

CHRISTIAN CARRIER

December 2008



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

Church Office Telephone: (315) 682-8941
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From Your Pastor ~

On Sunday, November 30th, we will begin the season of Advent. My sermon series is entitled, "Come to the Manger." The series is an invitation to live with expectancy for what God is doing among us.

Christmas is the story of God coming among us in the birth of Jesus. In the season of Advent we prepare to receive what God is yet to do.

In the consumer culture, preparation for Christmas is focused on buying and wrapping gifts, elaborate decorations, and the many activities that lead up to Christmas.

For many Christians, the renewed emphasis on Advent has offered an alternative to this hectic and draining activity. We are called to prepare for Christmas in ways that will help us experience the birth, and prepare us for Jesus' return. Worship, prayer, scripture, acts of service all become ways to make us ready for what Jesus might birth in us today.

The title of my sermon series comes from a Bible study by Robert Kaylor. I will use that study as part of a Sunday morning adult class which will meet in the Chapel.

I am expectant about various activities at First Baptist during Advent.

- On Sunday evening, December 14th, a group of adults, youth and children will bring us a play entitled, "Away from the Manger."
- Special music in our worship services.

- Opportunities to help others in need.
- Craft Night
- Christmas Caroling
- Christmas Eve Services

I invite you to use this Advent season to take time to learn, reflect, share as you come to the manger and discover what God is doing in our midst.

Faithfully,

Pastor Leon

The Nehemiah Envisioning Team

At our last workshop, our team was introduced to the concept of "Mental Models". Each of us has a mental model that expresses our understanding of church, or mission, or education, or marriage, etc.

Sometimes, when we are having trouble making progress on a project, it may be helpful to change our mental model. If we are feeling conflict with others in a relationship, it may come from different mental models.

It is helpful to discuss our mental model to be able to move forward on any project.

If you would like to know more about "Mental Models" or the Nehemiah Team, speak to Ross Binder, Barbara Brace, George Davenport, Jillian Everly, Mark Mapstone, Barbara Richardson, Ann Shephard or Pastor Leon.

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for ~

Wanda Baker
Loretta Beuchert
Ruth Costello
Courtney H.
Virginia, Carol Davenport's aunt
Ann and Gene Spradling
Russell and Mary Jane Davis
Florence Cowles, Barbara Brace's mother
Marilyn Fowler Mills
Peggy, Marg Kerr's sister & Peggy's son, Greg
Mike McCartney

Kermit Breed, Jr.
Mike Adams
Virginia Noble
Connor
Zulauf
Levi & Paige
Marian Pollock
Nehemiah Team

PRAISES

*To the congregation ~ December 2008
Here at Evergreen, an American flag adorns my room. On its staff, it rests near my dresser near a picture of my father and a certificate we got from the White House because he was a veteran. These things are meaningful anytime of year, but I'm close to them at this time of year. They comfort me. They remind me of good times throughout my life. In some months now, my writing to you, individually, has come to an end. Among the first letters I wrote were to John and Jean Lynn Buskey. My last letter went to Christy Brownell. I've sought to remember you all as a congregation. I will continue to write to all of you through Elaine. It's time for me to expand my Bible study. This will be important in the months ahead. It is my wish that you, too, will remember the good things this Christmas, and that you will share them with your family. God has blessed us. He wants the best for us. I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all of you for a Merry Christmas. May God bless us all.*

In His Name, Fred James Goddard

~ ~ ~

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the scholarship that allowed me to attend the ABY Convention November 7th through 9th. I had an amazing experience there, and your financial help made it much easier for me to be able to go. Thank you for supporting an event that provides a way for youth from across the state to gather and worship God. Thanks again!

~Melissa Buskey

PRAISES (Cont'd)

Thank you to all the people who donated cards and notes for Fairport and for Church members. ~Erma Bullard

~ ~ ~

Do you have a prayer request or praise to share?
Please call Elaine in the Church office (682-8941) by Wednesday morning.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone - Turquoise
Flower - Narcissus

3. Bill Davison
Gary Johnson
7. Linda Tessier
10. Michael Binder
14. Brodie Shephard
16. David Kerwin
Erin Kerwin
17. Courtney Shevchuk
18. Nancy Albanese
19. Micah Granata
20. Marjorie Lincoln
21. Jason Morales
22. Christy Brownell
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

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)



January Newsletter items are due:

Monday, December 15th

You may email the items to fbcman@twcny.rr.com or place them in the secretary's mail slot. Thank you 😊



ABW Ministries

On Sunday evening, **Nov. 30, 6:00 p.m.**, the Master's Touch Chorale will present a Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary sponsored by ABW Ministries. The conductor of this concert is Warren Ottey. A free will offering will be taken. This is a beautiful event to prepare for the Christmas Season and is a Christmas gift to you from ABW Ministries. All are invited. A reception will follow in the Chapel.

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. Rev. Vila's stamp ministry has been discontinued due to his death; however, we will continue to collect cancelled stamps and will find another outlet for them.

Fruit Plates will be packaged and delivered on **Sunday, December 14th** during Sunday School by Ruth Ware and Annette Andrusyszyn for our special Church members.

Scholarships are available to High School Graduates and continuing College students from American Baptist Women's Ministries through ABW Ministries Scholarship Fund. Applications are available from the church office. They are due March 1st.

ABW Ministries wishes to thank all who have contributed to our budget "request." If anyone else would care to donate, we would appreciate your help.

UNITY FELLOWSHIP

Unity Fellowship this month will be **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.**



JOYFUL SOUNDS CHOIR

All children in 1st through 6th grade are invited to join in rehearsals. If you have any questions, please call Mary Schwarz, the Joyful Sounds Director, at 432-1540 or email Mary at: mschwarz@abc-nys.org. On **Sunday, December 21st**, the Joyful Sounds Choir will be singing during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.



FINANCIAL NOTES

This is your friendly reminder to submit all donations for 2008 to the church no later than **Wednesday, Dec. 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



MISSION NEWS

RMMO OFFERING

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) will be taken during the month of December.

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

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

The WMO was taken through the month of October and a total of \$ 1,343.35 was Donated. Thank you for your contributions to WMO.

SAMARITAN CENTER NEWS!!

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

CROP WALK

The new total FBC has collected is **\$1,331.00!!** Great job☺

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 a new item ~ Cookie Mix.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Final Notes for Operation Christmas Child: First Baptist- 53 boxes; Playschool- 9 boxes; Delphi Falls- 5 boxes; Cash Donations \$284. Thank you to all who have participated this year. With your support over the last 7 years we have sent 461 boxes. I could not have done this wonderful mission project without you. Special thanks to my Mom, who has been my eyes, ears, money and box collector.

Thanks Mom and thank you congregation. --*Colleen Guynup*



TWO WAYS TO REACH OUT THIS CHRISTMAS



(1) A Christmas Tree outside the Chapel - Don't miss it! There will be a **mitten, scarf and hat tree** set up outside the Chapel. We will be collecting boys, girls, men's, and women's mittens, scarves, and winter hats for the Samaritan Center **through the 15th of December**. Your contribution will help keep someone warm for the winter!

(2) A Christmas Welcome to a Refugee Family – We will be collecting gifts for a refugee family that has arrived in Syracuse recently. Watch for more details. This will be a way to support our Karen Baptist brothers and sisters in their new homes.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 21st, 6 p.m.

Everyone (young and old alike) are invited to join in singing carols to our homebound members and our neighborhood. We will return to First Baptist for hot drinks and the warmth of fellowship. This event is being hosted by our Jr. and Sr. High Youth.

ANNUAL HIGHLAND FOREST TRIP ~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The Highland Forest trip will be **Sunday, January 18, 6-10 p.m.** (no school Monday). Bring your favorite soup, chili, or stew to share. Desserts/munchies also welcome! Call Debbie Oley with any questions at 682-8198.





THE MASTER'S TOUCH CHORALE CONCERT

First Baptist Church of Manlius

Sunday, November 30th, 6:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary

*You don't want to miss out on this beautiful concert
Conducted by Warren Ottey.
Come and hear the joyful sounds of Christmas.*

A reception in the Chapel will follow the performance.

~ ~ ~

This is ABW's Christmas gift to all of you.

~ ~ ~

A free will offering will be taken.

AWAY FROM THE MANGER

An Advent Musical



*First Baptist Church, Manlius ~ Sunday, December 14, 2008,
6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary*

(Snow Date: December 21st)

Reception to follow in the Chapel

*There will be wise men, shepherds, and others
-- but not quite like you remember them!*

Featuring a cast of talented First Baptist adults, youth, and children

Based on the play by Elizabeth M. Topp

Music & lyrics by Sally Beske

Produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



“Come to the Manger”

Sunday, November 30th ~ First Sunday of Advent
Bell Choir

Sermon: “Seeking the Face of God”
Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

Sunday, December 7th ~ Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Service
Courtney Shevchuk ~ Cello

Sermon: “The Way to the Manger”
Text: Isaiah 40:1-11



Sunday, December 14th ~ Third Sunday of Advent
Lexi Dominy ~ singing
Christmas Program at 6 pm

Sermon: “The Work of Waiting”
Text: Isaiah 61:1-11

Sunday, December 21st ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent
“Away From the Manger” Chorus

Sermon: “A God Bearing Life”
Text: Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

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 ~ 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

REMEMBER with LOVE

GIVE with GRATITUDE

December 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each fall over 3,000 checks are mailed to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries, or their widowed spouses, who have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with countless thousands. You can help say Thank You to these men and women of faith by contributing to the annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

Shortly after Thank You checks are mailed out, notes from grateful recipients begin to pour in. People see the checks not only as expressions of love and concern from the American Baptist family, but also as evidence of God's continuing sustenance and care into their retirement years. Recipients who are widowed spouses often express surprise and amazement that they continue to receive a Thank You check as continued recognition of their late spouses' ABC service.

Juanita Godfrey (81) from Morgantown, WV, wrote: "My late husband, Jack, had told me that I would continue to receive an RMMO Thank You check after he died, but I had forgotten about it. So receiving it was a pleasant surprise. I am grateful to American Baptist congregations for their gift. The RMMO theme, *Remember with Love, Give with Gratitude*, is certainly appropriate."

Please join us in remembering those who dedicated their lives to Christian ministry. Make a generous contribution to the RMMO during the month of December. Our goal is **\$1,200.00**.

Your gift makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Your Mission Board ~
Jill Doss
Jean Lynn Buskey
Sally Lyon
Shirley Mapstone
Ann Morales
Tom Shephard



You're invited - Please come!



Family Craft Night

Thursday, December 4, 2008

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

All are welcome - ages 0 - 100!!!



**God's Soldiers
Pizza and Presents Event**

Calling all k - 5th graders!

Need some cool Christmas gifts to give to some special people? Come and make some! Pizza arrives at 5:00, and we will make crafts/presents from 5:30 - 6:30. Bring a gift bag or two to take your surprises home!



**When? Wednesday, December 17
5:00 - 6:30 PM**

Where? Church kitchenette and chapel



**RSVP? Call or email Barbara Brace
682-6270 or Cmillbce@aol.com by **December 14, 2008****

Youth News

Youth Group meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

For youth in Grades 6th - 12th

Upcoming Events:

November 30th - "Phase 1 of Youth Room Make-over"



Directly after worship, we'll be starting our Room Renovations with **PAINTING!** Our base color has been chosen - woo hoo! Be sure to bring clothes that could possibly get paint on 'em. Pizza lunch will be served 12:30-ish with painting directly after that.

December 7th - Youth Group: Normal time. Normal place. Christmas Fun.

December 14th - Some of the youth are in the FBC Manlius Christmas play - Bring your family & we'll see you there!

December 21st - Youth Group will host our Church Family Christmas Caroling at 6 pm

December 25th - The Youth Team wishes the church family a very:



Christmas Break - Something excellent is in the works - bring your friends! I know, I know - it's hard to bring friends if you don't know what your bringing friends to! We're working on that...



The youth need your help!



We want to send 'FBC Manlius Love' to our College Students! Would you please help the youth gather goodies? If you are unable to purchase items, we will accept donations to offset the mailing cost. **Please place your donations in the box near the Library by December 7th** (The care packages will be sent on December 8th).

Examples: Post-its, pens, hot cocoa, highlighters, crackers, microwave popcorn, gum/candy, etc.

Know of a college student? Please contact the youth team with the student's address.

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 FBManliusyouth@gmail.com



DECEMBER 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO) THIS MONTH	1 6:30 pm <u>Diaconate Board Meeting</u>	2 6:30 pm <u>Nehemiah Mtg.</u> 6:30 pm <u>Trustees Board Meeting</u>	3	4 5:30-7:00 pm <u>Craft Night (gym)</u> 6:30 pm <u>Youth Team Meeting</u>	5 9:00-3:00pm <u>ABC/NYS Board of Mission chapel, gym, kitchen No Stay 'n Play</u>	6
7 – 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Advent Choir Reh.</u> 12:15 pm <u>CE Board Meeting</u> 6-7:30 pm <u>Youth</u>	8	9	10 7:00 pm <u>Executive Committee Meeting</u>	11 6:30-8:30 pm <u>Basketball (gym)</u>	12 9:30- 11:30 am <u>Stay 'n Play (gym)</u>	13
14 – 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Advent Choir Reh.</u> 12:15 pm <u>Missions Board</u> 6:00 pm <u>Christmas Program</u>	15 Newsletter Items Due ☺	16	17 8:00 am <u>Staff Meeting</u> 5:00-6:30 pm <u>God's Soldiers</u> (chapel and kitchenette)	18 6:30-8:30 pm <u>Basketball (gym)</u>	19 Playschool Christmas Program <u>No Stay 'n Play</u>	20
21 – 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30 am <u>Worship</u> 9:45 am <u>Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u> 12:15 pm <u>Advent Choir Reh.</u> 6:00 pm <u>Christmas Caroling</u> 6:00 pm Snow Date for the <u>Christmas Program</u>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 5:00 pm ~ <u>Children's Service</u> Pastor Leon 7:30 pm ~ <u>Family Service</u> Pastor Leon 11:00 pm ~ <u>Communion Service</u> ~ Rev. John Buskey	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 No 8:30 am <u>Worship or Sunday School</u> 11:00 am <u>Worship</u>	29	30	31 6:30 pm <u>Unity Fellowship's New Year's Eve Party</u> (chapel)			

www.firstbaptist-manlius.org

**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.