



# THE TIE THAT BINDS

January 2018 Newsletter of the  
First Baptist Church of Bordentown





## Crossing Over into the New Year

The New Year brings with it new opportunities – opportunities for a new beginning. If we turn to the Old Testament, we'll see the long journey of the children Israel. Moses had led them all the way from Egypt, through the Red Sea, to KadeshBarnea, through the wilderness, and they find themselves encamped on the eastern bank of Jordan overlooking the promised land. The Book of Deuteronomy records the sermons Moses preached to his people before he went up on Mount Nebo and died. In the aftermath of his death the children of Israel went on into the promised land and possessed it. Along the wilderness route there were often times when there were those who wrung their hands and doubted that they could go on and wished they were back in Egypt. Moses continued to remind them that God “brought us out from there that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He has sworn to our fathers” (Deut. 6:23).

Thus, before the blessing of the promised land became a reality for his faithful followers, Moses challenged them with the words from Deuteronomy 11:10-24. He reminds them as they cross over to their promised possession that they do so with God's provision, God's presence, God's promise, and God's protection.

As we stand at the brink of the New Year our hearts are filled with anticipation and challenge. Only God knows what the future holds but the possibilities are limitless. As we cross over into a New Year we do so with the same challenges Moses gave his people long ago. As we cross over into a New Year we're reminded of:

God's Provision - *But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven (v. 11).* As we cross over into the New Year, we do so with the assurance that the same God who sends us the autumn rains of the past will send us the spring rains in the future. It may be a land of hills and valleys, but it is a land that *drinks rain from heaven.*

***(Pastors Message continued)***

As we cross over, we're dependent on the supernatural provision of God. God is the source and he has a way of using us to accomplish his purpose. As we cross over into a new year we do so with God's provision.

God's Presence - *It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end* (v. 12). The New Year brings a fresh vision of new opportunities. What a blessing to cross over into a New Year with the very presence of God Himself. The eyes of the Lord are upon us! He is watching the single mom who raises her kids without a husband. He is watching the dad who is under tremendous pressure to provide. He is watching the teen with all the pressures of adolescence. He is watching each of us. Yes. *For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him* (2 Chronicles 16:9). Like the children of Israel, He did not bring us out except to take us in. We go into the New Year with God's presence.

God's Promise – As we enter the New Year, we do so with God's promise. What is our primary purpose? It is to love Him. It is to love God and serve Him with all our hearts and souls. So, as we cross over into the New Year we are reminded that He is our source.

God's Protection – Deuteronomy 11:16-24 reminds us that our God will protect us in all situations. Yes, it was a long journey for the Israelites, but it is also a long continuous journey for us as well. As we cross over into the New Year we are reminded as we go, we too need God's protection. There may be times when we'll be without help or hope unless God supernaturally intervenes. We are crossover people. We are crossing over into a New Year with new opportunities and new beginnings. Yes, He brought us out from there that He might bring us in to a land of blessing. As we enter a New Year, let us, like those who've gone before, love Gods...walk in His ways...and hold fast to Him.

In Him,  
Pastor Mark

# Bible Study



## Bible Study for January

Wed./Thurs. January 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> – Philippians 1:12-18,  
*Triumph in Trouble*

Wed./Thurs. January 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> – Philippians 1:27-30, *Standing Firm*

Wed./Thurs. January 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> – Philippians 2:1-4, *All for One*

Wed./Thurs. January 31<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> – Philippians 2:5-11,  
*Ultimate Servanthood*

## Worship for January

### Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

*Rev. Liz Congdon preaching*

Scripture: Ephesians 1:23

Message: "Whose Church Is This?"



## It's A Matter of the Heart!



### Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

Communion Served

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:6-13, Matthew 15:1-20

Message: "Do You Need a Cardiologist?"

### Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

Scripture: Luke 8:26-32, John 10:10

Message: "Heart Attack"

### Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

Scripture: John 4:5-42

Message: A Heart that Thirsts



**Sunday,  
January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Rev. Elizabeth  
B. Congdon**

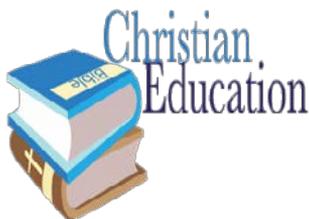


The Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon retired from being the Senior Pastor of The First Baptist Church of Trenton, NJ, a diverse inner-city church with people from Uganda, Nigeria, Liberia, Haiti, Jamaica, China, Korea, Malaysia, Burma and Thailand as well as America. Liz, a nurse and retired state worker, was privileged to be part of mission trips to the Philippines, Haiti, Rwanda, Egypt, the Hopi and Navajo Nations in the American Southwest, Malaysia, Thailand, Lebanon and the Republic of Georgia. At different times she served on Regional staff as Associate Pastor for New Church Development, Moderator for the Capital Association and President of the ABCNJ.

Liz graduated from the St. Luke's School of Nursing in NYC. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Jersey City State College and a Master's degree Magna Cum Laude from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She graduated from the Eastern School of Christian Ministry as a Lay Pastor and was ordained in 2005.

Liz is also Co-coordinator of the *Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought* and the Coordinator for Community Service and fund raising for *MOSAIC (Mobilizing Our Students for Action to build Interfaith Community)*, an interfaith education, leadership and service project. Liz lives in Red Bank and is now a member of Old First Church in Middletown. She is blessed with four daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

## The Board of Christian Education



Beginning in January we welcome Dodi Nelson, Lynne Stauffer, and Janet Strusz to the BOCE. Thank you to Kristi McCormick, Holly Studzinski, and Frank Vareha for your years of faithful service!

\*On Sunday, March 18, we will host a Trivia Night. Teams will consist of both youth and adults, with questions geared toward each group so all can participate!

\*The BOCE has been working on a job description for a Youth Leader to assist with and take over portions of the youth programs at our church. We appreciate your prayers as we continue the process of finding a suitable addition to our church family.

\*The Nursery will reopen as an area for families to drop off their small children during the church service, but we need volunteers! We are hoping for around 8 adults to volunteer to take a Sunday morning once in a while to monitor the nursery room. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up, or speak with Pastor Mark or Lauren McWhirk.



Pastor Mark will be away from January 1 - 9, 2018. If you need pastoral care during that time, please call our Diaconate chair, Amy Farina at 609-298-1992.

## Women's Society



As the year of 2017 came to a close all of us at the Women's Society are thankful for the good fellowship we shared throughout the year. We were able to help those in our own community by sharing toys through the Fall Bazaar and donating money to the Riverview Estates both projects with the congregations help. We also were able to reach out to people in need due to natural disasters from earnings of the Bordentown Yard Sale and the Fall Bazaar. In addition, we helped the Baptist community and missionaries throughout the world with the rolling of bandages for White Cross.

Now on to the year of 2018. Let us each try to say "Please" and "Thank You," "Hello," "I forgive," and maybe, just maybe overlook some of the "little things" so we may enjoy this coming year a little more without so much stress. Each member of the Women's Society pray that you, members of The First Baptist Church, have a comfortable, happy and healthy year with members of your family and friends.

Our next meeting is January 23, 2018 with Barbara leading Devotions and the hostesses are Marilyn and Barbara.

### **Annual Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Bordentown Sunday, January 28, 2018 12:30 p.m.**



The Annual Meeting for 2017 will take place on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, following the Women's Society lunch at the end of morning worship. We will celebrate the people and ministries of the past year and hear the vision from each board and committee as we move into the New Year. Won't you join us as cross over into 2018 together with God. (Reports from boards, officers, and committees due by January 7<sup>th</sup> electronically to Terry Bell @ btbrubylynn2@msn.com)



**Spring Youth Retreat  
March 2-4, 2018  
Nockamixon State Park  
Quakertown, PA**

Attention All Youth! Sign up now for the Spring Youth Retreat  
First Come, First Serve!

The theme for the weekend is "Friendship Becomes Kinship." The cost for each youth is \$50. Don't miss this weekend of fun games, good food, good fellowship, and good lessons. Get your information sheet and permission slip now from Pastor Mark or Lynne.



**Motel Ministry Needs You!**

As we begin a New Year and pray about beginning hot meals again to our folks in the local motels, we need your help. If you are available on the fourth Monday of each month between 3 and 5 p.m., won't you join us. With groceries already packed by our youth, we'll need help to pack fresh bagels (courtesy of Bordentown Bagels), and frozen sandwiches (courtesy of WAWA). We'll also need help preparing and packing dinners for distribution. And then, if you can help deliver this food to the Pine and Laurel Notch Motels, we praise you.

Our grocery bag item again this month is canned soup or canned meat. You can place your donation in the "Motel Ministry" bin in the church foyer. Thank you in advance for your generosity and service.



# January BIRTHDAY'S

Nicole Cavalier	2
Betty Sue Barnes	5
Becky Santiago	6
Todd McGonigal	9
Kaylee Dixon	10
Nate Roohr	13
Kyle McGonigal	20
Mike Carson	25
Vicki Pavlovsky	26

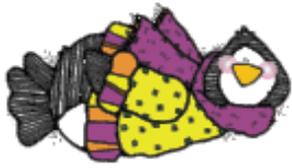


## Keep Praying For

Barry Carlson  
Phil Heitzenroeder  
Mary Lou Hengeli  
Mike Immordino  
Michael McCormick  
Terry Zahorchak

Betty Nelson  
Madeline Strusz  
Truck Stop Ministry  
Dorothy Wilbert  
Paige Inman





# JANUARY 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m..	3	4 Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	5	6 Daughters OTK 4:30 p.m. Drop-In Center 6-9 p.m.
Pastor Away						
7 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Guest Preacher 11:45 a.m. Diaconate	8	9 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m.	10 Singles Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	11 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	12	13
Pastor Away						
14 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr.	15	16 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed. 7:00 p.m.	17 Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	18 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	19	20 Daughters of the King 4:30 p.m. Drop-In Center 6-9 p.m.
21 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr.	22 Motel Ministry 3:00 p.m.	23 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Women's Society 7:00 n.m.	24 Single's Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	25 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:45 p.m. Lunch & Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr.	29	30 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.	31 Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	notes:		

