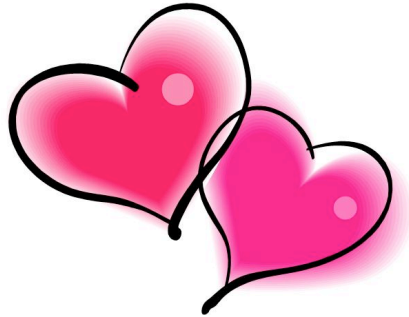


FLEMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER – FEBRUARY, 2013



REED'S RENDERINGS...

February is upon us again, and I feel compelled to talk about Love. But this year I want to talk about that subject with a specific emphasis.

Last Saturday, as moderator of the association to which we belong, I attended the ABCNJ Council meeting. Two of the items we were considering on our agenda were the adoption of a "Covenant of Nonviolence" and the passing of a "Resolution on Human Trafficking." After reading the documents and hearing from those most familiar with them, we wholeheartedly passed both of them. They were then sent back to all of our congregations for us to consider.

Yesterday, at our Congregational Meeting, both of these were unanimously accepted as a covenant we want to promote in our church and a resolution we wish to explore further in terms of learning more about trafficking and other justice issues. We are hoping to bring in some resource people to help us in becoming more educated in the topics. As we grow in our understanding, we would like to become more pro-active in being the hands and feet of Christ in dealing with issues like these in our world today.

These statements grow out of our concern for others. Jesus teaches us to love in ways that promote the well-being of all in God's creation. When it comes to our families at home and in the church, we are called upon to respect each other, to be kind to each other, to listen and to speak the truth in love which leads to solving problems non-violently, and to forgive each other rather than seeking revenge. One of the goals of promising to act non-violently in word and deed is that our congregations and our homes will be safe places for everyone.

When it comes to making the world a safer place for all, slavery in all its forms must be eradicated. Selling children or adults, to compel them into "labor servitude" or "commercial sexual exploitation," is an affront to God. We American Baptists now have four of our missionaries tasked with reaching out to those who have been caught up in this trade. We would hope to be able to partner with them and support them as they continue being a light and healing force in their ministries.

I am asking Ann to print both the Covenant and the Resolution in the newsletter. I would hope that you, individually, would be willing to sign on to the Covenant of Nonviolence, and as the statement says, "...help each other become more peaceable, loving people of God." And keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to learn more about how we can be instruments of God's grace and peace. "Love is something you do," says one of the hymns we sing. I'm proud to be part of our church as we continue to take steps to reflect God's love into our homes, schools, workplaces, and the world beyond.

PUBLIC MISSIONS RESOLUTION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

January 26, 2013

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. Human trafficking is a crime and a human rights abuse that is a form of modern day slavery. Specifically, human trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion to compel someone into labor servitude or commercial sexual exploitation. Every minor exploited for commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking, even without force, fraud, or coercion.

President Barack Obama has proclaimed January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This proclamation coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation that stands as a powerful reminder and incentive to continue to work to eradicate human trafficking.

Two years ago, the Department of Homeland Security developed the Blue Campaign. The Blue Campaign unites the work of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) components to combat human trafficking through a variety of efforts, such as enhanced public awareness, training, victim assistance, and law enforcement investigations. At the Blue Campaign website resources for training, a directory of Human Trafficking Awareness resources, and a means to report suspected trafficking are available.

Whereas human trafficking violates norms of Christian morality and human decency, the Council of the American Baptist Churches resolves to encourage our churches to consider their call to end modern day slavery and human trafficking by:

1. Calling for our region's churches to become more educated on this matter of social concern.
2. Proclaiming the month of January to be a dedicated period of intercessory prayer for the victims of human trafficking.
3. Partnering with International Ministries and their missionaries who focus their energies on this issue.
4. Endorsing the Blue Campaign and supporting its work.



Congregation Covenant of Nonviolence

Making peace starts within ourselves, in our families, and in our congregation. As members of _____ Church, we commit ourselves to acting as a nonviolent and peaceful community of faith. We dedicate ourselves to cultivating and, exhibiting the love of God in all of our relationships, may they be family, community or faith oriented. Therefore, we hereby covenant to prayerfully and watchfully do the following:

To reflect on our own attitudes and actions - Ask God to search us and know our hearts (Psalm 139:23), and to lead us in dealing with this issue. We dedicate ourselves not only to self-examination but to be accountable for and toward each other, understanding that faithful are the wounds of a friend (Proverbs 27:6).

To Respect Self and Others – The body is a temple housing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and we all have been bought at a price (1 Corinthians 6:20). As we are not our own, we submit to honoring the personhood of all of God's people. We shall be mindful to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

To Communicate Better – We agree to speak the truth in love, aiming to grow in every respect into the mature body to which Jesus Christ is the head (Ephesians 4:15). We agree to share feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express anger and disappointment and to work collectively to solve problems peacefully and amicably.

To Listen – We are called to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger (James 1:19); therefore, we vow to listen attentively and carefully to one another before responding.

To Forgive – To the merciful, God shows Himself merciful (Psalm 18:25). Since he has extended great mercy toward us, we shall extend mercy toward others. Hence, we agree to apologize, make amends, and extend concessions when we hurt another. We agree to forgive others without holding grudges. Likewise, we understand forgiveness does not necessarily mean we must trust, befriend and/or continue a relationship with those who have violated us.

To Be Courageous – Challenging violence in all forms is a difficult task. We vow to be strong and courageous (Deuteronomy 31:6) when broaching and confronting violence in our homes, work places, congregations and in the community. We vow not to do what is right in our own eyes, but to always look to the counsel of God's Word found in the Holy Bible to address such issues.

This is our covenant. These are our goals. We will check on what we have agreed to at least once a year so that we can help each other become more peaceable, loving, people of God. We affirm to walk as wise persons of God listening to counsel (Proverbs 12:15). Our goal is always to be encouraging and to build one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11). With Christ as our example we agree even when we must admonish one another to do so in the spirit of godliness (Colossians 3:16).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...

Several members have been sick with colds, respiratory illnesses and other ailments including Edna Austin, the Kerrs, and Jim Worthington.

Jan Cody had knee replacement surgery.

Deanna Sealander asks for prayers for her sister, Linda, being treated for addiction problems. She also asks that God might give her the wisdom to help Linda.

Tommie Lou's friend, Vicki, was hospitalized with a bad kidney infection but is home now.

Ernest Reid was in the hospital with several medical concerns but is back home now.

Lois Stewart's aunt, Jane, was in the hospital.

Muriel Wermuth is having a number of tests run, with good results so far.

Ernie Tufo came through knee replacement surgery well, and thanks everyone for kind thoughts and prayers.

Christina Bowden, for whom we've been praying, passed away after a number of difficult years. She was the wife of Jonathan Bowden, a dentist in town, for whom Donna Slovak works. We especially keep their 7-year-old son, Connor, in our thoughts.

Prayers are asked for Doris Stretch's cousin, Abby; Edna Austin's sister in CA; a friend of the congregation with newly diagnosed uterine cancer.

Dave Aro injured his back while clearing out his garage.

Word from Ray Krukovsky is that Russ Stier is making good progress and enjoying his time up north with his grandchildren.

Continue to pray for: Gus Roth; Russ Stier; Jim Brown; Terrill Levering; the Fedorkos; Rwagasore family.

Congratulations to Emily and Darrell White who have announced the fantastic news that they will be having a baby in July!

Bianca Ramos has reached "Round 2" in her quest to join the Ph.D. program at Rutgers.

Gloria Slovak and Steve Mann will be married out in Lancaster County on July 7! Congrats to the whole family! Gloria and Steve met in college.

On January 27 we bid farewell to our good friends and faithful church leaders, Teddy and Sandy Ramos. They will be moving to the Atlanta area where Teddy will continue to work from a distance and Sandy will be assisting with the care of elderly family members. We are so appreciative of the time they have spent with us during the years!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Anniversary Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Lou & Joan Cornick	February 6, 1954	59

CHURCH NEWS...

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2013

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE - In February we will receive the "America for Christ Offering 2013." This offering supports missions in the US and Puerto Rico. Our 2013 goal is \$1600. AFC offering envelopes are available in the pews during the month of February and enclosed in the newsletter. We invite you to pray about your response to God's call and give with a joyful heart. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity. ~FBC Missions Commission

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 as we study a book by Warren Wiersbe on his 50+ years experience and insight into being A Servant Of God. Wiersbe has pastored three churches, taught practical theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and was the Distinguished Professor of Preaching at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Dr. Wiersbe has had the privilege of counseling and working alongside countless servants of God from all over the world, and through his book *On Being a Servant of God* we have the opportunity to learn from his invaluable experience. This study, led by Andrew Ankrom, will continue until the Lenten season.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

LOCAL CHURCH BUDGET THROUGH DECEMBER 2012

YTD Income from all sources	\$259,022
YTD Total Expenses	<u>-250,566</u>
Carryover to January 2013	\$8,456

MISSION BUDGET THROUGH DECEMBER 2012

YTD Mission \$ received from all sources	\$77,576
YTD Mission \$ paid out	\$77,576

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

FEBRUARY

GAME NIGHT – FEBRUARY 1

All Sr. Highers and adults are invited to join us on Friday, February 1 at 7 PM in the parlor. Please RSVP to ddubs15@gmail.com or (908) 399-1982 for a head count. Bring your friends!

PRAYER BREAKFAST – FEBRUARY 9

Join us for Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 9 from 8 - 9:30 AM. We'll meet at Perkins Restaurant.

SENIOR LUNCH – FEBRUARY 16

All seniors are invited to join us for lunch at FBC on Saturday, February 16 from 12 - 2 PM for soup and grilled cheese sandwiches! Come and invite your senior neighbors or friends to join us for this time of fellowship!

HAPPY ENDINGS – FEBRUARY 24

Please plan to join our Happy Endings Luncheon, hosted by the Trustees, immediately following worship in the dining room.