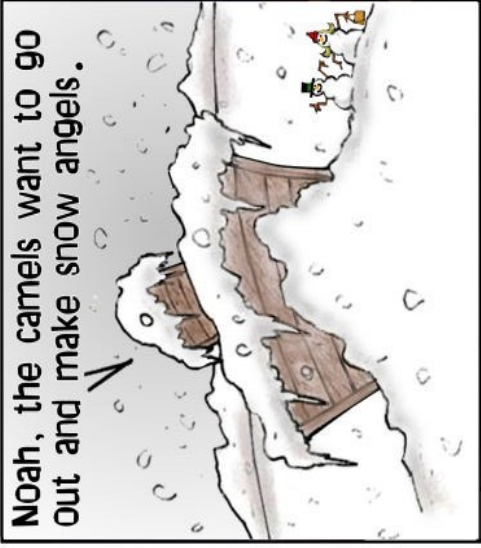


**"THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE
CHRISTMAS— THE REST ARE ANNI-
VERSARIES"
— W.J. CAMERON**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Noah, the camels want to go out and make snow angels.



If the great flood happened during a Minnesota winter you would have had...

ST-NORMAN'S ARK

First Baptist Church of Williamson

4212 E. Main St.

PO Box 104

Williamson, NY 14589

(315) 589-2384

office@williamsonfbc.org



BEING THE CHURCH

First Baptist Church December 2011

Cobblestone Chronicle

Being the Church

"We are a welcoming community where the gifts of all people are valued and the presence of God leads us to serve Christ and others through worship, fellowship, evangelism, mission and spiritual growth."

Blue Taffeta Dress

by Katherine Kehler

"Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17)

How are you doing with your Christmas shopping? I am about half done. With a family as large as ours, the shopping (wish) list is quite long. And when Christmas day arrives, after we have eaten, sung carols and focused on the real meaning of Christmas, we open gifts - and I sit there hoping I haven't forgotten someone.

When I was 14 years old, my parents told us we wouldn't be getting Christmas gifts that year. We would be getting the usual plate of nuts, candies and mandarin oranges, but no gifts. There were too many of us. Money was very scarce. I accepted that. Some years are like that.

However, on Christmas morning, to our surprise, there was a gift for each of us after all. I don't recall the gifts my brothers and sisters received, but mine was a beautiful blue taffeta dress. It fit me perfectly. I loved the color and the style. It was so special because I wasn't expecting it. My dad had to sell some of his milk quota (we lived on a dairy farm) so they could buy us gifts. Sacrifice.

Of all the wonderful gifts I have received during the years, the blue taffeta dress stands out in my memory. It was an unexpected surprise.

I was thinking about that this week and thought I would like to surprise someone, too. I asked the Lord to bring to mind someone who wouldn't be expecting a gift from me - someone who wasn't on my list. I am going to buy her a real nice gift and surprise her.

Pray about it. Maybe God would put the same idea in your heart. You don't have to buy something - you could give your time.

Church Jobs

Worship Leaders Children's Room

December 4 - Rich Walvoord

December 4- Dottie Howland

December 11- Dick Hicks

December 11- Sue Schultz

December 18- Tom Henderson

December 18- Cantata- Children stay in sanctuary

December 25- Christmas

December 25- Christmas in Fellowship Hall, Children with parents

If you are scheduled and cannot be there, please contact Pastor Fran. If you would like to be a worship leader. Talk to Pastor Fran to sign up.

If you have an article or event you would like in the newsletter, please e-mail it to office@williamsonfbc.org.

COMMUNITY LUNCH



The Community Lunch is growing. We now have a consistent 30-35 people at the meal and as the word gets out, more people are coming. As the need grows we will need your help to keep it going and provide this important service to our community. How can you help? Do you have time free on Mondays that you can coordinate a meal or be a server from 10am-2pm?

A sign-up is available at Sign-up Central. Please support this needed ministry.

Williamson Youth Center

The Williamson Youth Center is now open Thursdays from 2pm-6pm. Join us for fun, food and excitement! If you are a youth, or know a youth that would like to participate, this is a great ministry and asset to our town. Stop in and have some fun!

Firewall Coffee Hall



Gentlemen,

You are receiving this message because you have been blessed to be involved at one time or another in the physical construction phase of the Firewall Coffee Hall.

There is some interior deconstruction/reconstruction work that needs to be done asap. If 3 or 4 of this gang showed up each Saturday morning for coffee and to put in a few hours work, we could be up and running in December.

So, here's the idea - Each Saturday morning at 7:30, the door will be open, the coffee will be on and donuts will be available. At 8:00 we start working.

We would also like to do this one evening per week. More info on the evening day to come.

Vision Taskforce Update

Our taskforces met for their final meeting together in October and will be presenting their findings soon. This has been quite a process, but a very good one. Starting last March we met to decide if we had to describe our church, what 3 or 4 words would describe it. After shrinking that list of over 30 down to 4 we came up with the four corners of our church: God-Centered, Mission, Spiritual Growth, and Loving and Caring Community.

The taskforces were then formed around each corner to begin finding out how God would form our church around these corners. They began by visiting the Scriptures and coming up with a paragraph summary of what the Bible proposed about each corner. What does it mean to be God-Centered? What is community according to God? What is our Mission? What and how do we grow spiritually? It was a wonderful time of remembering why we do what we do and how important it is to ground everything we do in Scripture.

The taskforces then began asking the question if God moved our congregation here and wanted to start a church based on each corner, what would it look like? This was one of the hardest parts of the task, but the most fruitful as well. Having grown up doing church a certain way, we found that we had forgotten why we did the things we do. This question helped us see that there were some good things that we were doing, but there also may be greater things we can do by giving up some of the good things.

In the days ahead, we'll be hearing more about what each taskforce has done. Each taskforce will be preparing a document summarizing their finds from Scripture and proposing the first steps toward becoming what God is calling us to be. We will also vote and commit to this new phase of our church coming up at the Annual Meeting in January. Until then, please be praying for our church and looking for updates from each taskforce.

Pastor Fran

Christmas After the Storm

December 25th, 2011



On December 25th, we will meet for worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring in a favorite brunch dish to share. Feel free to wear your pajamas to church and dress casually as we sit together, eat, sing, and hear the Christmas Story once again. This is a wonderful time of



Stewardship 2011

In the last few years we have changed how we conduct stewardship. We have spoken a lot about how our financial contributions are not just given to pay the bills, but are a way to help us grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting our church's mission and ministry with a percentage of our incomes.

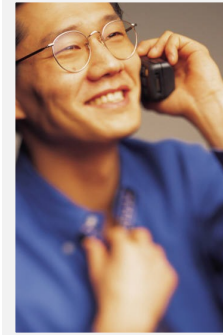
We see that our giving is needed not because our church needs an income to run its many programs and services though it does, but that giving is a part of our relationship with Christ. In giving we are growing more like Christ who gave everything for us.

This year we are asking for continued growth in our giving, to take another step toward becoming a tither of 10%. Our economy is in a place in which each of us is trying to conserve enough to get by and our resources are needed now more than ever. It is a time where we take a step in trusting God more, in relying in his provision, and growing in our giving.

On November 13, we will have our Stewardship Sunday, celebrating all that God has done for us and in return giving sacrificially as he gave for us. Join us on this Sunday and may each of us take a step up in our giving this year!

The Stewardship Committee

Buddy System



In an effort to keep each other better informed of the happenings at church and with each other, the Deacons would like to start a Buddy System at FBC. This program would help our church family keep up with each other, with prayer concerns and joys, and also with what events are happening at church when they miss a Sunday or are away from church for a long period of time. It would consist of an email, card, or phone call just saying Hi and telling them what they missed. We will give details soon on how the process of picking a Buddy will be done.

Do you go to Tops or Breen's for groceries?

Do you go to Tops or Breen's for groceries? Then trade your money in for gift cards and help the church raise money. When you trade money for gift cards at either Tops or Breen's the church makes a 5% profit. You don't lose anything on this trade in, but the church gains a lot. Our members spends thousands of dollars on groceries every year and our church could be making thousands as well if we make a trade. Get involved. Gift cards are traded each Sunday after church!



Vespers Service

December 11th, 2011



Join our choir and the choirs of other local congregations for a night of music and scripture. Coming December 11th at 7pm at the Williamson Presbyterian Church. Don't miss this wonderful night of praise as we join together as One Body to worship the baby Jesus.

Blue Christmas Service

December 14th, 2011



The Fellowship of Churches will host the Annual Blue Christmas Service at the First Baptist Church on December 14th at 7pm. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease can make the holidays a more somber time, then a joyful one. This service enters the wounds of our hearts and brings hope, hope that only a loving and graceful God can bring. Join us as we lay ourselves bare and find Jesus picking up the pieces.

Advent Missions

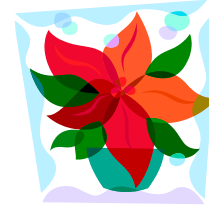


Star Program

We have volunteered to sponsor three families this year with gifts and food for Christmas. You can help with this mission in two ways.

1. First you can pick up a star when they become available in the Fellowship Hall, purchase the gift on the star and bring it back to the church by December 11th. Please make sure your number and letter are attached to the present.
2. Secondly, you can help by bringing in non-perishable food items for the families. A sign-up sheet will be up soon in the Fellowship Hall to sign up for different items and gifts. Thanks for supporting this wonderful mission!

Poinsettias For Sale



Coming soon to a bulletin near you, we will be selling Poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones. These poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary until after Christmas when you can take them home. Please join in decorating our sanctuary with these beautiful plants. Orders will be finalized by November 21st.

Redemption Center Pop Can and Bottle Drive



The Christian Ed. Board is raising money through bottles and cans for their various events throughout the year. Cans and bottles can be taken to the Redemption center on the Corner of Route 350 and Route 104. Make sure to tell the center that this is for the First Baptist Church of Williamson and turn your receipt into the Christian Ed. Mailbox or to Joslyn Steurrys. Thanks for your help!



Advent Missions

VICTIM'S RESOURCE CENTER

Gift Collection

Last year the Victim's Resource Center provided 80 different children that have been affected by sexual or domestic abuse with a gift of hope, a gift that said you are loved and not forgotten. Thank you for your part in this and willingness to give. This year once again, we will be collecting non-violent toys or games for kids ages 0 to 16.

If you can this year when you are out shopping, take some time to pick something up to help. Advent is a wonderful time to remember that in the worst of times Christ gave himself to us as a gift. Now is our chance to pass that love on as well. We will be collecting unwrapped toys and wrapping paper up until December 4th, 2011. Please take some time this Christmas season to brighten a child's day. If you have any questions please contact one of our deacons.



Fairport Baptist Homes

We are participating in supporting the residents at Fairport Baptist Homes by collecting items for the Christmas Season. All items need to be brought to the Fellowship Hall by November 27th, so they can be delivered to the residents on time.

Here are the items we are collecting:

Knee socks	Men's Socks	After-Shave Lotion
Thigh Hi Stockings	Nail Kit	Cologne
Jewelry	Comb and Brush Sets	Stamps
Lotions	Puzzle-Book	Hair Decorations
Knee Hi Stockings	Deodorant	Shaving Cream
Bath Powder	Puzzle-Pieces	

Thanks for supporting this wonderful ministry.

Mission of the Month

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Christmas Sunday

December 18th, 2011



Join us on December 18th as we celebrate Christmas with a birthday Party for Jesus following the service. Bring family and friends for our service of music, scripture, and joy as our children sing and our choir sings a cantata.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th, 2011



On Christmas Eve at 6:00pm, we will join together in a wonderful candlelight worship service to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world and hearts. Join us for this celebration of Music and Scripture!



December 2011



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 AA and Al Anon. Meetings, 7:30PM
4 Christian Ed. Meeting, 12:30 PM 2nd Sunday of Advent	5	6 Fellowship of Churches Meeting at Williamson Presbyterian, 11:30 AM	7 Deacons Meeting, 7 PM	8	9	10 AA and Al Anon. Meetings, 7:30PM
11 Congregational Meeting, 11:15 AM Vespers Service at Wil- liamson Presbyterian, 7pm 3rd Sunday of Advent	12	13	14 Blue Christmas Service, 7PM	15 	16	17 AA and Al Anon. Meetings, 7:30PM
18 Christmas Sunday	19	20 Trustees Meeting, 7PM	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 6PM
25 Christmas Day Service and Brunch	26 Community Lunch 12-1 PM	27	28 	29	30	31 AA and Al Anon. Meetings, 7:30PM