

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.

**November
2019**

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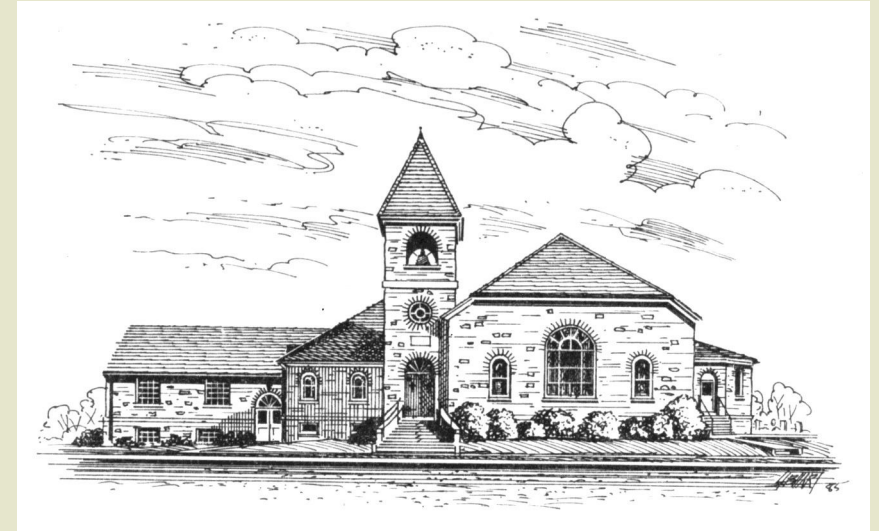
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FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



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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

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24:1).

November is the month that most churches focus on stewardship. Christian disciples are asked to make financial pledges for ministry in the coming year and asked to commit their time and spiritual gifts to serve in ministries. I was thinking about what makes a faithful steward of the Lord—on whom He can rely.

It seems that being a faithful and generous steward of God requires great humility. If you think that everything you have has come

from your own efforts and intelligence the chances of you being a faithful steward are quite low. Consider the concept of stewardship.

Being a steward means you are managing the resources ***owned by someone else*** (Psalm 24:1). You did nothing to manufacture these resources. They were handed to you to take care of, and more importantly, to manage so that they pay dividends to the owner. So the minute we begin to think that all we have is “ours” we cease to be a steward of the resources that God has entrusted to us to fulfill His purposes. You could say that this type of thinking makes us thieves because we take God’s possessions (financial and spiritual gifts) and make them our own to use as we please. So the first conclusion reached by a faithful steward is: I did not accumulate my financial and spiritual gifts myself. They are all gifts from God to be used for God’s purposes.

The second conclusion reached by a faithful steward is: I am not going to live forever. The gifts I possess: my money and spiritual gifts, have an expiration date! God places them in my hands for a limited time only. I have a finite amount of time to use them to accomplish God’s will. We often spend so much effort protecting our gifts and guarding them—as if we can hold on to them forever. But the old saying is true: “You can’t take it with you.” And if we truly believe in heaven as a place of perfection, we won’t need earthly possessions there. We are all going to leave this earth with absolutely nothing, so it’s best to get busy using the gifts God has given us so we can hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful steward,” when we die.

A third conclusion reached by a faithful steward is: I am not the center of the universe. The gifts I possess from God’s hands are not just for me. God wants me to use these gifts to bless the lives of others and bring them closer to Him. We sometimes think, if I give away my finances and other gifts will there be enough left for me? What if I give away too much? Let’s tell it like it is—this kind of thinking reveals a lack of faith in God’s promise to provide all our needs. It paints a picture of a God of scarcity rather than a God of abundance—who never runs out of the things we need for life. It also portrays God as unloving. After all, would a loving God direct us to be generous stewards, knowing He could not supply our every need? Would He tell us to help those in need, knowing it would lead to our own demise? Is that the God you know and worship?

CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 10/27/2019

Those with pledges have given \$11,500.00

Others (no pledges) have given \$4,870.00

Total received as of 10/27/2019 is \$16,370.00

Thank you very much, you have been very generous.

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



Present Tense

After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How was your Thanksgiving?” but “How is your Thanksgiving?” After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn’t always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I’m just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice.”

So ... how is your Thanksgiving?

Can This Go in My Shoebox? FAQ:

Are playing cards allowed? Yes

Can we include batteries? Yes, HOWEVER, both ends must be covered with tape.

Can we include paint sets or glue bottles? No, both of these items are liquids. However, dry paint sets such as watercolors and glue sticks are OK to pack.

Can we include a toolkit with nails, screws, screwdrivers, and hammers? Yes, the only tools that CANNOT be included are saws and pocketknives.

Are squirt guns allowed? Yes, squirt guns can be included as long as they do NOT look like real guns.

Is lip gloss OK to pack? No, lip gloss is a liquid.

NOTYPES OF CANDY, TOOTHPASTE, DRINK MIXES, FOOD, LIQUIDS, AND BREAKABLE ITEMS ARE ALLOWED IN SHOEBOXES BECAUSE OF INCREAS-
ING CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND BREAKAGE!

ALL SHOEBOXES ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH!

Shoebox Delivery

We will be preparing and delivering Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on Tuesday, November 19th. We will meet at the church at 11:30 to ready the shoeboxes and then deliver them to Sharptown United Methodist Church. After dropping the shoeboxes off, we will go to Rode’s Fireside Restaurant in Swedesboro to enjoy a meal and to fellowship with one another. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND BE A PART OF THIS **GREAT TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!** See you on the 19th!



As November begins I ask you to join me in meditating and praying about what we need to do to become faithful, humble, generous stewards of the gifts with which God has entrusted us. Let’s ask God to tell us how we can best use the financial and spiritual gifts He has given us to carry out the Great Commission.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Merrit

GOD’S SERVANTS November

Greeters:

- 3rd Stephanie Perry
- 10th OPEN
- 17th OPEN
- 24th OPEN

If you would like to serve as a greeter, please contact Connie Clark at (856) 678-6586.

Scheduled Scripture Readers:

- 3rd Lisa Rudderow
- 10th Eleanor Clemente
- 17th Dede Marsango
- 24th Jaclyn Minguez

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 Barbara Jo & Missy Perry
- 10th JoAnne Taylor & Nancy Kohler
- 17th Vicki Justice & Valerie Rinnier
- 24th Eleanor Clemente & John Cobin

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 Jaclyn Minguez
- 10th Laura Brickner
- 17th Pam Golt
- 24th Patty Ferrell

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





Family Promise - Meals and dinner hosts needed for Monday, November 25th, and Wednesday, November 27th, 6:00-8:00. This is in cooperation with the Woodstown Presbyterian Church, Carney's Point Wesleyan Church, and Family Promise of Gloucester County. Please sign up on the Board outside Pastor's Office if you can provide this helpful, encouraging service. If you have any questions, please see Esther Jackson.

Taking It Slow

Not only did God model rest — specifically sabbath rest — during the Creation process, but he also showed the value of under-commitment, even working under his potential.



“God modeled for us how to choose one or two things to focus on each day,” writes Monica Wilkinson in her book *Slow Lane*. “If he wanted to, he could have spoken the entire world into existence in less than a fraction of the blink of an eye.” Instead, God “went about it methodically, slowly, with balance and moderation.” What a contrast to our modern-day multitasking craze!

“God was not looking to maximize every productive waking moment of every single day,” Wilkinson adds. “He chose to focus on one or two things, do them well and with excellence, and then enjoy the accomplishment and reflection of a job well done.”

Learning to Give Thanks

Last December I had my second knee replacement. Expecting this recovery to mimic the first, I went home to heal quickly. Instead, 10 days later one normal step led to the vertical splitting of my femur, an ambulance ride and surgery to insert screws and a long metal plate. I spent Christmas in the hospital and New Year's in a rehab unit, feeling anything but thankful. Nearly a year later, the slow recovery continues.



Yet I see much to be thankful for: my caregiver cousin, who lengthened her stay considerably; my family; church friends who provided meals, prayers and love; and doctors and therapists, who put me back together and continue to encourage me.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to work on patience but am learning with God's help — to “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

—Sandy Hyland

Christmas Caroling: Once again this year we will minister to the residents of Southgate and Merion Gardens by bringing them the Christmas spirit. On Sunday, December 1st we'll have a pizza lunch in Fellowship Hall following Sunday school. Then we'll go to Southgate at 1pm followed by Merion Gardens to share Christmas carols and good cheer! There will be a sign up sheet posted in the near future for those attending lunch. We hope you will plan to attend this event as it brings so much joy to the residents.

