



Temple Topics

The Baptist Temple

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A Valentine...

“My lover put his hand to the latch, and my womb trembled within me.”

(5:4 trans. Tribble)

These provocative, erotic words are spoken in the
Song of Songs - Song of Solomon.

Her lover, a man, knocks at her door after she has gone to sleep.

She awakes and goes, to late, to the door; he is gone.

But good news: they find each other.

They are equals, unashamed, and we learn of them from her point of view.

“His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!”

(2:6, 8:6 Tribble)

She reminds her woman-friends: “...that you do not stir up nor awaken love until it is ready.” (2:7, 8:4 NRSV)

There is no coercion between them. Love does awaken; love is ready.

She says: “Draw me after you, let us make haste.”

He says: “Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful!”

(1:3, 4:1 RSV)

The journey to Easter begins in February. We study Black History and take notice of a groundhog named Phil in February. February cold brings Winter Olympics and school vacation and Presidents' Day. Best of all, Valentines Day falls on Sunday and since you are God's Valentine, don't worry. God is your Valentine and the Song of Songs speaks lovingly for the celibate, the monastic, and for couples whose hearts and lives are wholly devoted to one another.

“Love God with heart, mind, and strength,” Jesus said, “love your neighbor in the same way.”

A blessed and wonderful Valentine to all!

Peace,

Pastor Arlen

An Invitation



Worship
Service

Believing that Christian faith and practice raises as many questions as she answers, and believing ideas, faith, and practice of every non-Christian tradition enriches Christian faith and practice, and believing that faith and practice from every tradition takes on the qualities and challenges based upon it's unique *location*...

You are invited to express your curiosity, assumptions and questions as material for weekly worship and sermon topic. What matters to you, troubles you, confuses or affirms your Christian faith and practice, or that of another's tradition? Submit all written suggestions with your name, please, should I need clarification or help deciphering your hand writing.

So, friends, what's the sermon topic...what's the Spirit saying? I can't wait!

Arlen

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What a warm, caring, supporting family we have at The Baptist Temple! Many, many thanks to the Prayer Chain and to all of you for the cards, expressions of concern and inquiries into my progress over the course of my back surgery and continuing recuperation. Also, a special thanks to Robin for the use of her Kindle and to Arlen for managing to be in the right spot at exactly the right time. I hope to see you all in the spring.

Marilyn Vane

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The Mitten Tree was really filled with warm gifts this past December. The Baptist Temple sent over 120 items to Lotts Creek School. That included 8 hat and glove sets, 2 hat and scarf sets, 9 pairs of gloves, 59 pairs of mittens (including 20 pair red fleece) and 14 hats. Thanks to everyone who contributed, to Lois D'Ambrosio who shipped them and to Mary Lou Ferrara who then decorated the tree for Christmas.

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- February 15** - Unbirthday Party - Games - Soup and Sandwich
- March 15** - Scams - Lifetimes - Jim Lynd - Pot Luck
- April 19** - MVP - Humor and Health - Pot Luck
- May 17** - to be announced
- June 21** - Canandaigua Lady - Trip and lunch

Worship Service

**Sunday Feb 7th - Cindy Harper - Speaker from
Cameron Community Ministries**
Sunday Feb 14th - Haitian Relief
**Sunday Feb 21st - after service
Congregational Conversation**

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Dear Carol and Pie Bakers,
Thank you for volunteering your time this Thanksgiving. We served 104 people that day which was a record number of people for Cameron at Thanksgiving. We appreciate you helping us, giving your time to help serve the people of the Lyell-Otis Neighborhood.

Thank you the pies were delicious!
From Cameron Community Ministries

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We recently received a letter from Lake Avenue Baptist Church regarding the Burma Refugee Program. As you probably know, that church now ministers to the over 500 Burmese refugees who have come, over the last five or so years, to Rochester from Thai refugee camps. Because of the missionary work of the Judson's in the early 1800s, these Karin and Chin families are Christians and seek out Baptist Churches.

Lake Avenue founded a Burma Refugee Coordinating Team a partnership of representatives of American Baptist Churches, from other denominations, from community organizations and service providers and leaders from the Burmese ethnic groups served. Their goal is to increase self-sufficiency and successful integration of the entire refugee community.

In July 2008, the Team hired an outreach coordinator, Hkadin Lee. Each week she works with 40-60 families, using volunteers, to navigate through various agencies including health and human services, school system, and employment services. Hkadin has become a trusted advisor and works to build leadership and train volunteers. However, Lake Ave. Baptist and the Coordinating Team now needs our help to continue the outreach coordinator position through 2010 and to increase funds for emergency needs and education programs.

The Region has asked us to consider an offering to support these needs. The Baptist Temple Leadership Team has designated the February Communion offering as our particular time to contribute to support these Burmese Baptist brothers and sisters. For more info contact Carol Kenyon or www.lakeavebaptist.org



February

- 8 David Nitsch
- 10 Arnaldo Baez
- 16 Daniel Nitsch
- 25 Kevin Nitsch



Family Style Breakfast
February 7 at 9:00 am.

The Church Office

**Monday
Feb 15th**



Will Be Closed:



The deadline for submitting materials for publication in the Temple Topics for **March is February 18th**. All articles must be turned into the office by this day !!



Lotts Creek Community School, Inc

Dear, dear Friends:

Loving greetings to you from Lotts Creek Community School.

Thank you and bless you for your contribution of gloves, hats and toboggans and the good and faithful support of the children and families of this mountain valley.

Please forgive our delay in writing. Both Owen Slone (our administrative assistant) and I were out of our normal activities for several days: he, with a hernia operation and I, hospitalized for three weeks with a staph infection. All is well now and we are back doing the "catch-up".

We had such a wonderful Christmas- observing all the traditions. All the elementary school children received a gift of "sharing sacks" (full of school supplies and toys) from the Olmsted Falls United Church of Christ Missionaries in Ohio. Every child was given a hat, mittens, gloves, and a scarf. Most were hand-knitted! So many of our friends worked hard on these wonderful gifts - as well as the many parcels of clothing and toys we received all during the year, put aside in our locally famous Santa Claus House, then distributed to families in need.

And of course, all the elders in the hollow ere visited and given fruit, candy, and the ever-present huge candy cane. Some tell us they keep the canes all year, occasionally chipping off a delectable bite!

Good news! In fact, excellent news: In the December 9, 2009 edition of US News and World Report, the best high schools in the country were listed as Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Our little school was listed as a Bronze- one of the only a few in the state! We are naturally delighted. Already, some of our seniors have received letters from colleges inviting their applications!! So many times, we are overwhelmed with all that is accomplished here- and only because friends like you believe in our mission and so faithfully give assistance.

Our love is ever with you,
Alice S. Whitaker

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Bama Girl - January 31st at 3:00 pm



Bama Girl follows a young black woman's quest to become the Homecoming Queen at the University of Alabama, one of the great Deep South institutions. Homecoming has a rich history there, tied into centuries of privilege, tradition, and racial exclusivity. We follow Jessica Thomas as she campaigns for Queen, running against not only 15 other co-eds, but a strictly segregated Greek system, internal black politics, and most ominously, a secret all-white association called "The Machine" that has been controlling politics at the University for most of the past century. This is a film about the light and the dark sides of heritage and an unexpected microcosm of electoral politics that reflects much of what is happening across our country today.

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January 8, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ:

For 105 years, Fairport Baptist Homes has been true to its credo of "serving the aging who shaped our heritage."

Full partners in support of that sacred mission have been American Baptist Churches, and their commitment has been crucial to the way we carry out our task as we heed the call to "embody God's love in word and deed."

We are most appreciative of your contribution of \$293.00, and Fairport Baptist Homes pledges to you that we will do all in our power to use your gift wisely and well for the benefit of our Residents.

Sincerely, Rev. Garth E. Brokaw President





The Baptist Temple Leadership Team January 18, 2010

In Attendance:	Pastor Arlen	Clare Kerber	Frank Creek
	Bev Letter	Carol Kenyon	Burt Vane
	Kandee Tabor		

Devotions: 'Sign Broken – Message Inside - Sunday Morning 10:00 AM'

H.E.L.P. History, Engagement, Lifting Up, Proclamation Dr. Vera Miller was the keynote speaker for the MLK celebration today. Pastor Arlen shared the acronym she presented and summarized her overall message dealt with education specifically inner city children

We discussed the presentation for the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24th.

- Financial Budget Proposal Presentation – Burt Vane
 - Pledges exceeded 2009, symbolic of the dedication of the congregation
 - Expenses budgeted to better reflect actual spending
 - Health Care expense continues to rise
 - Pastor Arlen’s salary set based upon our 7 year agreement, increase set by the Consumer Price Index, as in past 6 years
 - All other salaries unchanged from 2009.
 - Gifts proposed roughly one week’s salary for each, tax-free gift.

Clare brought up the option of Health Care Savings Accounts for the future.

Discussed the NYS/Brighton documentation requirements for the transfer of the property.

The very specific petition will have to be presented to the congregation and more importantly details spelled out in the minutes of the congregational meeting including a copy of the map of the area. – Kandee

- Pastor Arlen – Upcoming Events –
- January 28th – Paul Gaspar
 - January 31st – Dr. Doug Cullum – vision, mission, new growth
 - February 7th – Cameron Ministries
 - February 14th – Sending Our Love to Haiti – prepare kits
 - February 21st – Lawrence Hargrave

Carol Kenyon – Celebrate our decision to donate \$3000 through “One Great Hour of Sharing” to Haiti (\$1500 from recent designation –Grace Fields - \$1500 from Benevolence Funds.) Additional donations and kit preparations welcome.

Banners would be a welcome addition to the Sanctuary space. Note to follow in Temple Topics regarding interest and options. We discussed funding for the project, inclusion of our children, possible artist volunteers, etc.

Reviewed the joys and concerns within the congregation, support needs.

Pastor Arlen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Kandee Tabor

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Dear Friends:

I want to thank you for your generous contribution- especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by war or natural disasters. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

While these are sobering days, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient men and women we assist around the world and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf in our wounded world. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Faithfully yours, Rev. John L. McCullough Executive Director and CEO