

# FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist  
Church of Trenton

April 2015

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Reverend C Nadir Powell,  
Pastor Interim

Emily Davis,  
Minister

## WITH YOU IN MIND

Pastor Interim Rev. Powell



The high point of the Christian year, better known as Easter or Resurrection Sunday is here. It's the time where all Christians alike celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after His crucifixion. We celebrate because our Savior miraculously rose from the dead prior to being beaten beyond recognition from those who hated Him. Three days before He rose from the dead, we know that his haters hung Him up high, stretched Him out wide, beat Him until He dropped His head, and then He died. Nonetheless, death didn't have victory over Him because Jesus is alive. The grave didn't have the power to hold him prisoner. Jesus got up with all power in His hand. Truly this reality is incredible. But what makes it even more incredible is that He did it for people that He didn't even know. He did it for us who don't deserve it. He sacrificed His life for those who constantly turned their backs on Him. He sacrificed His life for those who lived in a manner that's not pleasing to God. He sacrificed His life for those who continue to live in sin, a sacrifice that had to be done. Had he not

gone through the process that was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah many years ago, we would be doomed. He sacrificed Himself in order for us to be saved. Jesus is our salvation. That's why it was imperative for Him to conquer death because this was the only way that we would have the ability to have better lives. Jesus died on our behalf so we could have life more abundantly. He died, yet He rose so we could break free from the clutches of sin. The event that took place at the site of the cross gave all of us the ability to have new lives. It is the Resurrection event that empowers us to rise above those things that seek to keep us down. It is the Resurrection event that empowers us to rise above those things that seek to keep us away from God. Through our belief that Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead, we too can be resurrected from those things that seek to consume us. No longer do we have to be imprisoned by sin. Jesus' victory over the grave was the means to all of us having victory in our individual lives.

Now, maybe I don't know what your situation is,

C.O.A.L. Leadership Training report  
as written by Abby Amutah

**The training was very helpful to me because it challenged me to look deeper into my relationship with God and church members. The bible scripture reading got me motivated the whole day. Rev. Dr. Peter Ely read from 2 Timothy 2:1-2 ...."You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well."**

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson preached about our Spiritual Journeys in relation to God and our Church members.**

**These are my take home exam questions from the Training**

**How can I help members of my church people grow in their spiritual journey?. What could I do to empower people spiritually?**

- 1. Empowerment possibilities**
- 2. Encouragement possibilities**
- 3. Helping individual members fulfill God's Will**
- 4. Helping the Church fulfill God's Will**

**Question: When I look at my inner circle of friends at my church for example;**

- 1. Who would I consider my spiritual peers?**
- 2. Who are the friends that I think, I could disciple?**
- 3. Who are the friends who could disciple me spiritually?.**

**And then, I will find out which category the majority of my friends fall?**

but I do know beyond any shadow of doubt, you will rise above it. There's no situation that can keep you in bondage as long as you go to the one who has the keys to release you. In fact, He's the key to your release. All you have to do is live, move, and have your being in Him. Have faith in Him and live faith in Him. Follow the divine plans that He has for you. If you do this, you will be released from those things that seek to keep you in bondage. Your future will be filled with hope. My friends, Jesus did all of this for us so we could have a life of joy. His sacrifice and Resurrection was done for us because He loved us so. There's no greater love than the one that Jesus showed us. Truly, He didn't have to do it, but He did. So on Easter or Resurrection Sunday, give God all the glory. Give Him all the praise. Shout out loud, Hallelujah! He deserves it because He did it all with you in mind. God Bless you and Happy Resurrection Sunday.



Mysteries of Life and Faith  
By Emily Davis

Sylvia G. Dunstan's hymn entitled, "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" beautifully displays how paradoxes are presented in the story of Scripture. The hymn explores the

paradoxical descriptions, or contradicting realities, of Jesus. In John 1:36, Jesus is called the Lamb of God, and in John 10:11, Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. Jesus is described as a royal king in 1 Timothy 6:14-15 and also as a slave who emptied himself even unto death on the cross in Philippians 2:6-8. In Luke 24:13-35, Jesus is seen as a friend walking and talking and eating with people in ordinary moments on earth, and in Luke 22:69, Jesus is seen as one who is seated at the right hand of God in heaven. These paradoxes and many more that are found in the Bible express the mysteries of our faith. During the liturgical seasons of Lent and Easter, we experience again the ultimate paradox of the faith—how Jesus Christ gave his life in order to defeat death and how in Christ's death we are given new life. This mystery is at the heart of our faith.

In a similar way to how we experience these paradoxes of faith, we also experience paradoxes within our own lives and relationships. So often in life, love and pain, hope and brokenness, fear and trust come packaged together. As human beings, we are able to feel seemingly contradictory emotions at the same time. In times of sorrow and tragedy, there are glimmers of hope and joy, and in times of fulfilled promise and new life, there are moments of hard transition and pain. For example, the birth of a new child is a joyous occasion, but it is also a time of physical pain, tiredness, and transition in the life of a family. When an elderly parent dies, it is a time of grief, but it also may come with feelings of relief for a tired caregiver. As human beings, we are able to feel joy and sorrow,

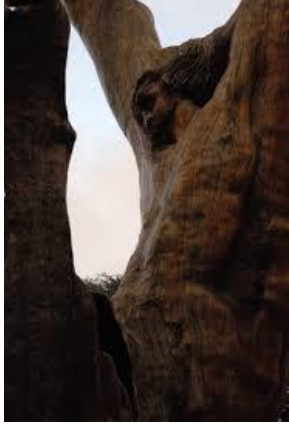
happiness and sadness at the same time, and within our human experiences, we can know death and life simultaneously.

These paradoxes within our lives reflect the ultimate paradox of our faith and serve to open us up to the paradoxes presented in the Bible. As we enter into the story of Scripture, we are invited to notice the contradicting perspectives that are presented. We are to consider both sides and to take seriously the different perspectives. We are challenged to yield to the way in which these contradicting perspectives come packaged together. This involves giving up our own comfort and desire to control and to understand fully. We are invited to sit in the tensions, a place that is in-between the different perspectives. As we sit in the tensions, we learn to surrender to the mysteries of God and faith, and our spiritual lives are enriched. As a faithful people, this is where we are supposed to be—in the midst of the paradoxes and mysteries.



### ESL Celebration

Saturday, April 25 will be the last day of ESL for the year. We will celebrate a great year of ESL and Tutoring by sharing stories we have written, playing games, and eating a delicious lunch. All are welcome to join in celebrating the youth and the hard work they have done this year at ESL.



### FRUIT ON THE TREE

There it stood in a space of its own  
A tree whose fruit had not yet been shown  
For it's said that a tree is judged by the fruit it bares  
When this tree starts to bloom many people will stare

When people see this tree many things will be said  
Especially after seeing its colors of red  
For this color will line the tree from the top down to the ground  
Both grief and laughter will be heard from those in the crowd

For this fruit is able to make your spirit sore high  
Once you eat it know that everything will be alright  
For it's more precious than diamonds and more costly than gold  
As you consume it revelation will unfold

Although this fruit will die before your eyes  
It will live again to help make your wrong right  
For this fruit on the tree name is Jesus the Christ  
He died and rose to give you a more abundant life

Written by  
Rev C Nadir Powell

### 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 [fbtsecy@yahoo.com](mailto:fbtsecy@yahoo.com)



### Board of Christian Education by Carolyn Wood

Camp Lebanon registration is getting close. Last year we had four enjoy camp so I hope we can double that number this year! Pastor Powell will have the forms you need to fill out.

C.O.A.L Leadership training day at Shiloh Baptist Church in March was attended by three of our members and they had a very informative day.

ESL and tutoring classes on Saturday mornings continue to work hard on acquiring new skills. They are now partnered with the English dept. of The College of New Jersey that help with the teaching activities. We are so pleased the students will help dye eggs for the children's egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

The youth continue to plan activities with the Next Generation Church to build fellowship and worthwhile projects.

The Poetry evening meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 6:30. Bible Study meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. All are invited to join these groups

Life Skills for Women seminar will be held on Mondays at 6:30 from March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup>. Some topics to be discussed are financial success, employment opportunities, and community resources to name a few.

Our Easter Covered Dish breakfast will be held at 10:00 on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite breakfast dish and enjoy fellowship time on this joyous morning.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Please join up April 5 at 10:00am for our annual Easter Covered Dish breakfast. Bring your favorite dish to share with all. Easter service will follow at 11:00 am.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> of April. Rev. Powell will be leading the service.

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## Poetry in Motion

Sessions will be held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Meals on Wheels

Please consider volunteering for Meals on Wheels, an organization that delivers food to seniors or homebound residents. If interested, please call 609-695-3483, send an e-mail to [info@mowte.org](mailto:info@mowte.org), or go to Arc of Mercer building located at 105 Buttonwood Drive, Ewing Township, NJ 08638



## Bible Study

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, at 6:30pm, we will have our bible study classes. All are welcome. For more information please contact Reverend Powell.

## ABC Biennial Summit

**American Baptist Churches USA biennial Mission Summit will take place in Overland, Kansas from June 26th- 28th. For those who would like to register, please go to [www.americanbaptist2015.com](http://www.americanbaptist2015.com)**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WILL BE AT 6:30PM ON APRIL 2, 2015**

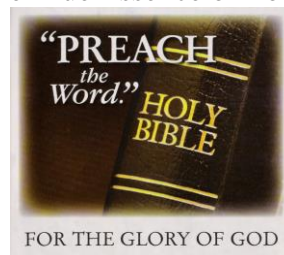


## BAPTIST CAMP LEBANON

*Baptist camp Lebanon starts July. Early registrations needs to be done before May 1, 2015. All who want to go or would like more information, please contact Rev. Powell.*

## APRIL SERMONS

4/5- Luke 24:1-12 He Got Up  
4/12- John 20:19-29 Beyond the Shadow of Doubt  
4/19- 1John 3:1-7 Let Your Light Shine  
4/26- 1 John 3:16-24 The True Essence of Love



# LIFE SKILL SEMINARS

Central: A Christ-Centered Church

SPRING SEMESTER  
2015

**Join Us from 6:30 - 8:00pm for Life Skills Classes on Mondays at  
First Baptist Church of Trenton!**

The 2015 Spring Semester of life-skills classes will run from March 30th through April 20th and will be held at 128 Centre St, Trenton, NJ 08611.

Enjoy food, fun, fellowship and awesome facilitators! Childcare provided!  
Sign-up at First Baptist of Trenton or with Ikecia Mapp of MAKE IT at  
[ikecialenese@gmail.com](mailto:ikecialenese@gmail.com)

You will receive a certificate of participation from the MAKE IT program  
for each session attended.

**The Line Up of Speakers Include:**

*March 30: Creating Financial Success*

*Facilitator: Priscilla Macklin, Pastor and Financial Consultant*

*April 6: Strategic Employment Options*

*Facilitator: Lynn Buschman, Human Resources Expert*

*April 13: Utilizing Community Resources*


*Facilitators: Roxanne Mapp-Bakr and Amini Sababu,  
Certified Social Workers*

*April 20: Building Motivation through Inspiration*

*Facilitator: Krishna Powell, Life Coach*

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										LISTEN
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										LOST
										ANYONE
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										GIVE



The youth had an essay contest and we are publishing the winning essay. Congratulations to Baw Meh for first place and Kheelar Paw as runner up. Nothing has been changed so you can see the pure innocence of the written work.

As written by Baw Meh

**“Me and God”**

My relationship with God is like a Father and daughter, king and service, and savior and a sinner. God is my savior, father, king, helper and friend. I didn’t know about God when I was young. Jesus died for us because he loves us. He sacrifice himself for us. God knows that his son Jesus will die on the cross for us but still send his son, Jesus, to the world.

When I was 6 or 7, I always go to church. I thought going to church was fun because my friends were there. Back then, I didn’t know anything about God. I was a little girl who wanted to go to church because they give out candies to little kids.

When I arrived in US, I didn’t go to church because I was lazy. After years, my sister and my friends told me to go to church. They told me to join the youth group with Pastor James. At first, I didn’t want to join because I was shy and didn’t like to sing. After I sing a few times with the youth, I feel like I have become a new person. I like to sing and go to church like I never did before.

I went to bible study so that I will know more about God. Pastor James and the people in church taught me many things. When I think back when I was little, I feel so childish and selfish. I said to myself I will never do that again and will continue to learn about God.

I thank Pastor James, pastors, teachers, and my friends in church for teaching me about God. I thankful to those who always around me. If I didn’t meet them I wouldn’t know about God. I wouldn’t know who created me. They are the best part of my life that ever happen to me. I hope they will continue staying in my life. I thank God for created me.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 STSK	2 6:30 <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	3 6:30 Poetry in Motion <b>Good Friday</b>	4 10:00 ESL and Tutoring 11:30 Egg Decorating
5 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Christian Ed Mtg.	6 5:00 STSK 6:30 Life Skills for Women	7 5:00 STSK	8 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	9 6:30 Choir Practice	10	11 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
12 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	13 5:00 STSK 6:30 Life Skills for Women	14 5:00 STSK	15 5:00 STSK <b>NEWSLETTER INFO DUE</b>	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17 6:30 Poetry in Motion	18 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
19 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Trustees Meeting 2:00 Hamilton Grove	20 5:00 STSK 6:30 Life Skills for Women	21 5:00 STSK	22 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24	25 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
26 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Deacon's Meeting	27 5:00 STSK	28 5:00 STSK	29 5:00 STSK	30 6:30 Choir Practice		<b>APRIL 2015</b>

## Bible Quiz

1. Is the word Easter used in Gospels?
2. Who was first at the tomb on Easter mornig?
3. Who said, "He is not here: for his is risen?"
4. How is the date of Easter reckoned?
5. What were Christ's last words on earth?

(answers: 1. No – only in Acts 12:4, 2 Mary Magdalene (John 20:1), 3. The angel (Matthew 28:6), 4. It is the first Sunday after the full moon on or next after March 21, 5. "Go ye into all the world" etc. (Matthew 28:19,20) (Mark 16:15)

**APRIL 2015**

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