

# Morning Star

## SO WHAT?

By Pastor Torrey Robinson

One of the better kept secrets of the First Baptist Church of Tarrytown is that we are a Conservative Baptist Church. "Who are the Conservative Baptists?" you may ask with a yawn. Isn't it redundant to say someone is Conservative and Baptist? In a day when denominations are viewed with suspicion or simple disinterest, why should you even care about our church's broader affiliation?

For four consecutive Saturdays in October and November I am traveling to Conservative Baptist meetings in upstate New York, Long Island, Massachusetts and Maine as the keynote speaker. My assignment at these regional meetings is to tell people why they should actively embrace their identity and affiliation as Conservative Baptists. As I have eagerly taken on this assignment, I realize that it would benefit our church for me to tell you some of what I've been asked to tell others around the northeast.

What I have been telling people in my quick tour around the northeast is that we need to recognize who we are as Christians. The Apostle Paul wrote to Christians in Rome and told them that they were each part of Christ body, the church. "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:5).

That means that every Christian is dependent on every other Christian. Or to state it like Paul, you and I belong to everyone else who belongs to Jesus Christ. This is our identity as Christians. We are called to work together. The body of Christ is interdependent just like a human body.

Think about Michael Phelps, the Olympic gold medal winner. His well-conditioned body has to work at peak efficiency for him to win the gold. His ear listens for the starter's horn. His legs push off from the starter's block. His head and back bend together as he launches himself in the water. His heart, lungs, brain, arms, legs, hands and feet all work together in perfect synchronization to propel him through the water while taking in enough oxygen to keep his whole body properly supplied. One cramped muscle, even one mental error and the gold is lost. For the human body to work efficiently all the different parts are needed and each part must work together with the rest.

We see this within our church. The church is like a body.

Anyone who looks closely at our church recognizes that my job as pastor contributes to only a very small part of the ministry of our church. Our church is made up of people whose lives and ministries all work together with each other. There are people who teach Sunday School, people who lead small groups, people who sing, play instruments and lead music, people who run sound and power point, people who lead ministries, people who visit others in the hospital and nursing homes, people who write notes of encouragement, people who make phone calls, people who take care of the church building and grounds, people who give of their time and their money, people who correspond with missionaries, people who pray, people who share their faith through what they say and what they do... The list goes on. Our church is people utilizing their experience, abilities, and spiritual gifts together in service for God.

But when Paul says that we form one body he envisions something bigger than just our local church here in Tarrytown. The one body of Christ is made up of every man and woman, boy and girl who knows Jesus anywhere in the world. It is made up of people from every nation and every people group all around the world, all those who call Jesus their Savior. And this world-wide church also exists in an interdependent relationship.

Not too long ago, as I was thinking about our church's mission, I was struck by the importance of our interdependence with other Christians and other churches. Our church mission states that First Baptist Church exists to share God's love and hope to transform hearts, homes, Westchester and the world. If we take our mission seriously and if we assume our little church is going to pull it off alone, we'll give up before we ever start. Without question, we don't have the manpower and the resources for the task. With God's help we will see some individual hearts and lives transformed. And we have seen God work in some of the marriages and families

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# GETTING OLDER, GETTING YOUNGER

By Dan Rizzi

One of the most successful outreach ministries of the FBC has been the senior luncheon sponsored by the Pioneers For Christ (Seniors) ministry. The Lord has honored us by providing overwhelming growth in attendance. Although this is a blessing, it has also presented us with a challenge of how can the limited, diminishing numbers of seniors, with increasing limitations, continue providing all that's needed for this demanding ministry? The 100 plus seniors that attend regularly present us with an impossible task that we weren't certain how to resolve. How can we continue without additional help?

Then, we once again, experienced the Grace of the Lord by His envisioning the need and providing additional disciples "to serve the tables." The Lord called Chris and Maria Herman from their busy schedule, Clyde Gordon from his obligations, Steve Armstrong, Pastor Torrey, and Sue Robinson from their awesome responsibilities, Yolanda Johnson whenever she is off, and Becky Mc Govern from everything. He even sent Vince Corveddu from outside the church to assist because he saw the need. Some of our regular guests join in to assist because they see the burden and want to help. Helen's friends from Ossining Aldo and Irene are always ready and willing to add a helping hand. We couldn't provide the food we do without our generous cooks. Some of our

steadies are Pam O'Quinn, Joan Rizzi, Lois Kirby, Barrie Skalki, Debbie Ocheltree, Jennifer Polimeno and Sue Hubbard. Others bring in food without recognition and often have to leave because of other obligations.

Our last luncheon was a tremendous success and it could have only been so because of the contributions of those mentioned above. This ministry is not limited to the "Pioneers" which is currently composed of 5 members. This is a FBC ministry and although we are extremely grateful and give thanks to those who assisted us, we realize that by all indications much more help is going to be needed. The Pioneers For Christ should be all-inclusive and not just limited to the "seniors."

Our success story can only continue with the outstanding support and help from the entire congregation, the young and the old. Remember, we will all be seniors one of these days, Lord willing. Many thanks to our younger Pioneers.

The senior Pioneers,  
Carol Corveddu  
Helen Greene  
Ed Phillips  
Joan and Dan Rizzi

## SO WHAT *continued from page 1*

in our church. But how can we even contemplate trying to reach Westchester County or reaching the entire world?

The only way we can possibly reach our county and our world is to link arms with other churches and other Christians who want to tell the world about Jesus. We must recognize that God has called us to an interdependent relationship with Christians outside our church just as He called us to mutual dependence upon one another inside our church. The mission He has given us demands this.

Yet while it is part of our calling as Christians to link arms with other believers to accomplish Jesus' mission, this is much easier said than done. Though we are called to unity, the differences between churches tend to divide us. Some churches practice baptism and communion differently than we do. Some churches are much more traditional or more liturgical than we are. Some churches prophecy and speak in tongues as part of their worship. Many churches don't even speak our language. How do we work together when there are so many theological, traditional and cultural differences? These are questions we can't ignore because our mission requires that we work together.

But this is where our involvement in the Conservative Baptist Association is a great asset. By virtue of our commitment to the

Conservative Baptists we are already linked to 250 like-minded churches in New York and New England and to about 1,200 churches across the United States. These are churches that share similar doctrinal beliefs and share many other common elements. If we are called to link arms with other churches, it only makes sense that we begin with those with whom we already have strong connections. Though we are spiritually connected in Christ to every other Christian around the world, it isn't possible to work together with all of them. But we can start by working together with many churches through our joint connections with the Conservative Baptists.

Sharing God's love and hope to transform hearts, homes, Westchester and the world. A mission as big as the world necessitates interdependence. Churches committed to a Great Commission mission have no option but to work together. First Baptist Church is a Conservative Baptist Church. So if we are serious about reaching the world for Jesus, the best place to start is with our shared ministry in our Conservative Baptist Association. Our affiliation with the Conservative Baptist Association is a good thing. It is up to us to help make a good thing great.★

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**The Bright and Morning Star** is seeking contributions for the next issue on any topics of interest which glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Please send articles to: The Bright and Morning Star Newsletter at the address above.

# VBS 2008

## Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power

By Becky McGovern (Bunsen Burner) and Steve Armstrong (Radon)

This past summer on Monday, August 11th began our weeklong VBS program. The theme was Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power.

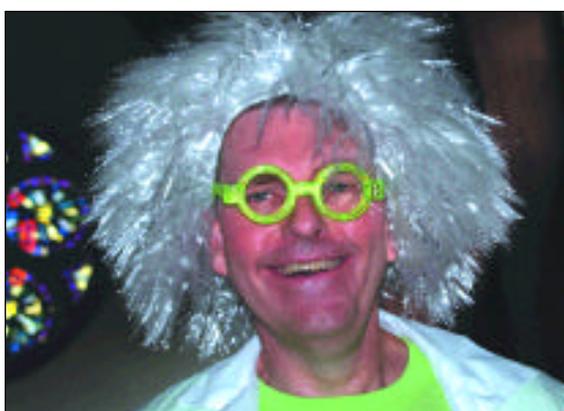
Once again, First Baptist Church of Tarrytown opened up it's doors to welcome over 120 Campers and over 40 teen volunteers. Not to mention the tireless volunteers from our own congregation.

Each day, children took part in fun Bible learning that they

could see, hear, touch and even taste. Bible crafts, team building games, lively Bible songs, and tasty treats were just a few of the Power Lab activities that helped faith flow into real life.

At the end of the week on Friday night, we had the closing ceremony when the children sang all of the songs they learned during the week. Many parents and friends attended.

We look forward to our next summer's VBS program!



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# FBC Outreach Events Going Strong

By Jenna Velez

This summer the Outreach Ministry hosted the first annual July 4th Barbecue and Concert. Approximately 75 people attended the event, and the congregation was instrumental in bringing friends and family members. The day consisted of good food, an apple pie baking contest, games, face painting, a concert by Cedarville University's own HeartSong and ended with the Tarrytown fireworks display. Our special guests, HeartSong, are a team of eight students from Cedarville University. The group included vocalists, keyboard players, a guitarist, a percussionist, an auxiliary instrumentalist, and a sound technician. They travel weekends during the school year and have a ten-week summer commitment, in which they travel around the country to present a variety of worship music, testimonies, Scripture, and congregational songs. They adapted the program to include patriotic music as well, in order to fit with the theme of this event. Jennifer Kang and Aaron Velez were instrumental in planning this event and ensuring that it would be a fun way for people to enjoy the 4th of July while being exposed to a Christian message through HeartSong.

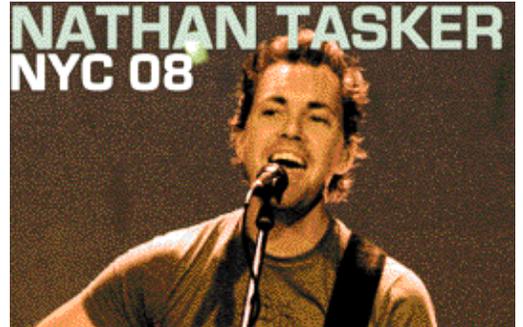
On August 2nd the Outreach Ministry hosted the FBC Summer Olympics at Washington Irving Park in Tarrytown. The day began with registration, in which

teams were created and assigned either to Team White or Team Red. Once the teams were created and ready to go the opening ceremonies began, complete with the lighting of the torch and the National Anthem. The first sports to take place were softball on the lower field and soccer on the upper field. The second half of the competition started with Ultimate Frisbee on the upper field. As the skies grew darker and clouds started rolling in the day took an unexpected turn with an intense thunderstorm. Everyone helped to break down the equipment and ran back to the church.

The storm didn't interfere with our mission for the day however. Back at the church we were able to eat lunch together and hear an inspiring message from Fred Opie. This message was important in reaching our guests especially, and I know from speaking from one person in particular, that it spoke to him about his own life in a very real way. Chip Lotierzo worked tirelessly on the details of planning this event, with the assistance on Steve Armstrong, Aaron Velez, and the member of our congregation who came together that day to make it happen. We also depended on our members to bring their friends, which made the event successful in meeting our mission: Reaching out to people in the community who are in need of Jesus in their lives.★



Getting ready for the three-legged race



Nathan Tasker sang at the Harvest Festival



Kim and a friend



Steve Armstrong gives the message at the Harvest Festival



Ed Phillips and Walter Neumann



Apple pie baking contest winners: Diane Zillotti, Pam O'Quinn and Barbara Morton



Barry Hausner and friend



Patrick Mueller and friends



The Red Team at the Summer Olympics



## MOVIE REVIEWS

By Jacques Cowart II

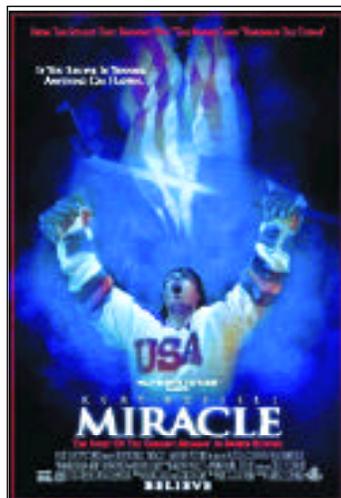
### 'Do You Believe in Miracles?

Well movie goers, it's that time of year again. After all, the Oscars have been given out and the end of the year rush is over. The movie studios seem to do something that we all wish we could...they hibernate for the winter. Yes, it seems every year between the months of January and late March, the studios send out their...let's just say, 'Not the best films.' To name a few, 'Step Up 2: the Streets', '10,000 B.C.', 'Fool's Gold', 'Diary of the Dead', 'The Eye', 'Rambo', 'Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins', 'Never Back Down', 'Meet the Spartans'. The list can go on and on. Don't get me wrong some of these movies are/can be entertaining. But we all have to admit, we aren't going to leave the theatre wanting to have a bite afterwards to discuss the themes and points of the movie, nor are we going to be telling others to run out and spend their \$10 to see one. (Or if you're like my wife, you probably are unaware that some of these movies even exist.)

Originally I was going to review Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who". But I decided against it since two members of our congregation and close friends of mine, Chip Lotierzo and Paul Diaz, animated the film. Can anyone say bias? So I recommend you check out their work if you can.

Instead of doing the typical new release review, I have decided to dedicate this review to a segment I like to call: *Watch or Re-Watch*.

**Miracle** – Released in February of 2004 its one of the few movies released in the winter that's worth checking out a second time, or a first. Directed by Gavin O'Connor, and starring Kurt Russell, *Miracle* is based on the true story of one of the greatest moments in sports history. The tale captures a time and place where a cold war could be put on ice. In 1980, the United States Ice Hockey team's coach, Herb Brooks (Kurt Russell), took a squad of college kids up against the leg-



endary and undefeated juggernauts from the Soviet Union at the Olympic Games. Despite the long odds, Team USA carried the pride of a nation yearning from a distraction from world events.

I was born in 1980, too young to remember watching this event on TV. But being the sports fan I am, I have heard and seen clips of the last 20 seconds of the famous match, too many times to count. I have to tell you though, never have I understood and 'felt' the story more than after I watched this film. To be able to see what these young men and their head coach went through, the hours and hours of work, the physical and mental exhaustion that ones endures when facing insurmountable odds, and the powerful moment in which the team realizes that they are a team, NOT individual superstars, is a moment we all should watch, not just us sports fans. I recommend this film strongly for anyone wanting to relive a piece of that history, or to anyone who hasn't a clue to what I'm talking about.

*Miracle* is rated PG for language (they use the 'H' word often) and some rough sports action (this is hockey).

### New Release to DVD

**Enchanted** – If you are a fan of the 'old school' Disney films, (The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Snow White, The Beauty and the Beast) then you should rent *Enchanted*. It's the classic Disney fairytale taken place in present day New York City. Oscar nominated Amy Adams stars as Giselle the innocent princess, who is betrayed on her wedding day by the wicked witch and thrust head first into NYC. Soon her prince charming comes looking for her and crazy antics ensue. Its a great family film (ages 7-11) and I have to admit, I chuckled a few times as well.



# Go And Tell Your Friends

(and anyone who will listen)

By Frank Pastore

WE Christians are quite familiar with Matthew 28:18-20 and the myriad applications that are made of this “Great Commission.” Oftentimes, I regret, we are too familiar. Whether it is called outreach, evangelism, soul-winning, or something else (missions comes to mind), our response to heeding the Lord Jesus’ command to go and make, more often than not, tends to be formulaic. I am ashamed to confess that I have been guilty of this. As I reflect on Christ’s call I am struck by the reality that my motives for sharing the Gospel oftentimes had been more about “doing” than about my life in Christ. Evangelism might as well have been a game to be won or a position to be defended. Because of my zealotry to accomplish the task, I had too often failed to see that this great mission of the “called out ones” is solely, totally, entirely about Him and His glory.

Perhaps it’s because I’m writing this on the eve of my departure for another season of ministry in Slovakia that I feel compelled to examine motives. I certainly feel privileged to be going again, but I am more aware than ever of my frailty and weakness (a condition not confined solely to the physically challenged). This time of reflection has served to remind me that anything accomplished for the Lord is only accomplished by the Lord. The work is His to do (2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 2:13). It is the sovereign work of His Spirit to raise the dead to eternal life, and we who are privileged to know Him are simply the conduits that He so graciously chooses to use in this great and glorious task.

Wikipedia defines outreach as an effort by individuals in an organization or group to connect its ideas or practices to the efforts of other organizations, groups, specific audiences or the general public. Unlike marketing, outreach does not inherently revolve around a product or strategies to increase market share. Typically non-profits, civic groups, and churches engage in outreach.

Outreach often takes on an educational component (i.e., the dissemination of ideas), but it is increasingly common for organizations to conceive of their outreach strategy as a two-way street in which outreach is framed as engagement rather than solely dissemination or education.

Outreach strategies are linked to the organization’s mission, and define targets, goals, and milestones. (A Google search of the word, outreach, brings up scores of hits with just as many ways to reach out).

I’ve emphasized parts of the definition just to point out that according to this definition all the responsibility for outreach (and, by implication, its success) resides with the individual (substitute: Christian), organization (substitute: church) or group (substitute: committee). As a secular endeavor, outreach does, in fact, depend on the best efforts and strategies of talented people to achieve their goals. It

should also be said that the overlap of the secular and sacred can be morally neutral, and I am not implying that a shared word (outreach) and definition is in and of itself wrong. No, the problem is not so much in how one defines outreach, but in how one understands it. If my life is consumed by the love of God in Christ Jesus; if my motives are pure; if I am concerned about His glory then I will be compelled to go and tell – I can do no other. In Mark’s Gospel account (Mark 5:1-20) we read about the demon-possessed man whom the Lord Jesus Christ delivered. We may see that man’s situation as extraordinary, as something the Lord certainly used to demonstrate His power over evil and to bring Himself glory. Yes, that is all true enough, but there is more. That once-tormented-man wandering about aimlessly and destructively (especially self-destructively) found peace and rest in Christ. No longer the object of God’s wrath, that now-delivered-man

had something to tell and Someone to boast about. In Mark 5:19 we read: “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

We who have experienced the grace and mercy of God in our lives are really no different than that man

from Gadara. We too were dead in our trespasses and sins—hell bound (Eph. 2:1). Our lives were just as wrecked as that poor man. Perhaps our lives were more “sanitary” but we were just as lost and without God (Eph. 2:12). It just seems to me that our response to the love of God (Rom. 5:8) should definitely neither be formulaic nor self-dependent. My response and your response to the unfathomable love of Jesus Christ that honors God and gives glory to Him will find expression through the vibrancy and intimacy of our relationship with Him. Might not our outreach be most effective when it is the love of God that compels (1 Cor 9:16; 1 John 5:13) us as we are reaching out to tell those who we go to (or who come to us) how much the Lord has done for us and how He has had mercy on us?

“I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth, Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.” (Isa. 43:6-7) In commenting on these verses John Piper writes: “God made us to magnify His greatness—the way telescopes magnify stars. He created us to put His goodness and truth and beauty and wisdom and justice on display. The greatest display of God’s glory comes from deep delight in all that He is. This means that God gets the praise and we get the pleasure. God created us so that He is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”★

*The greatest display of  
God's glory comes from deep  
delight in all that He is*

# MONTREAL MISSION TRIP

## Street Ministry - Ministry of Love

By Yolanda Parker Johnson

On behalf of the Montreal Mission Team, Juan Garcia, Patrick Mueller and myself, I would like to thank our FBC family for all of your prayers, which provided the support we needed to help make this a successful mission trip. The weekend trip to Montreal Canada was simply amazing, a whirlwind of activity, inspirational and full of opportunities to serve and see God at work. We were also able to make time to enjoy some of the local food, do some sightseeing around downtown Montreal, share stories, lots of laughter and good times were in abundance. Whoever said being a Christian is boring, really didn't know what they were talking about!

The Mansvelds are a very warm and hospitable family. Duane and Miriam Mansveld definitely have a heart for the street community and their needs. They responded to God's call to serve in this area about 15 years ago and are still going strong. They have been married for 12 years and have an energetic 3 year old son, Jeremie. Their ministry is associated with Mission Door, which assist with evangelizing and church planting. FBC has been supporting the Mansveld's ministry for several years, but the reason for this trip was get a better understanding of their Street Ministry, assist them with work on their Ministry Center and identify ways we could serve them in the future.

The Mansvelds reach the street community by using Jesus' ministry as an example. They work to create trust relationships, individual by individual to help empower people to respond and solve their everyday problems. They have a "right now" ministry, pray right now, teach right now and use each experience for discipleship right now, because they really don't know if they will see the person again. They have a ministry of love that they share with the lost, hurting and what some see as unreliable and very difficult people. Many of the people they work with need assistance, spiritually, mentally, and physically. They can have substance abuse problems, come from broken homes or could be involved in prostitution or homosexuality. The Mansvelds understand that what is really needed is a life changing encounter with Jesus Christ and they have a vision of having a Ministry Center to expand their work in sharing the love of Christ. They have been able to purchase a 3 plex in downtown Montreal close to the street community that they serve. They would like the Ministry Center to be a place where the street community and the church community can meet and share



*Duane and Miriam Mansveld and their son Jeremie*



*The Montreal Mission Team:  
l to r: Duane Mansveld, Patrick Mueller,  
Juan Garcia, Yolanda Johnson,  
Miriam Mansveld and Jeremie.*

their lives together.

During our prayer walk, we did have an opportunity to talk to some people from the street community, pray with them and for the situations that we observed. Prayer is an important part of the Mansvelds ministry and they have asked us to join them in praying about the best way to use the center. Also, this is a very demanding ministry and people working with this ministry can get burned out or discouraged, so please pray for the strength of the Mansvelds and for more people to join them in this work. The Mansvelds stated several times how much they appreciate the financial support that FBC gives them, how much it meant to them for our team to come and work on the Ministry Center and would welcome another visit from FBC. In talking with them we learned that the work on the center has cost more than was estimated, so I am sure any additional financial support would be welcomed and we noticed that they could also use a DVD player and a video camera.

This trip was both eye and heart opening as I experienced the Mansvelds display of love and commit-

ment in action. I was reminded that compassion and kindness are a way to witness and the importance of having a "right now ministry". On the journey back home, the verses in I Corinthians 13 which talks about love came to mind and that I already have a host of difficult or challenging "street like" people in my life now. How about you? These difficult people are our opportunity people, opportunity to live out I Corinthians, to be patience, kind, long-suffering, keep no records of wrongs, always hope for the best and always persevere. It also caused me to see how far I fall short of this. However, I know that I could never do any of these things by myself, but I am encouraged because I know Jesus has all power and He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us. Jesus has done these things and so much more for us. He died for us and He has promised that He will continue the work He has begun in us until the day of completion. At one time I thought this mission trip was only a weekend, but I found quite the opposite is true, the mission trip still lives in me and continues, as I go forward with Jesus' help to grow and make myself available to share the good news of Jesus. Thank God for Jesus and His burden lifting, yoke destroying power and love and that it is available to everyone.★

# Spiritual Rebirth through the Lord

By Ms. LuAnne Clark

This millenium represents us from "Dawn unto Night." There is no time to look into the past. The Lord is always there to guide and protect us through all our temptations and moments of despair. The Lord will never leave you alone. There is a spiritual rebirth on the move at this very moment.

The Lord only requires us to love another on one accord and shine toward the upmost in all our great works. Remember, what we do for God will always last! The tribute to Him is helping our neighbor and friend each and every day. And last but not least, as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, our cup is running over. Surely, goodness and tender mercy will follow you today and the trend of life is yours eternally and everlasting. The spiritual rebirth within you has just begun!

What is ordinary forgiveness? It's about making a decision to

live in the light through spiritual awareness and wholeness. The Lord should see you in His path. And only through His grace, freedom and a vibrant spiritual life within a spiritual rebirth and renewal. The process begins within your soul through a daily practice of forgiveness for we all know that a kind of spiritual reinforcement and discipline will restore and enrich both our vitality and joy.

The process begins with rejoicing through God's glory and grace, offering to others the consideration and understanding that we hope to receive ourselves within this spiritual rebirth and renewal to step out in faith. It's also like a tenant that's sub-leasing an apartment. But instead of a sub-lease with God, He is the tenant. We are renewed and spiritually fed through God's glory and grace.★



## Today's Christian Music

Please call the Church office for more events and times 914-631-6372 or visit [www.fbctarrytown.org](http://www.fbctarrytown.org)

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TARRYTOWN

*With God's help we seek to be "A Community where God is at work, lives are changed, broken hearts are healed, hopes are real, and people are on fire for God and His Word."*

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## The Bright and Morning Star

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