

Return Service Requested:

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

-2019 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.

June
2019

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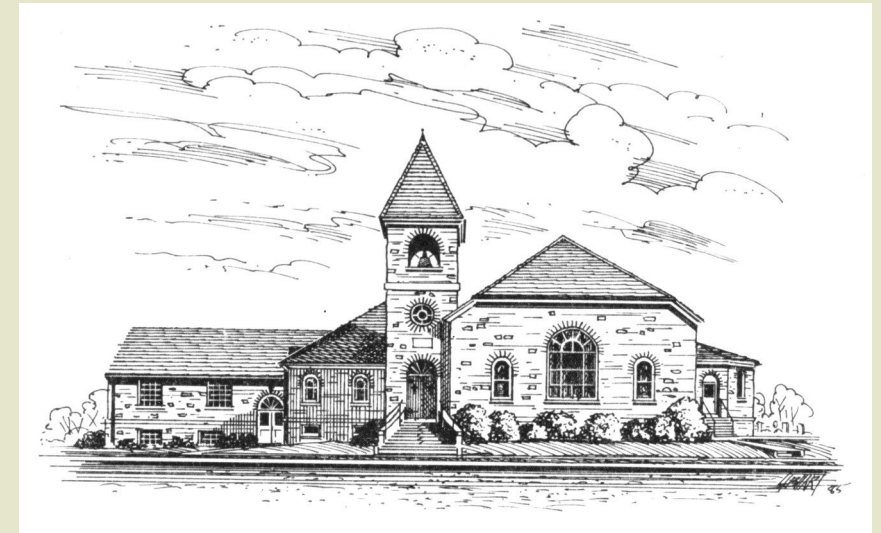
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FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



P.O. Box 117
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Pastor:
Merrit Marsango
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Our Mission... "to birth and develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ who are characterized by faith, hope and love."

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

The Apostle Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to have a certain perspective regarding life. He doesn't want them to lose heart by dwelling on the things they observe before them, especially the

hardships they face as Christians. Paul says the “light and momentary troubles” they are facing will soon fade away, so he encourages them to fix their eyes, not on the temporary things they see around them. Instead, they should fix their eyes on the unseen things of eternity.

Now one might say, “How can I fix my eyes on ‘unseen’ things?” Actually it takes faith, and it takes discipline for Christians to assign a lesser meaning to the things of this temporal life. But we need to have the proper perspective on life in order to be the most effective servants of Christ. Perspective is defined as the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance. So Paul is advising us to avoid getting hung up on the hardships, desires, and values of this world, because our true home is in eternity with Christ. As he said, “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20).

This concept of an eternal perspective of life has struck me as I prepare for the next chapter of life following retirement. Dede and I are planning to move to an apartment in the Collingswood area, giving us half the living space that we have currently. That means major downsizing! So for months we’ve been going through the house thinning out the things we won’t need or have room for in the apartment. Old files, books, clothing, craft supplies, furniture have been donated or trashed because we can’t take them with us.

I’ve learned that downsizing takes some perspective—assigning a degree of relative importance to the things we own. You look at an item and ask, “What level of importance does this have to my current and future life? Can I live without this? Should I learn to live without this? Could someone else use this more than me? Has this item outlived its usefulness to me?” If the answer is “yes” to most of these questions, then I must bid farewell to the item.

I’ve noticed an emotional element to downsizing. As I sifted through old books, files, clothing and personal possessions it was a trip down memory lane. A flood of memories (some good, some bad) came to mind as I evaluated each item. Going through old seminary course files brought me back over 30 years to relive many experiences. Pulling old books off the shelf reminded me of when I read them and the impact they had on my spiritual formation. My conclusion—while once important, these things are no longer relevant to my life. The times they represent are long gone, never to return. One day I wondered, *who’s going to want my high school varsity baseball jacket?* The answer is—no one! It’s symbolic of past days.

CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 5/19/2019

Those with pledges have given \$11,210.00

Others (no pledges) have given \$4,770.00

Total received as of 5/19/2019 is \$15,980.00

We, again, thank you for your generosity.

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

Swaddled in God’s Law of Love

Pastor John Edgerton tells of swaddling his 2-week-old baby to help her feel secure. She loved being wrapped tightly in a soft blanket and would lie quietly — until she managed to work a tiny arm loose. Then she’d scream until someone rewrapped her.

Edgerton likens that behavior to his own connection with God’s law, given so people can live in peace. “I know that I’m supposed to do the right thing, but I’m always wiggling out of it,” he writes. “And very quickly my life falls into a state of disarray.”

We’ve all experienced this. We know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we often ignore their needs. Jesus says to love our enemies, but we wiggle around it: “That’s too naïve for this day and age.” But then relationships crumble, life feels crazy and we recognize that, in large part, we’ve done it to ourselves. Over and over, we wiggle out of the soft swaddle of God’s law of love, only to fail. Thankfully, like a loving parent, God wraps us up anew, holds us close and saves us from ourselves — again.



The Hearts of the Fathers

The angel Gabriel announced to the priest, Zechariah, that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. The son was to be called John. Gabriel also said that John would bring "many of the people ... back to the Lord" and would "turn the hearts of the fathers to their children" (see Luke 1:5:ff). Recognizing that there are countless loving fathers today whose hearts are turned to their children, it is still true that far too many have hearts turned elsewhere.

Russell Miller's book called The House of Getty offers a heart-tugging story that makes the point. Timothy Getty, the young son of J. Paul Getty, the oil tycoon, had a frail body and was often ill. When Timothy was 11 and about to turn 12, his father telephoned him and asked what he wanted for his 12th birthday, "I want your love, Daddy, and I want to see you." But the father felt that he couldn't see his son then. Too many business obligations.

Shortly thereafter, Timothy died in a hospital without ever seeing his father. J. Paul Getty, known at the time as the world's richest man, was devastated by the death.

The story brings to mind Socrates' warning to the people of Athens: "Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, and take so little care of your children, to whom one day you must relinquish it all?"
— See Miller's The House of Getty

A Prayer For Families

Heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us into families. Thank you for the love and nourishment we've received — and been blessed to give. We confess our need for your daily forgiveness and guidance in our families. Please grant harmony in our homes and help us always show respect and love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Downsizing has reminded me to stop focusing on the temporary "things" of this world and focus instead on the unseen things of eternity. Missionary C.T. Studd once wrote, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." What if this truth influenced the thoughts we have, the amount of possessions we accumulate, and the priorities for use of our time? I have been convicted that I spend too much time and energy on the temporary "seen" things of this world, and not enough on the unseen things of eternity. Whatever one's age, I believe the Lord wants us to remember that this earth is not our home. Downsizing is the answer!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Merrit

GOD'S SERVANTS June

Greeters:

- 2nd & 9th Harry Moore
- 16th Bonnie & Daniel Heintzelmann
- 23rd Gail Lemke
- 30th Claire Kohler

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

Scheduled Scripture Readers:

- 2nd Ginny Messick
- 9th Meghan Cox
- 16th Chrissy Cox
- 23rd Joel Rudderow
- 30th Johnny Cobin

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:

- 2nd Kelley & Sarah Piel
- 9th Jaclyn & Gary Minguez
- 16th Connie Clark & Esther Jackson
- 23rd Barbara Jo Perry & Missy Perry
- 30th JoAnne Taylor & Nancy Kohler

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:

- 2nd Patty Ferrell & Connie Clark
- 9th Nancy Kohler
- 16th Laura Brickner
- 23rd Jaclyn Minguez
- 30th Lisa & Joel Rudderow

If you feel led to help with Junior Church or the nursery, please contact Jaclyn Minguez at (609) 202-8491.



ANNOUNCEMENT- SIGHT & SOUND

The Angels Sunday School Class will sponsor a trip to see the 3:00 p.m. showing of "Jesus" at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster on Saturday, August 3, 2019. All are welcome. If you plan to attend, please sign up as soon as possible. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway across from the Pastor's study. The price of tickets is \$75.00 for an adult and \$36.00 for a child between the ages of three and twelve. Payment is due by June 23, 2019. If you have questions, please see John Jordan or call him at 678-3370 (office) or 769-1516 (home).

Pulpit Committee

Now that Pastor Merrit has announced his retirement, we need to begin the process to call a new Pastor. The procedure for this task is set forth in Article VIII of our Constitution and By-Laws.

The first step in this process is to elect a Pulpit Committee. Pursuant to our By-Laws, the Pulpit Committee is to consist of seven members, including two members of the Adult Discipleship Team, one member of the Stewardship Team, one member of the Pastoral Care Team, one member of the Mission Team and two members at-large. Even though each team will likely recommend a member or members to serve, the selection of the Pulpit Committee is ultimately the responsibility of the Church. Anyone who is a member of First Baptist Church may serve as an "at-large" member of the Pulpit Committee. If you would like to serve as an "at-large" member of the Pulpit Committee or if you wish to recommend a good person to serve, please share that information with me.

Selecting a Pastor is one of the most important obligations that we have as a church body. Our By-Laws remind us that the pastoral office is not to be "carelessly filled" and that personal character, education and ministerial record are important factors to consider as a candidate. I encourage everyone to be in prayer for this process, the members of the Pulpit Committee as well as the candidate who will ultimately be presented to the Church.

John D. Jordan, Moderator

Adults & Youth: Call to Action!

The Adult Discipleship Team calls and encourages the adults and youth among our church family to pray for and consider how you might give a few evenings to the Vacation Bible School ministry here this summer. Volunteers are needed to work with and encourage the children who will be learning about our Lord in this fun and fabulous few days – **June 24th-28th from 6:00-8:30**

pm. The Children and Youth ministry team will find YOU a job in which to use the gifts and interests that GOD has placed in you, and you will be so very blessed by the few days of VBS. Please speak with Jaclyn Minguez for more information or to find YOUR PLACE in this valuable short-term mission. Help us reach our community's children in this meaningful way!



Father's Day

The first celebration of Father's Day is thought to have been in July 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia. Grace Golden Clayton suggested the special observance to her pastor after a deadly explosion in a nearby town killed 361 men.



Soon after, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, wanted to show her gratitude to her father, who'd cared for the family after his wife died. Dodd asked her pastor to choose a June Sunday to honor all fathers, and he selected June 19, 1910.

In 1924, President Coolidge suggested that Father's Day become a national holiday. In 1966, President Johnson designated the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day. Six years later, President Nixon instituted Father's Day as a national observance.