



Tower Topics

The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA

May 2011 - Vol. XXXVIII #5

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

Finally May is here and we are free for the next several months from worrying/thinking about SNOW. Oh, I know that once upon a time there was a freak snowstorm that hit in June, but let us think positively, shall we that it won't happen.

Seriously, May is a beautiful month. The rains of April have come and gone and now the flowers and trees are out in all their glory and beauty. What a joy it is that the spring warmth follows the warmth of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! During this month we are in a period within the Christian calendar called Eastertide. Eastertide is a fifty-day period of seven Sundays, beginning with Easter, the festival of Christ's resurrection. Within this Eastertide celebration is Ascension Day which occurs forty days after Easter to celebrate and affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord of all times and places.

This exciting month also means our emphasis on Family, Peace and Heritage. Peace Sunday is May 1st and seeks to bring awareness to each of us that with peace in and through the family of God there is hope for the world in which we live. On the 8th of May we will begin our month long celebration of the Christian Family with our distribution of plants to each family unit within the church. As always, take your plant home, nurture it and bring it back on the June 19 when they will be planted outside in our church Family Garden. On the 15th of May we will celebrate Baptist Heritage Sunday, recognizing our history as Baptists and affirming our calling as persons of faith and conscience. Then on the 22nd we will also celebrate our history as we share in a "Taste of India" presented and prepared by Prema Junius.

Why not plan now to be in worship throughout the month of May and celebrate with each of us our Christian Family in so many different venues. To God be the glory in all things.

Shalom

Pastor Steve

For Your Information and Inspiration:

Have you wondered lately how we're doing with our Renovations 2008 loan? Wondered how helpful the special gifts toward principle are? How we're managing to pay the bills at church? The Trustees receive monthly reports and here's what they hear when they ask these questions:

RENOVATIONS 2008

Loan \$300,000.00

Closing December 10, 2008
at fixed 6.99% interest

*\$1,400.00 payment every two weeks
paid \$62,586.70 so far*

Balance April 01 ~ \$237,413.30

*over \$16,000.00 in directed gifts
helped us to get that far!*

Now, if you want to help us box in the Renovations 2008 loan even more, your gift in any amount is welcome at any time. Checks should be made out to First Baptist Church and clearly marked for loan principle. Then they can be placed in the Offering or given to Financial Secretary, Susan Wilber.

“The Lord loves a cheerful giver”!*

*(Of course the Lord loves the rest of us, too)

FROM THE DIACONATE

We will be hosting a reception for Ashley McCormick, our choir director and organist, after the cantata on Sunday, May 1, 2011. With members from Ashley's home church joining our choir, the cantata promises to bring inspiration and joy to our church family. The Diaconate will furnish the meat and dessert for the reception with other members bringing side dishes. Come worship, eat and fellowship with everyone as we say farewell to Ashley!

Lenten services held at First Baptist were well received by many in the community with area ministers providing the messages. A brown bag lunch followed the service in the annex. On Maundy Thursday the church was open from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. when a service with communion were held in the Annex. On Good Friday the sanctuary was available from noon until 3:00 p.m. for prayer and reflection. There was the veiling of the cross inside the church and outside. Easter Sunday we had a Sunrise Service in the sanctuary at 7:00 a.m. followed by breakfast in the annex.

Following is a prayer for us to consider at this time of the year:

"Life's Little Garden"

Lord, help us to PLAN, PREPARE and PLANT what you would have us to and help us to WEED out of our lives what should not be there. Lord, help us to grow through you in our relationships, our attitudes, and our lives, always being in your will. Help us to always walk with you. Let us always be thankful and content.

Amen

America For Christ Offering

Your Board of Christian Mission thanks the members and friends of First Baptist Church for their sacrificial giving towards the 2011 America For Christ Offering. With celebration we received \$803.00 over against our goal of \$750.00. In this continuing economic trials this is indeed a testimony to you faithfulness and commitment to mission, here and abroad. Praise be to our Lord for each of you who helped in any way to help us realize our goal.

The Board of Mission



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Ladies, save this date for our Special Spring Tea:

Saturday, May 21 at 10: AM

Our gathering will be special because we'll have beautiful tables to admire as we gather.

We will have special refreshments prepared by "The Four Chefs":
Diane Case, Susan Wilber, Carol Mortimer and Anne Nevin.

We will be serenaded by "The Four Baptists":
Bill Bogart, Steven Case, Lee Hoar, and Ben E. Nevin

A beautiful morning out.
Come and enjoy a special time of Christian fellowship.

How special is that?!
Guests are most welcome. Come and bring a friend.

Upcoming Events

On Sunday, **May 1st** the Cochranville, United Methodist Church Choir will be joining our Chancel choir in the presentation of the Easter Cantata entitled, "A Time for Alleluia." The cantata is under the direction Ashley McCormick, Organist/ Choir Director of First Baptist Church and accompanied by Tyler Wetherbee from Mansfield University. The words and music of the cantata are from Joseph M. Martin with narration by Pamela Martin. Following the presentation there will be a dinner honoring and celebrating Ashley's 2 plus years with us as she concludes her ministry at First Baptist Church. On Sunday, May 15th members of the First Baptist Church Chancel Choir will journey to the Cochranville United Methodist Church to participate in the performance of the cantata at Ashley's home church.

May 8th will find the First Baptist Church beginning our celebration of the Christian Family with the distribution of Family Plants to all families in attendance at worship that day. This is an annual event with plants being distributed on Mother's Day and brought back to be planted outside on Father's Day. This event is sponsored by the Board of Christian Education.

On Sunday **May 22nd**, following worship, those in attendance will be treated to an event, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, entitled, "A Taste of India." The meal and program will be provided by Prema Junius, PhD, professor of Mathematics at Mansfield University and a member of the First Baptist Church of Mansfield. Watch your church bulletin for further details and announcements.

Seeds of Hope Partners report

This months needs are for pillows and mattress pads. The mattress pads can be twin or full size. Also, please join Seeds of Hope Partners in praying for God's guidance and leading as to what more we need to do in the county to help the children and families in the county. Another prayer concern is about a permanent building to house all the donations.

Prayer List

David Cook (Tammy Nevin's Father)
William Bott Jr.
Rev. Charles Mercer
Shut-ins and those in our Armed Forces,
and many unspoken requests

Shut-Ins
Iris Berguson, Lou Sine, Evelyn Henninger, Omer & Betty Sumner

May 2011 - Tentative Preaching Schedule



Easter Cantata

May 1st * John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter

May 8th * Luke 24:13-35, Acts 2:14. 36-41, 1 Peter 1:17-23
"Burning Hearts, Broken Bread"

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 15th * John 10:1-10, Acts 2:42-47, I Peter 2:19-25
"Carpe Diem"

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 22nd * I Peter 2:2-10, Acts 7:55-60, John 14:1-14
"Who Will You Be When You Grow Up?"

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 29th * I Peter 3:13-22, Acts 17:22-31, John 14:15-21
"How Do We Talk About Our Faith in a Pluralistic World?"

*** Sermon Text**

Fellowship List for May 2011

Please check the list below for your name.
If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement for that date.**
Thank you for your help!

May 1

Main Street Greeter: Dorothy Bogart
Sherwood Street Greeter: Bill Bogart
Ushers: Richard & Nancy Becker
Hosts: Music Committee & Deacons

May 8

Main Street Greeter: Mary Ellen Hoar
Sherwood Street Greeter: Miriam Cummings
Ushers: Richard & Nancy Becker
Hosts: Ben & Anne Nevin

May 15

Main Street Greeter: Mary Anne Walker
Sherwood Street Greeter:
Ushers: Richard & Nancy Becker
Hosts: Bruce & Nancy Dart

May 22

Main Street Greeter: Sarah Nevin
Sherwood Street Greeter: Lee Hoar
Ushers: Richard & Nancy Becker
Hosts: Cliff & Marilyn Wiles

May 29

Main Street Greeter: Prima Junius
Sherwood Street Greeter: Judy Bott
Ushers: Richard & Nancy Becker
Hosts: Sylvia Sumner & Brenda Rumsey

June 5

Main Street Greeter: Bob Smith
Sherwood Street Greeter: Ben E. Nevin
Ushers: Dorothy Smith and Fran Garrison
Hosts: Ben & Sarah Nevin

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 4 - Gary & Rosemary Cleveland (A)
May 9 - Karen Lemasters
May 10 - Dottie Bogart
May 11 - Marie Mercer

Please visit our website to see our calendar!

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com/calendar.htm>

First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA
North Main & Sherwood Streets

Sunday Morning Worship is at 11:00
Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of the month