

The Tall Spire

SUMMER EDITION

DISTILLING THE GOSPEL



The summer provides a season for most of us to slow our lives down a bit. It provides the opportunity to be more relaxed in our fast-paced schedules, and allows for a more leisurely approach to the days. What was once a complicated mixture of cold weather, shorter days, and heavy schedules turns into a laid back, longer daylight, and generally happier time for our community. A pause within the calendar, a seasonal Sabbath that provides the chance for reflection and seemingly what was once complicated, now distilled to its simplest forms – time to enjoy family, take a vacation, savor the sunlight, take someone to Playland – life, seen as a gift from God, becomes simple again.

The change to Summer can be seen as a distillery of the complicated lives we lead. Thus, it is an able metaphor for certain Bible passages that seem to take what might be seen as complicated theology and break it all down as to what God is up to in our world. Without saying much, these particular verses say a lot.

This summer, we will be exploring six simple verses that pack a punch and distill the nature of God down

into savory, digestible, applicable morsels. We will be feasting on some passages that you are familiar with:

John 3:16	Love
Micah 6:8	Justice
Matthew 5:10	Righteousness
Matthew 7:12	Behaviors toward one another
Psalms 23:1	Desire
Romans 5:6	Weakness



Join us for worship this summer as we settle back, distill the Good News of the Bible, and take in the grand view of God. Discovering again, who God is, and what God is up to in our world and yours! Help us savor the beauty that is God's word, hope, and desire for the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Pastor Tim

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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

Rev. Tim Dalton, Senior Pastor
Matthew Perez, Minister of Music
Lucia Gold, Office Manager
George McCullough, Maintenance Supervisor

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

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

Decisions ... Decisions ...

Summer is upon us! We welcome the thought of warmer days, lots of sun, fresh breezes, maybe a day at the beach, a whole new season of experiences and opportunities await us. I often think to myself "I can rest a bit easier when Summer gets here." There will be time to just relax and enjoy ourselves a bit more than we do during the Winter with the tough weather and hectic holidays. "Summer will be easy-breezy," (pun intended) so says my sub-conscious.

However, for many of us, this time of the year can bring us many decisions and stresses that the rest of the year may not. Maybe you have to figure out what your kids are going to do out of school for 3 months; maybe your teenager needs to start making big decisions for their next scholastic adventure/obligation; maybe you have several family events lined up that will require a lot of planning; maybe there's a bigger issue going on in your life that is worrying you and it's happening to come upon you now, just when you expected to get a break, etc etc. As much as we enjoy our "restful" season, there can be a lot to it!

I often feel anxious in these scenarios. I feel easily overwhelmed when faced with differing decisions that require attentive and thoughtful actions. I want to make the best choice for whatever I'm doing next, and I want to help others to do the same. Pastor Tim remarked in one of his recent sermons: "Faith is taking the best step. Then leaving the rest to God." This encouraged me so much! Our God is willing and wanting to help us take the next best step, however big or small our current quandary may be. James 1:5 says "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

Enjoy the coming months to the fullest and make the next best decision you can, with whatever life is bringing your way. My mother always told me "Ask God for wisdom and then proceed as if you have it." With whatever plans I have in the coming months, I'm going to do just that. And I know it will be a great Summer. Enjoy the sun!

Kate Wiswell, Lead Singer

NEWS AND MORE



We just received clothing recycling bins on the eastern parking lot and welcome you to make donations whenever you can. The organization, Helpsy, makes a financial contribution to the church and takes the clothes and distributes among thrift stores in the area and whatever can't be reused is either made into industrial rags or materials for children's playgrounds in the developing world. It has gotten off to a good start, as it appears to be getting a fair amount of usage already. If you have any clothes or shoes to donate, please drop them off anytime!



We will be having the United Vacation Bible Camp for the second year in a row with our partners Misión Bautista, Trinity Lutheran and the Salvation Army of White Plains on Thursday, June 27 – Saturday, June 29th. Last year, we had 80 kids (ranging in ages from 4-12) involved and are hoping to support as many kids again this year. Please pray for these kids who will be exposed to the Good News of Jesus and for all the volunteers who are planning and giving of their time to shine the light of Jesus for these children. If you would like to register your child, please call the church's main office at 914-949-5207.

MARGARET'S GARDEN

While the winter was challenging for our bees the spring has been good for Margaret's Garden and the orchard. The peas that were planted after St. Patty's Day have benefited from the cool weather this spring are up and thriving. It looks like we will have a bountiful harvest of sweet Sugar Snap peas in early June. The children's Sunday School class planted cucumbers, egg plants, and zucchini seeds which were started in the Wilson House Sunroom and moved to the greenhouse along with tomato and beet seedlings. Work is in progress to establish a new raised bed for strawberries. In the meantime the everbearing variety planted last year has bloomed and is loaded with what appears to be a promising yield of strawberries. For those who love strawberry rhubarb pie, three rhubarb plants have been planted in a bed adjacent to the asparagus bed and should be ready to start harvesting next spring.

All of our orchard trees survived the winter including the new peach and paw paw trees and bee-friendly aronia (chokeberry) bushes that were planted last fall. The straw bales that were used over the winter as windbreaks for the beehives are being recycled as mulch to keep the weeds down in the garden and orchard. We thank all those who came out on Planting Day on Saturday, May 18th and helped transplant tomato, cucumber, and zucchini seedlings and plant corn and beans. We will transplant our greenhouse seedlings and plant seeds for sweet corn and green beans. With help from the bees and good spring weather we look forward to a bountiful yield from Margaret's Garden this year!

Carl Hamby, Gardener-in-Chief

THE BLESSED BEES

It has been a challenging winter for Beekeeping. Carl and I (Lucia Gold) did all we could do to save our bees by putting bales of hay around the hives, adding insulation to the boxes and later foam board. *But alas, this spring, upon doing an inspection, it was discovered that only the yellow hive survived!* Initially we thought that both hives were thriving because we saw bee activity going in and out. Upon opening up the blue hive we discovered that more

than likely bees from the yellow hive were stealing honey and invading the blue hive. Much to our disappointment, the entire blue hive was dead. It was shocking and difficult to watch as Carl brushed hundreds of dead bees from the bottom of the hive onto the ground!

We are encouraged that at least the yellow hive survived. The blue hive was the weaker of the two, so in some ways we were not too surprised. Carl and I are not giving up and we immediately purchased a new package of bees, which included a new queen. Carl and Jay (my husband) took a ride up to Kingston, NY to Hudson Valley Bee Supply and brought the 'girls' home to their new hive. The queen comes in a little box and the box has something like cotton candy on the end. The idea is that the bees will eat the candy to release the queen and they begin mating and making brood. Within a few days she was released from the box but after two weeks we saw no brood which means they rejected their queen and either declared mutiny and killed her or pushed her out of the hive in total dismissal. Fortunately, Hudson Valley Bee Supply indicated that because our queen left her hive we are entitled to another queen, free of charge! Jay picked her up and Carl put her into the hive, and this time things went as planned. The bees released her and hopefully will like her. To encourage them to mate we transferred some of the brood from the yellow hive over to the blue hive. We are still in the process of determining if this hive will thrive.



In the meantime Patricia Adams, our bee mentor, has introduced us to new beekeepers in White Plains. Patricia will be mentoring them as well and we can all learn from each other which will be exciting and fun. Again, Carl Hamby deserves much of the credit since I have been recovering from my surgery. I'm not quite sure what I would do without him! He certainly is a blessing to me and is always willing and able. Thanks again, Carl, for all of your help.

David Manierre Scholarship Dinner

Saturday, June 15th we will be hosting our annual Scholarship Dinner at 6pm in the Wilson House. Tickets are only \$25 and it is a great meal with family and friends for a great cause – helping to raise money for college students from First Baptist and Misión Bautista. If you cannot make it, we would still welcome a donation of any amount, donation for the raffle, or journal advertisement. Thank you!

Pastors Tim and Abner

