

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 34-36 COOK AVE, MADISON NJ 07940  
REV. CHARLES H. SMITH, PASTOR**

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May my supplication  
come before you;  
deliver me according  
to your promise.

*Psalm 119:170.*

### **Church Services**

Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Service 10:50 AM

### **Bible Study**

Tuesdays – 11:00 AM  
Wednesdays – 7:00 PM

### **Ministry**

Rev. Charles H. Smith, Pastor  
(973) 839-4882

### **Associates**

Rev. Valerie Griffin  
Minister Gordon Drewery, Jr.

### **Ministry of Music**

Jean DiPasalegne  
Voices of Praise  
Cheryl Lutz  
J.W. Brewster Chorus

### **Youth Music Team**

Keva Holman  
Leandra Morris  
Jean PiPasalegne  
Carol Baxter

### **Church Staff**

Jo James, Clerk  
Carol Baxter, Secretary

### **Newsletter Editor**

Katherine Miles

***Recently First Baptist  
Church was presented  
with The Madison  
Chamber of Commerce  
Community  
Service Award.***

## **A Small Church with Big Ideas**

First Baptist Church of Madison has stood on Cook Avenue for a hundred years and has a rich history in the Madison community. First Baptist is a small church with big ideas as can be witnessed by the exciting things the Church is involved in and the tremendous increase in membership over the last two years. 2005 has been a banner year for First Baptist in which the Church has emerged as a community leader.

## **First Baptist Church Returns Home**

For the first four months of 2005 First Baptist Church worshipped inside a small multi-purpose room at the Madison YMCA while the Church underwent major renovations. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> the congregation made a symbolic walk from the YMCA to the Church for the first service in the new sanctuary with a stop at the site of the original church at Odd Fellows Hall on Central Avenue. The original congregation made a similar walk from Odd Fellows Hall to the new structure on Cook Avenue a hundred years ago.

The words "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place and I know It's the Spirit of the Lord" are gracefully written across the arch which frames the pulpit. Everyone who enters the Church for the first time expresses that these words epitomize the feeling in the sanctuary. The beautiful original pews have been restored, there's a new baptismal pool and light

The Church held it's first annual Fall Retreat September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. This Retreat has served to jump-start training for leadership and planning Church programs and events. The Retreat has produced the following Ministries: Children, Youth, Young Adult, Men, Women, Ushers, Mission, Education, Transportation, Social Justice and Responsibility and Media.



fixtures including a seven foot gold chandelier. The Church is now enjoying it's state-of-the-arts sound system, lighting system and A/V equipment which allows an overflow crowd to view the services from the Harriet Shelton Fellowship Hall and the Arthur D. Brown Enrichment Center, which have also been completely renovated.

The Church is currently raising funds for phase II renovations, which will include a new wing.

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## "The Sounds of a People"



On Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club presented "The Sounds of a People" at First Baptist Church. This was a celebratory event for the congregation's return to the newly renovated church, which solicited donations toward the building fund.

What a wonderful program! What a repertoire! From "Amazing Grace" to "Honey Brown" the audience was just awe struck and spent a good part of the program on its feet in standing ovation.

The program included a tribute to Dr. Samuel Dewitt Proctor, a distinguished preacher, educator and author and past president of Drew University. Rev. Smith presented a framed original painting of Dr. Proctor to his son who is a member of the Glee Club.

Most recently the Glee Club has appeared in programs that included: Harry Belafonte, Smokey Robinson, Ben Vereen, Savion Glover, the Newark Boys Chorus and the gospel legend Shirley Caesar. Other recent performances include the White House, Lincoln Center, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Smithsonian Institute, The National Cathedral, Riverside Church, the Schomberg Center and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

## Social Consciousness

At First Baptist Church we believe that God's work is not just preaching the Word, but living the Word. In less than a year we've seen two major disasters that just compelled us ... as a Church, as a community, as a people ... to **just do something**.

### Tsunami

Following the Tsunami disaster a relief fund started in the First Baptist Church and became a community-wide project. In May a check for \$50,000 was presented to a representative from the Rotary Club of Central Calcutta as the Madison Tsunami Fund concluded its campaign to help the devastated Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 1,000 miles off the coast of India. The Madison coalition of congregations, borough government, schools and civic groups has been raising funds since January toward a "telemedicine" project to link the tsunami-devastated archipelago to medical facilities on mainland India via satellite communications. The project was identified in a connection between Rotary clubs in Madison and India.

### Katrina

At it's worship service on the Sunday following the Katrina disaster, the First Baptist Church asked it's congregation for donations for the Katrina victims. That morning the Church collected \$1,000 and the congregation made donations every Sunday in September and October. Thus began the Church's efforts in the Madison Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. A non-stop month-long mission to send clothing and other urgently needed supplies to victims of Hurricane Katrina carried over from September into the first week of October, when a final shipment to Louisiana was made with the help of a global operation. Nine receiving points were identified to ensure that the goods would reach the evacuees. The five receiving points in Louisiana alone are helping more than 5,000 hurricane victims.

**Making Strides - "The Walk":** On Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, First Baptist Church was represented at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in Parsippany, NJ. The team of 12 not only completed the five-mile walk but, more importantly, raised \$1995.00 for the American Cancer Society.

# Introducing Our Pastor

## REV. DR. CHARLES H. SMITH

Although our pastor insists his title is Pastor Smith, he has never released a summary of his educational background to the public. As we introduce you to our Church Family, we will introduce our pastor of the past three years. Our church membership is growing and has increased over thirty five percent since he assumed leadership.

Pastor Smith is married and his wife, Kimanne, heads the Art Department at Bergen Catholic High School. They have two teenage daughters, Caroline and Kristen.

### EDUCATION

- B.A. English - Virginia Union University
- M Div. Theology - Virginia Union University
- D.D. Doctor of Divinity - Simmons University
- L.H.D. Doctor of Humane Letters - University of Kentucky

### Graduate Specialized Education

- Executive Corporate Management - Harvard University
- Executive Management - General Electric Corporation
- Executive Administration - O.I.C. Academy
- Epidemiology - University of Pennsylvania

### WORK EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Social Worker - PA Department of Welfare
- Senior Minister - First Baptist Church of Huntington, W. VA
- National NAACP - Deputy Executive Director
- Senatorial Aide - Senator John Glenn of Ohio
- Public School Teacher in Brooklyn, NY
- Assistant Program Director - American Bible Society - NYC

### LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Construction of a New Church Edifice with internationally recognized Church Stain Glass Windows
- Construction of 150 apartments for low-income residents
- Establish of a successful Church-sponsored Seafood Business
- Editor/Author of (Special Edition) *Jubilee Legacy Bible*, Jubilee Legacy Guide, 7 historical Posters and two books highlighting the virtues of Frederick Douglass and Fannie Lou Hamer.



After serving as interim Pastor for a year, Rev. Smith was installed as Pastor of First Baptist Church on September 8, 2002.

## Church Nursery Opens

November marks the official opening of FBC's nursery, which is housed in the Arthur D. Brown Enrichment Center. Parents are encouraged to leave their small children with the very capable staff, who is able to view the service via TV in the Center.

## Annual Fall Revival "Restoring the Faith"

On Wednesday, October 26, through Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, FBC celebrated its Annual Fall Revival. Rev. Dr. Louis McDowell of Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Passaic was the guest evangelist. Friday night's service featured the Mt. Pilgrim Combined Choir which was just phenomenal!

## 4 THE 105 YEAR OLD SANCTUARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HAS UNDERGONE PHASE ONE PRESERVATION AT A COST OF \$350,000

For four months, from January until May, the First Baptist Church underwent major renovations at a cost of \$350,000. The Church congregation has made a commitment and pledged to raise funds towards the restoration and renovation of the 105-year-old structure. Restoration of the sanctuary includes the stained glass windows, the original circular pews, and the Gothic architecture with slanting floors. The Renovation includes new Mahogany doors, state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems, closed circuit television, new steps from the lower level to the balcony, a new round baptistery in a redesigned Chancel area.

The church exterior renovations include new steps and railing, painting, lighting and landscaping.

### \$250,000 CAPITAL FUND DRIVE BEING LAUNCHED FOR PHASE TWO

First Baptist Church will launch our Winter Capital Fund Drive to raise funds for phase two of the renovation of the Church. Phase two will include the erection of the new education building.

Deacon George Martin and Deaconess Jo James are Co-Chairpersons.

### Dedicating Our Restored House of Worship

On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, First Baptist Church will dedicate its restored House of Worship. Our guest evangelist will be Rev. Paul Willis of First Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia.

The dedication highlights include:

- Round Baptistery
- Chancel – Pulpit and Altar
- Elevated Choir Stand
- Restored Stained Glass Windows
- Restored Communion Table
- Famous Steps to the Fellowship Hall
- Mahogany Doors
- Harriet Shelton Fellowship Hall
- Newly Equipped Kitchen
- Restored Restrooms

### Social Justice and Responsibility

William Bennet is a former United States Secretary of Education and currently hosts the weekday radio program "Morning in America". On his radio show on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Bennet made remarks that have since touched off a debate about race, crime and abortion: "...you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down".

The letter on the left is First Baptist Church's response to those remarks.



