

# FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist  
Church of Trenton

Reverend Elizabeth Congdon,  
Senior Pastor

July August 2014

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

Reverend C Nadir Powell,  
Associate Pastor

## *Are You Making a Difference?*

Associate Pastor Rev. Powell



Some years ago I remember talking to a Christian brother about serving. As we talked, he began to tell me a story about a lady who had given her life to the Lord. He told me that this woman was having a difficult time at her work place because she longed to be in a work environment with all Christians. She said she wanted to be in a work environment that was peaceful, loving, filled with the presence of God. She wanted a workplace where she and her co-workers would pray together. In essence, she wanted her work environment to be a sanctuary. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. It was quite the opposite. This

matter resulted in her calling out to God for help. She asked God to change her work environment into a place where all Christians worked. She would pray to God daily. Every day she would pray before going to work expecting a change when she arrived but nothing seemed to have changed. Finally, after praying and praying, one day she called out to God in anger saying, "Lord I prayed and prayed for a place of peace, love, a place that's filled with your presence and you didn't answer my prayer. Why have you forsaken me?" Then the Lord simply answered her and said, "Daughter, I know you want a place of peace, a place filled with love, a place filled with my presence. That's the reason why I sent you. I sent you to make that change." After hearing that story, I've come to the realization that God calls all of us to make a difference everywhere we go. Whether it's our workplace, the supermarket, the mall, places of recreation, walking down

## *Trustee's Corner*

By Tom Johnson

This month's article is about the difference that a few volunteers can make in lightening the load. On four occasions, during the last few months, we have put out a call for help in doing some manual labor here at the church. We had major cleanup day, we had to move office and lounge furniture for a carpeting project and we had an outside cleanup day in preparation for the church picnic. On each of those occasions we had volunteers turn out to help. Not always the same people but a good representation of the church body. There is one more on July 19th where we hope to do more work on the outside of the building. A big thank you goes out to Jim, Mike, Ray, Philip and crew, Jack and crew, Lyn, Mary, Nick and crew and several more whose names escape me but whose work ethic remains instilled in my memory.

Thank you all for your volunteer hours and willingness to work.

the street, and the list goes on. God is calling us to make a difference everywhere we go. In fact, this is what Jesus was suggesting in Matthew 28:19-20 when He gave us the Great Commission when He told us to go and make disciples of the nation's baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teach them to obey the things that He commands us to do. He was telling us to go and make a difference in somebody's life by sharing His love and by telling them about Him who still lives and still saves. On this day go out and be an agent of change and make a difference in someone's life. Be a walking sanctuary and make a sanctuary everywhere you go. If you take the presence of God that resides in you and share it with those that you meet, God will use you to make a difference in their life.



'A few workers got together on June 14th for an outside cleanup'

## *Christian Education*

By Carolyn Wood

We completed another successful year of Sunday School classes on June 22. Each week at 9, 10 and 11 AM we could count on our dedicated teachers being in their classrooms prepared for the students varying in age from 4 thru 96, all anxious to study and learn. A big thank you goes out to our teachers: Emily, Tyler, Abby, Phillip, Elizabeth, Kahmiya, Mary and Kharmia. Stay tuned for information on the startup of classes in September.

During the month of August we will again be blessed by the Central Baptist Church group who will bring their very successful vacation bible school "KIDS CAMP" program to the First Baptist youth and neighborhood children. Dates for the program are on the attached calendar.

Have a safe and happy summer and please be at worship starting at 10 AM each Sunday in July and August.

## *Newsy Notes*

By Carolyn Wood

Wasn't it wonderful to have an infant dedication on June 15th. Congratulations to Heather and Eijeze on the birth of Brinton, their new baby boy. It has been nice having Mike and John worshipping with us each Sunday. Has anyone noticed how much cooler it seems in the big Sunday school room once the new ceiling fans start the air circulating? While we mourned the death of long time member Clarence Landsparger it was wonderful to have pastor Liz officiating at his service last month. Our newest choir member did some excellent solo work last month, thank you Paul. Have a safe and happy summer. See you in church.

## Cultivating a Spiritual Way of Seeing

By Emily Davis

“The soul that is united with God sees the world with God’s eyes. That soul, like God, sees what is otherwise rendered invisible and irrelevant.” –Dorothee Soelle

He looked at the painting on the wall and noticed the great depth of the many clusters of gray paint. He thought about the movements of the brush strokes and the way they caused the paint to extend out from the canvas. His eyes lingered on the painting for another moment before he reached out his hand and touched the surface. With his hand, he felt the painting and realized that it was not as textured as he had thought. The different tints and shades of gray created only an appearance of depth. He could see how the colors of the paint made it look like it was varied and built up in texture, but he could not feel this texture on the canvas. The

surface felt flatter than it looked.

The artist had intentionally created an implied or visual perception of texture, not an actual or tactile texture. The painting required people to rely not only on the vision of their eyes but also on the touch of their hands in order to appreciate the painting and understand what the artist was doing. It required a person to cultivate a way of seeing and contemplating with more than just his or her eyes.

As we go about our daily lives, it is easy to look but not really see, and to notice but not really experience. It is easy for us to be asleep to what the Artist has created around us. But just as an admirer of a painting cultivates the physical senses of sight and touch in order to encounter a painting and understand what the artist is doing on the canvas, we are to cultivate our spiritual senses in order to encounter God and understand what the Artist is doing in our lives.

Cultivating a spiritual way of seeing takes time, conscious act of renouncing

our own desires and becoming attentive to God and what God is revealing to us in each moment. As we cultivate a true attention to God, we gain the ability to see where God has been working all along. We realize that the happenings of our lives are not as we thought they were, but there is more to see and know. In this way of sacred seeing, we are lifted above our daily concerns to a place where we meet God and see the profound and meaningful in the ordinary. The Artist is always at work, and we must always be practicing a spiritual way of seeing and contemplating in order to know God and understand the art of living in relationship with God.



KIDS KAMP TRENTON  
Central Church from Ewing  
will be running our VBS this  
year. The dates are August  
18-22 6pm-9pm. The theme is  
Jungle Safari!!!  
Location: First Baptist Church  
of Trenton  
128-140 Centre Street  
Trenton NJ 08611



## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In the beginning when you spoke, a cataclysmic reaction took place

Where molecules and atoms were no longer the same

Where the surrounding darkness made a change

Bringing about the brightness of day

For you spoke powerfully and a process took place

One that was very good and lacked mistakes

Now this went on for six days

Where You rested on the seventh because everything was better than just okay

For one of the greatest results of creations process was humankind

A creation that was one of a kind

For we were spoken from the deep depths of Your heart

A man and woman what a work of art

For we were created and blessed with Your image

With one coming from the other so ingenious

Created to till and manage the land

To serve and be good stewards is what You planned

For this is what you called us to until time ends

The true calling of both woman and man

So let's do the best we can

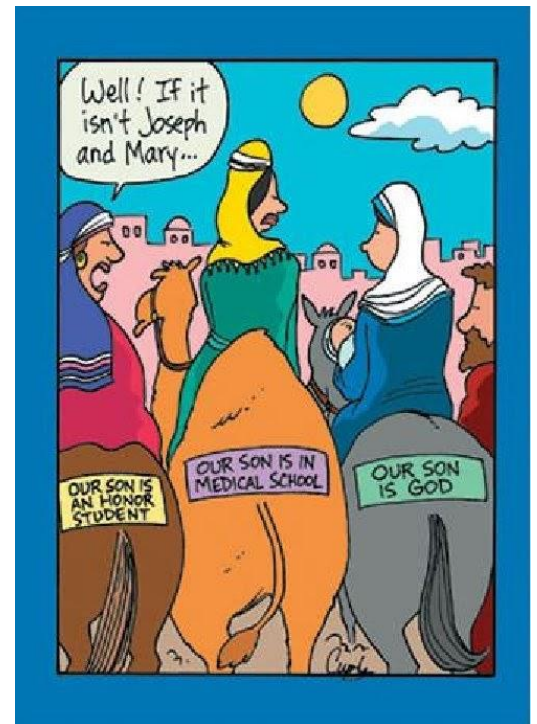
Until we return to You where it all began

By Rev. C. Nadir Powell

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED



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. Your next newsletter will be September 2014 Thank you. [fbctsecy@yahoo.com](mailto:fbctsecy@yahoo.com)

*ABCNJ Annual Session 2014 is September 27, 2014. The theme is God's Word, Our World. Registration is \$79.00 for groups of six or more and children ages 6-12 are \$16.00. Anyone who is interested in attending the session at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick please notify Rev C Nadir Powell.*

## JULY SERMONS

7/6/14 Matthew 11:28-30; Get Some Rest Rev. Powell  
7/13/14 Romans 8:5-11; The Spirit Within Me Rev. Powell  
7/20/14 Psalm 67:1-7; All The Peoples Emily Davis  
7/27/14 Romans 8:33-39; Love Unconditional Rev. Powell

□  
June 12, 2014

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Daily I am encouraged by your prayers and good wishes. Daily I see physical improvements. I still need oxygen 24 hours a day and need to wear this huge brace that goes from my chest to knee. It makes travel difficult. I cannot drive yet.

The fall and subsequent injuries rendered me helpless as many of you saw back in March and April. I was led to the end of my resources. I was out of the driver's seat. I had to give up control. I could do nothing but pray. And my prayers were frequent and usually short, like "help," or "please God."

And God is ever present. I remember clearly one way God was present during the worst of times. I would hear music, hymns and I would sing along in my mind. It was as if I were hearing Jeanne Johnson playing. "Because He Lives" I can face tomorrow. "Because He Lives" all fear is gone. Now, fear would visit, but it did not stay long. Another favorite was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" oh God my Savior. "I come to the garden alone..." "Blessed Assurance" Jesus is mine. "Under His Wings" I can safely abide. "Trust and Obey" for there's no other way..." My soul was weary and troubled and I could "Turn My Eyes upon Jesus." "Be Still, My Soul" the Lord is on thy side. With such words I felt at peace. True, fear, worry, and despair did make their presence known but they did not abide. They were replaced with God's peace and the strength to go on.

Please keep praying for me. I am a testament to answered prayers and God's healing power.

I leave you with these words:

"Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you; all things are passing, God never changes. Patient endurance attains to all things; who God possesses in nothing is wanting; alone God suffices."

Prayer of Teresa of Avila

"When you cannot summon them on your own  
May comfort, courage and peace  
Come as gift, as grace,  
As remedy from the hand of  
The Healer of Souls."

By Jan Richardson

With love and a grateful heart,

*Pastor Liz*

May 24, 2014

Dearly beloved,

I write with a heart filled with thanks for your continuing prayers, love, care, gifts, generosity and encouraging words. I cannot tell you how much it has meant. I was completely overwhelmed with your generosity, dear Karen and Karenni brothers and sisters. And I am grateful.

I was making good progress during my six weeks of hospitalizations. Now I am struggling with many complications and have barely made it from day to day for the past three weeks. Just this week (week 9) I am seeing the light of day. I am so grateful! (Go to [www.CaringBridge.org](http://www.CaringBridge.org) for more details and the day to day saga. I am there under Elizabeth Congdon.)

I am presently living with my daughter, Maggie. Her address is:

12 Marissa Court

Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-4000

Home phone is 732-291-2060. My mobile remains the same: 609-954-1450

God is ever present. God's peace is beyond understanding and a source of enormous strength. God is my refuge and strength. (Psalm 46) I do not know why all this is happening. Mine is to get thru it. God will reveal what I need to know and understand. My heart is at peace (Proverbs 14:30) knowing I am in God's care. Several times I thought I might be dying. "Is this how dying feels?" I would ask myself. I was sad and afraid, but a peace came over me that only could have been from God. I knew God's presence daily. My fears were replaced with a peace and the strength to go on.

Before March 23<sup>rd</sup> I frequently thanked God for you all. I prayed for you daily. I rejoiced in being your Senior Pastor. I delighted in church. I loved preaching. I thanked God for giving me a life beyond anything I could dream or hope. It was more than I had ever deserved. I was happy, well beyond content. Then March 23<sup>rd</sup> happened. My life is now completely different. I am told that some of my treatments will last until August. For one complication I am told it could be up to a year to be remedied. I do not know what the future holds. God has not revealed that yet.

I am comforted knowing that Rev. Powell is at the helm, assisted with Emily Tyler. You are in good hands.

Please keep praying for me. I leave you with these words:

Go forth in peace; be of good courage;  
Hold onto that which is good;  
Return no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the faint hearted;  
Support the weak;  
Help the suffering;  
Honor all people;  
Love and serve the LORD,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

With love and a grateful heart,

*Pastor Liz*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
		1 5:00 STSK	2 5:00 STSK	3	4	5
6 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	7 5:00 STSK	8 5:00 STSK	9 5:00 STSK	10	11	12
13 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	14 5:00 STSK	15 5:00 STSK	16 5:00 STSK	17	18	19 9 :00 am Church cleanup
20 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	21 5:00 STSK	22 5:00 STSK	23 5:00 STSK	24	25	26
27 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	28 5:00 STSK	29 5:00 STSK	30 5:00 STSK	31		<b>JULY 2014</b>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>AUGUST 2014</b>					1	2
3 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	4 5:00 STSK	5 5:00 STSK	6 5:00 STSK	7	8	9
10 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	11 5:00 STSK	12 5:00 STSK	13 5:00 STSK	14	15 <b>NEWSLETTER INFO DUE</b>	16
17 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	18 5:00 STSK <b>6:00-10:00 VBS</b>	19 5:00 STSK <b>6:00-10:00 VBS</b>	20 5:00 STSK <b>6:00-10:00 VBS</b>	21 <b>6:00-10:00 VBS</b>	22 <b>6:00-10:00 VBS</b>	23
24/31 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	25 5:00 STSK	26 5:00 STSK	27 5:00 STSK	28	29	30



# Church Words

BY GLORIA GUNN

Find these twenty-five words that pertain to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by reading forward, backward, down, up, and diagonally. All the words have at least one letter that is not used in any other word, so it's important to find the longest words first.



Alma	Nephi	P R O M I S E A S I H E L
Baptism	Promise	R J C O V S I T A N A B U E L
Bible	Prophet	O L E M S I T R A P A D T H E N
Blessing	Reveal	P E G S A C R E L M A R I R E M
Book of Mormon	Reverent	H L N A U A S O N T R U M E O
Chapel	Sacrament	E N I C R D O C Y H V C T I B S O
Covenant	Sacred	T I S R A N P L A H C T H E L O
Doctrine	Seer	L A S A M P L A P M O H E T O
Home	Son	A T E M P L A H C T H E L O
Hymn	Sustain	E S L B N P E P M O H E T O
Jesus Christ	Temple	V U B E N P E P M O H E T O
Joseph Smith	Truth	E S E T E C T I N E J O B
Lehi		

## Bible Quiz

1. What is the most familiar text in the Bible, beginning with "Come"?
  2. What will come like "a thief in the night"?
  3. What great call for help did Paul answer?
  4. Finish the quotation, and state who uttered the words: "Come, see the place....."
  5. What is the great "missionary command"?
- a. "Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9)
  - b. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15)
  - c. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)
  - d. "The day of the Lord" (II Peter 3:10)
  - e. "Where the Lord lay" – The angel (Matthew 28:6)

(answers: 1.c, 2.a, 3.d, 4.e, 5.b)

*July and August 2014*

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