



MESSENGER

(609) 267-1841

www.fbcmh.org

January/February 2012

From the
Interim
Pastor's
desk



Continuing the Journey in 2012

A man went into a Post office to get some stamps for Christmas cards. The clerk asked him, "What denomination?" "O good heavens," said the man, "has it come to this? Well give me fifty Baptist, fifty Catholic and ten Methodist."

We are the Body of Christ, the church. The Holy Spirit has summoned us, to gather around the Word of God, to teach it, preach it, discuss it and witness to it. He calls us to worship, to baptize, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. He calls us to gather around the Communion Table and to remember what Jesus has done on our behalf.

1 Peter 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Throughout 2011 we have sought to be faithful to the Word of God. As the song says, "Through many trials, toils and fears, we have already come. Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." Yes, tis grace that has brought us safe, thus far, and grace will lead us to where God wants us to be."

2012 will no doubt be the year that God leads you to your new full-time pastor and the continuation of the journey by grace, to what God has in store for your future in Him. It has been my privilege these past twenty-three months to be your Interim Pastor. We haven't resolved all of the issues or solved all of the problems, or accomplished all of the missions and ministries God set before us, but in His will and by His authority we have resolved and solved and accomplished some.

In 2009 Karen and I, along with eight lifelong friends went on an Alaska cruise. We traveled in the Inner Passage and one of our first stops was Hubbard Glacier. All around us were snowcapped peaks. It was cold and raining and I remember how my hands were so cold as I held my camera. But, slowly we moved forward through an ice floe toward the glacier. It was about four miles away, and while I thought we may get a little closer, the ice was so dense, obviously the captain wouldn't and couldn't get the ship much closer. But slowly we moved forward, pushing through the ice, the glacier looming larger and larger in front of us. Finally we pulled to within a few hundred yards. The glacier was at least a quarter of a mile across, several hundred feet high, with pieces falling into the sea as we watched. I will never forget that sight and I have the pictures of that moment that I look at often.

I realized that the captain had done this before, that he had faith in his ship and his crew, and in his navigation equipment. But, he also had the lives of 2000 people in his care

At dinner that night, our waiter gave us his perspective on the day. He was in his quarters, below where the ice was crashing against the side of the ship. We were seeing it, he was hearing it and feeling it. But he too had done this before and had faith that the captain knew what he was doing.

How is your faith and confidence that God knows what He is doing in our midst? Faith is precious wherever it is found. I pray that you have it and use it and trust the Captain of our ship in 2012. Remember belief is passive but faith is always active. Faith is something we do.

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By Lynne Fillius, Missions Director

We hope that you had a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Usually I would share brief information on several missionary families. However, I am sharing with you a letter from only one. We are sorry to say an official good bye to them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Dear First Baptist Family,

I wanted to write a brief email to let you know that Lynda and I had a very good 4 month trip to Kenya and to Mozambique from March through July, 2011. We were able to close down the work there in Mozambique and visit many of our old friends while doing so for the month we spent there. Our Land Rover sold to another missionary who was thrilled to get it, and our household belongings were given away (mostly) and a few things sold. So that was a good time of closure for us there. And our time in Kenya with Seth (*their son*) was very good as well. We got to have him live with us as we worked and lived right at the school there, RVA. He graduated July 17th, and it was a very special day. While in Kijabe at the school, Lynda taught 8th grade girls Bible, and I was working full time at the hospital--taking care of the admitted kids on the ward, teaching the residents pediatrics, and again learning new things in a very different medical setting. I did a little teaching at RVA as well in their Tropical Medicine class. So all in all a very exhausting but good time in Kenya as well.

Now we are back in the USA and I'm back to working full time at the pediatrics group I worked with here in Thomasville, NC. It is a very different kind of medicine, and the kids are a lot less sick, but I enjoy it nonetheless. Because I'm working full time, we definitely are not in need of any further support from you all. It has been a blessing to be supported once again during this time, and we are very thankful for your help in our lives in this crucial way. But we are fine now, and your funds should be diverted elsewhere. So, thank you all again so much! Blessings as you continue to serve God there. I do trust we will keep in touch with you.

Much love, Dan for Lynda, Ben, Jesse, Lucy, Seth, and Michael

Best of Wishes to Dan & Lynda Entwistle, With all our love, from your First Baptist Church family.

Mark your calendar:

1. January 15th - Van & Jane Vanworth, missionary in Southeast Asia, will be visiting.
2. January 15th - Retired Ministers & Missionary Offering.
3. March 11th through the 18th - Mission Emphasis Week

**World Leprosy Day
January 29, 2012**

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is still a cruel reality in developing countries. This ancient disease is still a major world health problem; every two minutes someone is diagnosed with leprosy. Join thousands of people around the world in remembering the children, women and men affected by leprosy. More information at www.leprosy.org

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I faith sometimes and pray I could faith more often. In fact I am working toward faithing in God in everything I do. I'm faithing forward. How many times did you "faith" in 2011? Will you commit to grow in your faith in 2012? I will! I promise!

If you have faith the Bible says "that all things are yours"

If you have Faith – you are sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see.

"Within your faith, there lies glory even as the oak sleeps within the acorn."

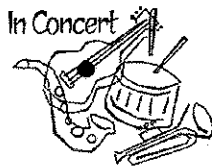
When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold that God will have on display as evidence of His victory, and isn't that what it is all about - God's victory in Jesus Christ?

Remember, the miracle of Peter was not how far he walked on the water toward Jesus – the miracle was that he lifted his leg over the side of the boat and took that first step onto water.

I thank God for this journey we are on together. I trust Him with my life and with yours.



Interim Pastor Ned Flexer



**Winter Jam
2012
Coming YOUR
way:**

**January 26th
Sovereign Center
Reading, PA**

\$15.00 per person (\$10.00 for ticket and 5.00 for gas). Leaving FBC at 4:30 pm returning after midnight. All are invited!! Start planning now so that you can make it your first concert of the New Year! Please sign up in the foyer so that we can plan transportation.

Senior Saints

Senior Saints will hold their pot blessing luncheon on **Tuesday, January 24 at noon**. Pastor Bob and Barbara Santilli will be sharing travel stories.



Senior Saints will meet on **Tuesday, February 28 at noon**. We will be entertained by the Masonic Home Bell Choir.

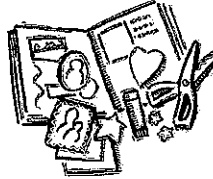
Abigail Missionary Circle

Abigail Circle meets **Tuesdays, January 3rd and February 7th at 12:30 PM** at the home of Margine Shoop, 864 Powell Road, Eastampton. Please call 609-267-5146 for directions.

**Women's Ministry
Quarterly Meeting**

Saturday, February 4, 2012 – 10:00 am
All women of the church are invited.

SCRAPBOOKING



**Days of
Scrapbooking
For TCA & FBC
Saturday, January 28th
& February 25th**

11:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Room 114

Please join us for scrapbooking, fun, and fellowship! This event is free, although donations are welcome. Please bring your pictures and needed supplies. Also, bring a snack to share. Please sign up in the foyer or contact Mina Osterhout, 609-864-4718, for more information.

On January 28th we invite children to come and "scrapbook" alongside their parent

Hope to see you there!



“Happy New Year” from the Children’s Ministry Team.

I am praying this year that Children’s Ministry will be stretched, challenged and have glorious growth from the power of our Lord and Savior as He allowed us to have last year!

January 14, 2012 will be a Children’s Ministry Volunteers

Workshop from 10 to 11:30 am with childcare. There will be a

time for encouragement, area group time to discuss your ideas and needs, and a look ahead. If you are interested in what CM is all about and want to join us, please call me, Florence Williams, at 267-1841.

Who are our Volunteers and what are our Ministries? Take a look at our Children’s Ministry Board in the foyer by the church office. You will see most of our best gifts from the Lord last year – Volunteers who love the Lord, children and parents/guardians.

We still have opportunities where YOU could help. The area that needs much more staffing is “Families in Discipleship” on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm for ages Nursery to 6th grade. Those already working are doing a fabulous ministry with the children but could use extra hands and loving hearts to do even better with them. The following are areas in need of an extra set of hands for Wednesday evenings:

1. Registration Table
2. Nursery
3. Teachers and helpers
4. > Volunteers to go on the Red Bus as chaperons.
5. For #1-3 talk with or call Nancy Volk – 609 694-7222 or Florence Williams at 609 267-1841.
For # 4 talk to Jodi Punzi.

As Philippians 3:12–14 reminds me, as well as any one who ministers for the Lord, to press on, take hold of, forget what is in the past, strain toward what is ahead, “press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Another year to grow and move ahead in the Lord!!!!!! Amen.

Florence Williams, Children’s Ministry Director

Prospective Parents and Students

You are Invited to attend

Open House At Timothy Christian Academy

1st and 3rd Thursdays of Every Month
(January through May) at 10:00 AM

See the School in Session . . .

Visit Classrooms . . .

Meet the Principals . . .

Receive Admissions Information . . .

**Please call 609-261-9578 to confirm your
attendance at one of these events!**



Baptism Classes

Classes for third to sixth grades will be held Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 AM beginning January 8th - 27th and on Wednesday evenings, January 4th - 25th, 6:45-7:45 PM. Please sign up in the foyer or call Florence Williams at 609-267-1841.

Pastoral Search Update



The Pastoral Search Committee continues to review and evaluate potential candidate profiles, CD/DVD disc, responses to our questions and to respond to questions from potential candidates. There has been additional correspondence with some of the potential candidates recently.

We ask you to continue to pray for our search committee as well as for potential candidates engaged in correspondence with us.

We continue to search out the will of God for First Baptist Church

The Pastoral Search Committee

“A man's steps are directed by the Lord, how then can anyone understand his own way?” Proverbs 20:24

Help Wanted: First Baptist Church is currently looking to fill a very important financial position.



FBCM General Treasurer - This person would answer directly to the Trustee Board. Responsibilities would include:

- overseeing the financial account of the church
- overseeing Financial Secretary and Bookkeeper
- overseeing, reviewing and disseminating financial reports
- overseeing operating accounts, monthly reconciliations and closings
- overseeing accounts payable
- providing a check and balance for the other two positions.

Extensive OJT will be provided. Estimated 5-8 hours weekly. If you feel the Lord tugging at your heart and are qualified (general business, financial or accounting background), we'd like to hear from you.

Please contact Mary Keller, 609-267-5079 or call the church office, 609-267-1841.

90 minutes of prayer and praise

Let's come together every first Saturday
January 7th & February 4th
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Come out and join us for this time to praise God for His goodness, providence, and love as well as holding the following up in prayer:

- ♦ Pray for the pastor that God has chosen for FBC
- ♦ Pray for his family
- ♦ Pray for our pastoral search team - each member
- ♦ Pray for every aspect of the search

We will sing praise songs and hymns and take time to pray.

If you have questions, contact: Michelle Denise Richardson, (609) 265-1486, denise10910@juno.com



Adult Christian Education

If you are not participating, you are missing "solid Scriptural meat"!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (some children's ministries are available):

Our main discipleship series continues on January 4th:

(* = Completed already)

Introducing the Gospel,*
The Power of the Gospel,

Enemies of the Gospel,
The Fruit of the Gospel,

***"Becoming Transformed
Through the Power of the Gospel".***

Believing the Gospel,
The Gospel in Relationships.

The general content of this series is that the Gospel is far greater than we can imagine, we are worse than we think we are, God's Spirit works in our weaknesses, and God's Kingdom is more wonderful than we can ever imagine! Everyone is welcome to attend. Bill Rohrer and Ava Wicks are our teaching/facilitating partners for this class. Class material comes from World Harvest Mission. There are no workbook requirements. Weekly pre-reading will aid meaningful understanding and application in our lives.

Our topical series starts on January 4th:

***The Book of Revelation
"Here and Now...There and Then"***

This is a Beth Moore DVD based discussion series of about ten sessions facilitated by Errol & Maxine Thomas. Look for the details in the bulletin. Better yet, plan on participating with the class!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

at 9:45 am (children's and youth ministries available):

Our main discipleship series continues on January 8th:

(* = Completed already)

The Bible, *
God: His Characteristics and Attributes, *
The Holy Spirit: His Person and His Work,
Prayer,
Spiritual Gifts,
Discipleship – Obedience,

"Fundamentals of the Faith"
Studying the Bible, *
Christ: His Person and His Work,
Salvation,
The Church,
Evangelism,
God's Will and God's Guidance.

This series covers material essential to our faith especially for new believers, but provides some "real spiritual meat" as well. Bill Rohrer and Pam LeDeaux are teaching/facilitating partners for this series. Class material comes from the teaching ministry of the Rev. Dr. John MacArthur, Grace Community Church in California. A workbook is available for a contribution of \$8. Weekly pre-reading using the exercises in the workbook will aid meaningful understanding of the topics. For visitors and those of you who wish to join the class this winter, class handouts are available at each class.

Our topical series starts January 8th:

***"Church – God's Community for
Reconciliation and Transformation."***

This series digs deeply into the Book of Ephesians. We will be looking at the provisions of God's Grace and salvation. Is it to see God and enjoy His presence forever? Is it to have the peace that goes beyond our understanding? Is it to enjoy all of the benefits of being a "son of God"? Yes! It is for all the above and more. In Ephesians we will get a clearer understanding of what it means to be saved by Grace and what comes next. We'll see that we weren't saved by works but to do works of Grace, the proper response to God's provision. John Zeshonski and others will be guiding the class through these questions and more.

Our "Open Prayer Room" continues - available to everyone – room 118:

The focus varies dependent upon prayer needs in our congregation and the leading of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome to use this room for individual or small clusters of prayer partners.

Submitted by Bill Rohrer, Ministry Staff – Adult Ministries Coordinator

Who's Who at FBC?

Recognition to the many servant leaders and volunteers that are so important to us !

While there are many volunteer helpers in our various ministries – an estimated over 100 people – the ministry leaders heading up these major ministries and services are recognized below for all of their committed and devoted servant-hood to us:

“Branches of the Vine” Major Ministries (all those not directly under one of our church boards):

Children’s Ministries (there are more than just one!)	Florence Williams, Director
Youth Ministries (there are more than just one!)	Bob Gaul, Director
Young Adult Group Ministry (really growing!)	Tab Scheffler, Leader
Adult Ministries:	
Men’s Ministries (becoming mature and focused)	Frank Punzi, Jr. Leader
Women’s Ministries (many, many services!)	Marcia Dreyer, Leader
Senior Saints Ministry (richly devoted to us all)	Edye Antonelli & Barbara Lindsey, Co-Leaders
Small Groups (providing Bible study and care)	(vacant - leadership team needed)
Christian Education (focused on discipleship)	Bill Rohrer, Coordinator

Elected Board ministries:

Music and Worship Arts related ministries	Oliver Phillips, Board Chair
Missions related ministries	Dave Dreyer, Board Chair
	Lynne Fillius, Missions Director
Timothy Christian Academy related ministries	Madeline Pryor, Board Chair
Facilities and Financial related ministries	Todd Dieterly, Board Chair, Trustees
	Frank Punzi Jr. Facilities Director
Deacon/Deaconess related ministries	John Demby Sr. Board Chair, Diaconate
	Mary Keller, Secretary/Treasurer

Elected Church Officer ministries:

Church Moderator (Chair of Executive Board)	Debra LeDeaux
Church clerk	Jackie Ott
General Treasurer	(needed)
Assistant General Treasurer	Dave Johnson
Missions Treasurer	Lynne Fillius
Financial Secretary	Audrey Young
Member at Large – Female	Barbara Lindsey
Member at Large – Male	Errol Thomas

Ministry Staff and Support Staff:

Ministry Administrator	Bill Rohrer
Branches of the Vine Ministries Coordination/ Support/ Representation	
Diaconate Support	
Pastoral Staff Support/ Representation	
Facilities Director	Frank Punzi Jr.
Physical Operations of every sort!	
Church Office Manager	Donna Haines
Secretarial and Various Services	Jackie Ott
Office Volunteer Services	

Compiled by Bill Rohrer, Ministry Staff

First Baptist Church of Mt. Holly
1341 Woodlane Road
Eastampton, NJ 08060

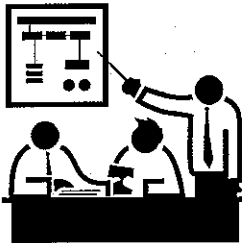
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Sunday Services
8:30 & 10:45 AM

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 29
Potluck at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM



Reserve this date for a time when we gather as a congregation to speak about our ministries and to vote on budgets for the coming year. Members are asked to attend and visitors are welcome.

Join us at 6:00 PM for covered dish dinner. Please bring your favorite food to share.

W W W

WONDERFUL WOMEN'S WEEKEND

The 8th annual retreat is coming soon!

A Circle of Women

Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in their behavior, teaching what is good, rather than being gossips or addicted to heavy drinking. That way they can mentor young women to love their husbands and children, and to be sensible, morally pure, working at home, kind and submissive to their own husbands, so that God's word won't be ridiculed. Titus 2:3-5

January 20-21, 2012, right here at First Baptist Church!

Don't miss our Secret Sister wrap-up during our Wonderful Weekend! *Meet your Secret Sister.*

Sign up sheets are in the foyer or call 609-267-1841.