

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) by the 20th of each month, to be considered for publication in this newsletter.

January
2019

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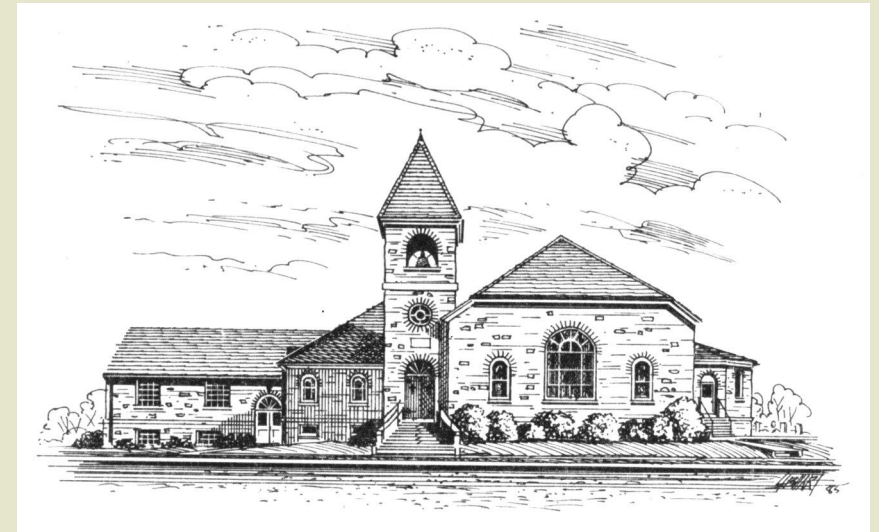
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FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



P.O. Box 117
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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

Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord (Acts 15:37-40).

While listening to the news I heard my alma mater, Rider University, mentioned and was excited, until I heard the details. Rider had polled students to see which chain restaurant they wanted brought to campus and the favorite was Chik-Fil-A. But the school's leadership vetoed the choice based on the franchise being as they stated, "widely perceived to be in opposition to the LGBTQ+ community." They continued by stating, "We sought to be thoughtful and fair in balancing the desire to provide satisfying options for a new on-campus restaurant while also being faithful to our values of inclusion."

That got me thinking about "values of inclusion" and the true meaning of tolerance. In 2012 the CEO of Chik-Fil-A stated the company supported "the biblical definition of the family unit," meaning it did not support gay marriage. So Rider's leaders banned the company from campus based on "widely perceived" ideas and because a biblical opinion on this issue doesn't fit into their "values of inclusion." Therefore, not everyone is "included" at my alma mater!

Rider's decision indicates a lack of tolerance of some opinions, while demanding vendors maintain one view (acceptance) on issues of homosexuality. Tolerance means: "Sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own." That means there must be a disagreement present for tolerance to exist. Tolerance doesn't mean removing all beliefs or opinions differing from one's own. It means respecting those holding differing opinions and their right to hold them. It could also mean working productively with those holding opposing views! Imagine if Rider brought Chik-Fil-A on campus and started a dialogue between the opposing sides of the issue. What a positive lesson that would be to students!

Paul and Barnabas had differing views on Mark's usefulness. Paul saw him as unfit for the work while Barnabas sought to mentor and encourage him. They couldn't agree so they went in different directions. However, Paul and Barnabas did not hold grudges and continued to serve Christ as brothers in Christ. Later, Paul named Barnabas as a positive example (1 Corinthians 9:6) and stated that Mark had been helpful to him in ministry (2 Timothy 4:11). So these three men were able to have a strong disagreement—yet continue their relationship to serve Christ effectively. What an example of true tolerance!

How about President George W. Bush and rock star Bono working together—and becoming friends! While disagreeing on many political issues, the two agreed that people in developing countries shouldn't die of AIDS when effective drugs are available. Bono approached Bush in 2003 seeking U.S. financial assistance to fight AIDS in Africa. Despite their disagreements, the men partnered together to save an estimated 11 million people so far. Bono said of Bush, "I've become very fond of him." What an example of true tolerance!

CEDARS OF LEBANON



There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 12/23/2018
Those with pledges have given \$10,925.00
Others (no pledges) have given \$4,710.00
Total received as of 12/23/2018 is \$15,635.00

You have all been very generous and the Mission Team continues to thank you for being so willing to help children attend the camp. You have been a blessing to them.

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

We are wishing you a healthy, happy, peaceful and blessed New Year.

Prayer Warriors

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel "jarring" to see "so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos," writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it's a modern-day version of the New Testament's reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. "With that context in mind," Barkhorn writes, "Facebook shouldn't cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does."

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, "Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, 'We should really pray for this.' ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away."



Happy New Year!!! It's hard to believe that we are now in January 2019!! How quickly the school year is going this year. Looking back at pictures of the children from September, they all look so much older already and how much they have grown and matured!

Looking ahead:

January 7 – 11 is Student Assessment Week

January 21st we will be closed for Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day.

January 28 – 31 is Parent Teacher Conferences

We will once again be doing our "Race for Grace" fundraiser. Information is coming home in January. The race is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 28. This is our largest fundraiser each year!

Have a wonderful January!

Shelley McFarland

Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, January 19th 2019 at 9 AM
Talk of the Towne Restaurant
Bring a Friend to join in the Fellowship!!!



A New Way in Business

Years ago, when I began giving lectures, I was often warned not to mention the word "God." Now as I give lectures, I am thanked when I make reference to God. These are not isolated incidents; it is the beginning of a new way in business.

-Wally Amos, who began the Famous Amos Cookie Company

Today some groups have hijacked the true meaning of tolerance. They believe you show tolerance by renouncing your beliefs, which differ from theirs, and adopt their views completely. There must be a winner and a loser—and they must win! That's Rider University's twisted value of inclusion. It's "inclusion" that comes via the exclusion of some!

In Christ's church let us hold to the positive examples of Paul, Barnabas and Mark, who were able to disagree, yet remember that the effectiveness of Christ's church is always based on unity. Jesus prayed that we all might be one (John 17:21) despite our differences!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Merrit

GOD'S SERVANTS January

Greeters:

6th OPEN
13th Gail Lemke
20th Naomi Trostel
27th Stephanie Perry

If you would like to serve as a greeter, please contact Charlotte Carty at (856) 299-3815.

Scheduled Scripture Readers:

6th Kelley Piel
13th Lisa Rudderow
20th OPEN
27th Charlotte Carty

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:

6th Kelley & Sarah Piel
13th Jaclyn & Gary Minguez
20th Connie Clark & Esther Jackson
27th Barbara Jo Perry & Melby Hite
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:

6th Jaclyn Minguez
13th Laura Brickner
20th Pam Golt
27th Connie Clark & Patty Ferrell
If you feel led to help with Junior Church or the nursery, please contact Jaclyn Minguez at (609) 202-8491.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The regular meeting of the membership of the church was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. At this meeting:

- Officers and team members were elected. Although most positions were filled, opportunities for service still exist on the Adult Discipleship Team, the Stewardship Team, the Worship Team and the Children and Youth Team.
- The 2019 General Operating, Capital and Missions budgets were adopted. The 2019 budgets reflect a \$1,000.00 increase in Missions and a 4% increase in General Operations. Tithes and offerings anticipated for General Operations are essentially the same as 2018. Surplus from 2018 will be used to meet the additional expenses. Since giving in 2018 has not met the 2018 budget, actual giving in 2019 will need to increase by approximately 4% to meet the 2019 budget requirements.
- Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were approved. In addition to corrections and minor changes in grammar, the amended By-Laws provide:
 - * Audits of church finances are required only when the Leadership Community determines an audit to be appropriate.
 - * Regular meetings of the membership be held on the second Sundays (instead of Wednesdays) in February, June and November following the conclusion of morning worship services.

Thanks to all members and friends who attended the November business meeting and participated in our discussions and decisions.

John D. Jordan, Moderator

Vacation Notice: Pastor Merrit will be on vacation December 25th through January 1st. Please call Tina Nipe with any pastoral care needs at 856-299-7015.

Testimony Sunday: On Sunday January 13th the sermon time is reserved for the testimonies of the people of First Baptist. Come prepared to share how the Lord has blessed you and our congregation in 2018. Share how the Lord has helped you grow deeper and helped you mature as a disciple of Jesus.



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.

The Power of Invitation

I asked one of our church members how he came to Christ. He said, "For 10 years I was in a searching mode. I was trying to find out what life was all about and what was worth pursuing. I wondered about Christianity. I wondered about Eastern religions. But I didn't know where to turn, and nobody during that 10-year period offered me any help. Then one day I was out jogging. A man from our neighborhood started jogging with me, and when he learned I was new to the area and didn't attend church, he invited me to visit church with him. I did, and I met Christ. I don't know where I'd be if that man hadn't invited me."

-Bill Hybels in *Honest to God*