

FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist
Church of Trenton

Reverend Elizabeth Congdon,
Senior Pastor

MAY 2014

128-140 Centre St., Trenton, NJ
08611 609-393-8810

Reverend C Nadir Powell,
Associate Pastor

WHAT'S NEXT?

Associate Pastor Rev. Powell

Last month we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ who died for our sins and through our belief we too are resurrected. Jesus' resurrection from death to a new life has enabled us to rise from some graving situations that sought to keep our hopes and future buried. Thanks be to God for the loving sacrifice of Jesus. But the question I have for you is what's next? Now that you have risen from some of those things that tried to bury your forward mobility in life, what do you do now? Well, if you're not sure, the bible reminds us in Matthew 28:19 to go out into the nations and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teach them the things that Jesus commands us. Pretty much, Jesus' resurrection wasn't an event that ended with Him, but it is an event that continues with us until He returns. He has

commissioned us to go and spread His Word. He is letting us know that there is still more work to do. If you look at the plights of the world there's no question that there's more to do. This being the case, both you and I have a task to do. We are called to be agents of change and ambassadors for Christ. We are called to be the portraits of the God that we serve. We are called to be witnesses to those who don't know God and share the Good News that Jesus still lives and He still saves. Mostly, we are called to be living sacrifices which Roman 12:1 reminds us of.

What does it mean to be a living sacrifice? It means that we will live a righteous life, a life that's honorable before God. Even more exact, I believe we will do the same things that Christ did. Philippians 2:5 tells us to let the same mind that was in

GET WELL



Reverend Powell will be filling in during Pastor Liz's recovery. If there are any pastoral needs please contact Rev. Powell at 732-277-3751 or email: nadirsstop@gmail.com.

If you would like to send Pastor Liz a greeting, please use the following information:

Rev. Elizabeth Congdon
12 Marissa Court
Atlantic Heights, NJ
07716

Christ also be in us. If this is the case and it is, that means we'll go out and feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner, proclaim good news to the poor and broken spirit, set the captives free,

give sight to the blind, set the
oppressed free, and the list
goes on. We'll help give them
the same opportunities that
we have since our
resurrection. So on this day,
don't sit on the blessing that
God has blessed you with, but
go out and do the next best

thing which is to go and
tell somebody that Jesus
has risen and through
this belief they too can
rise above their
daunting situations.
Words by Reverend C
Nadir Powell

Blessed Trinity

Like a coal miner I've been excavating through the rubbish of my
life

Yet, I still haven't found that jewel that reflects light
For I'm tired of going into a hole of nothingness
Going so deep that it makes it hard to sustain my breath

There were times when I thought I found precious stones
Only to find out that it was all fool's gold
For when I thought I found something that gives life worth
I started to wonder if it's better to live or to be buried beneath
the dirt

So I searched, searched, and searched
A search that left my spirit with excruciating labor pains waiting
to give birth
Now I'm exhausted filled with hurt
My hope continues to fade, no more useless energy to exert

I'm trapped like a diamond buried deep in the rough not yet to
be relieved
Because all of my optimism is covered with layers of debris
For I need to rise above the pressure that surrounds me
A brilliant light from the Son I need to see

For I need someone to sift me free
So my life can be joyous and glorious not stained by futility
There's only one who's able to give me what I need
I'm talking about God in three persons, Blessed Trinity

By Reverend C Nadir Powell

TRUSTEES CORNER

Tom Johnson

You will notice that work has been going on in the Sunday school room where we are doing some refurbishing of the areas. The ceiling tiles have been replaced for a crisper and up to date look. If you look up, you will also see fans have been installed for the purpose of helping to move the air in that room for better heat distribution as well as summertime cooling. If not done by the time you get this newsletter you will see very soon that the new carpeting has been installed in the Main Sunday School Room.

Over the next month there will be new carpeting installed in the offices and Landsparger Lounge as well. A big thank you to all the folks that helped move furniture, books, shelves, tables, chairs etc. during this project.

It is very important both for the life of this new carpet as well as the renewed appearance of our facilities that we ALL be diligent about prevention of spills and the dropping of foodstuff on the new floorings. If something is spilled or dropped please take the time to clean it up immediately. The ground in food is much harder to remove than if it is done immediately. If you cannot remove a stain or mark please bring it to the attention of Jim Russo or Tom Johnson as we will have special chemicals and means of removal available for such emergencies.

Thank you to Jim Russo for his untiring attention to the maintenance needs of our building. On a monthly basis Jim brings these concerns to the Board of Trustees for action or consideration.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to learn and do ministry at FBCT. I have learned so much, and I am so thankful for the community here. From preaching my first sermon to being licensed to preach, I have enjoyed my internship experience. I am so thankful for the opportunities of teaching the children's Sunday school class, leading different parts of the worship service, preaching, and teaching ESL and tutoring. Thank you so much for the support and love that you have shown me. You are a hospitable and gracious people of God, and for you I am so thankful. I will remember my internship experience with joy, for God is doing great things here. Even though my internship is ending, I will not be going anywhere. You will still see me in worship and teaching the children's Sunday school class. – Emily Davis

Now that I'm coming to a close with my internship at First Baptist Trenton, I want to extend a thank you to everyone in the church community that has welcomed me in and shown me the ropes. This has been a tremendous experience. I have been blessed by the opportunities y'all have given me: from teaching children's Sunday school and adult Sunday school, to helping out in worship and tutoring at ESL. I have found life and ministry in this church to be truly enriching. For these reasons and more, Emily and I decided to become members and were welcomed in on April 6. While not in my intern role anymore, I look forward to continuing to grow in the life of faith together in this upcoming year. – Tyler Davis

Board of Christian Education



The ESL classes have worked very hard all year. The students continue to make strides in their understanding and usage of the English language. Classes for this year ended on April 19th. We thank all the dedicated teachers for their time and teaching.

We will have four students attending Camp Lebanon this summer. Christ Central Church of Ewing will have a Kids Camp at First Baptist the week of Aug. 17th. Volunteers will be needed to help.

"Poetry in Motion" an evening celebrating the arts of poetry, dance, and songs will be on May 10th in Fellowship Hall from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Come support and enjoy the many talents of the youth.

Below, Emily Davis shares what the junior class has been doing during Sunday school time.

During the last few weeks in our Sunday school class, we have been memorizing Scripture, doing crafts, singing songs, and learning about women in American and church history. We have read the story of Lazarus and studied the Christian community in Acts. In the coming weeks, we will continue to study the Epistles in the New Testament. Rev. Kang and the youth inspired the children to memorize more Bible verses, so we are in the middle of a Bible verse memory challenge.

MAY SERMONS

May 4 "Don't Turn Off the Light" -Rev. Powell

May 11 "Inside Out" John 2:24-29 – Rev. Powell

May 18 "You're Still in a Race" Hebrew 12:1-3 –Rev. Powell

May 25 "Let us Love" 1 John 4:7-16 – Emily Davis



Pastoral Article

Emily Davis

Chaos and Creativity

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God’s word and by prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:4-5

I recently visited Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York. On one of the walls of the monastery, there were seven stained-glass windows, each depicting one of the days of creation. One of the monks pointed to one of the windows and explained that it was a picture of the chaos before God’s creation.

At the beginning of the creation story in Genesis 1, there is God, and there is the formless and dark void. This formless void is a chaotic nothingness that lacks order, shape, and purpose. God is in this chaos, and this is the condition in which God’s acts of creation take place. God takes the formless void and disordered darkness and uses them to create the heavens and the earth. God does not reject the chaos or disorder, but God creates out of them. God takes the chaos and sanctifies it with spoken words. The voice of God speaks creation into existence, declares it to be good, and blesses it. The disordered nothingness becomes light, waters, land, vegetation, and animals all in direct response to God’s spoken words. “Let there be light.” “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together.” “Let the earth put forth vegetation.” God’s words sanctify chaos into a good creation and bless the created order. “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

God’s creative movements in the Genesis account set the pattern for human creativity in the world. In God’s creation of the universe, God does not reject disorder or chaos, but God creates out of them. The Spirit moves from the chaos to bring creativity. Order comes from disorder, and creativity comes from chaos. In the world today, human creativity and the living of life follow this same pattern.

In our lives today, there is sometimes chaos in our hearts and in our homes. There may be fear of the unknown and confusion or hurt in the events of our days. Stress may pervade our minds, and unending tasks and responsibilities may take over our hours. But we are not to reject the chaos in our lives. Just as God does not reject the chaos, we are not to reject the confusion and the mess. We are not to be afraid of the disorder or try to avoid it, but we are to create out of it. We take the confusion and the unknown and move it toward spiritual growth and learning, for that is the movement of the Spirit. Just as God sanctifies the chaos and speaks words of creativity into it, we are to speak words for God’s creativity. We are to pray for God’s sanctification of the stress and confusion in our lives and ask for God’s blessings in the hurt and the mess.

May God be with us in the chaos of our hearts and of our lives. May we not reject any of the chaos, but may we be in it and learn the movement of the Spirit. May we not be disturbed by disorder or halted by the confusion, but may we move toward God with a belief that something good can be made out of the mess. May we grow and learn and meet God. May God sanctify the chaos in our lives, and may we move from chaos to creativity. May chaos be the state where creativity takes place.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUNDAY

To All FBCT members and friends,

I greet you in the matchless name of Jesus. On Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 11:00AM, we will be having our Family and Friends Sunday. So call all your family members and friends and invite them out to a spirit filled service. Reach out to someone that you haven't seen or talked to for quite some time and bring them on out. I'm sure they will be blessed. By the way, the person who brings the most people will receive a gift card. We look to see you. God Bless you, Rev C Nadir Powell

SUMMER PICNIC JULY 21

Start your summer off right by coming to our first annual Church and Community backyard cookout. It will be a time of fun and fellowship. There will be food, drinks, music, and games. There will be competitions where you can win a prize. Mostly it will be fun, fun, fun. So come on out church, come on out community and be among friends or make a new friend. The cost is free. Our address is First Baptist Church Trenton, 128 Centre St, Trenton, NJ 08611. The date and time of our function is Saturday July 21, 2014 from 1:00p-3:00p. For more information, call me, Rev C Nadir Powell at 732-277-3751.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I am trying this new layout for the newsletter. What do you think?
Email me, Alicia, at fbctsecy@yahoo.com

Newsy Notes

•••

BAKE SALE and Pasta Lunch were both a success. Thanks to everyone for their participation. Precious reached his goal and will enjoy a week at Rider University attending the Envision Leadership Program.

Saynoh Wilson is a Rutgers University student and she commutes to Mercer Community College for the courses. She loves science classes and studying to be a nurse anesthetist. Saynoh's thoughts for any college bound student is to be focused and attentive to your assignments. She says it is best to stay ahead of all the projects you have due for classes.

We are so pleased to have Angela participating in our church family activities. Delicious pasta dish Angela!

It was nice to see Ijezie and Heather Nwokomah visiting.

Bella, Thanks for being such a faithful coffee maker and Mary we sure do like those raspberry bars. We enjoy our snacks and drinks during fellowship time.

The new fans in the ceiling were installed just in time for the warmer weather.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2014				1 6:30 choir rehearsal	2	3 9-12 ESL & Tutoring 12-2 Bible Study & youth choir practice
4 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	5 5:00 STSK	6 5:00 STSK	7 5:00 STSK 7:00 Poetry	8 6:30 choir rehearsal	9	10 9-12 ESL & Tutoring 12-2 Bible Study & youth choir practice 6:30 Poetry in Motion
11 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	12 5:00 STSK	13 5:00 STSK	14 5:00 STSK	15 Newsletter Info Due 6:30 choir rehearsal	16	17 9-12 ESL & Tutoring 12-2 Bible Study & youth choir practice
18 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Family and Friends 12:15 Fellowship 3:00 Chess for Kids	19 5:00 STSK	20 5:00 STSK	21 5:00 STSK 7:00 Poetry	22 6:30 choir rehearsal	23	24 9-12 ESL & Tutoring 12-2 Bible Study & youth choir practice
25 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	26 5:00 STSK	27 5:00 STSK	28 5:00 STSK	29 6:30 choir rehearsal	30	31 9-12 ESL & Tutoring 12-2 Bible Study & youth choir practice 4:30 Chess for kids

Kids Bible Wordsearch

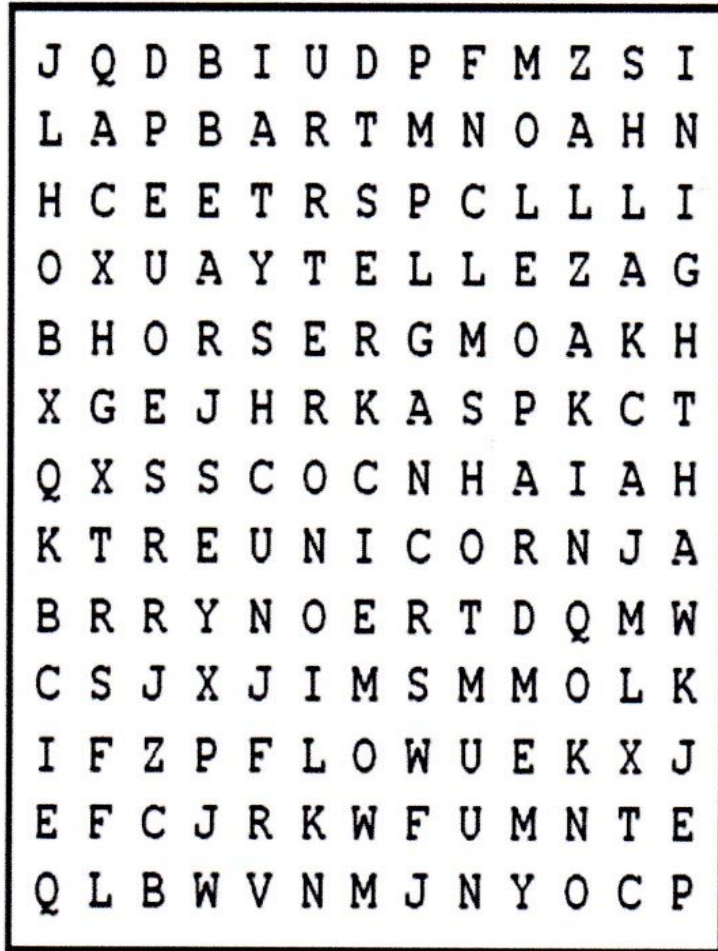
Animals in the Bible

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle # 1



BEAR
CAMEL
DONKEY
GAZELLE
GOAT
HART
HORSE
IBEX
JACKAL



LEOPARD
LION
MOLE
MOUSE
NIGHTHAWK
OSTRICH
SHEEP
UNICORN
WOLF



Bible Quiz

1. Who lost a chance to inherit eternal life, because he was not willing to obey Jesus' command?
 2. Who said: "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision?"
 3. What happened to Lot's wife?
 4. Who were the first people in Bible history to disobey God's command?
 5. Did Moses disobey God when he struck the rock to secure water for the Israelites in the desert of Zin?
- a. Yes – he was told to "speak ye unto the rock" not to "smite it" (Numbers 20:8-13)
 - b. The Rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-27)
 - c. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:11-13)
 - d. She turned back, and was turned into a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26)
 - e. Paul (Acts 26:19)
- (answers: 1. B, 2. E, 3. D, 4. C, 5, A)

MAY 2014

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
128-140 CENTRE STREET
TRENTON, NJ 08611-2215