

# FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist  
Church of Trenton

JUNE 2014

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

Reverend Elizabeth Congdon,  
Senior Pastor

Reverend C Nadir Powell,  
Associate Pastor

## *A Process that Brings About Progress*

Associate Pastor Rev. Powell



If you live long enough, life will bring about some tough times. There will be some hills to climb and some valleys to trudge. This is a reality of life no matter who we are, what we are, what our status is. I'm sure many of you will agree. Life isn't always ice cream. It makes me think about what Langston Hughes said in one of his greatest poems. He said, "Life Ain't No Crystal Stairways." There will be times when you'll try to go forward only to run into a seemingly invisible wall that you can't seem to penetrate. You'll feel as if you're trapped in your situation. And Lord knows I know it doesn't feel good. I'm sure there are times when you want to throw up your hands and just scream. I know you want to give up. But I have to say, it's not time

to give up. It's time to look up to the One who has the power to lift you up, raise you up above your situation. Now, maybe some of you may say you've been doing all of what I've just said and it seems like nothing is happening. Well, you must understand that even though it looks like nothing is happening or the breakthrough you need isn't happening fast enough, please be mindful that something is always happening in the spiritual realm. God has not left you in the midst of your situation by yourself. On the other hand, could it be that your situation has caused you to leave Him because your situation has consumed your spirit to a point where you forget to call on Him or believe in Him to make a change? Understand,

## 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:

[nadirstop@gmail.com](mailto:nadirstop@gmail.com).

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

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

609-954-1450

when you think like this, you're giving more power to your situation than the One who has the power to change your situation because God is All-powerful. I believe the problem with some of us is this; we really don't know how to maintain while going through the process that we're

going through. We have a hard time during the mean time while waiting for our troubles to be over; the time where life doesn't seem kind. I know the process that life takes us through can be a little tough. I know it can be overwhelming. But, I want you to know that you're only going through a process that can bring progress. I know it doesn't look that way or feel that way, but you're going through a process in order to progress. In fact, you're experiencing what I call life growing pains. You're going through a process that's going to bring about greatness. Understand, there will be a time when we all will go through the furnace of life only to become better. That's right, you will be better than you were when you first started the process. I think that's good news. You just have to keep the faith, no matter how much your faith is being tested. Truthfully, you'll end up being stronger and better so when you're faced with another trial, you'll be able to endure it. In fact, James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let endurance have its full effect so that you may be mature and complete." Again, it's just a process that you are going through. It's a process that reminds me of

the process that gold or silver goes through when they are put into high temperatures. The process is called cupellation.

Cupellation is when metal are placed in high temperatures to separate noble metals, stronger metals from base metals. Gold and silver are noble metals, the stronger metals. And you too are noble, stronger because you are connected to God who has tried you and you have sustained the high pressure and temperatures of life. Know when it is all said and done, your life will shine, your life will glitter, your life will have radiance, like gold as long as you stay close to God while going through the process that brings about progress. God wants you to progress in life and you will because it is His will. Jesus said in John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." You will have life that is more abundant. The latter will be better than the rest.

Written by  
Reverend C Nadir  
Powell

By the time you receive this newsletter article the carpeting renovation project in the Sunday school building will have been completed and most areas put back to normal. Please be sure to stop into the church to see the transformation of these areas to a more beautified and updated condition. The last two areas to be done were Landsparger Lounge and the office spaces adjoining it. A big thank you to the volunteers that came to help clean up the area, move furniture out and then back into spaces and assist in those efforts.

Some roofing repairs have recently been done and downspouts repaired or replaced as necessary. Two church work days have set up for this spring and early summer to do cleanup of the outside area and some painting and refurbishing of outside areas as well. June 14th 9:00AM we need all hands on deck for a morning of outside cleanup to make our place more beautiful and prepare for the All Church Picnic the following weekend. On July 19th at 9:00 AM we need a few able bodied painters to repaint the courtyard ramp and front steps of the church. These areas have become eyesores and do not make a great first impression on visitors as they approach our facility. Please mark these dates on your calendars and let Jim Russo or Tom Johnson know you will be coming.

Please be sure to remember that the church expenses go on in the summer months and that your envelopes can be filled as normal and brought to church on your first visit after vacation. If you wish to send that check, be sure to address it to James Russo at FBC, 128 Centre Street 08611.

### *A Small Voice*

There I lay beyond the consciousness of my past day  
Far away from yesterday's reality  
About to enter the REM where dreams are revealed  
Away from life's casualties

As I journeyed through the darkness of my dreams  
I realized there was someone there with a face unseen  
For He spoke to me  
And said all you need is faith of a mustard seed

Now at first it startled me  
Until I realized the voice was peaceful, loving, and serene  
A voice of one I should seek, yet seeks me  
Leading me out of my dream back to reality

For now it's a new day  
Different from the previous when I laid down in dismay  
When things seemed to be in disarray  
Because that small voice spoke and showed me a better Way

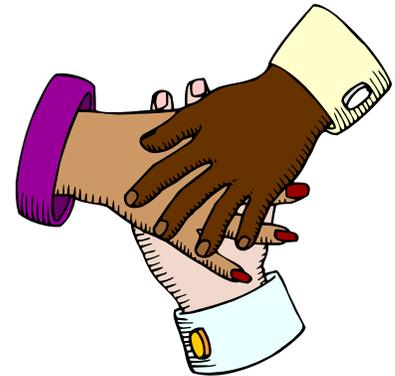
So today I know I need to make that change  
There are things in my life that needs to be rearranged  
So today I'm making the right choice  
To finally follow that small voice

Written by Reverend C Nadir Powell  
Associate Pastor First Baptist Church Trenton

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

To all members and friends, we need volunteers to help us with backyard cleanup at FBCT on **June 14, 2014** at **9:00am**. We'd appreciate your help.

On **July 19, 2014**, FBCT will have a church workday to tidy up church. We need volunteers to help. Your help is appreciated

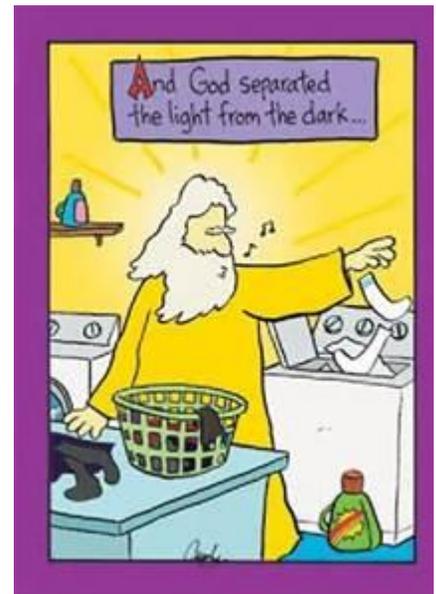


### NEWSLETTER

Newsletter information is due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please make sure to have information to the church secretary by the due date. This is to make sure the newsletter is received by all members and friends prior to the Month of the newsletter. Thank you. [fbctsecy@yahoo.com](mailto:fbctsecy@yahoo.com)

### JUNE SERMONS

6/1/14 ACTS 1:8-The Reliable Witness - Rev. Powell  
6/8/14 ACTS 2:1-12-A Changed Language -Rev. Powell  
6/15/14 MATTHEW 28:16-20-From Disciple to Disciple -Rev. Powell  
6/22/14 ROMANS 6:1B-11-A New Walk -Rev. Powell  
6/29/14 ROMANS 6:12-23-Playing the Right Tune -Rev. Powell





*WORD and WITNESS – A workweek devotional comprised of sacred text and public testimony for those who choose to live their lives passionately.*

Today's WORD – Acts 2:42-47

Community of believers

42 The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. 43 A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. 44 All the believers were united and shared everything. 45 They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. 46 Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. 47 They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Today's WITNESS

The cooperative, mutually supportive spirit of the community is presented by Acts as one of the signs and wonders which accompany the proclamation of the gospel. The forgiveness of sins seems to be experienced not so much as a future benefit between individuals and God, but as a present condition facilitating brotherly-sisterly care among the members of the community. The circumstances of the Christian's common life would count as evidence of the effectiveness of the telling of the gospel. —Marianne Sawick

Today's INVITATION

In the early Christian communities, the truth of the gospel was verified by the nature and quality of the life shared by community members; a quality of life profoundly distinct from the world around them. In what ways does — or does not — your faith community reveal the presence of Jesus in its interior relationships? How are you contributing — or not contributing — to authentic Christian community among your brothers and sisters in Christ? Consider a small change you could make and know that the smallest changes can have profound results.

Today's PRAYER

Loving God, open my heart more fully to your grace. Help me to be secure enough in you to take an honest look at myself and my faith community. I celebrate the ways in which our life together makes Jesus known. I confess the ways in which our relationships endorse the values of the world instead of values of your kingdom. I trust that my small steps will be empowered by your Spirit to make a real difference. Give me wisdom and courage to be the Christian-in-community you have called me to be. Amen

The Passionary Intention

Today, I choose to live my life with passion. Today, I intend to follow Christ more nearly, love more dearly and incarnate God's grace more clearly by asking myself three questions:

- How/Where shall I follow Christ today?
- How can I demonstrate kindness to people and creation today?
- How can I play my part in practicing the presence of Christ, right here, right now?

The Passionary Movement is fueled by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, Executive Director

**FUN, FUN, FUN!**

**Free food, games and  
music**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TRENTON**

*Cordially invites you and your family to our*

**FIRST  
ANNUAL  
PICNIC**



**June 21, 2014**

**1:00PM - 3:00PM**

**128 CENTRE STREET, TRENTON NJ**

**Come out for fun, prizes, music, games and  
delicious free food! Contact Rev. Powell for  
more information. 732-277-3751**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF  
TRENTON**

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



## Bible Quiz

1. Who was thrown in an empty pit?
  - a. Elisha (II Kings 4:3)
  - b. Joseph (Genesis 37:24)
  - c. Gideon's (Judges 7:16)
  - d. Paul ( I Thessalonians 5:22)
  - e. Naomi (Ruth 1:21)
2. Whose army carried "empty pitchers"?
3. What famous woman said "I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty"?
4. Who ordered a widow of the sons of the prophets to go and borrow "empty vessels" that he might fill them, and save her from bankruptcy?
5. What is the earliest mention in the Bible of the periodic emptying of a collection box?

(answers: 1. B, 2. C, 3. E, 4. A, 5, D)

*June 2014*

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