



Tower Topics

The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA

November 2011 - Vol. XXXVIII #10

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

With the coming of November, many of our hearts and stomachs turn to the celebration of Thanksgiving. I enjoy this wonderful holiday, in fact it is one of my favorites. I love any dinner that includes turkey, mashed potatoes and PUMPKIN PIE. On this national holiday we as Americans have the opportunity to remember and give thanks for our forebears who made the crossing from Europe to find, for them, a new land and experience true freedom. It should be noted, however, that once the colonies were established all too quickly and in too many instances religious freedom was eliminated. For instance, in the colony of Virginia if you did not have your child “christened” within the established church you were subject to either some time in prison or an additional tax or both. The tax went to support the official religion of the time, which in Virginia was the Anglican Church. Thankfully that time period is no longer relevant and we do not have an established state church in this nation.

Within our nation religious freedom has been and continues to be a guarded tenet of our Bill of Rights. The first amendment within our Constitution guarantees our Freedom of Religion and states that: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” This freedom like all freedoms comes with a price. Many individuals have given their lives that we might worship the way we choose or not worship at all. Martin Luther once stated, “A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.”

We know that our faith is important and that it came with a high price. Our Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross for the sake of all humanity. He gave his life so others would have theirs. He has shown us the way to salvation and light. He calls us to be doers of His will, not just hearers.

This Thanksgiving, in the midst of our family activities such as eating our dinners and the watching of parades and football games, let us celebrate the freedom we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Celebrate too, our religious freedom that we have in this great land of ours now and always. But let us also remember the personal responsibilities that come with this and all freedoms.

Shalom and a Blessed Thanksgiving

Pastor Steve

September Financial Figures



Total gifts for operational expenses - \$6,031.42
weekly average - \$1,507.85

Total expenses for September excluding mission outreach -
8,430.52 - weekly average - 2,107.63

To meet the 2011 budget for operational expenses, weekly income would need
to average 2,373.27

PENNIES FOR BRICKS!

No, we're not selling our bricks, nor are we buying any! We're preserving them! A decade and more ago we did a major project of cleaning the bricks and trim outdoors; then we had a coating applied to help keep the bricks clean and dry.

That treatment needs to be renewed every five to seven years. The "penny jar" that helped us pay off the expense worked so well and so easily that the Trustees decided to keep the penny jar idea to gather up an amount to have on hand when another brick treatment was needed.

After the original jar was broken (as it was being hi-jacked!) we replaced it and have been keeping it in a safer place out of sight. Which means, of course, that we don't always think to put it out on Sunday. But your pennies (etc.) are always welcome. You may put yours in the jar yourself, or an usher will take care of them for you.



Over the years our "pennies" have added up to hundreds of dollars! THANK YOU!

Prayer List

Prema Junius, patient at Arnot Ogden,
Iris Berguson, patient at Robert Packer,
Joshua Baker, 7 year old with brain Cancer,
Walter Joiner & Yvonne Zimmer, Susan Bogart,
Richard Smith (Mary Webster's son-in-law),
Jasmine Williams (4 year old with Cancer),
Haines & Carol Scureman, college students, shut-ins, those in our Armed Forces, especial
Billy Rathbun serving in Afghanistan, and many unspoken requests.

Shut-Ins

Iris Berguson, Evelyn Henninger, Omer & Betty Sumner



November 2011 - *Tentative Preaching Schedule*

6th “*Being Children of God*”

* I John 3:1-3, Joshua 24: 1-3, 14-25, Matthew 25: 1-13

13th “*God at Work in Human Affairs*”

* Philippians 4:1-9 , Exodus 32:1-14 , Matthew 22:1-14

16th “*A Godly Invitation*”

* Psalm 76, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25: 14-30

20th “*What Christ Offers the Faithful*”

* Ephesians 1:15-23, Ezekiel 34:11-16, Matthew 25:31-46

27th “*Are You Getting Ready for Christmas*”

* Mark 13:24-37, Isaiah 64:1-9, I Corinthians 1:3-9

* **Sermon Text**

Church Activities You May have missed!



October 9, 2011

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson (Karen)

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Regional Pastor With Congregations

Dr. Johnson spoke to us at worship on Sunday morning and again at the Tioga Association meeting in our church in the afternoon. If you missed either of his sermons, you missed something fabulous!

American Baptist Women

White Cross 10-15-11

The regular meeting of ABW was held October 15th with delicious refreshments provided by Judy Bott and Joyce Bixby. After devotions given by Mary Ellen Hoar and Nancy Becker, and a brief business meeting; Fran Garrison and Mary Ann Walker talked about our White Cross assignments for the 2011/2012 year. The Overland (USA) assignment is for the Valley Christian Center in Phoenix, AZ. They have requested many small items which can be purchased and mailed OR we can purchase Walmart gift cards to send to them. They have expressed a need for shoes for all ages as the heat from the streets of Phoenix is destructive to shoes. Our target amount for this organization is \$150.

Our Overseas requests are for 40 (4" X 10 yd) roller bandages to be sent to the Congo, and a request for \$200 to go to the Ricks Institute located in the West African nation of Liberia. The Ricks Institute has been in existence for over 118 years. They strive to provide a balanced and integrated education of head, heart and hand as well as instituting a nutrition/feeding program for all its students.

Stop by the ABW bulletin board in Griffiths Annex and see the completed roller bandages and pictures/descriptions of the Overland and Overseas information. We encourage everyone who can give to support our share in the White Cross quotas. To learn more you can access websites for both organizations at <http://www.phxvcc.com/v2/> for Valley Christian Center and <http://www.ricksonline.org> for the Ricks Institute. These are very interesting and informative websites.

Mission Blitz - October 16, 2011



Ben B. Nevin,
Chairman of the event

Pastor Steve at the American Baptist Home Mission Society & The Baptist Joint Committee booths



Mark Samuel,
Speaker from Neighborhood Ministries (Ohio)

Corenne Smith,
speaker from Hope Unlimited (Brazil)



National, Regional and Local ABC Missionaries

Bradford and Tioga Associations held Mission Blitz 2011 October 14 - 16. On Friday afternoon a Clergy and Spouse Luncheon was held in Mansfield. Saturday's youth event included Outflow in the communities of Troy and Wellsboro, Mission Speaker from Brazil Nayana Goncalvez Reis, Regional Pastors Frank Frischkorn and Kevin Walden highlighting ministries in ABCOPAD as well as Praise and Worship led by Pastor Phil Benner (Youth Ministries Pastor at FBC Wellsboro). Sunday's Mission Blitz Main Event took place at FBC Wellsboro featuring Corenne Garrison Smith with Hope Unlimited in Brazil and Mark Samuel of Neighborhood Ministries in Ohio. All the Missionaries and many Regional Pastors filled local ABC Church Pulpits for morning worship. It was a great weekend lifting up local, Regional, National and International Mission and Ministries.

Upcoming Events 2011

November

“The Magic Flute” featuring Derek Gracey

Straughn Auditorium Nov. 11, 12 at 7:30 and 13th at 2:30

November 13th Fellowship Dinner & Church Business Meeting following worship

Hanging of the Greens

The annual Hanging of the Greens will take place from 2:00-5:00 on Saturday, November 26th. Soup and bread for a light dinner afterwards will be provided. Please come and help the Chancel Committee and the Board of Christian Education make our sanctuary and annex beautiful for the glorious Christmas Season.

December

December 2 - Live Nativity at the “Pump and Pantry” featuring the Chancel Choir

December 10 - Derek & Becca's wedding at First Baptist

December 17 - Diane's Christmas Tea for the Ladies of our church

December 18 - Christmas Hymn Sing

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

December 25 - Come celebrate the birth of Jesus at worship at 11:00

Meet Brenda Rumsey



Brenda was born in Wellsboro, and she graduated from Mansfield Jr. Sr. High School. She attended Williamsport Community College for a year then she moved to Texas. She returned to Pennsylvania five years later and joined the US Air Force and received her Associates degree in Aircraft Armament Systems from the Community College of the Air Force during her 10 years of Active duty.

Brenda's first job in the Air Force was as an Aircraft Armament specialist being stationed in Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho from 1987-1989 then off to RAF Upper Heyford, England for 4 1/2 years. During her tour in England (1989-2003), she was deployed to Incerlik, Turkey for Desert Shield. In 1991, Danielle was born and they returned to the states in December of 1993 and retrained in the Personnel (Human Resource) career field. She was then stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force base in Goldsboro, NC until September of 1996. Brenda decided to get out of active duty when Danielle was starting school because of all of the deployments and the difficulty of being a single parent in the military.

After Brenda separated from Active Duty, she went directly into the PA Air National Guard in State College, PA. After September 11, 2001, she was deployed to the Northeast Air Defense Sector in Rome, NY for two 45 day tours and eventually joined the NY Air National Guard and started drilling in Rome, NY. In 2007, Brenda joined a new unit in Rome, NY that she is currently serving with, the 222nd Command & Control Squadron (222d CACs), and she holds the rank of MSgt (E7). With the 222nd she gets to travel to Chantilly, VA often and work in the NROC (National Reconnaissance Operation Center). We are a space oriented unit and track military satellites. Brenda currently has 24 1/2 total years in the military.

Brenda loves to work in her yard. She can be found outside in her vegetable garden, mowing, mulching or working in her flower gardens as long as the weather permits. She enjoys walking her very spoiled Jack Russell Terrier, Zoey. So if you are driving though Roseville, you are apt to see Brenda walking Zoey as she needs lots of exercise.

On the civilian side, Brenda works for the Pennsylvania Department of Health in Wellsboro. During the recent flooding from Tropical storm Irene, she has traveled to 3 flood zones (Bradford, Sullivan & Lycoming Counties) and worked in the FEMA DRC's (Disaster Recovery Centers) approximately 10 times.

Brenda became a Christian when she was 12 years old, right here at First Baptist Church. She was baptized here and has been a member ever since, having served as a Deacon. Brenda kind of lost her spiritual way for a few years but found her way back when she was attending the Chapel on base in North Carolina.



Gary and Carol Mortimer and their new home

Dear Family & friends: Our email has changed as we prepare to make our new special adventure happen. The house is sold and the “stuff” goes into storage this week, We will reside in the Motorhome until closing which should be around the 15th of Nov. Then we head out for parts unknown!!!! Just kidding as we will be in SC until after Christmas and then to Florida for 4 mos. After that, stay tuned! We are very excited to follow this long time dream. I have a SPECIAL REQUEST from each of you as we stay in touch via email. We want to hear from you all BUT, PLEASE DO NOT SEND FORWARDS TO US. When we are in resorts we pick up wifi but forwards really tie up the speed, etc. Thanks for understanding our situation. Our cell phones will always be on and we would love to hear your voices. (Carol: 717/679-4236 and Gary: 717/679-3237) Our mailing address will be Pamela’s address at 50 Weaver Ave, Ephrata, PA 17522 but email & phone is the best way to reach us. You never know when you’ll get a call that we are in your area & want to stop for a visit! God bless! love, Gary & Carol

Fellowship List for November 2011

Please check the list below for your name.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement.** Thank you for your help!

November 6

Main Street Greeter: Carol Mortimer
Sherwood Street Greeter: Grace Miller
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Bob & Dorothy Smith
Lay Reader: Jim Cummings

November 13

Main Street Greeter: June Rudy
Sherwood Street Greeter: Diane Case
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Cliff & Marilyn Wiles
Lay Reader: Fran Garrison

November 20

Main Street Greeter: Sarah Nevin
Sherwood Street Greeter: Faye Hotelling
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Diane Case & Mary Ann Walker
Lay Reader: Miriam Cummings

November 27

Main Street Greeter: Ruth Powlison
Sherwood Street Greeter: Joyce Bixby
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Mary Webster & Harry Hagar
Lay Reader: Rebecca Hazen

December 4

Main Street Greeter: Nancy Dart
Sherwood Street Greeter: Bruce Dart
Ushers: Fran Garrison & Branda Rumsey
Hosts: Jim & Miriam Cummings
Lay Reader: Sue Wilber

*November
Birthdays &
Anniversaries*

1 - Brenda Rumsey, Bruce & Nancy Dart (A)
4 - Patrick Cummings
8 - Marilyn Wiles
13 - Rob Garrison
16 - Richard & Nancy Becker (A)
18 - Steve & Diane Case (A)

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