



The Messenger

175 Allen's Creek Road • Rochester, NY 14618 (585) 244-2468 • fax (585) 244-2469

Volume 11, No. 4

Sunday Worship & Christian Education 10:00 AM

January 2012

From Your "With All My Heart" Pastor...

"Unlimited Possibilities"

One of my life's mentors, Dr. Stewart A. Newman, now of blessed memory, tells the story of a chance encounter with one of his students at a highway rest area in Texas. After the usual surprised and happy greetings, the former student had occasion to say that he was a heart transplant patient. He was feeling as healthy and fit as ever. "It has caused others to be quite concerned about me," he said. "My wife has received calls from members of our church who are deeply concerned about my immortal soul. They say I need to accept Jesus as my Savior again, because the heart I first gave to him no longer is there."

Oh, the limitations of the literal mind! To believe that the heart is all there is to a person is to give God very little credit. It is not only our hearts that are made in God's image, but our whole selves, all that we are. The heart of a person is not a pump with chambers and valves; it is the spiritual unity of all aspects of personhood. This is why the scriptures call us to love the Lord our God "with all of our heart and soul and mind and strength."

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may

give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might...Ephesians 1:15-19, RSV

I think that Paul's prayer for the enlightenment of our hearts is one that we must utter constantly, and with humility. The dominant eye for us is that of the mind, and its sight is always limited by logic. This is an astigmatism corrected by the enlightening of the heart's eye, which sees the limitless possibilities of our human world filled with God's love.

In this new year, 2012, the 194th year of our congregation's ministry for Jesus Christ, may you perceive with all that is in you the hand of God. May the unlimited possibilities for real and permanent good tease your soul into action!

Pastor Ken



ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 22



The annual meeting of the First Baptist Church of Rochester and Society will be held on January 22 immediately following worship and a brief fellowship in Hubbell Hall.

The agenda will include election of officers, a vote on a by-law change, and approval of the proposed 2012 church budget. Annual Reports should be available on January 15 at the church.



For all of the prayers, cards, messages, and notes from members of the congregation during Rod's illness and passing, we thank you.

Lois Whitcomb and family

Deacons Ministry: A Call to Caring



Deacons Ministry: A Call to Caring

Anyone who is interested in joining the Deacon's Ministry should come to the training sessions scheduled for January and early February. This training will be co-facilitated by Dr. Don Schwab, D Min, Ph D, family counselor and Julie Waterman, MSW. These sessions will be on pastoral care and strategies for home visits. They will be held on January 10, January 23, January 30, and February 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parlor or Library at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Blessings, Julie Waterman



The Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who provided gifts for Cameron under this year's Giving Tree. We are grateful for your willingness to continue to give to this needed ministry.

Eldergarten

... News and Notes

Thursday, January 19

The Bread Man

On Thursday, January 19, Chet Fery “The Bread Man” from Brockport will provide us with a fun and interesting program and demonstration on breadmaking. Chet will not only have bread baking in our oven but he will show us his simple method of making bread from scratch.

DO NOT BRING A SANDWICH. Chet will provide us with white or wheat bread. Toppings will be provided. We will also serve a hearty soup that day.

Sign up on the Vitality Table if you can attend. A \$1 donation is requested.



JoAnn Trolley
Scribe



Annual Reports

All annual reports should be submitted to the church by January 3. Please send your reports via email to the church office at Sherry's mail box: fbcrose@frontiernet.net. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry at the Church Office, (585) 244-2468 on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.





Christmas Dinner

Thank you

To all those that helped with the Christmas Dinner on December 11. We are grateful to each and every one of you who decorated and set up the tables, brought delicious desserts, served at the tables, and cleaned up after the event.

The evening was wonderful, the food was delicious, and the celebration with our church family was superb.

Thank you again to each of you who made the event a memorable evening. You are a blessing!

SUNDAY MORNING

BIBLE **STUDY**

NEW TESTAMENT STUDY BEGINS

The Sunday morning Bible study groups will begin with the New Testament for the New Year! See you on January 9 as we start the chapter entitled “The Good News”.

The groups meet from 9:00-9:45 AM, and 11:30 AM -12:15 PM in the library. The study book “Discovering the Bible” is \$20 for those that need it. See Cheryl Frank if you are interested in joining on a journey through the New Testament with either group.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY GROUP

Our January studies will begin on the second week of January with three sessions that will be led by Rev. Ivan Marable.

January 11: A tribute to Adolf Baker: "How the Spirit of Welcome and Fellowship informs the Worship Experience."

January 18 and 25: "How Human Vulnerability and Faith in God Illuminates Mysticism and the Light within Us," a learning from Howard Thurman.

A brown bag fellowship begins at 6:00 PM and childcare is available.

Sunday Forums for January

January 8: "There are Snakes in those Muddy Waters," on Separation of Church and State, with Deborah Hughes.

January 15: "The Future of CRCDS," with Dr. Marvin McMickle, new President of CRCDS.

January 22: Annual Meeting

January 29: "War and Moral Discourse," a discussion on just war theory with Dr. David Kim, Professor of Ethics at CRCDS.