's easy, it's free, and we'll even feed
you a hot dog and dessert supper!**

Where: First Baptist Church - Gym

**408 Pleasant Street
Manlius, New York**

Phone: 682-8941



All are welcome - ages 0 - 100!!!

*Come, Celebrate the Christmas Message told through
play and song in the voices of our own congregation*

**December 17, 6 pm
First Baptist Church Sanctuary**

A Mountain Christmas Memory

*by Paul McCusker
from a story by Dan Miller*

with

Tom Shephard

Greg Short Christy Brownell

Melissa Buskey Kyle Short Lexi Dominy

Gary Goodwin Carol Davenport Bob Mapstone

Merl Rice Millar Brace

Chris Oley Jessica Oley Allison Butler

Featuring our own Adult Choir and Joyful Sounds, with directors

John Spradling and Shirley Mapstone

Sets by Pete Shevchuk

Directed by Rosey Oaks-Lee



Here We Come a Caroling ~



Everyone is invited

Join members of First Baptist Church
for Christmas Caroling

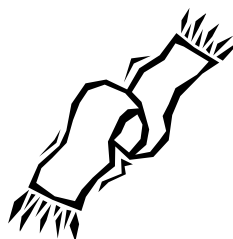
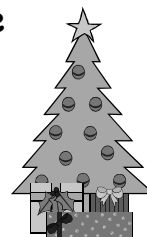
Wednesday, December 20th

- ☆ dress warmly
- ☆ 6:15 meet at the church
- ☆ 7:30 return to church for
hot chocolate and cookies

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!
(Please bring 1 dozen cookies
to share)

Mitten Tree

During the month of
December, you may
place gloves, mittens,
hats or scarves to be
donated to children in the Syracuse
City schools on the Christmas tree
outside of the chapel. Any questions
call Kathie Shevchuk
@ 682-8678.



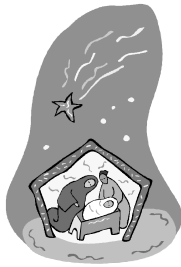
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First Baptist Church of Manlius
408 Pleasant Street
Manlius, NY 13104

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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.

MASTER'S TOUCH CHORALE
CONCERT



First Baptist Church
Saturday, December 2, 2006

6:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary



Come and hear the joyful sounds of Christmas!!

Reception in the Chapel will follow the performance.



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 10, 2006

7:00 p.m.



at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Fayetteville

This is a community event consisting of choirs from our area churches. A full choral majesty will be provided for all to enjoy.

Our own Pastor Leon Oaks-Lee will be participating in this event!!

A reception by Immaculate Conception Church and other area churches will follow.

A Note from Fred Goddard ~

"To the people of the First Baptist Church of Manlius, I love you all. I've hated not being able to be with you, both on Sundays and other times. Because I am so far away, I've been isolated, miles from church. It has been very lonely for me, but I know I'm being prayed for. I have attended two churches in the Weedsport area ~ the First Baptist Church of Weedsport and the Cavalry Bible Baptist Church in Elbridge. It just wasn't the same as our church. Since I have been here in Weedsport, I have kept in contact with several members: Joni Dominy, Betty Heller, and Jean Lynn Buskey (to name a few). After being a member for 44 years, I don't want to leave you. I'm truly in an awkward situation, but my allegiance is to all of you. I regret that I cannot see you all, but I've been praying for all of you too. I'm glad I could send the story about my father. I know a good many of you read it. With so much time here at Evergreen Heights, I was finally able to put into words my feelings about my father since my mother died ~ a story that even I didn't know totally before 1996. I was glad to share it with you. I've been reading the Bible every day. My father wanted this. The answers to problems are truly there. I've done very well on my medication since I've been here. I take my own medicine and it's working well. I think the Lithium helps very much. I just feel unsteady once in a while. Thanks to all of you for your prayers. May God bless you, Fred"