

# First Baptist Church, Inc.



34-36 Cook Ave  
Madison NJ 07940  
Telephone (973) 966-1115  
Fax (973) 301-0659

*Rev. Dr. Valerie Griffin*  
Associate Minister  
Assistants  
*Rev. Wayne Griffin*  
Minister Gordon Drewery

*Rev. Charles H. Smith*  
Interim Pastor

*Robert L. James*  
Chairman, Deacon Board

August 16, 2009

## PASTORAL LETTER

Paul wrote to the churches of Asia Minor describing the plight and challenge that each church faced in his day. I write to you laying out the plight and challenge First Baptist Church faces in 2009.

As in the days of Paul, there comes a time when the pastor needs to share the burden of his heart to those he has been called to lead. God has been good to us at First Baptist Church. We are so thankful for His gracious care. Yet, we are being impacted by circumstances above and beyond our control, namely:

- We acknowledge the **Recession** has had a negative impact on the economic well being - our congregation: jobs have been lost, temporary retrenchment, and hours of work have been cut back.
- Last winter **PSE&G** sent a bill for \$7,000 with the explanation, they could not get in and read the meter for two years. They demanded \$400 a month in addition to current gas usage.
- We have lost by **Death** those who tithed.
- We have lost members by **Relocations** that were strong supporters of the church. Many retirees have moved South where the real estate taxes are not so high.
- We have lost members by **Marriage** with their eventual relocation.
- We have lost members due to **Family Decisions** unrelated to the church.
- We have lost young adults who are in transition due to their **Economic Situation**.

### First Baptist Challenge

For all of the above reasons, our church's weekly income has been reduced by nearly 40% or \$1200.

Consider the following basic **weekly expenses**: mortgage \$712; insurance \$150; utilities \$300. Last Sundays offering could only pay the above basic overhead expenses.

Many of us have taken vacations and upon our return failed to catch up our pledged giving. I sympathize with those who have had to rob Peter to pay Paul for survival purpose. Some of us just don't have income at this period in life. If you have no money - volunteer your time - we can keep your busy. God will see us through. We can bake and sell pies and cakes. Put God's Church first and wait for the blessing.

Now, God will bless those who make a sacrifice for His Sacred Temple located at 34 Cook Avenue for the past 114 years that needs your support. This is a gift above and beyond your regular giving or its your catch-up offering. Please use the enclosed envelope. Send or mail it in to the church. Even if you are still on vacation, don't leave God out of the picture.

**Carol's Garden 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**  
**Saturday at 2 PM**