

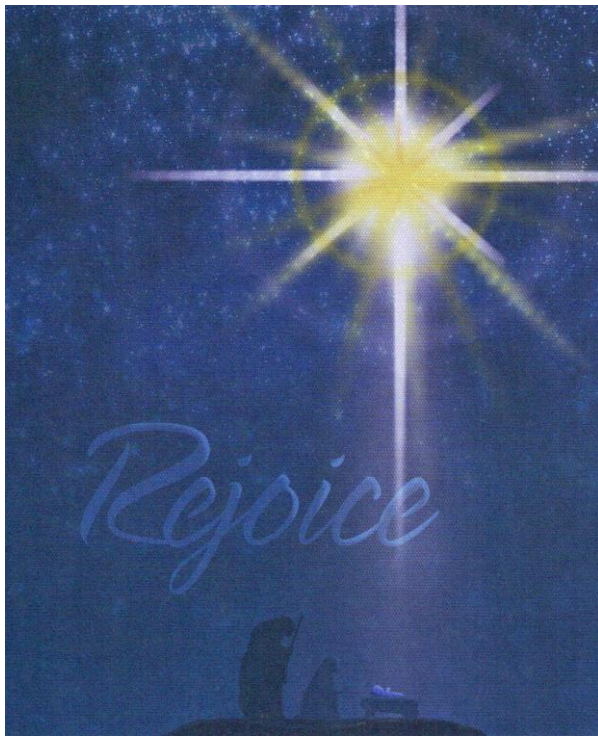
The Spires



First Baptist Church • 47-51 South Street • Manasquan NJ 08736

732-223-4649 • FBCManasquan@Juno.com • www.FBCManasquan.org

DECEMBER 2013



As we come to the season of Advent, it seems to me that we too easily take for granted the powerful themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

We live in a world where many people live in situations which seem hopeless.

We are reminded daily that much of our world still longs for an end to violence and war. There are countries where generations of people have never lived in peace.

In our consumer oriented society, too many people mistake happiness - which is circumstantial - with joy which is relational. Our joy does not rest on what we can hold in our hands. Our joy rests in the promise that God holds *us* in His hands.

And why do we have this hope, this peace, this joy? Because of God's steadfast and faithful love.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

My prayer for you this Advent is that you will have hope in those times that feel hopeless, that you will know the peace of God, which passes all understanding, and that you will the have joy of the Lord as your strength - because of God's love for you, and your love for God.

Pastor Joe



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Our President, Leaders & Armed

Service Personnel: Matthew Swain, USN; Kieran Maye, NJANG; Andrew Bell, U.S. Coast Guard; Hunter Mantz, USMC; Sarah Decker, USMC; Philip Cahill, USMC, Dylan Seip, NJANG.

Those in Homes and Hospitals: Marge Jeck; Mary Gratzel

Those at Home: Cathy Callahan; Dorrie Hoffman; Noah Robinson; Wes & Shirley Peters; Doris Weiss; Bryley, Arden's grandson; Jayne Linfante; Dorrie Hoffmann; Shirley & Phineas Marr; Frank & Jean Applegate; Reba Okerson

Missionaries: Mabudiga & Kihomi Nzunga, Haiti; Judith Sutterlin, China; Murrow Indian Children's Home.

Our Sister Churches in Haiti: Croix-Hilaire Baptist Church; Plaine-Conette Baptist Church

We have updated our prayer list, if someone was omitted in error, please notify the church office.

DECEMBER Birthdays

Jeff Britting	12/1
Jenny Lundy	12/1
Patty Zimmer	12/2
Arden Hubbard	12/5
Sheryl Guerrero	12/6
Arkel Gratzel	12/11
Sarah Smith	12/11
Karen Morris	12/14
Josie Gratzel	12/16
Doris Rasmussen	12/17
Steve Safka	12/17
Dorrie Hoffman	12/22
Zander Bossone	12/22
Bill Thonack	12/23
Denise Gratzel	12/24
Trace Champion	12/29
Iris Gratzel	12/30

Believer's Baptism December 8



There will be a Believer's Baptism on December 8th. If you are interested in making a profession of faith and would like to be baptized call the church office or speak to Pastor Joe.



Children and Youth



Multi Generational

Family Christmas Dinner & Play

a different way to worship



Sunday, December 15

Sunday Nights @ 7 pm
in Fellowship Hall. See you there!

Family Christmas Dinner & Play

Dinner 5pm - Play 6pm

Dessert to follow



*Hymn Sing December 1st
Join Us!*

Let us all come together to celebrate the Christmas Season at our annual Christmas Dinner and children's play. This year's play, entitled "Tooouo Busy!" is sure to make you laugh as our Sunday School kids act out a unique telling of the Christmas Story.

Please call the church office if you are able to volunteer to prepare or serve dinner, or if you would like to bring a meatloaf! We are happy to provide a recipe if you need one.

Don't forget...there is always a surprise guest after dessert, so make sure to bring all of your friends and family to enjoy this special evening!

Thanksgiving Eve Service



Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 27 at 8 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 16 Virginia Ave.



Adult Ministries

Men's Breakfast



The Men's Breakfast for this month will be held on Saturday, December 21 at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. All men and young men of the church are welcome.

Women's Ministry Christmas Party



The Women of the church are invited to our Annual Christmas Party on Wed., December 11 at 6:30 pm at the home of Carolyn Kelly, 214 Washington Avenue, Sea Girt. RSVP to 732-449-4692 or ckellysg@hotmail.com. Those attending are asked to bring an appetizer and a \$10 Yankee Swap gift. Additionally, as a mission outreach, we will be collecting a \$10 unwrapped toy for a boy or girl that will be given to Habitat for Humanity.

A Note from the Food Pantry



The Food Pantry is experiencing a significant drop in the amount of food and money being donated. Whatever gifts of food/or funds you can donate will be sincerely appreciated.

From the Deacons

On Sunday, November 3 the Deacon's communion offering was pledged to the food pantry. The pantry is in need of food and monetary donations.

Our Deacon's Fund is used to help members of our church family and local folks who need a little hand up. There are many needs such as utility bill assistance, security deposits, resident hotel bills, clothes for a new job, baby formula and children's prescriptions to name a few. The Deacon's fund also purchases food store gift cards to have on hand for hungry families. To receive assistance, the individuals must meet certain criteria and be interviewed by the Pastor or Social Concerns Committee.

Also, if you are interested in helping out a family in need this Christmas Season, please contact Laurie Waugh or Pastor Joe.

Thank you all for your generous offering.



Board of Missions...

Board of Missions is collecting, along with Coastal Habitat, toys and food for the Sandy Survivors . The food items will go to the local Food Banks and the Toys will get distributed locally. Please see Denise if you have any questions.

Thank you to everyone who brought in Christmas Child boxes. Seventeen boxes were delivered last week .



We are receiving contributions for Philippines Disaster Relief through American Baptist Churches *One Great Hour of Sharing* fund. Please mark the memo field in your check "Philippines" make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving, as you look to bless others with your giving.

Denise Gratzel, Missions Chair



Poinsettias

If you would like to order a Poinsettia to beautify our Church this Christmas, please turn in this order form to the church office no later than 12/1/13. Cost is \$7.00 each.

Choice of:

Red _____ White _____ Pink _____

Your Name:

Circle one:

Memory/Honor:

Take _____ Donate _____

First Baptist Church of Manasquan · December 2013

Sunday Worship Services 10:00 am . . . Youth Church 10:00 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
1 reNEW 7 pm	2	3 North Shore Assoc Pastors	4	5 6:30 PM Praise team	6	7																																																																																			
8 Believer's Baptism reNEW 7 pm	9	10	11 Christmas Caroling Wexford 6 pm Women's Christmas Party 6:30 pm	12 6:30 PM Praise team	13	14																																																																																			
15 Christmas Dinner & Program 5 pm & 6 pm reNEW 7 pm	16	17	18	19 6:30 PM Praise team	20	21 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am																																																																																			
22 reNEW 7 pm	23	24	25	26 6:30 PM Praise team	27	28																																																																																			
29 reNEW 7 pm	30	31	<div data-bbox="824 1663 1075 1911" data-label="Table"> <table border="1"> <caption>Nov 2013</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div data-bbox="1104 1663 1354 1911" data-label="Table"> <table border="1"> <caption>Jan 2014</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers are needed to help repair, restore and rebuilt in Southern Monmouth County. No experience needed to volunteer, just enthusiasm to learn. "Winter Warriors" are those volunteers who are willing to brave the cold, wintery weather to help us. Work Shifts are Tuesdays-Saturdays, 8:30 am - 4 PM. Volunteers are asked to commit to work a full shift; and weekday volunteers are especially needed.

Remember bundle up for the weather conditions. Sturdy, hard-soled, closed-toe shoes or work boots must be worn on site. Transportation and meals are on your own, pack a lunch and snack and water bottles. Sign up today and complete a volunteer interest form at : www.coastalhabitat.org/signup/index.html.

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Amazon Bonus Reminder



Just a reminder, when when doing your Christmas or any shopping through Amazon on line, *please enter the amazon website via the church website as we still get 3% bonus on any purchases made.* Shopping with more than one purpose makes it even more worthwhile, Happy Shopping!

Christmas Caroling

Join us as we sing Christmas Carols on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at Wexford Assisted Living. We will meet at the Wexford parking lot on Hwy. 35 at 6 pm. We will be passing out gifts and singing to the residence. Join Us!