

# First Things

A Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Trenton

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June 2011

## A word from Pastor Liz

### **Prayer for Our Men**

Almighty One hear our prayer. We pray for our fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, nephews, teachers, leaders, colleagues, soldiers and friends. Protect them from the ills of this world: consumerism, greed, violence, and from seeking after power and control. Empower them instead with your Spirit. Like Joseph may they be able to forgive their brothers even when what they did was evil. Like Abraham, may they be obedient to your call and be able to pick up and go wherever you lead. Like David, may they not deny their sin but rather ask for and receive your forgiveness. Help them to be fathers. Let them be like Joseph who stayed with Mary even when he could have divorced her in disgrace. Give them compassion like Joseph who left his beloved country and headed to a strange land without a job or a place to live when he and Mary fled to Egypt with Jesus to escape from Herod murderous edict. Mary and Joseph were immigrants, refugees, and strangers in a foreign land seeking political asylum. Give them the words, the right words at the right time. Bring healing to our lives. Show us how to heal our relationships. Like John, may they be your beloved disciple. Lord, show them how much they are loved. Show them how to love and why this is the better way to live. Like you did for Elijah, give them times of rest and recuperation, food and soothing oils. Like Jeremiah did, remind them that you have plans for them, plans for their future, plans for good and not for harm, plans that will prosper them. Let them never lose hope. Make them brave like Daniel. Give them courage even in the lion's dens of today; offices, and conference rooms, roads and highways, the football field and sports arenas. Give them the courage of their convictions like you gave to Meshack, Sadrack and Abendigo. May they stand up for what is right even in the fiery furnace. Let your word be their code of ethics. Like Solomon, make our men wise. Make them peacemakers. Give them patience. So much in life is not fair, not kind. It is not as it should be. Help our men to deal with it all. Men, young and old, oh Lord: renew their strength. Make them strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

Encourage them this day and always. May your promises and presence be real to all. Amen

**Join in the Fun**

Trenton Thunder tickets available for \$11.00 for Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> for the 1:00 pm game. Join us for some fun.

Join in the fun on Father's Day. Bring something to share and join us for breakfast at 9:45 on 6/19. Something very special is planned.

### Sermon Sentences

#### **"nuff" said from Rev. Karen Pickler**

Many folks want to serve God, But only as advisers. It is easier to preach ten sermons , than it is to live one. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close. When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there. Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever. Some minds are like concrete; thoroughly mixed up and permanently set. Don't put a question mark where God put a period. Forbidden fruits create many jams. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!' He who angers you, controls you! Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty! The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you. You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

### **June Sermons**

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| 6/5/11  | Acts 1:3-11   | "The Ascension"<br>The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon   |
| 6/12/11 | Baptist Camp and Conference Center, Lebanon, NJ<br>Acts 2:1-8 | Director<br>Donald "Smitty" Smith<br>"In Our Own Native Language"<br>The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon |
| 6/19/11 | Genesis 27:26-29  | "Children: Our Blessing"<br>The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon  |
| 6/26/11 |   | The Rev. Calvin Nadir Powell   |

### **English As a Second Language (ESL)**

"by Joanne Collins"

The last day of ESL was on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to extend a special thank you to everyone involved. The task you bravely accepted was multi-faceted. The gifts you gave were invaluable.

Our students were exceptional. They were very conscientious, and as teachers you had to work hard to keep up with them and match their enthusiasm. You all did a good job as a teacher because our over all drop out rate was very low. At times you acted as counselors when you talked with your students about how they missed home, or tried to help them with their problems. There were other times when you acted as a friend when you casually talked with them. By taking the time to meet with them every week, you made an impression on them that there are some good people in our country. You also demonstrated God's will by being a good Christian and taking the time to help them acclimate to a new country where they can worship freely.

Yes, the gifts you gave were invaluable. You will be blessed. Several of the students have said how they will return next year. That statement alone is a reward to hear because it shows their appreciation. Your time and your efforts made this time together an invaluable experience. To each and every one of you, Thank You. Hope to see you next fall when ESL classes start again.

#### **Teachers**

Naw Tin HLA, Abigail Amutah, Yuka Bernard, Jane Chianese, Nancy Cox, [Brian Daly](#),

Mary Fnk, John Foltz, Pat Foltz, Andrew Kang, Nathan Kang, James Kang, Eileen Kelty, Rev. Dawn Mays, Jessica O'Neil, Mary Ann Reiter, and Rev. Webb..A special thanks to those who worked so hard to coordinate: Rev. Mary Mild, Elisabeth Kang, and our Pastor, Liz Congdon.



Some of the students and teachers in the Monday ESL class! (Kneeling: Lu Dee Kei, Kaw Kay Paw, Kaw Ka Mu and son Sar Mo. In the middle: Pastor Liz, Jane Chianese, Par Reh, Gee Gee Kei, Pat Foltz, Po Lo, Leh Moo, Nah Na, Cho Aye Bu, Ba Meh, Tai Taw. In the back: Anel Andre, Brian Daly, John Foltz, Eileen Kelty, Mary Mild)

### **Special Prayer Requests**

Please pray for Yazmin Wilson and Mai Juah who will be attending Baptist Camp Lebanon from June 26 – July 2. The summer newsletter will contain the names of the other twenty-two (22) students attending camp during the summer. Your prayer and generosity in sending our youth to camp are appreciated.

Please pray for Pastor Liz as she attends the Biennial June 22 to June 27 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

### **Milestones By Mildred Caperella**

Get up, Get up. You will be late for Sunday School. After Sunday School you head for the big white door and you go in. No problem. Now one may be sitting in your favorite pew. Just smile and go for another pew. You may like the new pew. Any where you sit you can hear the voice of Pastor Liz giving a lively sermon. Joanne Collins how are your gardens growing? Charlie and I want to thank the Deacons for the beautiful Easter Flowers, that were given to us on Easter Sunday. Thank You Kindly. That is what Charlie and I call Love and a Hug.

Thursday Foot Washing Ceremony was so beautiful. The choir sang so lovely. The air was filled with The Holy Spirit. Did you feel it? You know that song "Love is in the Air", well it was there that night. With Pastor Liz, Joanne Collins and the Kang family all performing. Bless you all.

*DRIVE WITH CARE ...DON'T FORGET YOUR SAFETY BELT.. HAVE A BLESSED DAY*

**THE MISSION PRAYER CALL**  
**International Ministries, American Baptist Churches**



**Duane and Marcia Binkley, Thailand and U.S.A.**

Duane and Marcia serve Burmese ethnic Karen and Chin refugees both in the United States and Thailand. They work with the tens of thousands of refugees coming to the U.S. while continuing to work with those still remaining in refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar (Burma) border.

They write: In mid-March a gathering of pastors and church leaders involved in ministry with Karen, Chin or others from Burma was held in Valley Forge. The meeting was to give those involved with refugee ministry a chance to meet and share together. The end result was the formation of seven “Together in Ministry” (TIM) groups. These are small groups of five to seven people that will meet periodically either electronically or in person to share with each other about challenges and solutions and to offer support to each other.

In Utica and Syracuse New York we helped teach and translate at a training program for Karen and Chin church leaders sponsored by the ABC of New York and the ABC Home Mission Societies. Thirty to forty Karen and Chin attended from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica. Subjects taught ranged from church structures and legal status, to working with the youth, to information on U.S. taxes and personal finance management.

Utica, NY is home to the second largest Karen community in the U.S. and Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica is the church home of a large number of Karen living there. So Sunday morning we had time to share in the English service at Tabernacle, and then Duane preached at the Karen language service. After the Tabernacle Baptist service, we went an hour down the road to Syracuse and Duane also preached at the Karen service there.

This past weekend, the Akron Karen Baptist Church hosted the regional gathering of the Karen Baptist Churches in the USA (KBCUSA). Karen from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee came to Akron Ohio to fellowship, meet and worship. About 120 attended the Saturday business meeting and meal with over 200 attending the Sunday morning worship service.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to see what God has in store in the days ahead.

Pray for Marcia and Duane as they seek to bring the love and message of Christ to “the least of these,” and as they assist Karen Baptist congregations as they reach out to minister.

Pray for the refugee families that are “stuck” on the Thai – Burma border.

Pray for more churches to come forward to assist in the resettling of the refugees who have come to the United States.



**Kim Brown, Thailand,**

Kim's work includes overseeing five Christ-like ministries for tribal people who are coping with the problems caused by AIDS, disabilities, and migration from their traditional villages to urban slums. Lack of land and employment has forced people from rural areas to cities to find work. They are often exploited on the job, and are at risk for being infected with the AIDS virus. The Thailand Karen Baptist Convention sponsors these ministries.

**Praise and Prayer Points:**

Our big news to report is that the 75 students, parents and staff from the **Center for the Development of People with Disabilities (CDPD)** had a wonderful time at the beach at the end of March. Parents also had good teaching and good meetings during our times together. These children with disabilities have much to teach each of us about finding joy in the moment!

And what a praise to God it is that on March 21, we signed the contract with the Japanese government for the new vocational building for the **CDPD**. Plans have already been drawn up and approved, and we look forward to seeing work starting soon! This building will provide space for our prevocational training as well as a display area for goods made, and there will also be meeting rooms for our advocacy groups. We are thankful for this funding.

The **House of Love** kids are all enjoying summer break, and we appreciate your continued prayer for good times as they enjoy a break from routine. Of course, this brings a concern as we depend on others to make sure medication regimes are adhered to, so do pray that these drugs that keep the AIDS virus at bay will be taken faithfully by each of our HIV-positive kids who need them.

The **House of Love** has also just hired a new helper, and I am excited because I believe God has brought us someone special. Khun Nuwadee is a Karen woman who went to Bible school in Bangkok, and has a degree in primary education. She will be responsible for planning activities and supervising homework. One of her passions is to see all of the children reading well, and she will be working with them individually to bring their levels up to par.

The **House of Blessing (HOB)** had their last day of school on April 2, and classes will resume on May 9th. Please pray for refreshment for our 3 daycare teachers, Kanchana, Rosalyn and Rae. We are happy to report that our 7 graduates will be starting 1st grade in May when Thai schools reopen.

Pray for Kim and her staff as they reach out to these most neglected of people with the love of Christ.

## Mission Trip to Malaysia and Thailand

ABC General Secretary, Dr. Roy Medley is organizing a trip to Malaysia and Thailand. Assisted by Rev. Rollin Van Bik and Duane Binkley, the trip will mainly focus on the Chin and Karen refugees from Burma that are being driven from their homeland and resettled across the USA.

Pastor Liz will be part of the mission team. Below is an outline of the itinerary (subject to change if needed)

July 8-9 Arrive in Kuala Lumpur

July 9 Evening meeting with Chin Community leaders

July 10 Worship in Chin churches and visit Chin communities

July 11 Meet with resettlement agencies and projects

Fly to Bangkok in the evening

July 12 Meet with refugee and resettlement agencies in Bangkok

Visit Nightlight, project of Jeff & Annie Dieselberg

July 13 To Tham Hin Refugee camp

July 14 Travel to Chiang Mai and visit missionaries and church leaders

July 15 In Chiang Mai to visit International Ministries Mission work and Baptist groups

July 16 Travel to Mae Sot

July 17 Visit the Mae La refugee camp and Dr. Simon's Bible School

July 18 Visit the Umpiem Refugee camp

July 19 Travel to Bangkok

July 20 Return to the US

Please contact Duane Binkley at [duane@karenkonnection.org](mailto:duane@karenkonnection.org) or by phone at [330 396 0427](tel:330-396-0427) for more information.

## Burmese Names

While most Burmese names are made up of two syllables (e.g., Aye Ngwe and Nay Win), some names have three syllables (Khin Zaw Win and Kyaw Moe Tun) or two elements with one of them doubled (Nyein Nyein Lwin and Than Than Nu). Names that have just one syllable, or four or more syllables, are less common. Most words used as names have a pleasant or auspicious meaning, such as Hla (“pretty”), Mya (“emerald”), Naing (“victorious”), Aung (“successful”), and Nyein (“calm”).

Many individual names are chosen following a naming system in which certain letters of the alphabet are assigned to each of the 7 days of the week. Thus a person born on a Tuesday might have a name formed by using the letters sa, hsa, za, or nya.

Traditionally, Burmese do not have family names. A man named Htay Maung might have a wife named Win Swe Myint and two children named Cho Zin Nwe and Than Tut. None of the names has any relationship to the others; each is individual. The absence of surnames creates problems when Burmese are asked to fill in forms in Western countries. People with names of more than one syllable usually put the last syllable in the surname box and the remainder in the given name box.

Now and then one encounters a woman who has added her husband's name to her own to avoid confusion when living or traveling abroad: Ambassadors' wives often find it convenient to do this (e.g., Madame Hla Maung). And some parents add elements of their own names to their children's names. But families that do this are the exception. There are also some Burmese who use Western names, like Kenneth and Gladys, either as nicknames (often originating in schooldays) or to make life easier for Western friends.

**Source: *Refugees From Burma*: Their Backgrounds and Refugee Experiences** Writers: Sandy Barron, John Okell, Saw Myat Yin, Kenneth VanBik, Arthur Swain, Emma Larkin, Anna J. Allott, and Kirsten Ewers Editors: Donald A. Ranard and Sandy Barron Cultural Profile June 2007 Published by the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C. [www.culturalorientation.net](http://www.culturalorientation.net) [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org)

# VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2011 REGISTRATION

*AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> – AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>                      9:30 AM – 1:00 PM*

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

GRADE AS OF SEPTEMBER 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile)

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Any allergies to Food: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, I, \_\_\_\_\_ give permission to the

First Baptist Church of Trenton to provide any necessary emergency care for my child.

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

**Submit FORM TO THE REV. ELIZABETH B. CONGDON or JOANNE COLLINS by June 12**

# June 2011

| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>Monda</b>  | <b>Tuesda</b>       | <b>Wednes</b>                                   | <b>Thursda</b>                 | <b>Friday</b>  | <b>Saturda</b> |
|---|---|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Sunday Schedule</b><br>9:00 Karen Prayer & Praise<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Worship<br>12:15 Fellowship |   |                     | 1<br><br>5:00 STSK<br>6:30 Prayer & Bible Study | 2<br><br>6:30 Choir Rehearsal  | 3  | 4              |
| 5<br><br>CEB Trenton Thunder game   | 6<br><br>5:00 STSK                                    | 7<br><br>5:00 STSK  | 8<br><br>5:00 STSK                              | 9<br><br>6:30 Choir Rehearsal  | 10   | 11             |
| 12  | 13<br><br>5:00 STSK                                   | 14<br><br>5:00 STSK | 15<br><br>5:00 STSK<br>7:00 STARS               | 16<br><br>6:30 Choir Rehearsal | 17   | 18             |
| 19<br><br>Pot Luck Fathers Day Breakfast<br><br>Trustees  | 20<br><br>5:00 STSK<br><br><b>NEWSLETTER INFO DUE</b> | 21<br><br>5:00 STSK | 22<br><br>5:00 STSK                             | 23<br><br>6:30 Choir Rehearsal | 24   | 25             |
| 26<br><br><b>Summer schedule</b><br><br>10:00 Worship Deacons   | 27  | 28<br><br>5:00 STSK | 29  | 30<br><br>6:30 Choir Rehearsal | <b>Summer schedule</b><br><br>9:00 Karen Praise<br>9:00 Youth Sunday School<br>10:00 |                |