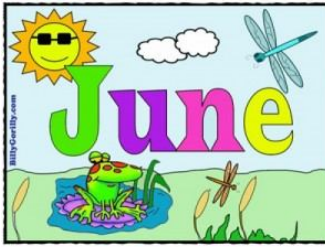


# Cuba First Baptist Church

17 South Street Cuba, New York 14727

585.968.1531



2017

## *Good News Letter*

Rev. Dennis Stack, Transition Minister

[dennis.stack610@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.stack610@gmail.com)

Rev. Alexandra Freer, New Ministry Specialist

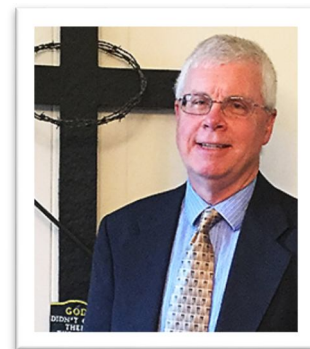
[Revfreer@cubafirstbaptist.org](mailto:Revfreer@cubafirstbaptist.org)

Secretary

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## June 2017 - A year? Already?

They say that as you get older, time seems to go by faster. I tend to agree with that; it seems like just a few weeks ago I stood in the pulpit for the first time as the transitional pastor of this church. But that was a year ago. It is hard to believe that the earth has made a full revolution around the sun since I arrived! I have greatly appreciated my time here at Cuba First Baptist. Many of you have become my good friends; some of you will be life-long friends, I expect. I have learned much from you about service in the community, and in how churches can work together for the common good. I am energized each week to come into my study and do just that - study the Scriptures to teach you on Sunday mornings. Thank you for this opportunity! When God calls me away from here, I cannot imagine doing anything besides being a pastor.



As you probably know, the Pastoral Search Committee is doing their due diligence on behalf of the church, having been tasked with the difficult job of identifying the next permanent pastor. If things go according to plan, they will soon invite a candidate to Cuba for you to meet. That person will preach in a Sunday service and you will have a chance to get to know him/her a bit. My prayer is that our gracious Lord will lead exactly the right person to this place to become your permanent pastor.

In last month's newsletter, I touched on the subject of why prayer sometimes seems to go unanswered. I want to give you one more thing to think about in this area:

*Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel 10:12, 13)*

Let's set the scene here. Daniel had prayed a prayer to God. And his prayer was heard by the Lord immediately. However, it took 21 days from the day Daniel first prayed it until he got an answer. Why? The reason for the delay was an unseen battle, raging for three weeks. We read here about spiritual warfare occurring at some of the highest levels imaginable. Even Michael, an archangel, was involved in this battle, fighting demons who operated over the nation of Persia, the most powerful nation in the world at that time. (These demons are called princes and kings, speaking of their ranks in the unseen kingdom around us.) But of course, Daniel had no way to know that was happening, or what was delaying the answer to his prayer. Yet he prayed on.

Could it be that the answers to prayers you are praying might be held up due to spiritual warfare? Your prayers may not be deemed to be so important that demons over whole nations are involved (as in Daniel's case), but there could easily be lower ranks doing their part to thwart the plans of God in your situation. What if that is happening – what should you do? This is the time to double down on prayer. To become more devout and more insistent, more prayerful, not less. James 4:7 tells us to submit ourselves to God and to resist the Devil and he will flee. If your prayer is in submission to God and not simply for your own personal pleasure, God hears. You must grasp that truth and believe it. You must pray without ceasing.

Have a wonderful summer!

Pastor Dennis



## Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group meets (monthly) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, at 1pm in the lounge. If there is interest in an evening group, this too may be considered.

This group is a support group, not a counseling group and is open to any men or women in our church and/or community.

Grief is a never-ending feeling that comes and goes in varying degrees and can be the product of a loss of a loved one, divorce, long-term employment changes or any life altering situation. Although the causes may be quite different, the feelings and emotions are very similar.

The group is an open group that will stress confidentiality, and respect. It is a Christian approach, but not necessarily Bible based. Attendees are invited to share, but not required to do so. Members are welcome to attend regularly or to come when they can. It will be facilitated by Claudia Little, but others who may feel they can lend their experiences are welcome to join us. We will be using “The Support Group” manual, ([Harriet Sarnoff Schiff](#)) but will also be open to constructive conversations on any topic that members may be dealing with or be experiencing in their walk. We hope to meet the needs of the members and remain flexible in the curriculum.

If you would like to attend or know of an interested person, please contact Claudia at 585-968-3061 or [claudialittle7@icloud.com](mailto:claudialittle7@icloud.com). The next meetings will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> followed by July 5<sup>th</sup>. You may know someone who is struggling. The grief may be new, or years old. Please share the details and encourage those interested to attend. All are welcome!



## Scholarship Reminder

The American Baptist Women’s Ministries of New York State must be postmarked by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## All Community Coffee Hour June 11<sup>th</sup> – 8:00am-9:30am



The ABWM is sponsoring a time for the community to “come for coffee” before church that day. For that hour, we will have coffee, tea and a cold option available with some breakfast sweets for anyone who would enjoy it. Tell your neighbors, friends and family. All are welcome! There is a sign-up sheet in the court for anyone willing to provide a breakfast bread, coffee cake, sweet roll or other breakfast sweet. We’ll also be having cheese and crackers. If you would like to donate anything, please sign up and have you item to the church by **SATURDAY – June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Items can be left in the kitchen before then, or delivered between **1-3pm on Saturday**.

Please join in the fun and fellowship with not only our church, but with your community. To volunteer or for questions; contact Claudia Little 585-968-3061 or [claudialittle7@icloud.com](mailto:claudialittle7@icloud.com)



## Cuba Area Churches Co-ed Softball Games @ Chamberlain Park

Are you interested in playing softball with area churches? If so, please see Gary Shaffer or sign-up in the Court. Stay tuned for date and time info. We welcome all who are interested but you must be 15 years or older to play.

**Family Movie Night** will be on Friday, July 28th. Bring a blanket and pillow. Snacks are provided. Love offering donations accepted.



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If you have an update or change in your contact information, or would like to be added to the church directory, please contact Lori Little at [lori.e.little@gmail.com](mailto:lori.e.little@gmail.com). Thank you.

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Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

The Food Pantry continues to be a busy place. Just as quickly as donations come in, they go out. Please keep the Food Pantry in mind as you shop. Don't know what to get? There is a shopping list on the table in the Court for your convenience. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make checks payable to "Cuba Food Pantry" and mail to North Park Wesleyan Church Attn: Pastor Megan Cusumano 32 Spring St. Cuba, NY 14727. Thank you!

Just like the Pantry, The Rummage Room is always busy. This ministry serves many families in Cuba and the surrounding area and we are always in need of clean, gently used clothing for all ages. So as you go through your closet, don't forget about the Rummage Room.



Volunteers are needed for Jr. Church for June thru August. You may choose a week or several and work alone or with a friend or child helper. If interested, please contact Melissa Grover at 585-610-7082.



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Although the ABWM does not meet in the summer months, the ladies certainly do not stop!

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the group will be hosting a "community coffee hour" before church. Everyone in the community is invited for coffee and a treat from 8:30-9:30. Anyone interested in providing coffee cake, sweet rolls, bar cookies or any sweet treat, could sign up in the church court or contact Claudia Little.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the ABWM will be offering a Brunch during the Alumni weekend. This is open to the community and will carry an \$8 per person charge. From 11am – 1pm, assorted breakfast items along with salads, and entrees will be available. Reservations are required. Call 585-968-3061 and make a reservation for 11-12pm or 12-1pm. Mid July, please look for a sign-up sheet for breakfast breads, coffee cakes or sweet breads in the church court.

The Table ministry continues to minister to our church family and community. Several families have had a little "break" from meal preparation. We will also be instituting a new "gift" for our new attendees. We hope to assemble a bag with church information, plus some treats and hopefully a jar of homemade jam or jelly! If anyone is making preserves of any kind and would like to donate a jar, please label it and leave it in the kitchen. We thank you in advance.

Don't forget the rummage rooms when you're cleaning those closets and drawers. They are always looking for gently used clothing, small appliances and interior design items. Items may be left at the south street door, or taken to the rummage rooms. Please do not pile items on the stairs!

The next meeting of ABWM will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:15. A light lunch and a lively program will follow! Plan to join us!

## Cuba First Baptist Camp Opportunities



Summer will be upon us in a few short weeks and with school's final bell, camp season begins. Here at Cuba First Baptist, we have a long tradition of attendance at Christian youth camps. Camp Vick in Freedom, NY will have already begun accepting registrations for the 2017 season and the first camps kick off July 9<sup>th</sup> with Frontier Boys and Rock the Summer. As in the past, there is assistance available for Cuba First Baptist youth to attend camp Vick. The Witter fund will offer \$150.00 for regular sessions and \$100.00 for beginner sessions. Please contact Pastor Dennis or the church office for eligibility information. Families can find registration packets along with the full Camp Vick schedule at the display in the court. For interested families, there is also an open house/launch party at the camp on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-3:00 including free lunch, tours, a campfire, and fellowship. Please consider a visit to the facilities of this local treasure. Volunteers are needed for weekend work days May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> to help get things ready for the season. Contact the camp office (716.492.4494) if interested.



August 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> is the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Retreat at Camp JYC in Franklinville, NY. It is focused toward our younger children as an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and build relationships with Christ, each other and our adult volunteers. Our theme for camp this year will be "Jesus is my Hero" and we experience the story of the Bible with an eye to the coming Savior, Jesus Christ. The weekend will also feature campfires, music, crafts and many fun activities. ***In answer to prayers, enough money was raised to complete the pool project! Praise Him!*** In addition to all the fun, games, activities, and crafts, a fee of \$65 will also include use of the cabin accommodations and meals. There is assistance available for families in need please contact Bill Beck or the church office for info. Please find the full registration packet on the table in the court or you can download the information from our church website at [cubafirstbaptist.org](http://cubafirstbaptist.org).



### VBS at Cuba First Baptist Church

August 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM – 12:00PM

For all children entering Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup>

To preregister your child or to volunteer:

Call Melissa Grover at (585) 610-7082



## Pencils and Crayons from Heaven – Year 6

Once again Cuba First Baptist is pleased to sponsor a collection of school supplies for needy Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade children attending Cuba-Rushford Elementary School. Supplies may be dropped off in a collection tub at the Cuba First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. *Supplies will be collected from June 1 – the first week of August with distribution on Saturday, August 12th.* Donations of cash or checks made payable to Cuba First Baptist Church memo to read “Pencils and Crayons from Heaven” will be accepted at Cuba First Baptist Church, 17 South Street, Cuba NY 14727.

We invite your contribution of the following school supply items: Boxes of 24 Crayola crayons, Fiskars student scissors, #2 pencils, yellow highlighters, soft and hard case pencil boxes, colored pencils, pencil top erasers, Crayola markers, **WIDE RULE** composition notebooks [marbled cover – any color], Clorox disinfecting wipes and packages of **WIDE rule** filler paper.

The Cuba First Baptist Church Missional Team thanks you for your contributions



**Health Related Issues:**

**John**

**White**, Susan Eszse, Kaiden and Parker (grandsons of Annette and Rick Hall), Helen Little (sister in law of Claudia Little and Ann Gross)

**Emotional /Spiritual Support:**

the family of Palmer Strong **Recovering:** **Connie Boyer (Sallie Wild’s mother)**, Vickee Rogacki (Katie Morehouse’s mother), JoAnne Hoagland, and Jean (Karen Strahan’s mother) **Other Concerns:**

**All those in and outside of our congregation who may not be listed but need the healing power of the Spirit**

**Remember in Care Facilities**

*Batavia VA* Dennis Chamberlain  
*Cuba Hospital* Deb Blakeslee  
*Eden Heights* Helen Swift  
*Livingston Cty. Center for Nursing & Rehab.* Katie Hamilton  
*Manor Hills (Wellsville)* Elva Gross, Albert Butler  
*Pines (Olean)* John Hoagland, Connie Battistoni  
*Wellsville Manor* Joann Lee, Flora Prentice  
*St. Luke’s (Oswego)* Beverly Abbott

**Special Interest Missionaries**

Dan and Sarah Chetti, Lebanon  
David and Joyce Reed, IberoAmerica and Caribbean

**All those serving in the military, police and firemen.**

Happy Birthday \* Happy Birthday \* Happy Birthday \* Happy Birthday \* Happy Birthday

6/1 Delores Cross  
6/1 Steve Wise  
6/7 Al Mohilewsky  
6/9 Josh Grover  
6/10 Dennis Stack  
6/14 Lizzie Linn

6/16 Bryanna Beard  
6/18 Ann Gross  
6/25 Mary Wheaton  
6/26 Sherry Campbell  
6/29 Brooke Snopkowski  
6/30 Larry Lathrop

7/1 Nettie White  
7/9 Sharon Perkins  
7/14 Sallie Wild  
7/23 Colin Kerswill  
7/25 Donald White  
7/25 John White  
7/30 Jady Little

**Happy Anniversary**

6/22 Bob & Sandy Beard, 6/25 Bruce & Diane Sheldon, 6/26 Eric & Melissa Grover, 6/27 John & Nettie White

## Musings of a church mouse.....

I must admit that I could have slept in this morning.... but couldn't wait to share my travels with the Red Bird Mission team. I'll nap later. My journey was excellent. I saw so many new people, and saw such great acts of love. Kentucky is really pretty. Huge mountains, often slightly covered with a light fog. Sometimes I felt like I was up in the clouds! We went through many states and one day we went to the Cumberland Gap, where you could be in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia – all almost at the same time! That trip was on our day off and was a great break from the work. The other days were spent working on 2 basic projects. Some of my Cuba friends worked to remodel a dorm (where the work camp people stay) that was damaged during the winter. You'll never guess who I saw there! Pastor Larry! He looks great, is happy and as always – busy. I was sooo happy to see him. That same group also included Pat and Brien Belden. I had not met them before, but they came from CFB and moved to the Carolinas several years ago. One of our ladies, Claudia, spent A LOT of time with Pat. They had such a good time talking about old times and friends. In addition to doing lots of work insulating walls and helping in the dorm, Pastor Larry helped lead our closing communion service. It was wonderful to hear his voice and feel his faith fill the room.

The other half of the group (there were 19 total) drove about 15 miles to a house that needed a ramp removed, and an addition built. That 15 miles is a winding twisty road up and down hills. My stomach felt pretty yucky some days after that ride. Anyhow, this family needed some help getting organized and getting their life back on track. They have 2 children (about 5 and 9), plus lots of relatives that seemed to come and go regularly. We had 2 youth (including Joey Frederick) who loved spending time with the young ones. They were also great examples of Christian love and friendship to them. I heard the adults mention how proud they were of them. There were lots to do and the rain made it hard to get things done. Carrie Frederick was up on the roof in the rain – laying shingles! I didn't know she could do that!

I learned a lot about this mission. For one thing, the money the group paid (and you all so generously gave)...supported the 2 projects. It paid for the materials that they used. Each work group was led by someone who was a contractor, or had special skills that he shared and taught to the team. I saw men and women of all ages measuring, nailing, cutting, and climbing. It was pretty amazing. I also learned about all the things that are happening at the mission. They have a dental clinic, a medical clinic, food distribution, a senior center, the biggest rummage room I have ever seen, a school, international students who attend the school and stay at the mission, and lots of services to help out the people of the area. This part of Kentucky used to have lots of working coalmines. Now many of those coal workers are unemployed and money is pretty hard to come by. The people are great, but they are going through some rough times. Red Bird does an excellent job of reaching out to them.

Claudia worked in the kitchen (it seems she does that a lot). She went to work at 5:30am and helped prepare each meal, plus get things ready for lunches that the teams could take with them if they were very far from the campus. There were 2 ladies who work in the kitchen all year long that spent a lot of time talking and sharing. The people in this area have a pretty tough life, and they really enjoy being able to tell others about their life and their faith

When the team wasn't working or eating (they did lots of that). They enjoyed devotions, talking with other teams (there were 84 people there all together), and getting to know each other. One of the ladies remarked that having 10 women, sleeping in 5 bunk beds in a small room and sharing one bathroom, brought them all closer. I totally understand that. I slept in that cabin too - close, but fun. There were lots of jokes, a few pranks (imagine that), singing, praying, some tears, some sharing, some silliness and many smiles to go with the aching muscles, and tired bodies.

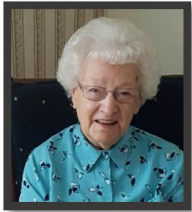
I personally saw some relatives that were MUCH larger than I am. People in Kentucky are not big fans of those cousins, so I just said hi and politely excused myself. It seemed like a common-sense decision. It gets pretty hot there and seems wet most of the time. The camp had 7 cats and 5 kittens that live there. I was pretty busy keeping out of their way but they seemed nice enough.

It sure was an adventure and a great opportunity. It made us all realize how lucky we are to live in nice safe places, with plenty of food and good friends. We also realized that we could do these types of jobs right here in our town during the other 51 weeks of the year. I wouldn't be surprised if we see some new opportunities opening up soon. I hope so. It makes me feel good to help others.

As always, our church family has been busy here too. We celebrated the Baptisms of 7 new members. That was a wonderful Sunday and of course the ladies served a delicious brunch afterwards. One Friday night, the kids got to see another movie. They all had a great time. I really like that night. Sometimes...just sometimes, I find a morsel or 2 of popcorn after they leave. I love kids.

Then right after I got home from Red Bird, just as I was thinking I might sleep in, there came some delicious smells from the kitchen and the sound of MEN'S voices. Now that was new to me, so I quietly went to investigate. I found 6 men cooking breakfast for the ladies of the church! How great was that! They served 37 women and girls a tasty meal. Pastor Alex came to church early too and spoke after breakfast. It was unusual to see this, but it made my heart smile. Everyone was happy and the guys did a terrific job. It's sure nice to see how my church family takes care of each other and how they appreciate each other.

Thank you all again for being my church family. You are all a blessing to me.  
Your Church Mouse.....



## An Interview with Helen Swift by Claudia Little

This month's interview was an honor to prepare. Our oldest living member, Helen Swift, allowed a wonderful time together. Although her daughter Mary and her husband were present, her mind is sharp and her memory filled with the past 100 years! Helen turned 100 on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and appears to be moving full speed ahead.

Although born in Missouri in 1917, when Helen was about 2 ½, her family moved to Cuba. She was the daughter of Jesse Paul and Rosa Galbraith Milhauser. Apparently, there was quite a movement to the east during that time. She attended a one-room school near Farnsworth until grade 8 when she attended the school on Medbury, where she graduated. She had an older sister, Nadine, who lived to be 98.

After attending beauty school in Buffalo, she returned to Cuba where she has resided ever since. During that time, she met her husband-to-be, Paul. They were married in 1939. The couple had a daughter, Mary Swift Swartz and a son, Donn Swift. Paul worked at the Tile Plant, while Helen pursued her stylist career. After 68 years of marriage, Paul went to be with the Lord.

Helen attended Cuba First Baptist throughout her life. She was baptized by Rev Clair Malcomson. She also remembers being a part of Sunday school activities. When asked about any other involvement – the answer came easily. The Rummage Rooms! She loved working there. She also made those pastel colored sugar mints for the Bazaar. (Talk about a rush down memory lane)

Many may remember Helen's Beauty Shop on Steven's Avenue. After working with Doris Schyler for several years; the family moved to their home on Stevens Ave, and a shop was added on. Many ladies passed those doors over the years until Helen retired in 2000. When asked about favorite things, she was quick to reply; talking (and more so- listening) to her clients. ...So many friends, so many stories, so much fun.

The Swifts also had a camp on Rush Creek Road. They built a log cabin there and enjoyed great times. Mary worked hard to keep the cabin, the home, her business and her family all on tract. She and Paul also enjoyed travel. They took trips to Aruba, Cancun and even a bus trip through the Western states.

When asked what she attributes her longevity to – she replied, "hard work". And her advice to young women today? "Work hard". I was so impressed by Helen's sharp mind and active demeanor. She thoroughly seems to enjoy an active conversation and her life at Eden Heights where she now resides.

When asked about her favorite hymn – "In the Garden". No question.

And the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is her favorite scripture. There was no hesitation on either. Her mind is really sharp and her faith intact.

Helen proudly reports that her 2 children have given her 6 grandchildren, 12 grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. Not that many years ago, she loved cooking and baking for them. Tales of mouth-watering cabbage salad followed (and I even remember it from those wonderful pot luck dinners). Her daughter Mary resides in Florida, while Donn lives in North Carolina. Several of her grandchildren live in the area. At the time of interview, Helen was looking forward to a birthday celebration with her family, friends and neighbors at Eden Heights.

Closing remarks...no matter how many times I "fished" for wisdom over the ages...Helen always returned to the subject of "hard work". It was her statement of success, family, business and faith. Perhaps all something we should consider.





