

FIRST THINGS

A Newsletter of the First Baptist
Church of Trenton

May 2015

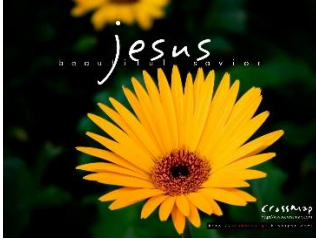
128-140 Centre St., Trenton, NJ
08611 609-393-8810

Reverend C Nadir Powell,
Pastor Interim

Emily Davis,
Minister

SPRING CLEANING

Pastor Interim Rev. Powell



The spring season has finally come where the weather has changed, perennials are starting to bloom, trees are budding, bees are starting to buzz, and the birds are starting to sing. It's the season that many have been waiting for after enduring a cold brisk winter. Furthermore, it's a season where many will do their spring cleaning. Many will clean their residence from top to bottom. They will clean every nook, cranny, crevice, and corner. Every inch of the house will be cleaned for the season. Now, this is not to say that, ones residence isn't clean throughout the year, but there's something about spring cleaning that represents the change to a better season. In addition to cleaning our homes, we also clean the yard and flower beds of debris that might have fallen during the winter time. Again, spring is the time where we do intense spring cleaning.

When it comes to spring cleaning, I often think about our lives because there are seasons where we have to do some cleaning up. Clean up those things that aren't too favorable before God so we can be more like Him. God tells us to be Holy because He is holy. That being the case, we have to clean those characteristics that hinder us from being holy. My question for you is what is it that you have to cleanup in your life? Do you have to clean those things such bad attitudes, jealousy, hate, immoral living, anger, fear, and the like. Is there any clutter that's keeping you from living in the manner that God wants you to. Whatever it may be, it's time to clean up that debris of sin that seeks to defile your house so to speak. It's time for all of us to shift and spring forward to a better life, a better season. Now, maybe you may be asking how. To tell you the truth, I believe the bible showed us how through the likes of King

New Season



Like a red rose whose petals
withered
I wait for my season to change
For life had grown cold and bitter
And my hope was fading away

I long for my life to bloom again
I've become brittle and weak
A lifelong winter it has been
A better season I do seek

So I patiently wait for that great
morning SON
Growing into a new season of
spring
I know through Him the victory
will be won
He's the One that makes my
petals spread like wings

Written by
Rev C Nadir Powell

David. See, David had to do some cleaning up of his own and he realized it. David wanted to be the best that He could be for God. He understood that this wouldn't happen until he did some house cleaning. This being the case, David asked God to change him. Psalm 53:10 reads, "Create in me a clean heart and renew my spirit." David was asking God to change him from a house of filth to a house of God. We must understand that the only way that we'll be able to be the people that God wants us to be, we must allow God to clean our hearts. When we allow God to clean our hearts this will result in us living a life that honors Him, a life that is honorable before God. If you want to live a life that gives God the honor and glory, it's time for you to do some spring cleaning.



The Variety in Scripture
By Emily Davis

In Scripture, God reveals something of the divine through images. Through the use of comparative imagery, such as metaphors, similes, and parables, we move from known human realities to the lesser known or unknown divine realities. Comparisons

help us to understand something of God and give us a language for talking about God. Some of these images for God are familiar, such as God as shepherd or king. Others are less familiar and may even be surprising. Some complement one another, and some contradict one another. Sometimes multiple images are brought together and mixed with one another in order to add newness to what is being said in Scripture. As a whole, the many different images for God remind us that there is great variety in Scripture. Some of these scriptural images for God are host, shepherd, midwife, king, mother, father, rock, and light. In a psalm about God's goodness and Israel's ingratitude, God is described as a host who sets the table and as a cook who provides the food: "They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God, saying, 'Can God spread a table in the wilderness? Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out and torrents overflowed, can he also give bread, or provide meat for his people?' [...] Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven; he rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven. Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance." (Psalm 78:18-20, 23-25) Psalm 23:5 echoes this

metaphor of God as a host: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."

Also in Psalm 23, God is described as a shepherd: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. Isaiah 40:11 says, "He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep."

God is seen as an exalted king who reigns with authority, justice, and righteousness. Jeremiah 10:6-7 and 10 speak of God as a king who is to be feared. In contrast to the idols that the Israelite people had been worshipping, this king is the true God. "There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might. Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For that is your due. [...] But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation." 1 Timothy 6:15 also refers to the "only Sovereign, the King of kings and the Lord of lords."

God is also described as a woman in labor, a nursing mother, and a midwife. In Isaiah 42:14, God says, "For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor,

I will gasp and pant.”

Deuteronomy 32:18 speaks of God as a mother who gave birth to Israel: “You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.” In Isaiah 49:15, God says, “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.” Another scriptural image for God is a midwife assisting in childbirth. Psalm 22:9-10 reads, “Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.”

God is described as a father in The Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” In Ephesians 4:6, God is called the “Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

Imagery for God is not limited to only personal images, but God is also pictured as an animal. In Hosea 13:7-8, God’s harsh judgment against Israel is like the rage of a wild animal or mother bear whose cubs have been taken from her: “So I will become like a lion to them, like a leopard I will lurk beside the way. I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs, and will tear open the covering of their heart; there I will devour

them like a lion, as a wild animal would mangle them.” Psalm 144 describes God as a rock, stronghold, and shield and uses military imagery.

God is a refuge and fortress of protection, and God provides deliverance and security.

“Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; my rock and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues the peoples under me.”

Another scriptural image through which we can talk about God is light. 1 John 1:5-7 says, “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.” In John 8:12, Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” This picture of light gives us a way to understand God and God’s glory.

These images for God and many more found in the pages of Scripture provide us with a more vivid picture for understanding God. As believers who desire to be faithful to Scripture and read it responsibly, we are to recognize and talk about all of the different images for God because all of them are in the Bible. We are not to focus on some descriptions while forgetting others, but we are to embrace the variety and

thereby, broaden and enrich our understanding of God and our relationship with God.



ESL Celebration

Saturday, May 9 will be the last day of ESL. We will celebrate by sharing stories we have written, playing games, and eating lunch. All are welcome to join in celebrating the hard work of the ESL participants.



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

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 17th of May. Rev. 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 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, or go to Arc of Mercer building located at 105 Buttonwood Drive, Ewing Township, NJ 08638



Bible Study

Every 2nd and 4th 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

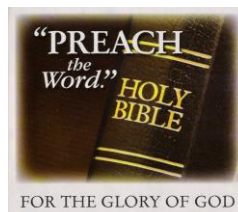
Prayer Walk

On the May 1, 2015, UMIO (United Mercer Interfaith Organization) will be hosting a prayer walk for those who have had family or friends lose their life due to violence in Trenton. For more information, see Rev. Powell

Those who
walk with God,
always reach
their destination

MAY SERMONS

May 3 -John 5:9-13
May 10 - I Have a Testimony
May 17 - Acts 2:1-21
May 24 - A Power that Speaks
May 31 - Romans 8:12-17 The Spirit of Life



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2015					1 6:30 Poetry in Motion	2 10:00 ESL and Tutoring
3 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Christian Ed Mta.	4 5:00 STSK 6:30 Life Skills for Women	5 5:00 STSK	6 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	7 6:30 Choir Practice	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	11 5:00 STSK 6:30 Life Skills for Women	12 5:00 STSK	13 5:00 STSK	14 6:30 Choir Practice	15 6:30 Poetry in Motion NEWSLETTER INFO DUE	16
17 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Trustees Meeting 2:00 Hamilton Grove	18 5:00 STSK 6:30 Life Skills for Women	19 5:00 STSK	20 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	21 6:30 Choir Practice	22	23
24/31 9:00 Karen Praise & Prayer 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Deacon's Meeting	25 5:00 STSK	26 5:00 STSK	27 5:00 STSK	28 6:30 Choir Practice	29	30



“UNITY WALK”

**A PRAYER WALK FOR UNITY AND PEACE IN THE PLACES WHERE MEN,
WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN TRENTON IN 2015**

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015 3:30PM

THE OFFICIALLY DECLARED DAY OF “UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY”



JOIN UNITED MERCER INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (UMIO), A COALITION OF FAMILIES, AREA FAITH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AS WE WALK, PRAY, LISTEN AND UNIFY TOGETHER IN THE NAME OF PEACE AND HEALING AT THE ACTUAL PLACES WHERE MEMBERS OF OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN 2015.

STARTING POINTS (3:30pm):

*WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1140 GREENWOOD AVENUE TRENTON, NJ*

&

*ISLAMIC CENTER OF EWING
685 PARKWAY AVENUE EWING, NJ*

&

*SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
340 Reverend S. Howard Woodson Way Trenton, NJ*

ENDING POINT (6pm):

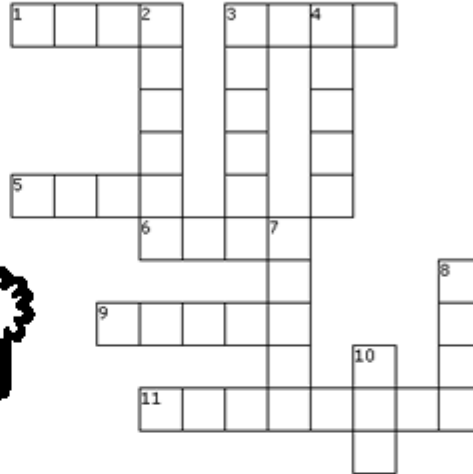
*GANDHI PEACE GARDEN
223 EAST HANOVER STREET TRENTON, NJ*



For more information e-mail umioorganizer@gmail.com or visit www.unitedmercerinterfaith.org

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love

Bible Quiz

1. To whose care did Jesus commit His mother, when He was hanging on the cross?
2. "Honour thy father and thy mother" is the first Commandment with promise. What is the promise?
3. In the well-known hymn: "When mothers of Salem their children brought to Jesus," what city is referred to?
4. Is the admonition: "Forsake not the law of thy mother" in

Psalms, Proverbs or Ecclesiastes?

5. What mother was commanded by God not to eat "anything that cometh of the vine, neither (to) drink wine," before her child should be born

(answers: 1. To John (John 19:27), 2 "That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee", 3. Jerusalem is its present name (Genesis 14:18), 4. Proverbs 1:8, 5. Samson's mother (Judges 13:14)

MAY 2015

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