

FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist
Church of Trenton

January 2015

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Reverend C Nadir Powell,
Pastor Interim

Emily Davis,
Minister

No More Resolutions

Pastor Interim Rev. Powell



Last year is gone and a new one has begun. All the things that you did or didn't do are a thing of the past. So my question to you is "what are your plans for this year?" Did you make another resolution this year only to end up not doing them like last year? I ask because so many people make resolutions that they don't keep. Many make resolutions that pertain to doing better than they did the previous years. Many times they start off strong as they seek to keep them, but something always seems to happen where they fall short of their goal. I remember hearing a person saying that they were going to stop making resolutions because they never kept them. If this is you, maybe you're going about it the wrong way. Maybe all of us are going about it the wrong way. Maybe we shouldn't be making resolutions. Instead,

maybe we should be making rededications to the Lord who's able to empower us to do better, be better during the New Year. We should rededicate our hearts and spirits to Him and allow Him to lead us in the way that He wants us to go. Maybe one the reason why we fall short is because the things that we seek to do are following our own will versus following the will of God. Remember, it's not exactly all about us, but it is all about God whom we serve. It's about God's will. Remember, the Lord's Prayer reads, "thy will be done" not my will be done.

When I think about rededication I can't help but think about King David where he asked God in Psalm 51:10 to give him a clean heart and to renew his spirit. David knew that he needed a new refreshing so he could carry out the plans of God, not the plans of his personal desires. Yes, we may desire to do some things but those things we desire may not

Newsy Notes

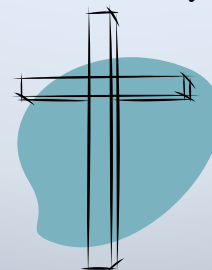
By Carolyn Wood

Children's Sunday School class members were honored with a certificate for their special "gift" they bring to class. We are so proud of all our children and appreciate the gifts they share with everyone.

It was so nice to have a visit from the Philadelphia Burmese church. They blessed us with a beautiful song during worship.

Thanks go to all the people that helped to decorate the Sunday school room and the sanctuary. The kitchen helpers kept all the food organized and hot until we were ready to eat. Great job!! Our beautiful new Christmas tree was a gift from the Karen fellowship. The gold ornaments add a lovely touch to the tree. Be sure to thank our friends.

The special treat at the end of the work time was the dancing by the Angels of God and the Karenni dances. The Bell Ringers from Pluckemin NJ presented another beautiful concert and we could enjoy the lovely decorations and prepare our hearts for the Holiday Season.



be the plan of God. We must be reminded that God has plans for us, which are a higher priority than our own plans. He told us in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." My friends, if we want to have a more prosperous year than we've had last year, we must follow the plans of God. If we follow God's plan, the goal that He has set before us will be met. Throw out the resolution and rededicate yourselves to the will of God. Spend this year praying more, fasting more, and reading the Word more. If you do these three things, God will help you complete the mission that He has assigned you for 2015. This year, don't make any more resolutions just rededicate yourself to the service of God.

Speaking Life **By Emily Davis**

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no

grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."
Mark 4:3-8

Our lives are like fertile soil. Our lives and the lives of others are like good land, and when seeds fall on good land, they take root and spread. The roots establish themselves as the centers of new plants. Shrubs, strands of greenery, vines, and leaves begin to grow. These seeds are like the words that we speak about ourselves and about other people because words take root in our hearts and in our minds and begin to grow. Words provide us with strands of a narrative that form the center of our lives. These narratives tell us about who we are, about God, and about our world. They give us a way of understanding ourselves and each other.

Our words matter. The words we speak about ourselves and about others matter. When we scatter words carelessly and without intention, they take root within our hearts and minds, becoming strands of our life narratives. These careless words are not words that help us to grow in our understandings of ourselves and of God. They only bring discouragement, confusion, and death. But carefully spoken words help us to grow and to know ourselves, God,

and others better. They too become strands of our life narratives, but unlike the carelessly spoken words, these words bring encouragement, inspiration, and life.

We are to practice speaking words of life to and about ourselves and to and about others, and by doing so, we instill hope and life and courage in the hearts and minds of ourselves and others.

How do you receive your newsletter?

How can we be more efficient, save trees, and save money?

If you are currently receiving your newsletter by hard copy and would love to help out and receive via email, please email me fbctsecy@yahoo.com

-If you are currently receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to no longer receive it, please leave a message at 609-393-8810.



Paradigm Shift



We live in a world with multiple views
Where everybody is moving to their own rules
Trying to create something new
Tempting to escape the things life put them through

For everybody seems to have all the answer
For a world that's severely suffering like a person with cancer
Using all kinds of hypothesis to combat life's battles
Yet we're causing more disaster

For many follow ideologies of relativism, racism, secularism,
and subjectivism
Ones that's causing divisions
Where we can't come together through coexisting
Because many have gravitated to individualism

Following our own individual systems
Separated by isms after isms
That blocks our way to cohesion
Becoming a threat to our existence

For many of us have developed our own beliefs as models to
live
Some beliefs that even seem real
Those that has such an appeal
But really only have the capacity to kill

So now we find many walking around life trying to figure out
how to deal
Determined by the way their flesh feels
While decision makers of the world seem to get thrills
While making sure certain classes of people are still expendable

For the paradigm that many follow is all wrong
Especially when it seems to minimize the One on the throne
The One who at end times wants to take us to another zone
Beyond the ozone

Understand the paradigm that many hold as king need to
change
Where we go back to the one who really Reigns
Stop trying to do our own thing
And follow the agenda of God the King

So people this year it's time for us to make that shift
By getting rid of our own paradigm myths
Going back to Godly principle so we can still exist
So we don't end up in abyss so make the paradigm shift

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 fctsecy@yahoo.com

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"If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?"

In case of inclement weather, please call the church phone for an update about worship service. 609-393-8810



January Sermons

Jan. 4- "The Visit" Matthew 2:1-12 Emily Davis
Jan. 11- "There is Something Working on the Inside"
Mark 1:4-11 Rev. Powell
Jan. 18- "Manage the Temple" 1 Corinthians
6:15,19-20 Rev. Powell
Jan. 25- "Follow the Leader" Mark 1:16-20 Rev.
Powell

NOTARY NEEDED?

Joanne Collins has recently been commissioned in the state of New Jersey as a notary public. . If a church member needs a letter notarized I can do this for you at no cost. Please call me at 609 815-9696, or seek me out after Church services

Senior Ministry

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



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 Nekiell Butler at 609-712-3326.

Children's Sunday School Awards

On Sunday mornings, children's worship meets at 9am. We do worship elements, such as Bible story, prayer, and songs. During Advent, we did paper Advent candles, talked about their meanings, and read relevant Scriptures. Sunday school meets at 10am. We spend the hour eating food and fellowshiping, doing art, and playing games. These classes are taught by Emily Davis, Tyler

Davis, and Kahmiya Htoo.

On Sunday, December 7, we presented Sunday school awards to the children who attend children's worship and Sunday school. By presenting the children with awards, we wanted to recognize who God has created them to be and to identify some of the ways in which they are using the gifts that God has given to them. Below is a list of the children, the awards they received, and the Scripture verses that appeared on their award certificate.

- Htartha received the Singing Award. Psalm 47:6-7 says, "Sing praises to God, sing

praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm."

Priscilla received the Artistic Award. John 10:10 tells us that Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness."

Precious received the Creativity Award. 1 Chronicles 2:4 tells us that King Solomon said, "I am building a temple to honor the Lord my God. It will be a holy place where my people and I will worship God."

Deborah received the Serving Award. Luke 22:26-27 tells us that Jesus said, "The greatest one among you must be like the youngest, and the leader must be like the servant. Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves."

Bryce received the Storytelling Award. Deuteronomy 30:14 says, "The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe."

Klendo received the Wisdom Award. James 3:17 says, "But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds."

Diamond received the Spirit Award. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says, "We have not received this world's spirit; instead, we have received the Spirit sent by God, so that we may know all that God has given us."

Emily received the Friendship Award. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him or her up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him."

Rosy received the Discernment Award. 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 says, "Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's examination. 'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2015				1 Happy New Year	2	3
4 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Christian Ed Meeting	5 5:00 STSK	6 5:00 STSK	7 5:00 STSK	8 6:30 Choir Practice	9	10 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
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 6:30 Choir Practice NEWSLETTER INFO DUE	16	17 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
18 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Trustees Meeting 3:00 Chess for kids	19 5:00 STSK	20 5:00 STSK	21 5:00 STSK	22 6:30 Choir Practice	23	24 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
25 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Deacons Meeting	26 5:00 STSK	27 5:00 STSK	28 5:00 STSK	29 6:30 Choir Practice	30	31 10:00 ESL and Tutoring

Bible Quiz

In which book is the story of?

1. Daniel in the lions' den?
2. The crossing of the Red Sea?
3. The Wise Men and the star?
4. David and Goliath?
5. The stoning of Stephen?

- a. Matthew (Matthew Chapter 2)
- b. Daniel (Daniel 6:16)
- c. Exodus (Exodus Chapter 14)
- d. I Samuel (I Samuel Chapter 17)
- e. Acts (Acts Chapter 7)

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

JANUARY 2015

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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TRENTON, NJ 08611-2215