

The New Beacon

Second Baptist Church, Moorestown, NJ

Volume 6, Number 1
January, February, March 2018

"One thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five shall ye flee; til ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on a hill." Isaiah 30:17

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Highlights In This Issue

Reverend Thomas N. Holmes,
Interim Pastor

Reverend Jeffery Demby,
Associate Minister

Reverend Marsha Harris,
Ministerial Staff

Reverend Wenda Clark, Ministerial
Staff

Sunday Praise Schedule:

1st Sunday Gospel Choir
2nd Sunday Male Choir and
Praise Dancers
3rd Sunday Angel Choir and
Jesus Joy Choir
4th Sunday Senior Choir
5th Sunday Combined Choirs

9am Sunday School
10am Sunday Worship Service

Meditation at Eastertime

Interview with Reverend Holmes, Interim Pastor

New Feature: Children's Corner

Returning Feature: Black History All Year Long



Installation of Officers, 2018



Clerk, Sister Carol Kelly, called the roll of elected officers, Deacon and Deaconess', Committee Chairpersons and other church leaders. Each stepped forward and recited their pledge to service. Reverend Thomas Holmes charged them to fulfill their duties to the best of their abilities since God has blessed them with special gifts.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Remembrance, January 14th



Second Baptist Church honored the memory of Dr. King with a tribute given by Sister Kat Key. She asked us to think of a word that came to mind when we thought of Dr. King. She reminded us that we too have words that represent who we are. Are they words for which we can be proud.? Do they represent what God would have us be? She reminded us we all have the ability to serve and help one another. That was the theme as the Men's Choir sang songs of Zion, and as our Interim Pastor, Reverend Holmes, delivered the message for the day. See Romans 12: 3-16. Come together as many members with one body, with the gifts God gave you. Then use those gifts to serve others.

Missionary Service in Honor of MLK Day

Sandwiches were made. Juice boxes were bagged. Snacks were incorporated into food packs for our friends in need in the Camden area. Many thanks to all who helped prepare, bag, and deliver.

"Anyone can serve".



"Pledge to Win the Race to Unity"

Photos by J. Bish; Article by J. Bish, G. Bish and G. Williams

Second Baptist Church was the host for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. panel discussion on unity and race on January 15th. Panel participants included, in part, the Reverend Jonathan Leath from Destiny Church and Sister Linda Pepe from First Baptist in Moorestown. To an active audience key questions were posed that eat at the heart of race and equality in America. "What is White guilt? What is the cost of racism for our nation, the world? Is it wrong for a mother to be locked up for seeking to place her child in a school system not in her jurisdiction? How do we justify having homeless people in this wealthy land? How do we move forward, pass the current racial problems in our nation?" Some suggestions included reading books on other people to get their perspective. It is key to put in place political candidates that will address a multicultural agenda. Shopping and supporting minority businesses and keeping the conversation going, were other suggestions. Sister Gail Bish asks us all to "not be silent and speak out with the authority that God has given us so the pendulum does not swing back to a more primitive time."



(Continued from p.3, "Pledge to Win..."). What can we do to further the cause of racial inequalities? If you did not attend, pose these earlier questions to yourself, and ponder the issues. Need help sorting through the fear, feeling of powerlessness, anger? Read Dr. Beverly Tatum's book, **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?**. Although written in 1997, it remains a mainstay for unpacking these racial problems. Dr. Tatum writes, "Effective consciousness-raising about racism must point the way toward constructive action. When people don't have tools for moving forward, they tend to return to what is familiar, often becoming more vigorous in their defense of the racial status quo than they were initially. ...**we all have a sphere of influence, some domain in which we exercise some level of power and control. The task for each of us...is use that power and influence to interrupt the cycle of racism**".p.104

FLY EAGLES FLY!

Photos by Brother John Bish

What a nail biting, wonderful experience Second Baptist had on game day, Sunday, February 4th. The Eagles squared off against the New England Patriots for the Super Bowl, World Championship Title. Members and friends came in their favorite team attire. With lots of food and enthusiasm, we watched the game. Great plays. Great strategies. Great timing. Fly Eagles Fly!! Congratulations to the home team. Many thanks to the Men's Fellowship Committee, chaired by Deacon Clark, for such a great gathering.



The Senior Missionary Circle is deepening their commitment to service our brothers and sisters in need in Camden by reaching out every month instead of periodically. If you have a Friday evening to pack goods to be given out, and/or if you have a Saturday to travel to Camden to pass out items, please contact Sister Cecelia Dobbins or other missionary members. Your service is God's service. (See the **Children's Corner** article for further inspiration!)



Photo by
Deaconess R.
Lovelace

Trustee Linda Richardson and the Reverend Marsha Harris left in late February to continue their **missionary work in India** that they began last year. We wished them well and followed their journey to and from the continent. Upon their return they each spoke of the privilege we have in a free society to worship as we choose. In India, Reverend Harris told us, the government systematically legislates to keep Christianity from spreading". We count our blessing, as we continue to speak out for Christ.

Male Chorus and Our Own Praise Dancers



Black History All Year Long

by Dr. Gwen Gay Williams

Have you seen the hit movie, "**Black Panther**" yet? We do not have to look far back in history to see our real life heroes and heroines. We do not have to refer to any fictitious Marvel characters to find people to revere. One of the most fun parts of the movie for me was to see the costuming in Black Panther. Guess who was the designer? A **black, female Hampton University graduate, Ruth Carter** was the creator of all those beautiful designs! She is an Oscar nominated artist with 30 years of work in the industry. Now that's a modern day hero! Google her and other movie industry artists from that film. Those are your Black History Heroes of today.

Our teens and youth were treated to the blockbuster, The Black Panther, Here are some questions to open up discussions: **Do you see any similarities between President of South Africa's Nelson Mandela after he was elected and the Panther's decision to share resources? Why is the Michael B. Jordan's character so angry? Would you be also? Where might the plot of the sequel lead the characters?**

We Celebrate Black History Month, Second Baptist Style!

Thank you so much, Education Committee. Under the direction of Sister Anell Wheller, there was food, dance, dress-up, prayer and praise. The Watson Johnson Dance Theatre spoke to us in movement that was raw, real, and so moving. They addressed, in dance form, issues like "Black Lives Matter", Barack Obama's Presidency, and 20th century lynchings. Thanks to Sister Barbara Walden, who helped the church crystalize, and interpret the presentation. Sister Wheeler and Sister Odette Miller presented a token offering to CEO Carolyn Watson-Johnson at the performance's end. Many thanks to all the servers, cooks and volunteers who made the soul food dinner that followed the presentation so sumptuous.



Children's Corner

by Vivica Thompson from Interview with Missionary Odette Miller

"On January 21st, I accompanied the Missionary Circle to feed the homeless. While there I helped to give out; socks, hats, water, and sandwiches. The people that I gave the items to were very happy to receive them. They were smiling and saying GOD BLESS YOU, Thank you!



I started to feel sad as I began to think about how it must feel to be homeless. I realized how blessed I am to have what I have in my life and that I can help others.

I really enjoyed helping others and I look forward to joining the Missionaries on other trips. It does not matter what kind of mission, I am ready!!!"



Meditation at Easter

by Yvonne Bentley
from **Prescriptions Perspectives Prayers**
A Diversified Collection of Poetry and Prose

What would You have me to do Lord?
This is my humble cry!
While I toil in this mortal space,
Before You crack the sky!
What good can this mere body do?
Before my soul can be with You!
While I'm on this journey, up and down life's road,
Stepping into pitfalls and challenges untold!
You care for me a sinner,
Unworthy though I be,
Dare I to seek Your mercy, or holy face to see?
Your countenance aglow in splendor,
Majestic beauty all around,
Upon Your throne in heaven, You wear a holy crown.
No cross to bear, no thorns to mar...
O Sovereign King without a scar!
May I then too shout out my plea,
And beg for home to be with Thee?
O Blessed Savior, Your promise true...
My soul would find its rest in you!
O Risen Christ, the Son of God,
Let men bow humbly down,
Before our Lord and Savior's feet,
And hear the joyful sound!

Women's Day



Photos by J. Bish, Vincent Thompson, G. Wilson and G. Williams

Saturday, March 17th, Sunday, March 18th

Second Baptist took advantage of the fact that March was Women's History Month. The Women's Ministry used the theme "Understanding the Joy of Seeking Christ in the Struggle" and the scripture from Phillipians 3:14, "Press Toward the Mark" as the centerpiece of discussion for the two day experience. Sister Elaine Joy, Women's Ministry president, and her committee created an inspirational and educational treat for the Second Baptist community. Following a Saturday morning breakfast, and musical selection by Ashley Corbett, Montique Nash and Brianna Valentin, Dr. Priscilla Dawson introduced a panel of women who told of their personal struggles and journeys with God. In each of their chosen professions, there were challenges that included having to assert themselves as leaders and bosses. Reverend Wenda Clark, panel moderator, lead question and answer period afterward. (Continued on page 9).

Interview with Reverend Holmes: as told to by Dr.

G. Williams

I met with Reverend Holmes to help us have another avenue and line of communication with him, as he enters the role of Interim Pastor. I asked him three questions which I thought might be enlightening for us. Here is an edited summary excerpt from our 47 minute interview:

Q: How were you led to the ministry?

A: I grew up in Paulsboro, NJ at Second Baptist Church. At age 16, in an out-of-body experience, I saw myself as part of the leadership. In a homegoing service, I realized I was to be a vessel to be used by God. But not until my first wife had a stroke at age 28 did I realize it was the beginning of my calling for service to the Lord. After she passed away, I began a ministry in Health and Bereavement. I believe ministry comes out of your life experiences. (continued on p. 10)

(Continued from p.8, Women's Day) Panelists included Trustee Lucy Smith, Mrs. Angela Rhodes, Dr. Angelle Richardson and Ms. Michele Love. Sister Kaela Moore and Kyras Wallace favored the audience with praise dancing, Sisters Corbett and Valentin sang "Why We Sing". On Sunday, church began with the Praise Team's heartfelt songs of Zion, followed by worship service. A special Women's Day Choir sang "Order My Steps" and "My Life is Yours". Many guests were present to support the congregation including members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Rancocas Valley Chapter. The sermon was delivered by the Reverend Deanna Freeman of Mt. Calvary Missionary Church in Camden. Her message came from Mark 5:25. She challenged us all to "Press Forward", to move onward regardless of legalities and logistics. **Push, Press, Praise and Pray.** Our Reverend Wenda Clark and Deaconess Ruth Johnson were recognized for their service to others as they are led by Christ. A sumptuous dinner followed, facilitated by the Second Baptist men. We give special thanks to Dr. Priscilla Dawson and Sister Ashley Corbett for their coordination and creative efforts this weekend. Great job to all!

APRIL

Elizabeth Banks 4/26
Jill Beadle 4/7
Geraldine Brooks 4/6
Deaconess Earnestine Carter 4/6
Grace Chatman 4/16
William E. Chatman, Jr. 4/7
Raymond Collins 4/29
Deacon David Harris 4/3
Nehole Hunter 4/5
Deaconess Dora Jones 4/27
Warren Jones, Jr. 4/30
Kyle Kelly 4/21
Kathleen Key 4/16
Edward H. Moore 4/25
Lillie Roberts 4/6
Darrell Smith 4/7
Lucy Smith 4/27
Cassandra Stafford 4/19
Melanie Valentin 4/2
Anell Wheeler 4/21
Gladys Wilson 4/15
Albert Young 4/18

Birthdays

MAY

Kenneth Banks 5/13
Sheila Brooks 5/19
Ralphiale Calhoun 5/17
Ashley Corbett 5/2
Nobbie Hamilton 5/25
Anthony Hayes 5/21
Deaconess Ruth Johnson 5/1
Allen Jones 5/23
Jessica Jones 5/23
Roethel Little 5/15
Inez Parchment 5/30
Marilyn Robinson 5/16
Victoria Smith 5/21
Dr. Lorna Young Wright 5/9

JUNE

Linda Booker 6/17
Oscar Brooks 6/20
Marrissa Chatman 6/8
Rev. Wenda Foster Clark 6/18
Barbara Corbin 6/22
Wilma Davis 6/9
Justin Fisher 6/3
Jeffrey L. Fisher 6/4
Marilyn Fisher 6/19
Joanne Frisby 6/6
Tracy Hall 6/20
Crystal Haynes 6/1
Lydia Jones 6/17
Ashley Lovelace 6/19
Lorraine Robinson 6/7
Dr. Valerie Smith Stephens 6/12
Deacon Howard Ways 6/16
Dr. Joseph Williams 6/6

Teen Corner

What Would Jesus Do? by Dr. G. Williams; Comments or responses for the next issue are welcomed.

Sometimes it is hard to know what to do or how to react or think in these modern, challenging times. As teens all over the country left their classrooms to protest the mass shooting in Florida last February 14th, were you left wondering, "What would Jesus do?" Would He have memorialized the 17 victims? Would He have left the classrooms? Would He have fought to change the system? Would He have blamed the shooter? Would He have asked for more guns to be in schools? Hopefully you, as a Christian, whether or not you are a teen, have been asking yourself these questions. Is it time for action? Is it time to turn the other cheek? Is it time to weep? How do you answer tough questions in challenging times? You look to the Holy Spirit in you for discernment. Reading God's Word regularly helps you to hear His voice, then do His will. Then when you ask, "What would Jesus do?", you are prepared for the answer.

In Memory of



Dr. Ewaugh Finney Fields October 29, 1930 - February 5, 2018

Newsletter Committee: The committee welcomes new members Yvonne Bentley and John Bish. Other members include Odette Miller, Gwen Williams, and Gladys Wilson. Special contributors in this issue: Gail Bish, Rhunette Lovelace, Vivica Thompson, and Vincent Thompson.

Interview with The Pastor (continued from p. 8)

Q: What visions do you see for Second Baptist as we move forward?

A: I see Second Baptist having to answer several questions: Who is Second Baptist? What spiritual gifts do we have? Do we all share the same values? Are our church systems ready to accept the gifts we have? We definitely have to be purposeful about winning more souls, fortifying authentic relationships, bolstering our systems so that the gifts we have are fully used, improve technology, and build upon our daily worship life.

Q: What is the single thing we as parishioners can do, besides stay in prayer, to help you as an Interim Pastor?

A: Please meet with me. Give me feedback and constructive ideas. It allows me to understand where you are coming from. Reach out to me.



April 1 Easter Sunrise Service 6am; Easter Worship Service and Sunday School Program; 3,10,17,24 Burlington County School Leadership Classes 7pm; 21 Burlington County Board of Deacon's Monthly Mtg 6pm; 22 Deacon and Deaconess Annual Day 10am; 26 First Quarterly Church Meeting 7:30pm

May 1 Burlington County Leadership Classes 7pm; 13 Mother's Day Breakfast 7:30am; 20 Pastor's Aide Annual Day 10am; 27 Memorial Day Remembrance Service 10am

June 10 Altar Guild Annual Day 10am; 17 Father's Day Breakfast 7:30am; Father's Day Recognition 10am; 24 Student/Parent Recognition Day 10am

Second Baptist Church
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- W** Study His **Word**
- O** Be **Obedient**
- R** Have Authentic **Relationships**
- S** Be **Spirit-filled**
- H** Strive Towards **Holiness**
- I** Know Your **Identity** in Christ
- P** **Pray and Praise** God