

January 2012

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JERICO

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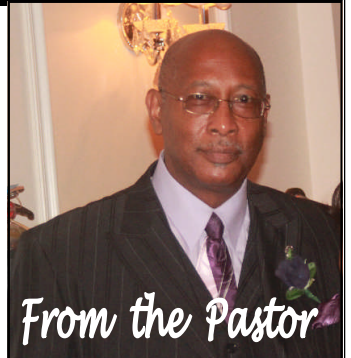
The Kingdom Chronicle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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NEW YEAR 2012



From the Pastor

The Fall Feasts of Israel include **Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot**. All of these holidays occur in the 7th month of Tisri (Sept. –Oct in our calendar). Seven symbolizing Divine Perfection, is interwoven into the tapestry of the Hebrew calendar. These fall feasts teach a natural progression of thought: (1) **Rosh Hashanah** (Feast of Trumpets) teach repentance (2) **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement), redemption, and (3) **Sukkot** (Feast of Tabernacles), rejoicing. Rosh Hashanah, literally “head of the year” announce the beginning of the new cycle of twelve months. Basic regulations for the observance of the New Year Festival appear in Lev. 23:23-25 and Num. 29:1-6. These texts refer to the festival as ‘a holy convocation’ or ‘the day of trumpet blasts.’ It is a day of rest on which no work is to be done. Sacrificial offerings include one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs together with their respective cereal offerings. In addition, a male goat is to be sacrificed as a sin offering.

There is some confusion in the biblical tradition concerning the New Year Festival. The first of Tisri is not designated as New Year’s Day anywhere in the Bible. And the term *Rosh Hashanah* appears only in Ezek. 40:1 where it refers to the general time of the year, but not specifically to the New Year Festival. In fact according to Exodus 12:2, the month of Abib, later known as Nisan (March-April), is the first month of the year, but no New Year Festival is prescribed for the first of Nisan. The first of Nisan, however, is the beginning of the eleven-day Babylonian New Year Festival. This has

prompted some scholars to suggest that the biblical New Year originally fell on the first of Tishri but at some time, probably during the Babylonian exile, the observance shifted to the first of Nisan to conform with Babylonian practice. Others argue that the original New Year was in the spring and later shifted to the autumn.

A third position distinguishes two types of New Years. The first of Nisan was the “spiritual” New Year, at which time the people of Israel were given “new life” with the Passover celebration. The reigns of kings were reckoned according to this time, and the first of Tishri was the secular or agricultural New Year for reckoning the liturgical calendar. Still there is the issue concerning the relationship of the biblical New Year Festival to the Babylonian New Year or *akitu* festival. This festival, held in the spring from the first to the eleventh of Nisan, emphasized the renewal of creation and kingship. The celebration featured a liturgical recitation and reenactment of the Babylonian creation epic in which Marduk, the city god of Babylon, defeated the chaos monster Tiamat and set the cosmos in order (cont. on pg. 2). The festivities also included a ritual procession around the city, a ritual humiliation of the king, and a ritual marriage of Marduk atop the ziggurat of Babylon. At the end of the festival, the king received the tablets of destiny that assured his rule for another year.

But to be sure, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year has a biblical origin which is not ushered in with the parties and revelry like the civil new years of

New Year 2012 (Cont. from pg. 1)

secular societies. According to Jewish tradition, the New Year is a time of “**solemn self-evaluation.**” This time of introspection is one where pious Jews attempt to weigh the heavenly balances in their favor, in order that it might be prescribed for them to have a prosperous year ahead.

This time of introspection was so important that spiritual preparation for it began a month in advance. Emotionally and psychologically there was a design to set the proper tone and attitude for repentance. The mood of the holy day heightens as special prayers of repentance and supplication are recited the entire week before Rosh Hashanah. Many Jews would attend the *mikvah* or public baths for ritual cleansing on the day before Rosh Hashanah.

Traditionally, the Jewish day is reckoned from evening to evening, so the synagogue service of the Holy Day was actually initiated on the evening before the actual New Years Day — much like our Watch Night celebration. The mood of the worshippers on this night is festive, not mournful, but the tone of the ritual is serious. Pious Jews would pull their prayer shawls over their heads as the Torah (Book of Law) is opened and they begin to recite the words of God’s judgment with tears and sobs.

Though the recounting of God’s judgment from the book of law is an emotional moment, it is not the central part of the service. The most exalted moment occurs when the shofar is sounded, calling the people to repentance. Now there are a number of interpretations of the significance of the trumpets—some of which are:

- ◆ They are sounded as a coronation as God is hailed as king.
- ◆ Its sounding heralded the beginning of a penitential season from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur.
- ◆ It represented the ram that was substituted for Isaac (Gen. 21)
- ◆ **It represents a time of reflection of a people before their God: Amos 3:6 “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people tremble”**

Following the afternoon services on Rosh Hashanah comes the ceremony of *Tashlich*, the symbolic casting of sins into running water. The Rabbis specified that the water should contain fish. Some say that they are a reminder of the eyes of God. While reading from Micah 7:19-20, the people shake crumbs from their pockets into the water. As the crumbs float away so do the sins of the people.

Oh the joy of knowing that Jesus has carried our sins away and the fresh water of the Spirit gives us a new beginning!

“Following the afternoon services on Rosh Hashanah comes the ceremony of Tashlich, the symbolic casting of sins into running water.”

Women’s Ministry Christmas Fellowship



A Gift From God

When you gather 35 Christian women, add a hearty buffet dinner and stir in a rousing rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” you get the perfect setting for the Women’s Ministry Annual Christmas Fellowship, held Friday, December 9 at the Carriage House in Voorhees.

Director Denise Williams and Assistant Director Michelle Baraka, ushered in the evening by welcoming the women and acknowledging our newest Sisters: Rhea Edwards, Donetta Beatty, Gayle Turbin, Venus Jones and Denise Poole.

This was an occasion for the women to unwind, relax and enjoy God’s gifts. Gifts that some times during busy seasons we forget to unwrap: Jesus’ gift of Grace and Mercy, His gift of Resurrection, His gift of Inheritance and His gift of the Word. And most importantly, the gift of Love—which we receive on a daily basis.

The latest in a series of “Girls Night Out” events, by the end of the evening, we were absolutely “laughing all the way.” The highlights of the evening were the harmony of singing voices and the candy cane cards. Indeed, a wonderful evening celebrating Jesus birth. . . a Gift from God.

Submitted by Sharon Carter



***The First Baptist Church
of Jericho Family
Celebrates
The 18th Pastoral
Anniversary of
Pastor Clay Bogan &
Lady Deborah Bogan***



***Sunday, February 12, 2012
Guest Preachers at the 8:00AM and 11:00
AM Services***

Plus our Annual Guests @ 4:00PM

Pastor James A. Dunkins

***His Choir and Congregation of
Shiloh Baptist Church,
Port Norris & Vineland, NJ***

Come out and Show Your Love!

***New Bible Study Class begins
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 @ 7pm
"1&2 Kings"***

See Debbie Wilkerson for your class book.

January Birthdays

1 Laura Gauthney	17 Patricia Robinson-Beale
1 John Green	18 Toni Reeves
1 Kimberly Muth	19 Sherry Ford
4 Ida Burns	19 Barbara Haynes
4 Frances Huggins	19 Jessica Milton
4 Stephanie Jones	20 Khaylin Eley
4 Kenya King	20 Jameika Galloway
5 Keith Parsons	20 Helen Pritchett
6 Keira Walker	20 Jacqueline Stanfield
6 Louise F. Williams	22 Robert Banks
7 Minnie Potis	22 Benton Dickerson
8 Janelle DeShields	22 Sarah Love
9 Shardonny Bates	22 Brittani Searles
9 Denise Williams	22 Mark Thomas
10 Raymond Arnold III	22 Deborah Wilkerson
11 Gregory McCrary	23 Juanita Winchester
12 Reginald Allen	24 Sharon Carter
12 Loretta Holloman	25 April Harden
13 Kimberly Adams	25 Maurice Tunstall
13 Marva Butts	26 Amy Aponte
14 Jonell Carter	26 Tyrone Maynard
14 Ashleigh Pollitt	27 Dyonte Davis
14 Regina Sesay	27 Anthony Hall
15 Anissa Murphy	27 Howard Smith
15 James Stokes	29 Andrew Cox
16 Richard Bates	29 Libby James
16 Karen Davis	29 Deloris Lewis
17 Yvonne Benton	29 Zakeira Robinson
17 Brianne Johnson	30 Evelyn Tunstall
17 Colin Cooper	31 Joyce Harley
17 Lorraine Howard	

Happy Anniversary

January 16th

Rev. Cleveland & Martha Dawson—52 years

January 30th

John & Alice McCoy— 58 years

Women

By Nicole Jiles

***Women that have a disposition
where a face of a smile is.***

Women that have words of a voice that's listened to.

***Women that can be open about how Christ
has given attention to areas in their lives.***

***Women that control a situation for a reason
that could bring about a different atmosphere.***

***Women that have a sentence about life
so it becomes a paragraph.***

Women that stopped errors when correction came.

Women that can say yes!!!

Preaching Schedule

Jan.	1	(10 AM Service Only)	Pastor Bogan
Jan.	8	Min. L. Barber	Pastor Bogan
Jan.	15	Pastor Bogan	Pastor Bogan
Jan.	22	Pastor Bogan	Pastor Bogan
Jan.	29	Rev. C. Dawson	Pastor Bogan

January
2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's 10AM Service 2:30pm- Nursing Home	2	3 6pm-Dinner *7pm- Start Bible Study	4 7pm-Prayer Deacons	5	6	7
8 11am-FBJ Installation of Officers	9	10 Dinner Deacons *	11 7pm-Prayer Trustee/ Finance	12	13	14 Youth Red Cross Certification
15	16	17 Dinner Trustee/ Finance *	18 7pm-Prayer Pres/VP	19	20	21 11am-PSAT/ SAT Training
22 9:30am- Couples @ Church School 3:30pm-FBJ Go to St. Paul Florence	23	24 Dinner Pres/VP *	25 7pm-Prayer Director/Asst	26	27	28
29 Couples @ Church School	30	31 Dinner Directors/ Asst *				