

THE TALL SPIRE



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

Broken Umbrellas

Anyone can be your teacher, if you are willing and able to listen to her. My daughter was that for me on one stormy Monday morning as we were hustling out the door to meet her school bus. I rummaged through the closet to three partially broken umbrellas. Looking in two other places revealed that we were a repository of broken umbrellas. One had broken metal rods. One had the covering that had come unfastened at the end of a spoke. Two were not locking into an open position and one looked as though it was doing a downward dog yoga position for some unapparent reason!

I was getting pretty frustrated as I was resigning ourselves to go out there with only our coats on, when Evie came up with the perfect solution. She looked at me and said, "Daddy, it's okay. You just take that one and I'll take this one and we'll walk together out to the bus." That made sense. So I took a large, bent umbrella and she took a smaller one and overlapped them and walked close together and survived the deluge with reasonable dryness. We actually had an enjoyable time considering our situation.

Then, I got to thinking about it later I realized that this is what the church is supposed to be about. None of us is perfect. We are all just like a bunch of broken umbrellas in this life, trying to stay dry. When we go it alone, we feel the wetness of the rain and the harsh winds, but when we journey together, covering one another, we find the elements in our environment are not so overwhelming.

Jesus preached that the "Kingdom of God is at hand!" And after his death and resurrection, the church was born. We, the church, is the Kingdom of God that endeavors to be "on earth, as it is in heaven." We have gotten it wrong many times in our shared history as the Church, but it says something amazing about God's redemptive possibilities when God uses our own brokenness, our imperfections as God's hands and feet in the world to bring wholeness and relationship to the world! We may just be a bunch of broken umbrellas out in the storm, but God can use us to bring healing and care to the world. That realization just might make you start singing in the rain next time!

Pastor Tim

**First Baptist Church
of White Plains**

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Sunday Worship @ 10:30am

Misión Bautista Worship @ 12:30pm

Adult Forum @ 9:30am

**Church Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 9am to 2:30pm
Friday 9am to 1pm**

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Rev. Tim Dalton, Senior Pastor

Matthew Perez, Minister of Music

Lucia Gold, Office Manager

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**Affiliated with American Baptist
Churches of Metropolitan NY
The American Baptist Churches USA
www.abc-usa.org**

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**LOOK FOR THE TALL SPIRE
at Bryant Avenue and North Street
adjacent to White Plains High School**

Promises? What? Where?

Have you ever heard this quoted to you in a time of trouble and doubt? “The promises of God are certain, but they do not all mature in ninety days.” This quote by the venerable Rev. A.J. Gordon is certainly true, but can feel frustrating in times of life where we are looking for proof of God’s faithfulness; a sign that He can be trusted with our fragile hopes, fears, plans and lives.

Despite a recent season of incredible growth, blessing, and love, I found myself frustrated with certain specific areas of my life. Why didn’t I see more advancement, what more could I possibly do to alleviate the struggles in this section of my life, why didn’t God show up and sustain me (aka give me exactly what I think I need) like He supposedly said He would? I was frustrated and anxious. Feeling like I needed to get past these issues, but not knowing how or when I would be released!

It was in conversations pertaining to these concerns that a friend illuminated my spirit with the truth that God’s promises of faithfulness to us do NOT mean that He is obligated to fulfill the exact needs that we think must be met. His promise to us is not the eradication of struggle, but the sustenance of His presence, the gracious sharing of His strength, and His promise to work good out of whatever circumstance through which we are currently wading. “Elemental ideas, all of them, to an experienced church kid like me!” thought I. However, I realized that I had been doubting the sovereignty of God because I didn’t see Him taking care of things in the way I thought He should. This knowledge of my own arrogance in the workings of the universe was very freeing. I was reminded that God is not my puppy on a leash, and my life is not abandoned simply because I don’t see Cosmic activity playing out in front of me in perfect accordance with the script in my head.

Maybe you are facing situations right now that seem lonely, frustrating, abandoned, terrifying, or maybe just mildly disappointing. Whatever it is you are dealing with, I hope that we can come together with the knowledge and faith that allows us to rest in a God that is bigger than our issues and expectations. I hope that we can rest together in trust that no matter what we are feeling, God is working all things together for good (Romans 8). Together we can pray “I will give thanks to your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness, because your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.” (Ps 138:2).

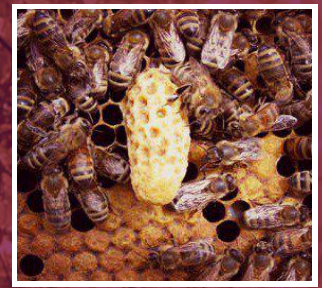
Kate Wiswell, Lead Singer

The Blessed Bees

Sad but true, only the yellow hive thrived! I would hate to think it is because of the color but for whatever reason we could not get the blue hive up and running! The yellow hive did great and we were able to harvest 6 frames of honey. Lucia decorated the canning jars and we had enough honey to sell for Center of Hope Haiti (www.centerofhope-haiti.org) raising about \$360.00. Carl also made Elderberry Syrup from the fruit orchard elderberries and sweetened it with our own hive honey! All made pure and special for you to enjoy!



Bee larvae surrounded
by Royal jelly



The formation of the
Queen bee’s cell

So what do we do to support the future of the blue hive? It is strongly recommended that we split the yellow hive next spring. By taking bees, honey and fresh baby bee brood from the yellow hive and transferring it to the blue hive we can start a stronger blue hive. The baby bee larvae that is not capped will enable the new hive to choose their own queen and start feeding the baby bee the Royal jelly that will make her into their new queen!

What is Royal jelly? Royal jelly is produced by nurse worker bees for the sole purpose of nourishing queen bees and raising new queen bees. The queen bee grows, on average, 40% larger than worker bees and lives up to 50 times as long. And all the while, she produces an enormous quantity of eggs (equal to more than twice her own body weight) every single day.

Royal jelly is a milky secretion produced by glands of the bee and is secreted from the front of its head. It typically contains about 60% to 70% water, 12% to 15% proteins, 10% to 16% sugar, 3% to 6% fats, and 2% to 3% vitamins, salts, and amino acids. Its composition varies depending on geography and climate. This product gets its name from the fact that bees use it for the development and nurturing of queen bees. Some people use royal jelly as medicine. Don’t confuse royal jelly with bee pollen or bee venom.

Royal jelly is used for asthma, hay fever, liver disease, pancreatitis, type 2 diabetes, diabetic foot ulcers, sleep troubles (insomnia), fatigue (tiredness) secondary to cancer, premenstrual syndrome (PMS), infertility (inability to have a child), menopausal symptoms, kidney disease, bone fractures, menopausal symptoms, skin disorders, and high cholesterol. It is also used as a general health tonic, for fighting the effects of aging, and for boosting the immune system.

“Bee” a volunteer. If you have interest in learning more about bee-keeping or helping with the hives don’t hesitate to contact Lucia or Carl. They would be more than happy to have your help and show you the ropes in bee-keeping.

Lucia Gold and Carl Hamby, the Blessed Bees Beekeepers

Margaret's Garden

The corn, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchini planted back in May have been yielding their fruit in August. Later this season eggplants and beets should be ready for harvest. So there will be a considerable variety of vegetables available for purchase to help support Center of Hope-Haiti. This year plots were allocated in the new garden to families from Family Services of Westchester (FSW) and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and friends and family of First Baptist Church. We are happy to be able to provide garden space for people in our orbit and that of FSW and UCP who can use it to supplement their fresh food needs with their own home grown fruits and vegetables.

The elderberry bushes planted last year along the southern fence line of the new garden are now in full production. The first harvest of berries has been used to make several jars of elderberry syrup by boiling the berries to make juice and mixing it with honey from the "Blessed Bees". We plan to make and can more batches of this health promoting syrup as the elderberries continue to ripen and offer it for sale to help support Center of Hope-Haiti.

The apple, plum, peach, and paw-paw trees which were planted as whips one year ago continue to grow and should come into production in the next two or three years. We look forward with anticipation to the fruit they will bear. This year three different varieties of raspberries were planted along the southern boundary of the orchard and we eagerly await the harvest of raspberries next year. As always any volunteers who can help in the gardens and orchard are welcome as it has been hard to keep ahead of the weeding this year with the plentiful rain and warm weather that made for a good growing season.

Carl Hamby, Gardener-in-Chief

Children's Corner

This summer has been a recharging and interesting season for me. Our God is always so good and wonderful for how He blesses me and my family in so many different ways, and I am ready to share the blessings and love of Christ with our children this year. This time, I am going to use a better structured program for the Sunday school based on different themes, instead of going through the Bible stories in chronological order. In this semester, I would like to emphasize how the Bible teaches that we belong to the family of God.

In a service aspect, I am going to teach the children that people can be attracted to God and get to know Him better through the Christian lives of His people. Lastly, I would like to teach about

the mindset of His worshippers. One verse I would like to leave with you is 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ." Our children are also part of the body of Christ and of this church. Each little soul is so precious because Jesus would have died for just one of them. Please remember them in your prayers. Children are the future of the church, and servants for God's kingdom.

Katelyn Perez, Youth and Children Intern

Isaiah and Jesus: Prophet and Word

From mid September till Advent, we will take a closer look at the writings of the Prophet Isaiah and his impact on the life and ministry of Jesus. We know that Jesus appears to emphasize and embrace Isaiah's work with the exiles coming out of Babylon, when he preaches his first sermon in his hometown of Nazareth, in Luke 4, and reads from Isaiah 61. Isaiah spoke of God's doing a new thing with the Covenant People of God and certainly Jesus embodies that as the Incarnational reality of God coming to the world as fully human. Isaiah spoke of the mandate for the Hebrew people was no longer an exclusive club, but an inclusive model for how to live as God's creations in the world, as "a light to the nations." Jesus embraces this message with his inclusion of women and Gentiles in his ministry. Worship with us this Fall as we take a closer look at a new prophetic vision and its embodiment in Christ. A prophet's words that are give a glimpse of the living Word of Christ more than 500 years later and what it means for us today! Come and join us as we study Isaiah and Jesus: Prophet and Word.

Pastor Tim

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 6 – Blessing of the Animals at 10:00AM
Special Fellowship Time Honoring Pat Ehresmann
as retiring Treasurer will take place at 11:30AM

Wednesday, Oct. 9 – Church Board Meeting at 7:00PM

Sunday, Oct. 20 – Fall Congregational Meeting

Adult Forum

Our *Adult Forum* (Sunday School for Adults) takes place on Sundays at 9:30AM. Pastor Tim will be exploring the scriptures for that Sunday's worship service in more depth for discussion and prayer.

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 26 from 3:00PM to 6:00PM
Dress up your kids in their favorite Halloween costumes for our fourth annual Trunk or Treat! Featured activities include decorated cars with candy for trick-or-treaters, a moon bounce to play in, and face painting. Call the church office or visit our Facebook for details!

Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive

We will be having another healthy food drive for our "Putting Families First: Food Cooperative" with our supportive partners at Nourish Your Neighbor through the local Cornell University Westchester extension. For three consecutive Sundays in the month of September (*September 15th, 22nd, and 29th*) we will be collecting healthy food options for families. Please bring your donation with you to church, or drop it off during the week at the Wilson House church office.