

FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist
Church of Trenton

December 2014

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Reverend C Nadir Powell,
Pastor Interim

Emily Davis,
Minister

The Joy Ride

Pastor Interim Rev. Powell



Here we are upon the hustle and bustle of another Christmas season. People will be running from store to store to buy that special gift for someone. Some people will be driving around from site to site as they try to find that perfect Christmas tree. Many will be getting their homes in order as they prepare to host family and friends. People will be trying to get in the Christmas spirit. The question I have is, “what does it mean to get in the Christmas spirit?” I ask because I used to think that Christmas was only about buying gifts, giving gifts, receiving gifts, fellowshiping with friends and family, eating all the food that’s we’re not supposed to eat, be a little kinder than we were the previous day, and the list goes on. But I’ve learned that it’s more than that. Now, don’t

get me wrong, all what I’ve mentioned about Christmas is good, but there’s still something more. I was reminded of this many years ago. I remember some years ago I didn’t have a car so I had to catch a cab so I could go to my destination. It was Christmas Eve so I had to wait for a while but eventually a cab drove up and I got in. While sitting in that back seat, I started going over my to do list to make sure I did everything that I was supposed to do, making sure I bought all the gifts that I needed to buy. While riding in the cab, the driver asked me how I was going to celebrate Christmas. I told him that I was going to spend some time with family, eat some good food, give away gifts, and go hang out with some friends. After I told him my plans, he began to tell me how his family celebrated Christmas. He told me his family didn’t

Board of Christian Education By Carolyn Wood

This fall we have had two Sunday school classes. The adult class with teachers Abby and Philip and the young people’s class with teachers Emily, Tyler, and Kahmiya. The younger class begins at 9:30 with Children’s Worship and then class time till 10:30. Adult class meets at 10:00.

The first and third Wednesday evening’s continues with Poetry in Motion with refreshments provided. Saturday ESL and Tutoring meet regularly and lunch is prepared by parents of students.

Chess for Kids meets next on 12/21.

Thank You Kharmia Powell

Come and join us Dec. 7th at 3:00 to celebrate our annual “Hanging of the Greens” The church will be decorated for the holiday season with a tree, laurel and wreaths. Everyone will enjoy a delicious pot luck meal and remember to bring enough for our guests. A wonderful concert by the Pluckemin Bell Choir under the direction of Marcia McBurney will follow our youth presentation.

We hope everyone has a joyous Christmas Season.



buy a lot of gifts. He said they bought one gift a piece to remember the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus laying in the manger. While sitting around the dinner table, each person gives thanks to God for giving us Jesus, His only begotten Son.

Afterwards, they would light the candles on a cake that reads, "Happy Birthday Jesus." The lighting of the candles reminds them that Jesus is the light of the world. It reminded them of what Isaiah 9:6 tells us. It reads, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." Once they finished lighting the candles, they would sing happy birthday to Jesus. By the time he finished telling me how his family celebrates Christmas, I arrived to my destination. I have to say, it was one of the most joyous rides of my life because I was reminded that Christmas is about the joy that came into the world in the matchless name of Jesus. It's more than us just giving each other gifts. It's about us remembering Jesus, thanking God for sending Him to us, and sharing the love of Christ with someone. I thank God for sending that cab to me

because ever since that day, I never looked at Christmas the same. On that day, I really learn what it meant to have the Christmas spirit. On this Christmas season remember the true reason for the season. I know I will. Thank God for the joy ride.

Christian Hospitality By Emily Davis

The ancient Christian desert monks lived in cells, or caves, where they practiced Christian hospitality. They visited one another in order to seek advice and encouragement. When a guest came to visit, the monk and the guest first prayed together, and then the monk served the guest something to eat and ate with him. Even if the monk was fasting at the time, he would break his fast and share a meal with the guest while they talked about spiritual matters. The desert monks teach us that Christian hospitality is rooted in prayer. In Isaiah 56:7, God declares, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." In this chapter, God is including all people, even foreigners and outcasts, in the covenant. All are welcome in God's house of prayer. As

Christians, we are to welcome others and pray and eat with them. We are to talk with them about our spiritual lives, sharing stories of what God has done and is doing.

The desert monks welcomed guests as gifts from God regardless of the intentions of the guests. They welcomed people who were hostile and who had bad reputations. They welcomed robbers and even people who wanted to kill them. They continued to do their work of prayer and study even as robbers stole what little food they had. They aimed to treat difficult strangers in the same way they would treat Jesus. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus says, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." The monks saw Christ in all guests. The face of the stranger was the face of Christ. The ultimate model of Christian hospitality is

the person of Christ. We are to treat all guests as if they are Christ. Sometimes this means that we practice hospitality even under risky or uncomfortable conditions. In these situations, it is important for us to recognize that other people do not control us. We should not fear being with other people because they do not control us. God is in control, and we are to trust God.

These monks saw every guest as grace from God that encouraged their spiritual growth. They knew that they would become more aware of their own weaknesses and sins when they were exposed to the needs and wounds of others. They saw visits from guests as an opportunity to see if their solitary lives in the desert were progressing well. It was a way of testing how much they had spiritually grown and checking on their relationship with God. The desert monks show us that we are to invite and accept other people as they are. We are to treat a stranger as a person who may teach us something out of the richness of experiences different from our own. The guest or the

stranger has unique gifts that only he or she can bring. We learn from others when we welcome them. We become more aware of our own weaknesses, failures, and sins when we are daily exposed to the needs and wounds of others. In this way, we find ourselves in the circle of mutual hospitality, in which those we thought were the guests end up hosting and giving the gifts of their presence and their experiences. When we extend hospitality, we bless another and we are also blessed by another.

The month of December brings with it many opportunities to practice Christian hospitality. In the coming weeks, I encourage you to remember what the ancient Christian monks teach us about hospitality. I encourage you to welcome all guests and strangers. Pray and eat with them. Talk with them and learn from them. Share your stories and make space for other people to share their stories with you.



[OUR AMAZING YOUTH AT RIVERVIEW STUDIOS IN BORDENTOWN. THEY HAD HANDS ON EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH STUDIO EQUIPMENT!](#)

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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:, 12/21 3:00-4:30 pm. Do join in the fun!

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter information is due the 15th 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

The Birth by Rev. Powell



It happened on that silent and holy night when you were born
Greeted by wise men who bowed down before you
For they knew you were the one who should be praised and adorned
From the first sight of you they knew the prophecy was true

For you've now come into the existence that's going to take perseverance
A life that's going to take courage and determination
For there will be times when you'll have to face opposition and resistance
But no matter what you face, you'll be steadfast and hold your Godly position

For your purpose here is more than just to exist
God the Father sent you to bless this world with your spiritual gifts
For no darkness will be able to conceal your marvelous light that still shines
That's because you were born human but yet you're heavenly divine

You'll run long and hard until the victory is won
This is what you were called to do right from the beginning when life begun
Lord you are our All and All, God's chosen one
There's nothing more precious than you, the birth of God's only begotten Son



Newsy Notes

October was the birthday month for Abby and 97 year old Florence. November was a busy month for other birthdays like Martha, Lyn, Israel, Philip, and Tom. A special surprise for Tom was the birth of his 11th grandchild on his birthday. Kelly, Paul and Grant welcomed Philip Michael to their family on Saturday November 8th. We will all be anxious to meet him.

It was nice to see so many members of the Wilson family. Aunt Saynoh was busy entertaining Philip and his younger brother Khalil. Angeline Wilson's children also joined the family group.

The youth choir continues to practice and sing for us each Sunday. Jack's guitar sounds great with that extra amplification.

Richard is finally missing that brace. I think he gave it to Tom.

Join Us

December 20 at 5pm there will be a free concert at the Patriots Theater (War Memorial Building) hosted by Mayor Eric E. Jackson. The theme is “Christmas in the Capitol City.” Come join in the festivities.



Our annual Hanging of the Greens will be December 7 at 3pm. At 5pm we will have fellowship, fun, food and entertainment by our youth. The Pluckemin bell choir will be performing after dinner. Please bring a dish to share with all and an unwrapped gift to donate to Crisis Ministry.

Senior Ministry

The next service at Hamilton Grove will be held on the 21st of December. Reverend Powell will be leading the service.



Burmese Christmas Celebration

There will be a Burmese Christmas celebration on Christmas Day from 10am-12pm. The event will take place in our fellowship hall.

Poetry in Motion

Sessions will be held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday’s of the month. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Rev. Powell at 732-277-3751 or Nekiel Butler at 609-712-3326.

December Sermons

- Dec. 7-A Living Not in Vain 2Peter 3:8-15a Rev. Powell
- Dec. 14-No Blame is Gain 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rev. Powell
- Dec. 21-The Anticipation of Something Good Luke 1:26-36 Rev. Powell
- Dec. 24-6:30pm
- Dec. 28-Adopted into Benefits Galatians 4:4-7 Rev. Powell

CHRISTMAS STORY

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

angel	inn	shepherd
star	manger	Lord
Christmas	King	cattle
Jesus	Myrrh	baby
Mary	Frankincense	sheep
Joseph	Gold	saviour

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2014

6:30 PM

All are invited....bring friends and family



Bible Quiz

1. "Blessed is the nation..."
2. "Blessed are the dead..."
3. "Blessed are the poor..."
4. "Blessed art thou..."
5. "Blessed is he that cometh..."

- a. "In spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3)
- b. "Simon Barjona" (Matthew 16:17)
- c. "Which die in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13)
- d. "Whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12)
- e. "In the name of the Lord" (Matthew 21:9)

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

DECEMBER 2014

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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TRENTON, NJ 08611-2215