

# First Things

A Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Trenton

128-140 Centre Street, Trenton NJ 08611

The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon, Interim Pastor

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June, 2010

## A word from Pastor Liz

### Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus

As disciples we need to keep our eyes upon Jesus. That includes being and making disciples in authentic community for the good of the world. Walk with Jesus. Talk with Jesus. Be there for one another. Serve as you have been gifted. We can look with optimism upon this interim period. The Search committee is working hard and making progress. God is with us during these difficult, turbulent times of changing and growing. We try hard to keep things as they are and they keep changing. And they change without our permission. We have embraced new ministry. Let's continue to embrace the ministry God has set before us. We need to continue our focus upon Jesus.

And when life is not perfect remember Psalm 94:18-19 (NIV) "When I said, "My foot is slipping," your love, O LORD, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul." When life is not perfect turn your eyes upon Jesus. Instead of thinking "if only my life would be perfect," be present with the guide, the shepherd, the great physician. Be in the present. Resist the temptation to dwell in the past and live in fear for the unknown future. Be here now. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it. Live with an attitude of gratitude. Remember God's faithfulness, mercy, love and salvation. And then take action with what's available now. As church, and as disciples, turn your eyes upon Jesus.

### **Baptism Classes**

*Baptism classes are being planned.*

*Please let Pastor Liz know if you would like to be included.*

## TRUSTEES CORNER

### Serving This Month

**Deacons:**  
**Abigail Amutah and Mary Mild**

**Trustee:**  
**Richard Pflieger**

Spring is here and thoughts have turned to summer camp for the many children at the First Baptist Church. We have been blessed to have a large number of campers sign up this year for a great camping experience.

During the 2010 budget process we were sure to appropriate additional funds for camp scholarships for the 2010 year but campership is now outmatching even that additional amount. In order to raise additional funds a special offering was received on Mother's day and on May 16<sup>th</sup> and ice cream cones are being sold during the fellowship hour. Receipts to

date are \$533 dollars which is almost enough for two camper scholarships. Keep tuned for additional opportunities to support this most worthwhile campaign to raise funds.

Current expense receipts thru the month of April totaled \$18,517 while expenses for the same period in 2009 were \$27,485.00. This leaves a shortfall of \$39,000.00 for a year to date figure when compared to expenses to date of \$57,589. The \$36,000.00 needed to come from the legacy endowment account. I believe it is needless to say that this is a dangerous position to be in. Our benevolent budget has also seen a drastic decline in envelope offerings with a \$3,700.00 shortfall over the same period from last year.

Statements were issued last week that reflect your status at the end of the first quarter. These are issued so that we might each see the status of our accounts with regard to pledge amounts and giving to the work of the church. In light of the aforementioned expenses it is incumbent upon each of us to examine our pledge status and giving to the church to ensure the longevity of the mission on the corner of Bridge and Center.

### ## Time Change ##

Summer will soon be upon us. We will gather for worship at **10:00 am beginning July 4<sup>th</sup>** and allow more time for family and friends on Sundays during the summer. Let's include lots of time for relaxation and fun and let's not forget to continue to worship and allow time to grow as disciples of Jesus.

### June Sermons

June 6	I Corinthians 11:17-26	"Remember Me" The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon
June 13	I John 3:16-24	"Reputation" The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon
June 20	Matthew 6:5-1	"Our Father in Heaven" The Rev. Dr. William Webb
June 27	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Missionaries The Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez The Rev. Ray Schellinger

### **Guitar and Drum Lessons**

Thirty came for guitar and drum lessons on Sunday, May 2nd, the first session of this new ministry. Thank you Beth Daly, for your generous support. We thought a few would attend and are surprised by God again. We are meeting a need. Lessons will continue each Sunday after worship in the chapel.

### *Used TV's and VCR's are needed*

*Let Pastor Liz know if you are able to donate used TV's and/or VCR's. They are appreciated.*

### **Missionaries at First Baptist Trenton on Sunday, June 27th**

The Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez and The Rev. Ray Schellinger will join us at 9:45 for Sunday School time and during worship to share with us about their mission and ministry in Mexico. Adalia is a medical doctor as well as a pastor. Ray is a pastor. The Rev. Mary Mild was their mentor/supervisor during their seminarian field experience. Adalia and Ray live and work in Tijuana where they have partnered with the women of the God with Us (Dios con Nosotros) Regional Baptist Convention to launch a groundbreaking ministry to victims of domestic violence. In addition to operating the Deborah's House shelter, they engage in a wide variety of counseling and educational activities for both victims and abusers.

### **Sixteen Youth to Attend Baptist Camp Lebanon**

Yes, sixteen of our youth would like to attend our American Baptist camp in Lebanon, New Jersey. Let's help them get there. Weekly we will be selling ice cream for \$1.00 a dish or cone. We will also be receiving special offerings to help support their being able to attend. The cost is more than \$5,000 for the sixteen to attend so please help us get there!

**REVIVE! 2010** will take place **June 11-13, 2010** at the Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, NJ. **REVIVE 2010** will bring together 1,000 Christians across denominational, theological, class, and racial/ethnic divides to renew a faith in Christ that inspires and equips us to proclaim his justice. **REVIVE! 2010** will be a weekend of Christian proclamation that brings together nationally known speakers, inspiring preachers, and useful workshops to equip participants in the work of evangelism and justice. Speakers June 11-13 include Cornel West, Bart Campolo, Shane Claiborne and Brenda Salter McNeil. Please let Pastor Liz know if you are interested in attending.

### **ESL Ministry Coming to First Baptist, Trenton**

An ESL (English-as-a-Second-Language) ministry is being planned for the Fall. Please let Pastor Liz know if you are interested in becoming an instructor. You will not have to learn another language and will be able to help others.

### **Car Needed**

One of our church friends is looking for a car in reasonably good condition with a price range between \$1000 and \$1500. If you know of a car that might be available please speak to Jim Russo. He can be reached at 586-5079 or 947-6696 or [jandsrusso@verizon.net](mailto:jandsrusso@verizon.net)

### **Thanks from International Ministries**

A letter was received from the Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson, Executive Director, and The Rev. Dr. Ray Schooler, Director of Development and Church Relations at International Ministries thanking us for our generous gifts to the World Mission Offering and International Ministries in 2009. We have been part of the effort "to help people come to Christ, grow in Christ and change their world through Christ." "Your church's contribution went to support the efforts of over 1700 short and long term missionaries and partners as they bring the Good News of Jesus Christ while meeting human need through cutting edge ministries in over 70 countries." "Because of your continued contributions through the World Mission Offering and targeted gifts for missionary support we have been able to maintain our full time missionary team."

### **Women's Conference and Retreat**

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) of New Jersey conference and retreat will take place June 3 – 5, 2010 from 3:00 pm on Thursday to 7:00 pm on Saturday at the Harvey Cedars Conference Center on Long Beach Island. Praise and worship, fellowship and fun, powerful Bible Study led by the Rev. Karen Selig, missionaries the Rev. Ray Schellinger and the Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez, and music led by Toni Benecchi and Judy Skeels are planned. The theme "Women Destined for God's Purpose" is from Psalm 138:8 "*The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.*" See Pastor Liz for registration information. (Pastor Liz plans to attend on Friday and Saturday. She is looking for a roommate for Friday evening.)

### **ABCNJ Mission: News from the Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer/ABCNJ to friends, pastors, church members**

In the ABCNJ, we visualize this renewal as having two key components; spiritual health and mission faithfulness. Your ABCNJ regional ministry team is striving with all of its might to encourage churches to grow in health and faithfulness. The region's Health and Faithfulness survey and strategic planning ministry has helped dozens of churches plan to do God's will. And in just the past year, we experienced these significant ministry achievements:

- ABCNJ churches from across the region provided about \$10,000 to send 100 Rwandan refugee children in Kampala, Uganda to school.
- In Merchantville, ABCNJ helped to establish a new ministry to Burmese refugees. In February, we dedicated their first class of deacons. More than 20 people have been baptized! In Trenton another group of Burmese are involved in First Baptist Church.
- ABCNJ's COAL lay leadership training days were a success again this year, with 350 people attending.
- After the Haitian earthquake, churches donated over \$80,000 to ABCNJ for Haiti. We have helped more than 80 families and 94 university students reclaim their futures.
- In 2009, hundreds of children attended summer camps at Baptist Camp Lebanon, and our conferencing ministry continues to expand! Send your child to Lebanon this summer!
- In 2009, ABCNJ's Go Global 30 Club initiative raised \$7,800.00 for IM missionaries.
- We continued to provide anti-poverty grants to churches and scholarships to seminarians/college students.
- As in past years, we continue to preach the Gospel, teach the Bible and lead spiritual retreats and workshops in scores of ABCNJ churches. For example, the Jesus Christ from Cover to Cover Bible study ministry has now been a part of the spiritual life of approximately 40 churches.

Find out the latest news on the website [www.abcnj.net](http://www.abcnj.net) and sign up for information by following the instructions on line and become part of the Constant Contact information network.

### **Milestones From Mildred Caparella**

Mother's Day was so delicious. Give praise to all the men who waited on all the ladies with great patience. The food was outstanding. Thanks to the Burmese people. They honored us with those white necklaces. Thank you so much for your gifts. The dedication of the babies was a sight to behold. Thank you Martha, for giving us your beautiful voice in our choir, Jeanne, for your organ music is outstanding, Mary, Virginia, Lyn, Martha, Tom for your lovely voices in harmony. We miss Abby. She is out there brain storming.

It was so nice to see Adam for Mother's Day. Please come again, and again and again.

Pastor Liz, your Mother's Day sermon was outstanding. When you give a sermon I feel I am right there in that period. You dot your i's and cross your t's. Amen.

June 20<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. A big day. Breakfast will be served. We are trying to find out who makes that delicious baked dish with the cornflake topping. Please come. You made a lot of people happy.

Au Revoir (oh vwahl). (Good-bye 'til we meet again)

Have a blessed day!

## **News from the Y.M.C.A.: To Local Community Leaders:**

Good Morning . My name is Joe Fuhrman, and I am the new Program Director at the YMCA of Trenton on Pennington Ave. . Over the past couple of months, the YMCA of Trenton has been working diligently to take the necessary steps to transition into a fully functional facility that provides our "COMMUNITY" a place to be safe, be healthy, and be family.

The next step of our transitional phase is to begin offering programs for our community members that are consistent with our mission to 'Build Strong Kids, Strong Families, and Strong Communities. These programs include sports, art, dance, and martial arts classes for our Youth and Teens, as well as Group Exercise classes for our Teens and Adults. These programs will begin on the 21st of June, and will be available for our members in the early morning, afternoon, and evening to make 'being healthy' convenient for them.

Please pass this message along to your church over the weeks that follow, and feel free to forward this e-mail to anyone who would be interested in participating in the programs. I can be e-mailed at [jfuhrman@greatertrentonareaymca.org](mailto:jfuhrman@greatertrentonareaymca.org) for any questions or called at (609) 599-9622 x17.

Thank You for your time.

Joe Fuhrman  
YMCA of Trenton  
Program Director

# Vacation Bible CAMP

**WHEN:** August 16 – August 20 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**WHAT:** Vacation Bible CAMP  
**WHO:** Students completing 1st thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade in June  
**WHERE:** First Baptist Church of Trenton, 128-140 Centre Street, Trenton, 08611  
**WHY:** HERO HEADQUARTERS: Where Kids Join Forces With God!

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** 1) Volunteer to help.  
2) Donate supplies (paper, pencils, crayons, magic markers) by 8/8  
3) Donate juice, peanut butter, jelly, cookies and crackers by 8/8

**Registration REQUIRED.** Please complete the form below and return it to the church by 6/6.

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## VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2010

### REGISTRATION (PLEASE PRINT)

AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> – AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE AS OF SEPTEMBER, 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C)

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C)

ANY ALLERGIES: Food: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, I, \_\_\_\_\_ give permission to the churches in charge to provide any necessary emergency care for my child.

\_\_\_\_\_(Signature)

Submit FORM TO THE REV. ELIZABETH CONGDON

# JUNE, 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 9:30 Karen Prayer and Praise 9:45 Assembly 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship 12:30 Guitar and Drum lessons		<b>1</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>2</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>3</b> 3:00 Choir 7:00 Strengthening Families	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 12:30 Christian Ed	<b>7</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>8</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>9</b> 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	<b>10</b> 3:00 Choir 7:00 Strengthening Families	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mobile Farmer's Market
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>15</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>16</b> 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	<b>17</b> 3:00 Choir 7:00 Strengthening Families	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Mobile Farmer's Market
<b>20 FATHER'S DAY</b> 12:30 Board of Trustees	<b>21</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>22</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>23</b> 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study	<b>24</b> 3:00 Choir 7:00 Strengthening Families	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Mobile Farmer's Market
<b>27</b> 11:00 Missionaries 12:30 Deacons Board	<b>28</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>29</b> 5:00 STSK	<b>30</b> 5:00 STSK 6:30 Bible Study			