

### CHRISTIANS AND GEESE

God's Forever Family of Faith and other parts of God's created order sometimes prove to have more in common than we may think! Consider, for example, the following truths about the behavior of geese and what truths we in God's Forever Family of Faith might be able to learn from them:

1. When geese are flying in their familiar "V" formation, as each bird flaps its wings, it creates a helpful uplift for the bird following immediately behind it. Ornithologists have discovered that by flying together in the "V" formation, a whole flock of geese is able to fly an average 71% farther than their range would be if each bird flew by itself.

***Individual Christians together in a Family of Faith share a common direction in Christ and are able to reach their destination easier and more quickly together than if they were trying to make it alone.***

2. When a goose falls out of formation it immediately feels the drag and resistance of trying to travel "solo". As quickly as possible it will fly back into the formation in order to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it.

***If you and I have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed in the same direction as we are. The community of faith is absolutely vital to our individual growth as Christians. Together we are able to accomplish much more than would be possible if we were in isolation from one another.***

3. When the lead goose in the formation gets tired, it drops to the back of the "V" and the next goose in the formation assumes its place in the point position. The rotation continues for as long as they are in the air.

***It is sensible for us to take turns at positions of leadership and at doing the most demanding jobs in and around the church. No one person, or even just a few people, should be doing the bulk of the work. Remember our Baptist principle of "the priesthood of all believers".***

4. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to maintain their speed.

***When we "honk" from behind, what are we communicating to our leaders? Is the noise we make that of encouragement or might it have the opposite effect?***

Paul wrote that the church is one body made up of many different members, each of which is important (I Corinthians 12:12-26). We all need the uplift and encouragement of our sisters and brothers in Christ if we are to become the best that we can be, and accomplish the mission we have been given together.

Yours for "flying" farther and more efficiently,

Robert M. Davidson, Interim Pastor

## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MOORESTOWN

### *A Welcoming and Affirming American Baptist Congregation*

The mission of the First Baptist Church is to be an **open**, joyful, and seeking community of faith whose people experience the transforming grace and power of Jesus Christ. As we **worship**, **study** God's Word, and **reflect** on the world around us, we trust God to lead us into wholeness in all relationships and into ministries of **justice** and **compassion**.

## Church Board News

### NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### Safe Church Policy

At the December congregation business meeting, the new "Safe Church Policy" for First Baptist was adopted, culminating a lengthy process of study and development, led by Charlotte Gillespie and involving many church members. The intent of this policy is to develop and implement procedures which will provide for a safe and secure environment in church-related activities for the children and youth.

#### Coordinator of Children's Ministries

After much prayerful discussion about interested candidates for the position, the Board appointed Jan Applegate as the church's new Coordinator of Children's Ministries, effective January 2<sup>nd</sup>. She brings valuable experience, creativity, and an attention to detail to the job. We look forward to Jan's leadership, especially in providing coordination and support for our Sunday school teachers and programs, and in further developing the specific procedures needed to effectively carry out the Safe Church Policy. Implementation procedures will be completed and then incorporated into a written manual.

#### Recent Highlights from our Church School

Barb and Roger Quimby have agreed to team-teach the Disciples class for the balance of this church school year.

An all-night "lock in" for our young people was held in the church on a recent Friday night, under the leadership of Sharon Kulik. Five members of the Youth group and three students in the Voyagers class participated and felt it was a huge success!

Kathleen McCrohan led an adult class during the Advent/Christmas season which involved viewing and discussion of a recent biblically-based film: "The Nativity Story."

The Board appreciates the effort and commitment of all our FBC teachers—from Nursery to Adult levels. We encourage everyone's support of our church school program by their regular, faithful attendance and active participation!

**News from the Board of Outreach** – As part of our involvement with the Moorestown Ministerium and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the helping hand group Live Civilly has started developing a "homework help program" that will be facilitated by both adults and students. If you would like to offer homework assistance at the Church Street Recreation Center with both adult led tutoring and peer tutoring, Live Civilly would love to hear from you. Questions can be directed to Kahra Buss at 856-313-9853 or [contact@livecivilly.org](mailto:contact@livecivilly.org).

**FOOD PANTRY** - If you would like to help with FBC's food bank efforts but are unable to directly donate food to our pantry, donations of money can now be used even more effectively than before. Simply designate on your offering envelope that your donation is for the Food Pantry. If you would rather bring food to the pantry please consider bring toiletry items also. Thank you for your help



**CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS**

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - The latest Treasurer's Report is available. Copies can be found on the table in the church lounge.

**ALL BOARDS MEET - Monday, February 6 at 7:00PM** in the lounge.

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD - Meets on Monday, February 13th at 7:00 PM** in the lounge.



**2012FLOWER CALENDAR**

**The Flower Calendar for 2012** has dates available! The weekly cost is \$36. Thank you to all who help to beautify

**February**

- 5 Steve Eson and Dean Parker in memory of Steve's Parents
- 12 Lois Dinsmore in honor of John's birthday
- 19 Cyndee Solomon in memory of her mother Audrey's birthday
- 26 Kathryn Deacon in memory of Robert and Douglas Deacon

**COFFEE TIME SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY**

- 5 Open
- 12 Open
- 19 Richard Lamey
- 26 Open

**Prayer Requests for those confined to home**

Please include in your prayers these members and friends who are not able to attend church:

**Rosalie Maines and Margaret Scheuermann**

**CALL FOR NEWS**

If your Board has news, or if you have news to share about one of our Missions or happenings in the community, please contact Lydia Alvarez in the Church Office for inclusion in this newsletter. Please submit your news every month by the deadline. **March Soundings deadline is February 27th.**

*I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire church family for your generous Christmas gift. Your support and understanding throughout the years has been greatly appreciated.*

*Lydia*

## NEWS FROM RIVERVIEW ESTATES

### February 11, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

The Auxiliary of the Baptist Home of South Jersey (Riverview Estates) will be holding a thrift sale. Items for sale will include clothing for about \$2 a piece, jewelry starting at 25 cents, books for 25 cents and 50 cents, crafts, antiques and collectibles, linens and much more. All the money raised benefits the residents of Riverview Estates so, please, come and show your support. Please call (856) 829-2274 for more information and directions.

### March 17, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Get March Madness at our Spring Sale! This Auxiliary-hosted special sale and luncheon includes gently worn clothing, jewelry, attic treasures, bake sale, crafts, books and more. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to find wonderful deals. Enjoy

### March 10, 2012

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Founder's Day is a celebration of Worship in order to express our appreciation to God for His guidance and the blessing Riverview Estates has been in the lives of over 925 residents since our opening in 1954. All are welcome to attend. A free will offering will be taken. Following the ceremony will be the Annual Ice Cream Social featuring Sundaes and Root Beer Floats.

## World Day of Prayer

### Celebrated Friday, March 2

"Let Justice Prevail" will be the theme of the annual Day of Prayer to be held at the First Baptist Church, 19 West Main Street, Moorestown, Friday, March 2. Sponsored locally by Church Women United, there will be a continental breakfast at 9:30 A.M., followed by the hour-long service at 10:00 A.M. All are welcome.

For this year, women of Malaysia have shared some of their concerns with those who will join them in spirit this day with them. They ask for our prayers for them and their country, even as we also pray for needs in our own country, states and home towns, and the world.

For more information, call 856-234-7927.

**Artists Needed** for Fine Arts & Peach Festival & Sale to be held Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is the ninth annual sale to be held at Riverview Estates (The Baptist Home of South Jersey) in historic Riverton, New Jersey on the Delaware River. This will be a Juried Art Show and prizes will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place artists.

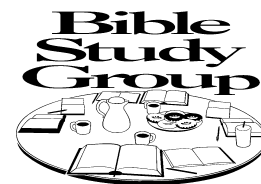
For an application and more information call Opal at (856) 829-2274 Ext. 150 or email: [events@riverviewestates.org](mailto:events@riverviewestates.org) with "Fine Arts Festival" in the subject line or visit our web site: [www.riverviewestates.org](http://www.riverviewestates.org).

## Fellowship and Bible Study

### CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

Contemplative prayer group consists primarily of communal silence for all who are interested in taking time out each week, away from the noise, the busyness, the pressures of life, to listen for God's voice and enter into the living presence of God. The prayer group meets on Wednesdays, from 7:30PM - 8:15 p.m. in Classroom 6.

All are Welcome!



### BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

The **Brown Bag Bible Study** meets every **Tuesday at NOON** in the Meeting Room off the lounge. Please join us and don't forget your lunch!

Peg Horton, leader

## Important Calendar Notes

Lectionary Readings for the month of February 2012

	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Psalm</b>
<b>February 5</b> Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39	Psalm 147
<b>February 12</b> Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	2 Kings 5:1-14	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45	Psalm 30
<b>February 19</b> Transfiguration Sunday	2 Kings 2:1-12	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9	Psalm 50:1-6
<b>February 26</b> First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15	Psalm 25:1-10

## February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall  7:30 - 8:15 pm - Contemplative Prayer Group	2 6-7 pm - BBS - Mt. Room 7-11 pm - MM - Rm. 6 7-10 pm - YMOMAA - FH 7pm - Choir	3 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 6:30 - 9:30 pm - SJCCC - FH	4 12:00 - 1:30pm - New Life AA
5 10: 00 am-Worship 10:20 am-Children's Sunday School classes 11:15-Coffee Time 11:30-Second Hour classes  SJCCC	6 7 pm - All Boards Meet 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 12:30 - 2:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 6 6:30 - 8:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 8  7-10pm - MM - Rm. 5,6,7	7 7:00 pm- Chorale - FH  6:30 - 8:00 pm - GBS - Rm. 6	8 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm - NOW - Rm. 8 7:30 - 8:15 pm - Contemplative Prayer Group	9 6-7 pm - BBS - Mt. Room 7-11 pm - MM - Rm. 6 7-10 pm - YMOMAA - FH 7pm - Choir	10 7:00 - 8:00 am - Fellowship Hall  6-11pm - MM -FH  6:30 - 9:30 pm - SJCCC - Lounge	11 10 - 11 :30 pm - Meditative AA 12:00 - 1:30pm - New Life AA
12 10: 00 am-Worship 10:20 am-Children's Sunday School classes 11:15-Coffee Time 11:30-Second Hour classes  SJCCC	13 7pm - Executive Board Meets 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 12:30 - 2:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 6 6:30 - 8:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 8  7-10pm - MM - Rm. 5,6,7	14 7:00 pm- Chorale - FH  6:30 - 8:00 pm - GBS - Rm. 6	15 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall  7:30 - 8:15 pm - Contemplative Prayer Group	16 6-7pm - BBBS - Mt. Rm. 7-11 pm - MM - Rm. 6 7-10 pm - YMOMAA - FH  7pm - Choir	17 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall  6:30 - 9:30 pm - SJCCC - FH	18 7 - 11:30 am - MM _ Lounge, Rm. 5 and 6 10 - 11 :30 pm - Meditative AA 12:00 - 1:30pm - New Life AA
19 10: 00 am-Worship 10:20 am-Children's Sunday School classes 11:15-Coffee Time 11:30-Second Hour classes SJCCC	20 Church Office Closed - Presidents Day 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall  12:30 - 2:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 6  6:30 - 8:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 8  7-10pm - MM - Rm. 5,6,7	21 Noon - 1:30 pm -BBBS - Mt. Rm.  6:30 - 8:00 pm - GBS - Rm. 6  Noon - 1:30 pm -BBBS - Mt. Rm.	22 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 7:30 - 8:15 pm - Contemplative Prayer Group Ash Wednesday	23 6-6-7pm - BBBS - Mt. Rm. 7-11 pm - MM - Rm. 6 7-10 pm - YMOMAA - FH  7pm - Choir	24 7:00 - 8:00 am - Fellowship Hall - NA  6-11pm - MM -FH  6:30 - 9:30 pm - SJCCC - Lounge	25 7-10am - NA - Fellowship Hall 10 - 11 :30 pm - Meditative AA 12:00 - 1:30pm - New Life AA
26 10: 00 am-Worship 11:15-Coffee Time 11:30-Second Hour classes SJCCC	27 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 12:30 - 2:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 6 6:30 - 8:00 pm - NRG - Rm. 8 7-10pm - MM - Rm. 5,6,7	28 Noon - 1:30 -BBBS - Mt. Rm.  6:30 - 8:00 - GBS - Rm. 6 Noon - 1:30 -BBBS - Mt. Rm.	29 7:00 - 8:00 am - NA - Fellowship Hall 7:30 - 8:15 pm Contemplative Prayer Group			



# The First Baptist Church OF MOORESTOWN

*an open, joyful, seeking community of faith*

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Address Correction Requested

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March

5 All Boards meet  
12 Executive Board meets  
18 Church Business meeting

## Office Hours

September to June

Monday	9 AM - 12 PM
Tuesday	9 AM - 3 PM
Wednesday	9 AM - 3 PM
Thursday	9 AM - 3 PM
Friday	9 AM - 12 PM

## CHURCH STAFF AND BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Rev. Bob Davidson, Interim Pastor	Home Phone	609-499-1672	Dean Parker, Diaconate	Home Phone	235-4417
Bill Hannum, Trustees	Home Phone	234-2183	Carol Muse, Choir Director	"	985-1013
Lydia Alvarez, Admin. Assistant	Office Phone	235-1180	Carole Boutwell, Executive Board	"	856-292-3025
Dana Thiede, Outreach	Home Phone	235-2144	Carol Murray, Christian Education	"	778-8353
			Barbara Quimby, Christian Education		778-2017
			Dave Wagner, Custodian	"	609-790-1366

