

First Things

A Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Trenton

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A word from Pastor Liz

Be Still

Many years ago a little boy was given a priceless possession: his deceased grandfather's gold pocket watch. How he treasured it! But one day, while playing at his father's ice plant, he lost the watch amidst all the ice and sawdust. He searched and scratched, becoming frantic, but no watch. Then he suddenly realized what to do. He stopped scurrying around and became very still. In the silence, he heard the watch ticking. In our busy lives, we search, scratch, become frantic and scurry about. We are so busy. We need to become very still. Silent. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Be still and hear God speaking.

Henri Nouwin tells us: "We may think about stillness in contrast to our noisy world. But perhaps we can go further and keep an inner stillness even while we carry on business, teach, work in construction, make music, or organize meetings." It is important to keep a still place in the marketplace. This still place is where God can dwell and speak to us. It also is the place from which we can speak in a healing way to all the people we meet in our busy days. Without that still space we start spinning. We become driven people, running all over the place without much direction. But with that stillness God can be our gentle guide in everything we think, say, or do.

Mother Teresa says it another way: "Prayer does not demand that we interrupt our work, but that we continue working as if it were a prayer."

Hurry!

Hurry!

HURRY!

Hurry!

Hurry!

HURRY!

hurry!

Hurry!

Hurry!

See page 2.

HURRY

HURRY

hurry, hurry

TRUSTEES CORNER

Serving This Month

Deacons:

Azu Amutah & Eileen Kelty

Trustee:

Richard Pflieger

This month I am pleased to focus on several issues that have taken place and deserve acknowledgement.

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals our youth have been able to experience Camp Lebanon without any reservation. We have been blessed and want to thank the many who have contributed to this worthwhile cause. Tom, Barbara, Robin, Lyn, Mary, members of the church who ate ice cream, members of Hamilton Square Baptist that donated

so generously and those who filled the baskets for several Sundays during May. Our Children have been enjoying camp and more are yet to go.

While walking through the Sunday school room on the way to church next time be sure to stop for a moment and appreciate the fine craftsmanship exhibited in the classroom to the right of the stage. A big thank you and appreciation goes out to Jim Russo who spent many hours replacing the flooring and painting the classroom. We also can thank Jim for the ingenious swinging cover on the big fan in Vannest Hall. That had been a back breaker each year to remove and replace.

Under the direction of Jim and Clarence the front entrance ways have been repaired and painted by our regular painting contractor. It sure looks nice to see the place spruced up and getting ready for the fall season kickoff.

Remember to get those offering envelopes in during the summer so that we can fulfill our financial obligations 12 months a year.

Are you addicted to HURRY?

When hurry becomes a chronic condition, when we run even when there is no reason to, when we rush while performing even the most mundane tasks, it may be said that we have become addicted to hurry. As we face up to the unnecessary and unacceptable sacrifices that result from living as though we were being chased, we develop the tenacious intent needed to create a more humane, peaceful, and sustainable pace for

ourselves and our world. Learn about this common plight and what we can do about this addiction. Based on a national best seller by Kirk Byron Jones, we will learn the SPIRITUAL strategies for slowing down. We will begin this study in September. Join us on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:30 for prayer and this Bible Study.

August Sermons

8/1/10	John 21:1-17	<i>Surviving Failure</i> The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon
8/8/10	Luke 3:15-22, Acts 8:14-17	<i>Why Baptism?</i> The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon
8/15/10	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	<i>Weeds in My Garden</i> The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon
8/22/10	I Timothy 4:12	Hero Headquarters VBS and The Rev. Mia Chang
8/29/10	Matthew 28:16-20	<i>Evangelism</i> The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon

News from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies

For generations, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has been in the forefront of mission in this country. Established in 1824 to preach the Gospel, establish churches and minister to persons in special need, ABHMS has been faithful to the call to do mission on Christ's behalf in the United States and Puerto Rico. We treasure our rich heritage and the work early missionaries did for us on the expanding further.

Today, American Baptist Home Mission Societies continues engaging in wonderful transforming ministries because the need continues to broaden and touch every facet of our communities.

Fact: The USA is the fourth largest and most diverse mission field in the world.

Fact: 71% of the USA is unchurched.

Fact: 30% of Americans attend church once a week.

Fact: 44% seldom/never attend church.

Fact: Approximately 13 million people are victims of crime.

Fact: 7,720 hate crimes committed; 51.8% were racially motivated.

Fact: The poverty level for a family of four is \$21,203.

Fact: 35.9 million people live below the poverty line.

Fact: 14 million children live in poverty.

Highlights of our Home Mission Response

- **National Evangelism Team (NET)** – over 100 team members trained in: Got Style?” representing 33 ABCUSA regions. The “Got Style” workshops offer you and your church new strategies for evangelism based on your personality style. (I will be talking about the different styles of evangelism in the sermon on 8/29.)
- **The Missional Church** training initiative is assisting church leaders to study their communities and provide relevant alternatives to reach out to a diverse and changing community.
- **Children in Poverty Initiative (CiP)** provides leadership training, summits and resources for leaders to engage in advocacy with school boards, state legislators and members of Congress.
- **The Penny Project** is raising awareness and raising change for CHANGE. The goal is to raise 14 million pennies to represent the number of children living in poverty in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

Our America for Christ gifts support these and many more ministries. Our financial gifts are making a difference!

Annual Session

Join us for Annual Session on September 24-25, 2010 in New Brunswick. This session will an opportunity to learn and be inspired with outstanding speakers including the Reverends Lisa Harris, Jeffrey Johnson, Georges W. Bullard, Jr. Andre Mfitumukiza and Jenny Quey. It will also be an important meeting as By-Laws changes will be voted on. The new version of the proposed changes states that every Association will be represented on Council by either its Moderator or by another Association elected representative, if the Moderator cannot commit to participating in Council. In this revised proposal, no changes to Associational membership or size are proposed. Council voted to replace the “Latino Youth Ministry” line with “ABCNJ Youth Ministries.” The proposed changes can be viewed online at www.abcnj.net and are also available in hard copies. See Pastor Liz if you would like to review a copy.

Mobile Farmer's Market is held on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

A Half-Time Report on Ministry Life and Witness

From the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, ABCNJ Executive Minister and Senior Regional Pastor we learned about the first half of 2010. ABCNJ has:

- Trained 350 lay leaders and pastors at the COAL events.
- Recruited 18 Bridge Pastors to better serve our region's pastors.
- Rallied our churches to respond to the Haiti earthquake – over \$100,000 has been raised!
- Helped about 100 Rwanda refugee children continue their education in Kampala, Uganda.
- Been the leading region in this year's Fanning the Flame 2010 National Pastors Renewal Conference in Green Lake – ABCNJ had 52 people in attendance!
- Helped churches search for interim and permanent pastors; participated in the ordination process of candidates; and offered sermons, Bible studies and counseling for many churches.

Join us at the Baptist Home

Save the afternoon of Sunday, September 26 for the 3:00 pm chapel service in Riverton at the Riverview Estates, the Baptist Home of South Jersey. Join us for this time of worship and fellowship. It will also be an opportunity to be with Miriam Dean. Let Pastor Liz know if you will be able to be there.

“National Ministries” Changes Its Name

ABCUSA National Ministries reclaimed its historic name and is now being called the *American Baptist Home Mission Societies*. Why? They often found they had to explain who they were because “National Ministries” included no identifying words. With the name *American Baptist Home Mission Societies*, they immediately communicate the American Baptist identity, and commitment to mission and a focus on mission “at home” in the United States and Puerto Rico. This change lifts up and boldly proclaims the strong, historic connection to American Baptist Churches USA and all the American Baptist partners in Christ's work.

The name may have changed, but the ministry and mission have not changed. The mission is Christ-centered, evangelical and ecumenical: with commitment to refugee resettlement, immigration issues, Children in Poverty, intercultural ministries, Christian centers, volunteerism, congregational transformation, Christian publishing and Judson Press, as well as American Baptist Personnel Services and the American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors remaining the same.

The *American Baptist Home Mission Societies* carry out this mission as “the caring heart, serving hands, going feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ,” using the words

Discipleship, Community and Justice to sum up and reinforce all of this work.

PLEASE NOTE!!

Articles for the September Newsletter will be due no later than August 15

Milestones

By Mildred Caperella

We have to spread the Good Word: the good sermons Pastor Liz sends out, the good fellowship, the good members and friends who come to the FBC, the wonderful Burmese people who participate in the services, the FBC choir that gives us their all, and Jeanne for your wonderful music. FBC loves it all.

Here's a happy reminder: somewhere in this world there are hugs and kisses just waiting to be showered on you.

Stop crying: before cutting an onion, put it in the freezer for 15 minutes. This will minimize the strength of the onion and keep those tears away.

Sending out an SOS: who is that person who makes the delicious casserole with a cornflake topping? Is it Lynn Wood? Come on mystery person, make yourself known. Richard Petro really, really liked it.

Our Church Picnic was A-OK. It was a boiling hot day outside. We had it inside, and did very well with all the delicious food. Thanks to all of the Burmese people for their delicious food. All the food vanished quickly. If you wanted seconds you had to get there early first time. Maybe there would be some left.

Dear Pauline Wirth, we truly miss your mile high cakes. We all at FBC send our love and hugges to you. We miss you in Sunday School and Church. You will always have our love and admiration. Take care of yourself. God Bless. We all love ya!

Thank God the oil pipe has been capped and no more oil spilling for the Gulf of Mexico. We pray God keeps his healing hand on the spill.

Pastor Liz your sermons are so enlightening. FBC is blessed to have you.

I will say bye now until we meet in September when we send our kiddies (all ages) back to school and college.

I'm going out in my yard and have a snowball fight! Did that cool you off?

Drive safely and prayerfully. Try not to get your pix taken.

Have a blessed day!

Come enjoy the Fine Arts and Peach Festival & Sale on Saturday, August 7, 2010 at the Baptist Home of South Jersey from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Fine Art) and/or 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Peaches), Rain or Shine, Admission is Free

For more information or directions (856) 829-2274 Ext. 157