First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa

The Messenger

Volume 8, Issue 5 May 2016

We are a body of believers united in Christ to proclaim, live, and love according to God's Word.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AmazonSmile	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	8
Book Bound	3
Budget & Finance	5
Calendar	9
Childcare Volunteers Needed	4
Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry	3
Church Leadership	1
Church Mouse Nursery School	6
Congo Stoves	7
Deacons	4
Graduating?	3
Heritage Event	1
Library	8
Mission Trip - June	2
Mom's Bible Study	6
Mother Daughter Banquet	2
National Day of Prayer	4
Penny Project	4
Saratoga Horse Show	2
Semi-Annual Meeting	2
Summer Camp	6
Summer Lunch Program	5
Sunday School Breakfast	2
VBS Volunteer Meeting	2
Youth Groups	3

God's Presence in Ordinary Things

By Rev. Bill Tatum

Scripture: Isaiah 55:6-9;
Colossians 1:16-20

On May 28, 1944 the writer and teacher C. S. Lewis preached a sermon called "Transposition". By transposition Lewis meant "the power of the higher to come down and be incarnate [present] in the lower."

In plainer English, Lewis was saying that God takes ordinary things and events and fills them with meaning. So many times in his ministry, Jesus took an ordinary object or event and used it to explain something about God or the spiritual life: bread, a mustard seed, a farmer casting seed on different kinds of ground, a poor woman putting coins in an offering plate.

In the sermon, Lewis shared that some folks have forgotten or have never been taught that God can change what we call ordinary into what God calls holy. So, a challenge for us is to look for God to reveal Himself to us in the ordinary events of life.

Following is a prayer from Lewis' book *Mere Christianity:* "Give up yourself and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will find it. Submit with every fibre of your being and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing you have not given away will ever be really yours. But look for Christ and you will find him, and with him everything else thrown in." Amen.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Bill

Join Us!

Heritage Event

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Hosted by the Transition Team immediately after worship.
Light luncheon with extra helpings of Christian Fellowship!

First Baptist Church Leadership

Looking for a place to put your talents and gifts to work for God's Kingdom? How about serving on one of our Church Boards or Committees? There are several openings on The Boards of Trustees, Deacons and Christian Education, as well as other church committees. If you have a desire or interest in serving your church in this manner please contact Bob Staulters, Kevin Porter or Cailin Rabideau. Serving one another is one of the things God calls us to do. Please faithfully consider and pray about how you might become involved.

Mission: Saratoga Horse Show

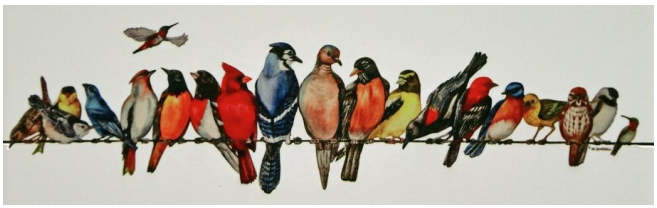
Saturday, May 14, 2016

For the past several years, the First Baptist Church has sent a mission team to assist the Capital Fund of Saratoga County in putting on The Saratoga Horse Show. It is a wonderful show and the funds raised from it are donated to many local charities and endeavors. The First Baptist Church Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry and Summer Lunch Program were recipients in the past.

The Mission Team would like to send another team this year to help prior to the show, during the show and after the show. This year we will help on Saturday, May 14. Please see Pat Stack if you have questions or are interested in going.

Mother Daughter Banquet, May 3, 6 p.m.

All ladies are welcome to our Mother Daughter Banquet on May 3. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship. Please sign up next to the Welcome Center.



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" Matthew 6:25-34

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday is May 15. This is a day when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early Church. In celebration of Pentecost, we invite the congregation to *wear red* on this festive day!

Congregational Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

A Congregational Business Meeting of the church will be held on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect and announce new officers, consider the financial status of the church, give an update of activities of the Boards, and any other business that may need to be considered.

Sunday School Breakfast and Fellowship

Sunday, May 15, 9:00—10:00 a.m.

Come enjoy a wonderful breakfast, fellowship with others, and listen to our Children's Cherub Choir perform some songs! Please sign-up in the fellowship area to bring a breakfast dish, fresh fruit, or baked goods.

We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate another wonderful year!

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, May 15 right after church

Come and hear about the many ways you can help volunteer for VBS this summer! We are in need of many volunteers to help out with this wonderful ministry, and will take about 30 minutes to discuss volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions please contact Cailin Rabideau at 518-928-9769 or comeara19@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

June Mission Event

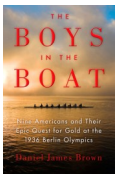
Mark your calendars for our June Mission event. We will be serving meals at the Schenectady City Mission on Saturday, **June 11**, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. More information to follow. Please consider joining us - it will bless others and you!

Here to Serve

BookBound!

The First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa Book Club

BookBound! meets on the second Monday of each month from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Upper Room. Read the book for the month and come join the discussion and tea. All are welcome (but if you haven't finished the book, be prepared for spoilers!) Childcare is available; please let us know if your child will be attending so we may provide care accordingly. Contact Laura Wright, tigerlily913@yahoo.com.



May 9 The Boys in the Boat by Daniel J. Brown

Youth Groups

There are many opportunities for youth to learn about God and the Bible.

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. **High School Bible Study** meets at the Episcopal Church, 15 West High St. Contact Laura Marino if you have any questions, 581-2456, marinolaura@yahoo.com.

Most Thursdays, from 6-7:30 p.m. **Youth Group** meets for worship and Bible Study at the Presbyterian Church, 22 West High St. It is open to all students between 6th and 12th grade. Contact Tom Carter if you have any questions, 522-5541, tcarter_bsyg@hotmail.com.

Every 1st Sunday the **Girls Group** meets here at the Baptist Church at 1:00 p.m. Contact Kate Dashiell, 732-823-7974, k8dashiell@ymail.com.

Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon? Now when you shop online, consider using AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Our church is one of these organizations. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select *First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa* as your recipient, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

Attention Graduates

Are you graduating from high school, college, grad school or military school this year? **We would like to recognize and congratulate all graduates.** Let us know where you're graduating from, your accomplishments, and future plans. Please send info to the church office bspabaptist202@gmail.com.

Education Scholarships are available from the Board of Christian Ed for those continuing on to higher education. Please contact Cailin Rabideau for an application, comeara19@gmail.com.

Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry

Some exciting news from Christ Cupboard! After much prayer and planning we have made some new plans to put "Christ" back into Christ's Cupboard. We are going to moving forward with a plan to end our relationship as a federally subsidized pantry and rely on our Christ and community for donations to keep the pantry open.

What does this mean for the pantry? Our hope is that this will help the pantry rejuvenate as a weekly mission activity for our church families and individuals. It will allow us to run the pantry and speak with patrons from a *Christ Driven Christian Perspective* and not based on government guidelines. It will reduce administrative time by over 50% and allow the directorship of the pantry to be shared by more individuals. We hope that the changes coming will help the pantry grow back into a fellowship and mission opportunity by making the times to serve more conducive to work and school schedules.

Starting in July, pantry hours will be Thursday nights only from 4:30-6:30, and then we'll build from there. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. More info to come about the transition and signups for training for new interested volunteers of all ages.

Mandy Hardt Appell, Food Pantry Director

Board of Deacons

With a very busy April and inspiring Easter season, your Board of Deacons is looking forward to the latter half of Spring and the Summer which will continue to bring blessings from our Heavenly Father and opportunities for us to continue to serve our congregation.

Eastertide brought us together as a congregational family in many ways. Our weekly Lenten Luncheons on Wednesdays gave us a way to share in prayer, community and song in honor of our Lord. Each week we came together in fellowship with many of our communities' churches at the Presbyterian Church. A different Pastor from one of the local churches gave a short message, and we experienced prayer and song in addition to the joys of being together with fellow Christians to share lunch.

Palm Sunday was very inspiring indeed with a sanctuary filled with Palms, in celebration of our Lord and Savior's entrance into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday services and communion were held at our Church, with about 70 in attendance, where everyone experienced a deeper relationship with our Lord through prayer and song. Easter Sunday revealed to us the glory of our resurrected Lord and brought us together in celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ and his ascension into Heaven. What a powerful Lenten journey we have all taken together.

As May and June approach, your Board of Deacons continues to work together to bring meaning to our gatherings and to assist our Pastor and our congregation wherever we can. This year we have the added privilege of marking our 225th Anniversary. This is an incredibly important year as we support the 225th Anniversary Committee and look forward to the planned celebration which will be held October 15-16. The beginning for First Baptist Church in 1791 is a special gift for us, and a cause to celebrate in the present the 225 years of faith and service. The future will be bright, with God's ever-present guiding hand.

Your Board of Deacons has a designated part of our Church congregational 'flock' to attend to, so if you are in need of prayer or assistance please do not hesitate to contact any of your deacons. We recently sent out letters to each member introducing ourselves as your shepherd and we will be calling you to listen and show that we care about your faith journeys.

The members of your Board of Deacons are: Vallee Albert, Diane McGarry, Pat Rogers, Keith Sprenger, Bob Staulters, Terry van den Heever, and Sherry Wardell.

Serving Through Christ,
Vallee Albert, Deacon

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.
Wiswall Park (39 Front St. Ballston Spa)

"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1a

The Penny Project

Children in Poverty Initiative

Pennies received to date: 27,225

FBC has taken up the Penny Project Challenge to raise awareness of the extent of child poverty throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. We aim to raise $928.00 to pay for one week of our Summer Lunch Program. That's 92,800 pennies!

Seek out co-chairs Robbie Pierre and Gene Hickok for the collection canisters.

We Need You!

Childcare Volunteers are needed for the summer months. Please contact Sherry Hoffman if you can help, sherryhoffman64@gmail.com, 369-2127.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

We will be having our next organizational meeting on June 2 at 6:30. If you are considering being involved this summer please try to attend. We need all the help that we can get!

We are busy planning for this summer's program. As of right now, we will have at least four distribution locations—the church, the Ballston Area Community Center, the schools in the Ballston Spa School District which are doing Special Education programming, and the Simpson United Methodist Church in Rock City Falls. We will again be partnering with the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church and with the Simpson United Methodist Church. We have also recently been contacted by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Ballston Lake. They are planning on starting a lunch program this summer and have asked for our assistance. We are discussing how we will be able to help them.

We also need YOUR help in several areas. First of all, please pray for the success of the program. We have an opportunity to touch the lives of many children and their families. We want the love of God to be mirrored in our concern for them. As always, we need many volunteers to make and deliver the lunches. Please consider helping. If every able-bodied person volunteered for just a few hours this summer, we would be in good shape. It is very rewarding to help these families and you meet wonderful people.

Lastly, we are in the process of collecting the necessary funds. We are sending out fund raising letters to many businesses and organizations in the Ballston Spa and Rock City Falls area. We have also received grants from Stewart's Shops and the Saratoga Hospital Medical Staff.

Gene Hickok and Robbie Pierre are also collecting for "The Penny Project" and is going to donate the proceeds to our lunch program. So if you are interested in helping financially, please note on your check or envelope that the funds are to be used for the Summer Lunch Program, or just gather up your change and give it to Gene and Robbie! It is a blessing that each year we have been in a healthy financial situation due to grants and donations from concerned individuals.

Please consider becoming involved. We need you! Thank you in advance for your help and prayers.

Karen Jones & Pat Rogers
SLP co-chairs

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Through the month of March, our pledges are now $4,872 behind, but non-pledges are ahead of projections by $1,961. Expenses were $67,915 and income was $57,098 leaving a short fall of $10,817. Although we are currently behind on pledges and expenses, we are doing better relative to last year at this time, and we also continue to have a healthy checkbook balance of $45,743.

Similar to what I reported in last month's *Messenger* article, your Budget and Finance Committee continued to look at options regarding the management of FBC's endowment. At our most recent committee meeting, we listened to a presentation from the American Baptist Foundation regarding their endowment management services. The committee plans to make a decision at our next meeting, and follow that up with a recommendation to the Trustees Committee.

To quote our former Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, Mary Ann Becker, "Communication and feedback are two very important aspects of *Messenger* articles." Please let me know if the content I am giving you is sufficient, or if there are other numbers or items you would like to be updated on or discussed.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

In God's Service,
Troy Filburn

CHURCH MOUSE NURSERY SCHOOL

As I write this article, the parents are busy upstairs preparing for our Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The theme this year is "Farmer's Market." The parents go above and beyond to pamper our staff with lovely decorations, delicious food, and wonderful gifts. This year the parents presented us with a very generous check to be used for items for the classrooms. We are overwhelmed by their love, support, and generosity!

May is a very busy month. The children were busy before spring break making placemats, cards and gifts for Mother's Day Teas. They will be baking special treats as well. They have also been practicing special songs to sing on that day. There is always a tear or two on this special occasion.

The children will learn about David and Goliath, and Zacchaeus in chapel. Our Pre-K room, (room #1), is so bright! Thank you trustees for installing new lights. What a difference!

Our 4 year old classes and the Pre-K class will be attending the Sheep to Shawl program at Brookside Museum on May 13. The parents will drop them off at the museum, and then the classes will walk back to school. It is wonderful being so close to the museum.

Dave and Sherry Hoffman along with Bonnie Rodriguez will be presenting the State Farm Bike Rodeo on Monday, May 23. This is a wonderful program, teaching the children about bike safety. Each child will bring their own bike and helmet, and will be taken through a course with different biking skills. Their bikes and helmets will also be inspected.

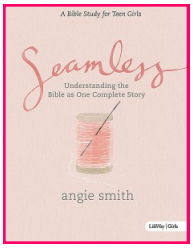
Sherry will be back on Tuesday, May 24 with the Safety Bear. The Safety Bear will be teaching our 3 year olds about outdoor safety.

We will once again participate in the Memorial Day parade on May 28.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather.

Serving with a joyful heart,
Cheryl Dunkelbarger

MOM'S BIBLE STUDY



The Mom's Bible study group is reading "Seamless" by Angie Smith. In seven sessions, Seamless covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Participants in this study will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of the Bible. We will be meeting every other Thursday until mid June, please contact Becky Patnode at rebeccapatnode@hotmail.com or 265-9289 if you would like to join. New members are always welcome!!

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Youth, planning on going to summer camp? Two scholarships are available.

Our Christian Ed Board has camp scholarships available for any Christian summer camp you wish to attend. Contact Cailin Rabideau for more information, comeara19@gmail.com.

The Capital Area Baptist Association (CABA) scholarship is also available for those attending Camp Vick or Pathfinder. Applications are available on the bulletin board next to the water fountain. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask by calling the CABA office at 518-374-0288 or by e-mailing them at abcnyseast@yahoo.com.

Clean Burning Wood Stoves for Congo

When you strike a long, wooden kitchen match, it burns for a while and then you are left with a charcoal tip on a wood stick. Did you know that charcoal can be used as fuel, like in a barbecue grill? In fact, **most of the people of the world cook with charcoal, which is the Crude Oil of the developing world**, and therefore a major cause of deforestation.

Developing Clean Burning Woodstoves to fight deforestation and reduce respiratory diseases in Congo is a fulfilling project I oversee. These remarkable stoves cook for over an hour, produce no smoke, and when done, leave a small pile of charcoal enough to cook another meal.

Sacks of charcoal for sale along a national highway outside Kinshasa … a sight seen all along the road.

Folks living in Congo's cities cook with charcoal because it produces less smoke and is a compact and light weight fuel. But turning wood into charcoal, by smoldering it for a week in a covered, underground pit, causes it to lose more than half of its heat value. It's done for ease of bagging, and because it's much lighter than wood to pile on a truck and haul to urban populations.

A common sight driving along Congo's roads: trucks loaded high with bags of charcoal.

Congolese in the countryside cook with wood, using three stones to hold the pot. This not only wastes heat but produces lots of smoke. For this reason cooking is done outside, or in a separate cook house. The cook house protects the fire from rain and wind but exposes women and children to smoke which contains particles, and evaporated tar and acids. Respiratory disease (pneumonia) is the leading killer of children under five in Congo in part due to smoke exposure.

Buying charcoal is a major cost in an urban family's budget. All over Kinshasa, vendors sell charcoal in small, meal-size piles.

Our clean burning stoves burn hotter than a three-stone fire, consuming the particles, tars, and acids from the smoke, making the cooking room safer.

When the stove goes out, the residual charcoal can be used for another meal, or be accumulated, and sold.

We are currently fabricating 100 of these stoves to test in villages in Congo's Kasai province, to see how families appreciate them and to make improvements as they suggest. Stay tuned for the results of this interesting 'whole gospel' ministry, an opportunity to improve lives and share God's love with people, while saving the world God created.

Thank you for your support, and for making this work possible.

Wayne & Katherine Niles

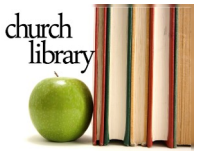
April 16, 2016 began a six week giving window when new or over-and-above gifts for missionary support are DOUBLED! If you want to participate in this incredible opportunity, don't tarry. Last year, the matching gift fund ran out before the June 15 deadline.*

*Donate a Matching Gift online
http://www.internationalministries.org/drives/35

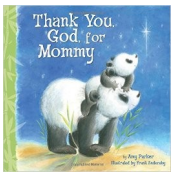
Or send a check to
American Baptist International Ministries
P.O. Box 851 • Valley Forge, PA 19482

Put ***MATCHING*** gift to support Wayne & Katherine Niles on the memo line

LIBRARY CORNER



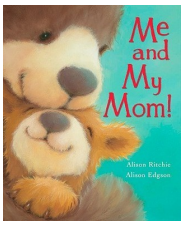
Since May celebrates mothers, our selections are mainly about mothers too!



Children's Books:

1. Thank You, God, for Mommy by Amy Parker
2. Just Me and My Mom by Mercer Mayer
3. Mommy Do You Love Me? by Jeanne Willis
4. The Best Mom Ever! by Christine Leeson

Children's Books and CDs:



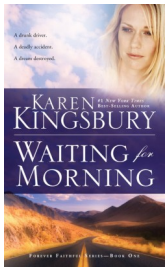
1. I Love You, Too! by Eve Bunting
2. Me and My Mom! By Alison Ritchie
3. I Love You with All My Heart by Noris Kern
4. I Love You More by Laura Duksta
5. The Night Before Mother's Day by Natasha Wing
6. Mother's Day Surprise by Stephen Kernsky

Children's DVD:

1. Big River Rescue ~ *A Veggie Tales* lesson in helping others.
2. I Will Tell the Truth ~ Max Lucado's *Hermie and Friends*.

Adult Books:

1. The Gospel According to Disney by Mark Pinsky ~ Faith, Trust, and Pixie Dust.
2. LinSpired by Mike Yorkey ~ Jeremy Lin's extraordinary story of faith and resilience.
3. The Women of Duck Commander by Kay, Korie, Missy, Jessica and Lisa Robertson ~ surprising insights from the women behind the beards about what makes this family work.
4. The Duck Commander Family by Willie & Korie Robertson ~ how faith, family and ducks built a dynasty.



5. Waiting for Morning by Karen Kingsbury ~ a drunk driver, a deadly accident, a dream destroyed. Book one of *Forever Faithful* series. The rest of the series will come next month.
6. Angels Walking and Chasing Sunsets by Karen Kingsury ~ Two books in the *Angels Walking* series.
7. Danger Close by William G. Boykin ~ the enemy is dangerously close.
8. The Confirmation by Ralph Reed ~ Chaos reigns in the nation's capitol.
9. Prayer Does it Make Any Difference? by Philip Yancey ~ Does prayer change us or God? Or both?

Adult DVDs:

1. The First of May ~ Fearing he will be sent back to foster care, Cory runs away to the circus with a colorful rest home escapee. Carlotta's love, sacrifice and lessons in life and self-worth may lead him home.
2. Too Busy Not to Pray by Bill Hybels~ slowing down to be with God.

Enjoy!
Mary Morelock

May Anniversaries

5th Kevin and Lesa Krogh
23rd Jason and Karen Kersch
27th Keith and Kim Sprenger
29th Walter and Susan Talmadge
30th James and Cynthia Pritchard

May Birthdays

5th Derek Hensler
6th Rita Drew
7th Shawn Becker
10th Mary Morelock
12th Kevin Krogh
13th Julie Hinckley
13th Colleen Pierre
13th Joseph Townson
16th Dolores Leber
18th Scott Audette
18th Bethany Rodriguez
19th Brenda Pelliccia
23rd Garry Mundell
25th Kelly Hensler
27th Leda Staats
29th Erin Manzer
29th Sherry Wardell
31st Dawn Hughes Keams

If we missed your anniversary or birthday please let the church office know!

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Communion Sunday** 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service **11:30 a.m. Heritage Event** 1:00 p.m. Girls Group	**2**	**3** 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. HS Bible Study @ Episcopal Church **6:00 p.m. Mother Daughter Banquet**	**4** May 4-6 CMNS Mother's Day Celebrations 6:00 p.m. Cherubs Choir 7:00 p.m. Choir	**5** 10:00 a.m. Men's Coffee 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Presbyterian Church **7:00 p.m. National Day of Prayer @ Wiswall Park**	**6**	**7**
8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 2:15 p.m. Saratoga Center for Rehab Worship Service 	**9** **4:30 p.m. Book Bound**	**10** 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry **7:00 p.m. Board Meetings**	**11** 6:00 p.m. Cherubs Choir 7:00 p.m. Choir	**12** 9:15 Mom's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Men's Coffee 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Presbyterian Church	**13**	**14** **Mission: Saratoga Horse Show**
15 PENTECOST **9:00 a.m. Sunday School Breakfast** 10:30 a.m. Worship Service **11:30 a.m. VBS Volunteer Meeting**	**16**	**17** 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. HS Bible Study @ Episcopal Church **7:00 p.m. Semi-Annual Business Meeting**	**18** 7:00 p.m. Choir	**19** 10:00 a.m. Men's Coffee 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Presbyterian Church	**20**	**21**
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	**23**	**24** 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry	**25** 7:00 p.m. Choir	**26** 9:15 Mom's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Men's Coffee 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Presbyterian Church	**27**	**28**
29 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	**30** 	**31** 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry				

The First Baptist
Church of Ballston Spa

202 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 885-8361
www.BSpaBaptist.org

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Bill Tatum, Interim Pastor	drwctatum@yahoo.com
Darryl Drew, Director of Music	dddmusik@nycap.rr.com
Rita Drew, Choir Director	dddmusik@nycap.rr.com
Justina Danison, Office Administrator	bspabaptist202@gmail.com
Charity Buckbee, Church Sexton	charitybuckbee@yahoo.com
Kate Dashiell, Youth Worker	k8dashiell@ymail.com

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