

The Messenger

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Westfield



The Minister Reflects: "Present and Available!"

What is the earthly organization that is called to be present in life's most joyous and most difficult moments? Yes, the church – the organized body of Christ!

When a precious and lovely baby is born, we are usually called to dedicate the infant by praying for him or her, by praying for the parents and by committing as a congregation to faithfully support the family through prayer and the many ways that little baby will need the support of the extended community of faith.

When a beloved member of our family dies and passes from this life to eternity, we are called to do the funeral or the memorial service. We are available for grief counseling and ongoing pastoral care.

Many also feel it important that the church uphold the beloved's legacy through special endowments and special gifts.

When a couple decides to get married and they realize the importance of declaring

their vows of love and fidelity before God, they call upon the church and its ministers to officiate this very sacred life moment. Pre-marital pastoral counseling is offered to give the couple ample opportunity to discuss important areas of married life and faith intersections.

When in living daily life, we are faced with tragedy, illness, losses of any kind, and we need to be heard, to be guided, to receive pastoral counseling, to mend and to heal, the church provides through its pastoral office that much needed space for grace.

Families with young children and youth who realize that their children need to develop friendships with others who share the same values and faith will look to a vibrant and growing children's ministry and youth ministry of the church. These are families who realize that they as adults need support and reassurance in their own parenting. They

want their children to grow up to be faith-full, God-loving, society contributing and successful adults.

When folks realize that their soul is searching, thirsty and hungry to be filled with the ultimate indwelling of God in their life, some may still look to the church where good news of hope, salvation, holistic healing and peace is still the Word lived and preached.

These are the many ways that the church – the organized followers of Christ – make sure that we are still meeting all these needs in a society that more and more takes such an organization for granted, or worse yet, turns its back on its importance!

Just imagine a society without a Christian church! Mother Teresa once said, "There is always the danger that we may just do the work for the sake of the work. This is where the respect and the love and the devotion come in – that we do it to God, to Christ, and that's why we try to do it as beautifully as possible." May it be so at FBC!

Spring is just around the corner and that means our next Church Gathered Church Scattered event is being planned! Please save the date of **Sunday, April 26th** for our next day of service!

We are currently looking for team leaders to help make this day a success! If you are interested, please contact Cheryl Rosario at 908-278-9593 or cherylgrosario@hotmail.com.

If you are unable to be a team leader, we still need plenty of volunteers for the day. Stay tune for sign-up sheets in the coming months or don't hesitate to contact Cheryl Rosario directly.

Let's be good stewards and show God's Love through service to the community. We hope you will join us and are encouraging you to invite your friends and extended families as well!

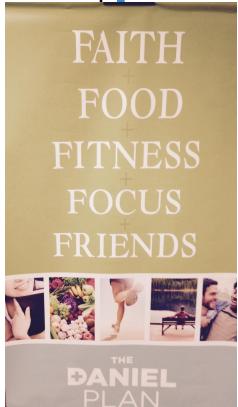
Acts 20:35 *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

God Bless,
Cheryl Rosario, Chair, CGCS



The Daniel Plan is a 40 day journey that has the potential to change your lifestyle!

Taken from the example of the prophet Daniel in the Bible, the Daniel Plan is a journey to deeper faith, healthy food choice-making, getting our bodies moving for physical fitness, staying focused on what's most important and embracing friendships who will keep us accountable and encouraged are all essentials of healthy, strong living.



We're into week 4 of the Daniel Plan and we're all motivated! We've had two groups meeting for about an hour each week, but we keep encouragement throughout the week with a group buddy. In the process, we get to know one another on a deeper level. The love of God compels us to progress in how we treat our body - the temple of the Holy Spirit.

✓If you didn't have opportunity this time around to join one of the two groups, but would like to be Daniel strong, please speak to Pastor Mayra or Pastor Kadin about your interest.

A small group for you is just around the corner!

Quotes that have inspired us thus far (among many):

"All change starts with acceptance. The second thing that helps us to change is the Spirit of God."
"If God made it (food), it's good for you. If man (*sic*) processed it, it's not good for you."

"You cannot exercise your way out of a bad diet."

"One-third of Jesus' ministry was helping people get physically healthy."

"Caring for your body is an act of worship. It is also an act of stewardship."

"The best exercise is the one that you will actually do."



Thanks to those who participated in the Shop Rite Gift Card program in January. We purchased \$1,650 in gift cards, for a donation to the church of \$82.50. The more who participate in the program, the greater donation to the church. The next order will be made in the third week in February. If you wish to participate, please submit an order form and your check by Sunday, Feb 15.

Finance Committee

February Music

Bells will be ringing

February 8

Orchestra plays

February 15

Choir/Anthems, February 1st & 22nd



And the congregation worships the Lord!!



February 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday	2 Deacons , 7pm	3	4 Daniel Plan Group, 7:30pm	5 Daniel Plan Group, 7pm	6 Children's Movie Night, 6-8pm (Brief parent mtg at 6pm)	7 Council Mini Retreat, 8:30am-2pm
8	9 Finance Committee, 7:30pm	10 Mission Committee, 7pm	11 Musical Club Concert, 1:30pm; Daniel Plan Group, 7:30pm	12 Daniel Plan Group, 7pm	13	14 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am; Valentine's Dinner, 6pm
15	16 Council, 7:30pm	17	18 Agape Potluck Supper, 6:30pm; Daniel Plan Group, 7:30pm	19 Daniel Plan Group, 7pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Financial Fitness Workshop, 7pm	28



March 7
Shiloh Baptist Church
340 Calhoun St. Trenton, NJ

March 14
New Hope Baptist Church
144 Norman Street, Trenton, NJ

Discipleship and Outreach

"You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well."

2 Timothy 2:1-2 NRSV

<p>Plenary & Academy Speaker Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson <i>Regional Pastor With Congregations, ABCOPAD</i></p> <p>Featured Tracks</p> <p>Diacanate A practical presentation concerning the work and responsibilities of deacons/deaconesses in the local church with an emphasis on training and modeling the pastoral ministry of Christ, care and ministry oversight for the congregation, and coordination with pastoral ministry.</p> <p>Trustees A practical workshop on fiscal management in the local church including budgeting, congregational giving, annual audits, fiscal oversight and accountability.</p> <p>Christian Education This workshop deals with creative and current ideas about revitalizing and growing ministry to grade school children.</p> <p>Missions Meet and hear from one of our ABC/IM missionaries about their field of service, the various current emphases in mission work and support, and new opportunities in partnership here and around the world.</p>	<p>Schedule</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">8:30 - 9:00 AM</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Registration Coffee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9:00 - 9:50 AM</td> <td>Plenary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9:50 - 10:00 AM</td> <td>Move to Sessions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00 - 12:30 PM</td> <td>Sessions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:30 - 2:00 PM</td> <td>Luncheon</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">STRENGTH IN GRACE WITNESS</p> <p>Save the dates! Online registration coming soon</p>	8:30 - 9:00 AM	Registration Coffee	9:00 - 9:50 AM	Plenary	9:50 - 10:00 AM	Move to Sessions	10:00 - 12:30 PM	Sessions	12:30 - 2:00 PM	Luncheon
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If interested in attending, please speak with Pastor Mayra.



Faith In Action in Our Own Community

For many years the church has been a diligent giver towards missions abroad and for non-profit organizations that help the homeless, the displaced and the needy in our society. This year the committee has envisioned for our church to be more of a hands on, change agent and visible presence in our community. Let us be the beautiful presence of Christ in our own place!

We will do this by:

Church Gathered/Church Scattered days of service where we mobilize as many in the congregation as possible to participate in a service project at least twice a year together and in groups. Look for upcoming announcements as to the date and service projects for this spring. Join a group, meet others in the church – meet Jesus in the face of those we serve! Thank you, **Cheryl Rosario**, for your coordination efforts with this initiative.

Launching the English as a Second Language Program (ESL) here at the church. There are many people in our communities that need this life-changing skill to speak fluently in the language of our country. Tutors are still being recruited. Tutor training will begin in March and the program will be launched soon after. Please consider being trained as a tutor and then giving of your time at least an hour a week for approximately 8-10 week periods. Thank you to **Rintu Mathew** for helping us in this endeavor! Thank you to **Marlee Araujo** who first brought the idea to the committee.

Continuing to be a supporting church to the Family Promise program of providing meals to people who are homeless on a rotating basis. Thank you to **Janet Winey** for her continued coordination of this important ministry.

Seeking other ways to be of service here in our community through financial support and presence.

Encouraging children's ministries in the many ways the children and their families can continue to do mission projects with regularity. Encouraging mission trips, both local and abroad, for our church as a whole, for young adults and youth in particular. Thank you to **Kadin Williams and Glen Brown** for your leadership in this area.

Continuing our support to the American Baptist Churches USA and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey by sending 3% of our pledges to the United Mission Offering, which in turn is divided among the national boards and regions.

Continuing to collect the World Mission Support Offering in the fall. The totality of this offering is sent directly to American Baptist International Ministries, which they in turn use to help fund the missionaries they have commissioned.

Lastly, thank you to **Leonard Gabriel** for his leadership as chair of this committee. Leonard has stepped down as chair, but will continue to add his insight and artistic spirit to the committee's efforts. We extend a warm and hearty welcome to **Cheryl Rosario** who has agreed to be chair! Thank you to **Nova Spinner** and all her hands on service during the Thanksgiving season and in December with the Home First Christmas party. Thank you to the **Janet Winey and Mary Foster**, both past chairs for their ongoing involvement through targeted service projects.

Being on mission is what the church does! The committee helps facilitate all the ways we need to do this together. If you'd like to join this amazing team, please speak to Cheryl Rosario, Pastor Mayra or Elaine Pratt, church moderator.

Agape Potluck Supper

**Wednesday, Feb 18,
6:30pm
Church Lounge
Join Us! Invite a friend! (please bring a dish to share)**

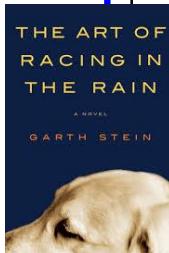


Women's Book Club

Meets Saturday, February 21 @10am in Church Lounge

Book for discussion is "The Art of Racing in the Rain", by Garth Stein.

Any questions, please contact Bette Savage at elzsvg@netscape.net



Feb 2	Bob Harvey
Feb 5	Hasitha Kakileti
Feb 8	Jesse & Lee Hinman
Feb 10	Ted Klein
Feb 11	Linda Johnson
Feb 15	Jessy Brown
Feb 16	Sirlene Roman
	Trish Scott
Feb 17	Michael Winey
Feb 18	Katie McGuire
Feb 19	Aaron Cicchino
Feb 22	Kay Schmitt
Feb 23	Nancy Martin
Feb 26	Erin Klein
Feb 28	Joseph Della Peruti



Feb 19 Michael & Susan Winey



Sat, February 14 @8:30am



Thank you to...

...those who helped to "undecorate the church": Rintu Mathew, Bill Hopkins, Ike Alvarado, Natasha Klochkovala, Donna Lind, Steve Lind, Dot Bachman, Atossa Cicchino, Matt Barton, Adriana Rodriguez, Pastor Mayra, Pastor Kadin, Cherie Parker.

...Lee Romano, Caroline Siess, Dot Waugh and Lil Wheeler for helping to mail the January Messenger.

Dot Waugh would like to thank the many church members who so graciously greet at the sanctuary door each and every Sunday. It's a wonderful welcoming ministry that they perform, and it is much appreciated.

News from the Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group....

Recent discussions included:

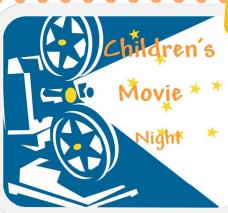
Reflections on the year 2014; changes in society...marriage, women in the workforce, etc; how to help yourself when you are alone and experiencing symptoms of a heart attack; and advice from famous people and cartoon characters.

We invite you to come downstairs, have some coffee and join us in lively discussion on a myriad of topics.

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group meets in Harvey Hall from 9am-10:15am each Sunday, and all are welcome.



Submitted by
Maryann Friscia



Friday, February
6-8pm

Children, please join us for pizza, popcorn and the movie "Over the Hedge". Dinner starts at 6:00 PM and pickup is at 8:00PM. Invite a friend, but let us know how many to expect.

- - - brief parent meeting before movie- - -

We ask that the parents stay for a brief meeting to discuss the Children's Ministries programming including Sunday school, social events and VBS. We need your input, so please plan to attend. Contact Carleen Morris with any questions and RSVP's.



First Baptist Youth Group Hosts Its Annual

Valentine's Dinner

to be held on
Saturday
February 14, 2015
at 6:00 PM
\$20 per person

For more information please call:
First Baptist Church of Westfield
170 Elm Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 233-2278

*All proceeds from the dinner will be used to help fund the group's mission trips.





www.fbcwestfield.org

FIRST BAPTIST
W E S T F I E L D

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Kadin Williams
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Glen Brown
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Nancy Lambros
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ONGOING SCHEDULE (Weekly, unless otherwise noted.)

Sundays:

- 9:00 am Singles
9:15 Adult Bible Study
9:55 Chancel Choir/Song Leaders rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service
Children's Sunday School (pre-school-5th grades)
(children join us for worship and leave for Sunday school after a children's message)
11:30 am Children's Choir rehearsal
11:30am Prayer Team meets (1st Sunday, Feb 1)
5 pm Youth Group (6th-12th grades)

Tuesdays:

- 10:30am Bible Devotion & Discussion (church library)

Wednesdays:

- 12Noon "Conversations with God" (prayer time) in our sanctuary
1-3 pm Craft Group (2nd Thurs, Feb 12)

Thursdays:

- 10:30 am The Hearing Society: Speech Reading Class

Saturdays:

- 10:00 am Women's Book Club (monthly, Feb 21)

CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Mayra Castañeda, *Senior Pastor*
Kadin J.G. Williams, *Associate Pastor*
Glen Brown, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Nancy Lambros, *Church Administrator*
Adriana Rodriguez, *Custodian*
Matt Barton, *Nightly Sexton*

OUR PURPOSE

Coming together in joyful worship,
we're here...

- To share the reality of God's love,
- To connect our lifestyles to Christian truth,
- And to put our faith into action through responding to needs in our community, nation, and world.