

Welcome to First Baptist Church of Manlius
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 23, 2007 ~ 8:30 a.m.

Our worship leaders this morning include:

Our Praise Team Leader, Mary Schwarz and the Praise Team
Our Music Director and Accompanist, John Spradling
Our Pastor, Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee

Scripture Focus

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon

“God’s Surprises!”

Pastor Leon Oaks-Lee

“HEAD-TO-TOE TREE”



Do you have any new or gently-used gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, or socks? If so, please bring them to church and hang them on the “Head-to-Toe” tree located in the hallway by the Chapel entrance. We are collecting them through the end of January for people in need to help stay warm this winter. Please call Barbara Brace at 682-6270 if you have any questions.

2008 CALENDARS – are from Schepp Family Funeral Homes and are in the Narthex for you to take home.

FINANCIAL NOTES - This is your friendly reminder to submit all donations for 2007 to the church no later than **Monday, Dec. 31, 2007**. 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

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 ~ don’t delay! Give Barbara a call at 632-4384.

ABW MINISTRIES - We are still collecting UPC codes on the back of Campbell’s products and also cancelled stamps (with at least ¼” 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. JoAnn Mostar is in charge. There will be a White Cross meeting in the Chapel on Monday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m.

CALENDAR

TODAY, SUNDAY, December 23rd ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship Service/Pastor Leon Oaks-Lee is preaching
9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School Event today!
11:00 a.m. Worship Service/Pastor Leon Oaks-Lee is preaching

MONDAY, December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Children’s Service with Rev. Oaks-Lee
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service with Rev. Oaks-Lee
11:00 p.m. Communion Service with Rev. John Buskey

TUESDAY, December 25th ~ Christmas Day



WEDNESDAY, December 26th ~ Church Office is closed

THURSDAY, December 27th

6:30 p.m. Basketball in the gym

SUNDAY, December 30th ~ Blessings Sunday

No 8:30 a.m. Worship Service this Sunday
No Sunday School this Sunday
11:00 a.m. Worship Service – “Blessings Sunday”/Pastor Leon is preaching
6:00 p.m. Youth New Year’s Eve Eve Party at Weedsport Baptist Church
(meet at First Baptist Church, Manlius at 5:00 p.m.)
6:30 p.m. Unity Fellowship’s New Year’s Eve Party in the Chapel

	<p><u>Pastor Leon’s Office Hours:</u></p> <p>Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-Noon</p> <p>Email: fbc-m-pastor@twcny.rr.com</p>	
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PRAYER REQUESTS

Recent Prayer Requests:

Jon Perry – Dave Knaebel's friend, is back in the hospital.

Joann Bishop – a friend of Grace Chege's, is need of prayers for strength and encouragement.

Ruth Costello – is back at home now.

Please Pray for:

Virginia Noble

Kermit Breed, Jr.

Mike Handzel

Richard Fuller and his wife, Fran

Virginia, Carol Davenport's aunt

Abigail, Dorcas Ambrosio's sister

The Buskey family

Mary Jane and Russell Davis

The Parker Family

Wanda Baker

Loretta Beuchert

Joe Malloy

Barbara, Carol Davenport's sister

Florence Cowles, Barbara Brace's mother

Donald Loope Mr. and Mrs. Syracuse

Donna, Joyce McCartney's sister

The Pratt Family

The Holloway Family

Connor

Mike Adams

Martin Short

Licia Swain

Dorcas Ambrosio

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PRAISES

Carole Guynup would like to thank her Secret Pal for the lovely bag full of Christmas things ~ pray that you have a great Christmas, too!!

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

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

Administered by The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board

Does Your Gift Make a Difference?

Yes, it does! In 2006 Sophia Stephenson of Delaware, Ohio, along with over 3,000 other retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses, received a Thank You check from the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). Sophia (86), the widow of Rev. James Stephenson, wrote: "I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the Thank You check. I have had a lot of medical expenses this year and the check has helped me pay some bills. God bless you." RMMO donations are taken the month of December. Our Goal: \$1,000. As of 12/16:

\$1,114.75! Thank You!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDARS FOR 2008 - are needed for residents in nursing homes and adult care facilities. Calendars may be dropped off through Jan.15th at the Fayetteville or Manlius libraries. Please call Diane at 637-6632 if you have any questions.



UNITY FELLOWSHIP

Come join Unity Fellowship's New Year's Eve Party! It will begin **Monday, Dec. 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 consists of: Art and Shirley Mapstone, Guynup, Ware, and Richardson.



COME ONE - COME ALL

HIGHLAND FOREST TRIP - Don't miss the Annual Highland Forest Trip on Sunday, **January 20, 2008** at **7:00 p.m.** at the Lodge. There is no school on Monday! **All ages** gather in the cozy, fireplace-heated lodge for an evening of games, food and fellowship. Horse-drawn sleigh rides cap off an evening of pure delight for those adventurous to go out in the cold. Be sure to dress warmly. Bring a favorite board game or puzzle and be prepared to teach young and old alike the game. We have the lodge until 11:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite chili, soup or stew to share. Desserts and munchies are also welcome. Beverages will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Shevchuk at 682-8678. Invite your friends and neighbors - all are encouraged to attend:)



Youth News

New Years Eve Eve Party



December 30, 2007

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

(Meet at FBC Manlius @ 5:00pm / Return @ 10:45pm)

Weedsport Baptist Church

****Games****

****Christian Concert****

****Pizza****

****New Friends from Area Churches****

Be sure to have your permission slip to Mrs. Shevchuk by TODAY.

Youth Group meets

1st & 3rd Sundays!

Upcoming Events:

December 30th: New Years Eve Eve Party, Weedsport

January 6th: “Mystery” Youth

Group @ 6:00pm (Not that we’re withholding info – it’s really a mystery... Complete with clues, treasure, & all that jazz...)

2008 Calendars



Only \$7.00

The youth

have ended their Calendar Sales, but

we still have **10** left! If you have not

ordered one yet, please see Christy

Brownell or Kathie Shevchuk. **All**

proceeds go to the Youth Group.

Youth newsletter has been sent out. If you did not receive one, please let Christy know.

NEXT SUNDAY

BLESSINGS SUNDAY

Next Sunday, December 30th, we will call Blessings Sunday.

How has God worked in your life this past year? In what ways has God blessed you?

Reflect on this past year and give thanks! Think of something that symbolizes the way in which God has blessed you or worked in your life during 2007. Bring that object to worship with you next Sunday. There will be an opportunity during our worship service for people to briefly share with the congregation what their object symbolizes.

If you would like to share something more extensive (2 or more minutes), speak to Pastor Leon. It will help him in planning the service.

What will you bring? At another place and time, a man brought a cane and talked about the people who supported him in the past year during a time of disability. Another person brought a song and told how a certain phrase in that song described how she felt about the past year. Another person brought a scripture and shared how those words had inspired him to start a new activity in his life.

Next Sunday: There will be no 8:30 a.m. service and there will be no Sunday School.



December 2007

Poinsettias have been given for the beautification of our church sanctuary during this Christmas season by:

- Anthony and Annette Andrusyszyn in memory of Elsie and Ken Bex.*
- David, Mary, Dennis and Stephanie Bishop in memory of Gram Benor.*
- Dick and Nancy Bishop in memory of Rev. John and Lucy Baker.*
- Dick and Nancy Bishop in memory of Dorothy Benor.*
- Tom Biviano in memory Ellen Biviano.*
- Flocerfida B. de Jesus in memory of Vicente and Loreto de Jesus; Felicitas de Jesus, Epifania E. Rivera, Encarnacion Bacani, and Denang de Jesus.*
- Bob, Jill and Robert Doss in thankfulness for family.*
- Carole, Charlie, Derek and Colleen Guynup in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guynup.*
- Carol Jean Heller in memory of Raymond Heller and his neighbors, Leah and Charles Stark.*
- Jeffrey W. Loope in memory of mom's parents, mom's sisters, dad's parents, and dad's brother.*
- Bob and Shirley Mapstone in memory of our parents, Lynn and Emma Mapstone and Carl and Anna Nellis.*
- Wilma Meigel in memory of Charles F. Meigel, former member.*
- Jim Mitscher - Merry Christmas.*
- Laurie and Tom Peschel in memory of Gram Benor and Doris Peschel.*



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. Children's Service

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

11:00 p.m. Communion Service



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Adult Sunday School Options for January

- 1) "What's So Amazing About Grace?"
The video series with Phil Yancey will continue in January
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

These classes will resume on January 6th.

Sunday, December 23rd - Intergenerational Class for everyone

Sunday, December 30th - No 8:30 a.m. Worship Service or classes