

# FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist  
Church of Trenton

October 2014

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

Reverend C Nadir Powell,  
Pastor Interim

Emily Davis,  
Minister

## *Why Are We Here?*

Pastor Interim Rev. Powell



Just the other day, I was having a conversation with a young man about God. While having the conversation, he asked, “Why are we here on earth?” He knew that God created us, but he wasn’t sure about the reason. Was it just to be living beings where we live our lives day to day carrying out our own agendas? What was the purpose? Now, when I thought about what he asked me, I started to think that this is probably a question that many have both believers and non-believers alike. So, why did God create us? Well, surely it wasn’t to carry out our own agendas. Truthfully, I believe that’s the primary reason why there is so much chaos in the world today. There are too many people trying to carry out their own agendas. Pretty much there

are a lot of people who have a, me, myself, and I attitude that they govern their lives by. That’s not why God put us here on this earth.

Firstly, I believe God put us here because He loved us so and being that He loved us so, He entrusted us to care for His creation. Genesis 1:26-28 reads in the Message bible, “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible.... And, yes, Earth itself.” Again, God created us to care for His creation, to be good stewards. Secondly, I believe we’re supposed to reciprocate love back to God who first loved us by following His will then take that love and spread it to all of whom He created. In fact, Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37-39 that the greatest of the commandments is to “Love the Lord Our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our



## **ESL and Tutoring**

At English as a Second Language and Tutoring, we come together as a community of learners to practice English, grow in our studies, and learn our school subjects. Tutoring and ESL meets on Saturdays at 10am, beginning on October 4. This program is free and is for children and youth of all ages. Adults are also welcome. ESL and Tutoring is a place for you to practice speaking and writing English with other people. We will have ESL books available for you to work on English grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraph formation. ESL and Tutoring is also a place for you to bring your homework. Teachers will be available to help with reading, science, math, and all assignments from school. Bring your homework, and a teacher will help you to complete your assignments and learn the material. Tutoring and ESL is followed by a free lunch. We would love to see you there!

neighbors as we love ourselves.” My friends, we are here to love God and to show how much we love Him by serving His purpose alone. God has called us to carry out His plan, a plan that is a reflection of love.

### **The Art of Responding to One Another**

Emily Davis

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that God created humans in God’s image. To be made in God’s image means that we are beings created to be in relationship with God and in relationship with one another. We have the ability to know and relate to God and to have friendships and conversations with one another. We can communicate with God and with other human beings. Communication involves talking, sharing, vulnerability, and self-disclosure. It also involves attention, waiting, silence, and listening. Lastly, communication involves answering, replying, or responding. As people who are created to be in relationship and in communication, we need to understand the art of responding to one another.

Psychologists Elias H. Porter, Jr. and Howard Clinebell have categorized the responses of a person into six different types: evaluative, interpretive, supportive, probing, understanding, and advising.

First, evaluative responses show that the person who responds is making a judgment about something. He or she is making a decision about how good or right or effective another person and his or her thoughts or feelings are. Second, interpretative responses show that a person has the purpose of teaching or explaining why. Third, supportive responses show that a person wants to reassure or reduce the intense feelings of another person. Fourth, probing responses either probe for information or probe for feelings. A person asks questions, seeks more information, moves deeper into a subject, and encourages more discussion. Probing responses include “What else can you tell me about...?” and “Can you tell me more...?” Fifth, understanding responses show that a person is seeking clarification or asking whether his or her understanding is correct. These responses most reflect a person’s empathy for another person. Some examples of understanding responses include “Can you give me an example of...?” and “Would you explain what you just said for me?” Sixth, advising responses show that a person’s intention is to recommend or suggest certain actions, feelings, or attitudes. Some examples of these responses include “You might want to...” or “You should...”

All six types of responses have a place in the conversations we have with one another, but we are to carefully choose which type of response is needed and appropriate in a given conversation and relationship. Generally, interpretive, supportive, and understanding responses are almost always appropriate while advising, probing, and evaluative responses should be used more carefully.

When in conversations with other people, which category of responses do you tend to use the most? Which types of responses do you need to practice more often in order to make your conversations and relationships more meaningful?

### **Women's Ministry**

A new women's ministry will meet at 6:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, starting September 3. Women are invited to come together to watch and discuss the documentary *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. Learn about the problem of female oppression around the world and listen to the stories of women who are creating real solutions. For more info, contact Emily Davis.

[Emily.davis@ptsem.edu](mailto:Emily.davis@ptsem.edu)



## Chess for Kids

We are pleased to tell you that Chess for Kids is returning. Thanks to Mrs. Kharmia Powell and the Christian Education Board, Chess for kids ages five to twelve is being planned for the following times: 10/26, 11/9, 11/16 and 12/21 3:00-4:30 pm. Do join in the fun!

## 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)



### THE AWAKENING

There I am in a place beyond my  
consciousness  
Trapped in a world of darkness  
Traveling to a destiny unknown  
A place where only dreams are revealed

Not knowing where I've been or where I've  
gone  
For it's beyond my control, yet I still go  
With no limits no bounds not knowing when I'll  
stop  
Not knowing when I'll go

For I'm caught in a maze of darkness not  
knowing my fate  
Nor my destiny, but somehow you still find me  
And bring me back to that awoken place where  
I can say  
Thank you for a new day

Written by  
Rev. C Nadir Powell-Pastor Interim



## Board of Christian Education – Carolyn Wood

Several of our youth will be attending a program offered by Beyond Expectations and led by Leotyne Anglin. This is a nonprofit organization based in Trenton. The workshop is called speedcrewing and the participants will be able to experience hands on television studio engineering. This will help give our students a vision for their future with a possible career in TV.

The Chess Club will begin again this Fall and they will be meeting Sunday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30. The dates will be 10/19, 10/26, 11/16, and 12/21.

The First and Third Wednesdays of each month First Baptist will host "Poetry In Motion" and the Women's Ministry group led by Emily Davis. They will be discussing the documentary Half The Sky.

## NEWSY NOTES

First Baptist had a wonderful retirement celebration in September for Rev. Liz Congdon. Family and friends joined her for a special sermon and a delicious fellowship meal.

Richard Petro has been joining us with a leg cast after ankle surgery. Be sure to let him know you are praying for his healing and being able to return to work.



### What a Celebration

On September 7, 2014, many came out to First Baptist Church Trenton to show their love and appreciation for Pastor Liz at her retirement celebration. She has served FBCT and the community faithfully, selflessly, and diligently. Many were glad to see her because earlier this year she had sustained many injuries from a horrific fall. The road to recovery was long, but through the miracle of God she is fully restored and healed. Once again she is standing strong and she proved it by giving a powerful sermon titled, "The Water Jesus Gives." Pastor Liz will be missed, but I'm sure this won't be the last time that we'll hear from her. I'm sure this isn't a retirement that says, "It's finished". This is a retirement that says she is transitioning to the next assignment that the Lord has for her. May God continue to bless you and empower you as you carry out your next mission.

May God Bless You, Rev. Powell



Martha Translates Scripture



Youth Choir



What a celebration! It was way beyond anything I could have dreamed!!! I am blown away by all the love and care and generosity and appreciation and fuss you made over me. I began reading from the scrapbook and I can only do that a little at a time. (My halo is already tight.) The service was very special. The choir unbelievable. What a perfect song! AND so many folks in the choir!!! So glad it was being taped. The special music was awesome beginning with the praise song and special music and youth choir. We sang my favorite hymns!!! What blessings.

The presentations were.....like whooh.....who are you talking about? My family was thrilled. Even my grandsons were impressed.

It was wonderful being among you. So good to see everyone. We should fill the church like this every Sunday.

The bountiful food was delicious. The cakes unbelievable!!!

What a celebration! Thank you. It was amazing. I cannot tell you how much it was appreciated.

God has plans for all of us.

With love and gratitude, Liz



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TRENTON FALL PROGRAMMING

**Children's Sunday School**  
**Sundays at 10am**  
**Begins September 7**  
**All ages welcome!**  
**Followed by worship at 11am**

**Tutoring and ESL**  
**Saturdays at 10am**  
**Begins October 4**  
**Bring your homework.**  
**Teachers will be available to help.**  
**Tutoring is followed by lunch.**

**YOU ARE  
INVITED!**

609-393-8810

128 Centre Street Trenton, NJ 08611

[Facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchTrentonNJ](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchTrentonNJ)

PosterMyWall.com





WHAT:  
**CAPITAL ASSOCIATION  
MUSIC FESTIVAL**



WHEN:  
Sunday, October 19, 2014  
4:00p.m.

WHERE:  
Hosted by:  
FBC Hightstown  
125 Main Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520

WHO:  
Each church is invited to bring 1-2 musical selections  
(anything from vocal to instrumental ... solo to choir)

There will be a time for food and fellowship after, therefore, if you plan to attend please bring a dessert or finger food to share.

A freewill offering will be received to benefit the Cedars of Lebanon campaign.

RSVP to Ed DeSilva, Capital Moderator at 609-298-4401, to give the names of people or groups who will be participating by offering one or two musical selections.

## Women's Ministry

*Women hold up half the sky.* –Chinese Proverb



Women of all ages are invited to come together to watch and discuss the documentary *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

Learn about the problems of gender-based violence, sex slavery, maternal mortality, and forced prostitution. Listen to the stories of women from Somaliland to Cambodia to Afghanistan. Be inspired by women who are creating real solutions and bringing meaningful changes in oppression. Find out how you can work to end the oppression of women and bring hope and healing.

6:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month  
Starting September 3

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# The Apostles

Find the name of all the apostles hidden in the puzzle below.

Q G T H A D D E U S D  
 J A M E S A L P H E U S S  
 G M A T T H I A S T H O M A S  
 Y P I K J U D A S Q D P U F T  
 Z L G G H Q X P  
 G T M Z I K I W  
 G W M Q L F G J  
 B T Q Y I V L A  
 J U C B P W K M  
 E S I M O N P E T E R V L S E  
 S P C D C Q T A N D R E W S  
 V A U L V R + Y C V I V Z  
 I Q Q J V H Z G T D A D G M  
 E X R W P F C P R C Z I F A  
 E D I B A R T H O L O M E W T  
 M H G G S I J T  
 E H W Y I B O H  
 Q P N S M V H E  
 P H H I O T N W  
 Q I J W N W B Y

Andrew  
 Bartholomew  
 James  
 James Alpheus  
 John  
 Judas  
 Matthew  
 Matthias  
 Philip  
 Simon  
 Simon Peter  
 Thaddeus  
 Thomas

*This includes the 12 original apostles and the one selected to take Judas' place.*

© A Kid's Heart at [akidsheart.com](http://akidsheart.com)

## Volunteer at ESL and Tutoring

We are looking for teachers for our ESL and Tutoring program that meets on Saturdays at 10am, beginning on October 4. As a teacher, you will practice speaking English with students, help students to work through their ESL books, and be available to help students with their homework, including reading, science, math, and any other school assignments. As a teacher, you will also have the opportunity to develop relationships with the students and to hold a special role in encouraging them to study and learn. If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Powell or Emily Davis.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 STSK 6:30 Poetry in Motion and Women's Ministry	2	3	4 10:00 ESL and Tutoring 12:00 Youth Bible Study and Choir
5 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Christian Ed Meeting	6 5:00 STSK	7 5:00 STSK	8 5:00 STSK	9	10	11 10:00 ESL and Tutoring 12:00 Youth Bible Study and Choir
12 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	13 5:00 STSK	14 5:00 STSK	15 5:00 STSK 6:30 Poetry in Motion and Women's Ministry <b>NEWSLETTER INFO DUE</b>	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17	18 10:00 ESL and Tutoring 12:00 Youth Bible Study and Choir
19 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Trustees Meeting	20 5:00 STSK	21 5:00 STSK	22 5:00 STSK	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24	25 10:00 ESL and Tutoring 12:00 Youth Bible Study and Choir
26 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Deacons Meeting 3:00 Chess for kids	27 5:00 STSK	28 5:00 STSK	29 5:00 STSK	30 6:30 Choir Practice	31	<b>OCT 2014</b>

## Bible Quiz

1. On what occasion did “six waterpots” have an important place at a wedding?
2. What did the Israelites “bake in pans” during their desert wanderings?
3. Who said she had nothing in the house “save a pot of oil?”
4. What was a “cruse?”
5. What group of people refused the “pots of wine” set before them?

- a. Manna (Numbers 11:8)
- b. The Shunammite woman (II Kings 4:2)
- c. The sons of the house of the Rechabites (Jeremiah 35:5)
- d. The first miracle at Cana (John 2:6)
- e. A big clay pot, with a neck and handle (I Kings 19:6)

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

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