

THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

January – April 2023

A reflection by Pastor George:

On Sunday afternoons while I drive home from church, I often listen to a radio program entitled "From the Top." It features gifted high school musicians between the ages of 16-18 who have won prestigious competitions and are on their way to attending famous music schools. I marvel at and enjoy their prodigious talents. I remember that I myself am not gifted musically, but I am still encouraged to be among those described in that verse "let everything that has breath, praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

In theology we have the expression, "theology from below and theology from above." Theology from below is when we humans imagine how God looks and we "anthropomorphize" (make God to look like us – "Anthropos") Him. Theology from above is God revealing Himself to us in all His glory and telling us that He is beyond comparison; there is no one with whom we can compare Him in His essence, virtues, and glory.

The story of Christmas brings me to what is one of my favorite Christmas songs, "I Wonder as I Wander." In my own wandering I have gained a better grasp of our humanity. I have parents and siblings and friends, and I understand us, the Homo Sapiens, the ones created by God. What I do not understand is how the "uncreated," the Eternal God, comes to be one of us. I have read many times when Paul writes that Jesus Christ being the form of God, did not consider His equality with God as something to be grasped, clanged to, but humbled Himself and became one of us (Philippians 2:6-11). He became one of us without losing who He is in His divinity – from the top, He came to the bottom. Yet, at the

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Our Mission Statement

The mission of our church is to equip believers to deny themselves and follow Christ by serving the church and witnessing to the world.

Sunday Services:

All Church Worship Service: 9:30 am
Education Hour for all ages: 11:00 am

Services are also available on Facebook Live at First Baptist Church Mount Holly and YouTube FBCMh NJ

Contact Information for the Church Office:

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Church Office: church@fbcmh.org
Office Manager: Pat Daniels pdaniels@fbcmh.org
Address: 1341 Woodlane Road, Eastampton, NJ 08060
Phone: 609-267-1841
Fax: 609-267-5747
Website: www.fbcmh.org

Facility Manager: Matt Adams facility@fbcmh.org
General Treasurer: Ginny Harrison business@fbcmh.org

FBCMh Staff Contact Information:

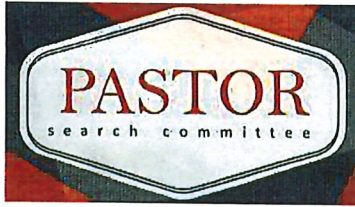
Interim Pastor George Hancock-Stefan ghancock@eastern.edu
Board of Elders:
Mark Bartlett dmbartlett1@gmail.com
Robert Broadnax robertbroadnax10@gmail.com
John Demby [johndemby@verizon.net](mailto: johndemby@verizon.net)
Darren Motley dmotleymusic@yahoo.com
Bill Rohrer w825rohrer@comcast.net
John Zeshonski johnzsr@comcast.net

Ministry Directors/Contacts:

Missions: Debi LeDeaux missions@fbcmh.org
Children's Ministry: Dorie Bartlett doriemark5@gmail.com
Men's Ministry: John Demby johndemby@verizon.net
Women's Ministry: Amy Motley women@fbcmh.org
Youth Ministry: pdaniels@fbcmh.org
Young Adults: Isabel Castro-Bivins pdaniels@fbcmh.org
Counseling Office: Tabatha Scheffler 609-267-1841

Timothy Christian Academy:

Principal: Dawn Adams dadams@tcaschool.com



****Update****

After tallying all the surveys completed by our congregation, the Committee compiled the information and wrote the Profile Report of who we, FBCMH, are. This report was then forwarded to the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey (ABCNJ) in Trenton and made available for candidates who may be interested. Once a candidate expresses interest in us, we will be contacted by ABCNJ.

The committee wants to thank our congregation for your continual prayers and encouragement as we seek the will of our God to complete the total Christian Search process.

Committee Members

<u>Senior Adults:</u>	Pam Lutz
<u>Parents:</u>	Cristina Bivins
<u>Young Adults:</u>	Emily Bartlett
<u>Members at Large:</u>	Mary Keller, Michelle Richardson, Oliver Phillips
<u>Elder Board:</u>	John Demby
<u>Alternate:</u>	Pamela LeDeaux

"I will wait for the Lord. I will put my trust in Him." (Isaiah 8:17)



We praise the Lord for adding to our membership in May and October of 2022. We are pleased to welcome the following into the FBCMH family:

Edwin Matos	Kathy Matos
Joshua Trejo	Diana Trejo
Nathan Motley	

May the Lord continue to grow our membership in the new year.



In the coming year, "what resources could be unleashed for.... missions and for those who live on the edge of survival."
(quote from "Discipleship Essentials" by Greg Ogden)

We are called not only to meet the physical needs of the poor but most importantly to share the gospel with them. Their spiritual survival is our "field ripe for harvest". The Spirit of the Lord is on me, ... to proclaim good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18)

The Missions and Missionaries that we support serve in a variety of ways, reaching people where they have the greatest needs. Here are those we support and many of the areas they encounter.

Fighting Food Insecurity & Homelessness:

Seeds of Hope, Camden, NJ
Christian Caring Center, Browns Mills, NJ

Ministering to Refugees:

Pastor Vitali & Irena Yuckovski, Ukraine
Neriyah & Anna Arabov, Israel
Steve & Iris Matusik, Germany

Preparing Servants for the Mission Field:

Steve & Sharon Entwistle, Florida
Dee & Tim Manning, Virginia

Supporting Women in Crisis:

Seeds of Hope, Camden, NJ
Karen Smith, ABC International
Susan Hegarty, Costa Rica

Witnessing & Discipling Children:

Anna Farrow, Indigenous Peoples, New Mexico
Rich & Carol McArthur, Guatemala
Gary & Sharon Goodrow, AWANA, USA
Bill & Anne Clemmer, Central African Republic



The men's Thursday Bible Study continued at 11:00 am each week. We have been identifying and studying the Parables of Jesus.

Our Saturday morning Fellowship Breakfasts also study the Bible each month. We currently have been studying the characteristics of a Kingdom Man as presented through the material written by Tony Evans. "Anthony Tyrone 'Tony' Evans is an American Christian pastor, speaker, author, and widely syndicated radio and television broadcaster in the United States. Evans serves as senior pastor to the over-9,500-member Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas. Evans is also the first African American to write and publish the full Bible Commentary, in addition to more than 100 books."

In October of 2022, five of our men were blessed to attend another Men's Retreat at Sandy Cove in Maryland for the weekend. The theme for the weekend was "10x The Better Man- To Live & Serve God as the Better Man".

We welcome and encourage all men to become a part of our men's programs where the fellowship abounds as we grow in our knowledge and commitment to our Lord.

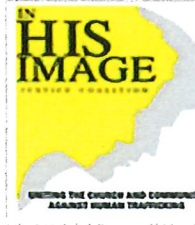
We strive to follow in the manner of Matthew 4:10: "Jesus said, Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only":
For the Men's Ministry, John Demby

Timothy Christian Academy

1341 Woodlane Road, Eastampton, NJ 08060

Pre-school – 8th grades

Tours of the school can be scheduled by contacting the school at 609-261-95798 or info@timothychristianacademy.com



In His Image Justice Coalition

In His Image Justice Coalition (IHJC) is closing out 2022 with thanksgiving to God! We had an extremely successful 8th annual Walk for Freedom, with well

over 100 people in attendance. Pastor Geralda of St. Paul's UMC, who hosted the walk, is meeting with our leadership to help facilitate ongoing connections between our ministry and the church/community in Willingboro. Judi and Erin Worgess attended International Christian Alliance against Prostitution's (ICAP's) triennial conference in Green Lake Wisconsin, with training sessions, connections, and lots of encouragement. IHJC received its first grant from Investor's Bank, and will be using monies received for education through billboards. IHJC speakers gave a presentation to RCBC's students in November, and the RCBC Graphic Design class created posters and brochures for us designed to appeal to youth. We were also able to help a survivor with some urgent, practical needs this month, thanks to the generosity of God's people!

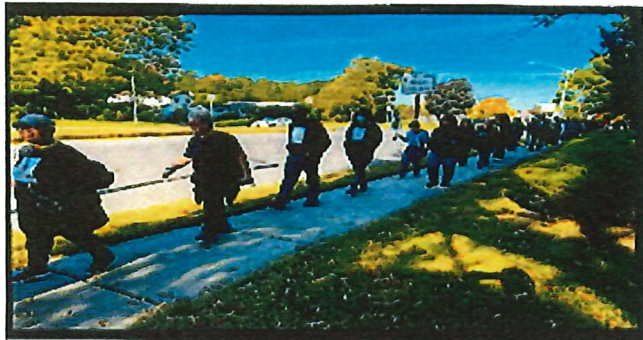
We ask for your prayers as we applied for a second grant for community education. Our team averages 3-4 presentation/month including local high schools. We also have visits to businesses and hotels planned to provide the employees with info to identify and report human trafficking.

We encourage you to join us in prayer on the fourth Sunday each month at 6:30 pm.

Judi Worgess

Trades of Hope, Compassionate Entrepreneur

www.mytradesofhope.com/judiworgess



First Baptist,



In His Image Justice Coalition
Uniting the Church and Community Against
Human Trafficking

www.freedomfromtrafficking.com
injusticecoalition@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/injusticecoalition>
Instagram: @injusticecoalition
Twitter: @HisCoalition
PO Box 424, Mount Holy, NJ 08060

Thank you for
joining us in the
WALK FOR FREEDOM.

WE ALWAYS APPRECIATE
YOUR CONTINUAL SUPPORT
& I PRAY THE LORD
BLESS OUR PARTNERSHIP
SO WE CAN SEE HUMAN
TRAFFICKING END.

Kindest regards,
In HIS IMAGE JUSTICE COALITION

We also have a prayer guide on our website

If you suspect someone is being trafficked, report it. Scan the QR to
access local hotline numbers and learn to recognize the signs of
human trafficking or contact us at www.freedomfromtrafficking.com



Children's Discipleship

The children we work with each Sunday have been awesome this last
quarter. We had a wonderful Fall Festival with over 100 in attendance,
enjoying smores, hay rides, and fun with pumpkins.

We continue to teach Simply Loved the at the 9:30 am hour where
children are focusing on the Old Testament and how the Lord speaks
through the prophets and teaches them that God is powerful.

During the second hour, 11 am, we divide into small groups and dive
deeper. We are teaching through Kids Own Worship that God does
marvelous deeds. We will soon be using the Gospel Project to the whole
group which is already being taught by Nathan Motley to one class.
Gospel Project also works through the Old Testament, studying 1st
Kings-1st Samuel, and learning unity to division and back again...but in
all things they learn that God's plans are perfect.
Dorie Bartlett, Children's Ministry Director



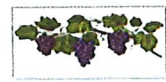
Merry Christmas from the Awana club. AWANA stands for Approved
Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Tim 2: 15. As workers for Christ we
have much to be thankful for this Christmas season. We have seen
100% growth from this time last year with 21 Children now attending
our Sunday afternoon club. This past fall we are quickly approaching
being half way through the club year. This past Thanksgiving we
collected cans of food and delivered them to the Christian Caring Center
in Browns Mills. Teaching the children that God's love extends into our
community to provide essential needs. The children have memorized at
least one Bible verse each week and many come ready with several
verses memorized. We also picked up a fantastic game director Mrs
Jessica Turpin, she brings creativity, energy and focus to the club and
children are very excited to participate in the games played each week.
Please continue to pray for workers as with 21 children and only 6
leaders the ratio can be a bit overwhelming at times. Our workers
clearly fit the 2 Tim 2:15 model and I am proud of each one and proud
of the clubbers commitment to study and memorize the word of God.
Mark Bartlett, FBC Awana Club Director

(Pastor George's letter continued from page 1)

bottom, in His humility, He is still God and Elizabeth recognizes Him as her Lord while He is in the womb, and the Magi come from the distance to worship Him.

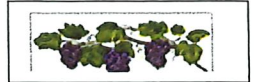
The author of Hebrews invites us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God (Hebrews 12:2). The incarnation of Jesus was an act of humility, the crucifixion was an endurance of shame, but it was filled with the joy of saving us. The completion of the work of Jesus was accepted by the Father and thus He is now seated in glory even at this time. As we complete this year and we start another, my prayer for me and for the church is that our eyes will be fixed on Jesus as we journey together.

Pastor George



THE GRAPEVINE MINISTRY

A "One Another Ministry"



1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up"

The members of the Grapevine Ministry look forward to all God has in store as He opens doors of opportunity to serve Him in the new year. We have confidence in God's new horizons for the ministry because He has been so very gracious in the past.

Father God, Abba, we thank you for

- Implanting Your purpose into every word written in the cards we send.
- Imposing your perfect timing on every card. You are never early and never late, but always there when the need arises.
- Your faithfulness to the ministry and the faithfulness You instill in our hearts to make ministry meetings a priority and a blessing.
- The new member you chose for us this year. Whenever we think we are complete, You show us there are new blessings to experience. Thank you, Lord for Donna. And thank you, Lord, for others You may be preparing to send our way.
- Your full and timely provision through the many friends of the ministry You send to us. We are so grateful for the gifts of cards and stamps and funds and words of encouragement that come our way. And we are so thankful for Pat Daniels who faithfully prepares the prayer request listings that form the basis of the ministry.

- (Continued on page 11)

(Grapevine Ministry continued from page 10)

- The warmth and beauty of the fellowship that has grown up among the members of the ministry. As we care for one another and pray for one another you have woven in our hearts a deep love for one another.

Father God, Abba, as a new year of opportunity opens before us, keep us faithful to the tasks You will lay before us and keep us amazed by the new opportunities You will create for the Grapevine Ministry.

We thank you, Father, in the name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted by and for the ladies of the Grapevine Ministry,
Pam Lutz



Prayer Ministry



Please join us for Prayer at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for one hour. This is a time of intercession and giving thanks to the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:1 says, "Most of all, we are writing to encourage you to pray with gratitude to God. Pray for all men with all forms of prayers and requests as you intercede with intense passion."

As we have in past years, we will have virtual prayer to bring in the New Year. You can choose an hour long segment of time that works for you from 12 noon on the last day of the year until 12 noon on the first day of the year.

We hope to see you in the prayer room on Sunday nights.

Prayer ministry leaders,
Michelle Richardson and Anita Wolvin

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
James 5:16 (KJV)

Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church of Mt. Holly

Last quarter, the Women's Ministry was very busy with monthly activities. We had Movie Night on Friday Sept. 16th. It was a beautiful night and fun movie with snacks and drinks under the night stars! Coffee and Table Talk at my home on Saturday, Oct 1st was a nice intimate time with ladies sharing coffee and devotional. And we enjoyed a wonderful time at Dorie Bartlett's for a night of Bunko on Friday, Nov 4th.

December was busy with our yearly Christmas brunch on the 3rd (it was delicious!) A special devotion was shared by Lois Zeshonski and a few ladies shared meaningful testimonies and memories. The event ended with a fun game prepared by Dorie. Then on Friday Dec 16th from 7-9 we held a Christmas Cookie Exchange. So many cookies! So little time!

Here are a few plans for this upcoming quarter.

Fellowship Meals – Wednesdays from 6-7pm – Please note the following dates and mark them on your calendar. January 4th & 18th

February 1st only (Followed by Women's quarterly meeting at 7pm)

March 1st & 15th

April 19th only – Easter is early in the month, April 9th

Other activities:

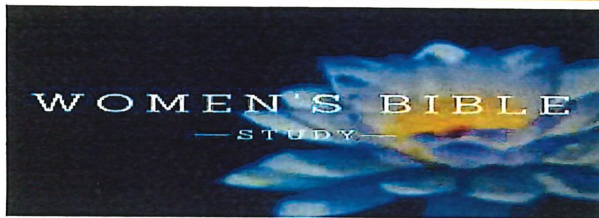
Friday, February 17th 1 – All church dinner and Bunko

Looking to host a Lifeway Women's Simulcast – The Theme is "Let's Pursue Christ Together in Truth". The actual Simulcast is April 29, 2023 but we need to still decide on the date we will have the showing. Our planning meeting is to be held sometime in January 2023.

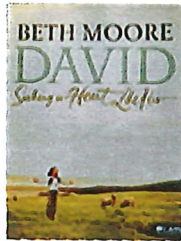
Please let us know if you would like to be a part of the Women's Ministry and planning. Our goal continues to be to promote the unity of our congregation, both internally and around the world.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity!" – Psalms 133:1

Submitted by Amy Motley, director



A new Women's Bible Study will be coming soon!
"DAVID: SEEKING A HEART LIKE HIS"



"God will never give up on you. Explore how David's life proves this promise to be true in this updated edition of the best selling *A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David*. In this examination of the "man after God's own heart," David will delight and disappoint you. You'll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you!"

If you ever experienced doubt, temptations, inconsistencies, losses or anguish over family problems you can join us on an intimate journey to know King David, the man after God's own heart.

You can order the study book on Amazon or at Lifeway.

This new Bible Study for women will meet on Tuesday evenings, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm starting January 24, 2023 and continuing through April. Join us. We will grow together.

(Missions continued from page 4)

Providing Faith-based Education Opportunities:

Urban Promise, Camden Forward School, Camden, NJ

Building Communities of Faith:

Chuck & Cathy Powers, France

Matt & Christy Rasch, France

Ben & Michelle Hildebrand, France

Steve & Iria Matusik, Germany

Neriyah & Anna Arabov, Israel

Providing Medical Services to the Underserved:

Bill & Anne Clemmer, Democratic African Republic

Debi LeDeaux, Missions Director

Adult Christian Education

Education Hour: 11:00 am, Room 201

We invite and encourage all adults of any age who attend FBCMH to join our A.C.E class held every Sunday following the worship service in classroom 201.

Currently A.C.E. is in the middle of a study of missionary history led by Pastor George that will go through the middle of January 2023. In the New Year of 2023, planned studies include the book of Hebrews and the book of Isaiah.

The beginning of new study topics are announced in the bulletin but we invite you to join us at any time.



Sunday, February 26, 2023

After our Worship Service

Pastoral Search Committee Update

Other FBCMH news and updates.

All Are Welcome; Members Vote



All Church Family Fellowship Meals

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month

at 6:00 pm

Next Meals: January 4 and 18, 2023

Women's ministry meeting after meal
on the third Wednesday of the month.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

from 10 am to 3 pm

Register online at RedCrossBlood.org

Search for sponsor code: FBCE

You can be a super hero and save a life!

