

**Return Service Requested:**

First Baptist Church at Pedricktown  
P.O. Box 117  
89 West Mill Street  
Pedricktown, NJ 08067

**-2018 Church Leaders-**

Moderator	John Jordan
Church Clerk	Eleanor Clemente
Treasurer	Bruce Lindle
Missionary Treasurer	Ruthann Moore
Financial Secretary	Patty Ferrell

Adult Discipleship Team (5)

Esther Jackson– chair  
Lois Jordan  
Loraine Young  
Bill Keating  
OPEN

Stewardship Team (7)

John Egan-chair  
Lisa Rudderow-Secretary  
Harry Moore  
OPEN  
Kelley Piel  
John Cobin  
Don Brickner-Vice Chair

Worship Team (5)

Dede Marsango  
Christine Cobin  
Brian Heintzelman  
Connie Clark-Chair  
OPEN

Pastoral Care Team (5)

Tina Nipe– chair  
Marion Crawford  
Melby Hite  
Patty Ferrell  
Charlotte Carty

Children & Youth Discipleship Team (5)

Jaclyn Minguez-chair  
JoAnne Taylor  
Laura Brickner  
Gary Minguez  
Chrissy Cox

Mission Team (9)

Nancy Kohler-chair	Josephine Pedrick
Eleanor Clemente	OPEN
Betty Egan	Claire Kohler
Ruthann Moore	OPEN
Warren Shiffer	

Please submit information to the office (299-2123) or email ([fbcop@comcast.net](mailto:fbcop@comcast.net)) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, to be considered for publication in this newsletter.

**February  
2019**

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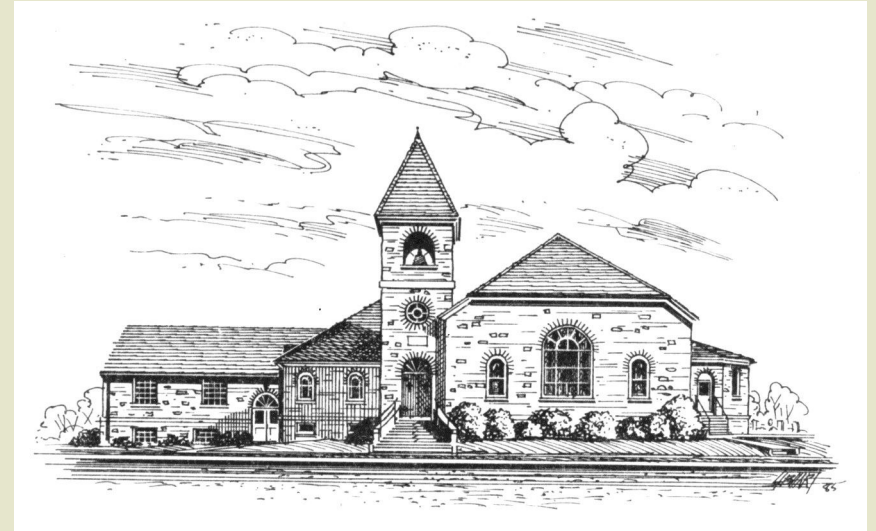


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# FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



P.O. Box 117  
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[www.fbcpedricktown.org](http://www.fbcpedricktown.org)

*Pastor:*  
Merrit Marsango  
*Editor:*  
Michele Wallin

*Our Mission... "to birth and develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ who are characterized by faith, hope and love."*

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

*Then [Jesus] said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23).*

In our lifetime most American churches have focused on church membership versus Christian discipleship. You join a church and fulfill the requirements of membership: give financially to the church, serve in an office, attend worship, etc. The focus is allegiance to an institution.

But Jesus consistently invited people to “follow me.” He did not invite people to join His church. He did not say, “Receive me as your Savior,” or “Let me into your heart,” or “Pray this sinners’ prayer.” Jesus isn’t seeking people who will “receive” or “accept” Him. He invites people to follow Him because He offers a growing, on-going, transformational relationship with Him.

Jesus has in mind the relationship of disciple to master. A disciple is a learner who attaches him or herself to a teacher and master. Being a disciple requires the surrender and submission of one’s life to the master. It goes well beyond fulfilling the minimal requirements of church membership to remain on an active member list. Discipleship is an allegiance to a person versus an institution. Therefore, a disciple “follows” Jesus.

Discipleship is pursuing an ever-deepening relationship of devotion and obedience to Jesus Christ and results in a radical change of lifestyle where we seek to become more like Jesus each day. Consider what Jesus says in John 8:31: **“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”** In his commentary, *The Gospel of John*, F.F. Bruce writes on this verse: “... discipleship is something continuous; it is a way of life. A true disciple has an affinity for his teacher’s instruction and accepts it, not blindly but intelligently. The teacher’s instruction becomes the disciple’s rule of faith and practice.”

Is it possible then to be a member of a Christian church—and not be a disciple of Jesus? Sadly, I think so. Jesus pointed out the difference in His interactions with the Pharisees. He said they obeyed the traditions of the Jewish faith religiously—but refused a deepening relationship with God, through His Son, Jesus! That is not only ironic—it’s tragic. Similarly, we can follow all the traditions of a Christian church, yet reject that same deepening, transformational relationship Jesus offers us. We can be a church member in good standing and yet refuse to follow Jesus closely by “holding to [His] teaching.”

How do I know when I’m a disciple of Jesus? Read the words to some of the old hymns like: “Living for Jesus,” “Take My Life and Let It Be,” “I Surrender All,” and “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.” These hymns tell the real story of Christian discipleship with the last one proclaiming, “Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting yielded and still.”

I think many Christians fear and avoid the call to discipleship (“Follow me”) because it seems too demanding. They fear they’ll lose too much by following Jesus closely. But how much do we lose when we refuse our Savior’s invitation to know Him intimately and become more like Him—which results in bringing Him great joy?

## CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 12/31/2018

Those with pledges have given \$10,935.00

Others (no pledges) have given \$4,710.00

Total received as of 12/31/2018 is \$15,645.00

Thanks for your help with the Cedars of Lebanon campaign to help more children attend and be blessed.

Don’t forget to earmark the contribution for CEDARS OF LEBANON to make sure that it is applied to the right account.



**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**  
**February 16th 2019 at 9 AM**  
Talk of the Towne Restaurant  
Bring a Friend to join in the Fellowship!!!

## Got Love?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?



—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

An Underappreciated Faith Hero

Saul, who was converted from persecutor of Christians to the foremost evangelist Paul, is a tremendous role model for surrendering one's life to Jesus. But another man in that story warrants celebration, too.



Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, lived in Damascus when Saul was led there, blind from his bright-light encounter with Jesus. The Lord told Ananias to visit Saul, lay hands on him and restore his sight (see Acts 9:11-12). Not surprisingly, Ananias resisted; he knew of Saul and his violence toward Christians. Yet the disciple surrendered and obeyed.

To top it off, when Ananias arrived, he spoke the warmest of greetings: "Brother Saul ..." He didn't just call Saul by name, nor did he berate him. Despite initial misgivings, Ananias claimed this former enemy as a fellow member of God's family. What an act to follow!

An Exciting Eulogy

Some men were talking about death and dying when this question came up: "What would you want people to say about you at your funeral?"

One replied, "I'd want people to say, 'He was a great and compassionate humanitarian who cared about those in need.'"

A second said, "I'd want people to say, 'He was a good father and husband, whose life was a fine example for others to follow.'"

A third answered, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

The refrain of the hymn, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" is, *Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus is my plea; Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.* Jesus has already granted the plea with the simple invitation, "Follow me." It is our choice to accept or reject His invitation to discipleship.

Sincerely in Christ,  
*Pastor Merrit*

GOD'S SERVANTS February

Greeters:

- 3rd - Melby & Jim Hite
  - 10th OPEN
  - 17th Worship at 2nd Baptist
  - 24th Stephanie Perry
- If you would like to serve as a greeter, please contact Charlotte Carty at (856) 299-3815.

Scheduled Scripture Readers:

- 3rd Jaclyn Minguez
  - 10th Johnny Cobin
  - 17th Worship at 2nd Baptist
  - 24th Eleanor Clemente
- If you wish to have your name added to our reader's list, please contact Michele Wallin at (856) 299-2123.

Nursery/Toddler Room Volunteers:

- 3rd JoAnne Taylor & Nancy Kohler
  - 10th Vicki Justice & Valerie Rinnier
  - 17th Worship at 2nd Baptist
  - 24th Kelley & Sarah Piel
- Please report to the nursery/toddler rooms by 9:30 a.m. If you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled week, please arrange for a substitute and let the church office know by Thursday morning of that week.

Junior Church Volunteers:

- 3rd Lisa & Joel Rudderow
  - 10th Nancy Kohler
  - 17th Worship at 2nd Baptist
  - 24th Laura Brickner
- If you feel led to help with Junior Church or the nursery, please contact Jaclyn Minguez at (609) 202-8491.



## **PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Our next fellowship Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 9th from 8:30-10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Prayer Breakfasts provide a great time of fellowship with others believers. Community, Church, and individual needs can be expressed and shared for support in prayer. All are invited to attend. Please sign up in the foyer if you can attend.

## **Church Cancellation due to Weather**

If the National Weather Service has issued a weather warning, such as a winter storm warning, that is in effect during a scheduled service, that service may be cancelled. Notice of cancellation will be posted on the church website ([www.fbcpedricktown.org](http://www.fbcpedricktown.org)) and the FBC Pedricktown Facebook page by 8:00 AM or as soon as possible. In addition, a recorded message concerning the cancellation of a service may be accessed by telephoning the church at (856)299-2123. If you would like to be notified by phone concerning the cancellation of a service, please contact the church office at (856)299-2123 and your name will be added to the "Please Call" list.

**Coming in February:** The congregation of Second Baptist Church in Pedricktown has invited us to be their guests at their 11am worship service on Sunday, February 17th. Please mark your calendars as we look forward to praising the Lord with our brothers and sisters at SBC.

**Reminder:** According to the change to the church bylaws the date of the next business meeting will be on Sunday, February 10th after worship. Please make plans to attend.

## **Neighborly Love**

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, "When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way."

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: "Rogers' real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn't a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it's a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don't see and feel that, and act on it, then you're just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan."

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers' real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, "We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred."

## **Affectionately Yours**

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.