



# “Fenimorian News from the Pews”

July -August 2023 – Volume 2 No 11

## Bi-Monthly Newsletter

### REFLECTING ON OUR BAPTISM



peace  
**JULY**  
love Fenimorian Family,

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the  
Son and the Holy Spirit.”** *Matthew 28:19*

As summer approaches many of us begin to think of ways to remain cool and often some type of water comes to mind. We may think of being refreshed and invigorated by a cool dip in the ocean or a pool and/or find refreshment through a tall glass or bottle of ice water.

Although many of us are aware that water is a life sustaining gift from God referenced throughout scripture both spiritually and physically, let’s explore what His word says and/or implies about baptism for the *believer*. Jesus launched his earthly ministry through his baptism which was unique and vastly different from the *believers’* baptism.

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*Continues from pg. 1 column 1 (Reflecting on our Baptism)*

After Jesus arrived at the Jordan to be baptized and John’s subsequent initial objection, Matthew 3:15 tells us that Jesus stated, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”

Jesus’ baptism showed all who heard John crying in the wilderness that the “One” that they were waiting for had arrived. As post resurrected disciples of Jesus Christ we recognize the Trinity at work. Matthew 3:16-17 tell us “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

John baptized the people of his day to address their need to change; repent of their sins and to follow God’s word. The water represented cleansing of sin and purification of the soul. Although Jesus had nothing to repent for (he was sinless) His act of baptism was to fulfill God’s plan and to give us an example to follow.

While the sacrament of baptism has absolutely nothing to do with our salvation it is a way to symbolize or illustrate our confession of faith in Christ and it can be sprinkled, poured, or experienced through immersion. It is often described as an “outward expression of an inner change.” For the *believer* it serves as a visual

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*Continues from pg. 1 column 2 (Reflecting on Our Baptism)*

testimony of our commitment to Jesus Christ. The baptism illustrates *death* (identifying with Christ on the cross), *burial* (destroys sins) and the *resurrection* (Christ gives us new life).

Methodist are taught that baptism is a sacrament extended to infants under prevenient grace and is observed and followed in the Book of Discipline. This type of grace is defined as “a grace at work in our lives before we were even aware of our need for grace.” Bishop Bickerton at this year’s 224<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference asked us to “remember our baptism and to be thankful as beloved children of God.”

As we safely enjoy the gift of summer and continue to look for ways to remain cool, let us remember that whether baptized as a baby, or as an adult or somewhere in between or even recently participated in a reaffirmation of our faith, let’s all rejoice and give thanks to the One that made it all possible!!!

Have a peace-filled summer.

*Sis Kim Jackson,  
Newsletter Ministry*

### **Upcoming Church Events:**

Prayer on Zoom every Tuesday @ 8:00pm.

**Bible Study will resume on Wed., 9/13/23 @ 7:00pm**

**Church-wide clean up – Sat., 7/29/23 between 9:00-4:00pm**

**Family Life Ministry – Back to school event with our Shelter Families Sat., 8/ 5/23 between 11:00am-3:00pm**

**Block Party Family Day – Sat., 8/26/23 11:00am-6:00pm.**

**Food Pantry Distribution hosted by Ladies in Waiting in Fellowship Hall every Tuesday between 10:00am-1:00pm. No food distribution on Tues. 7/4/23 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday**

**Grab & Go/Community Breakfast hosted by Family Life Ministry on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month (7/25/23 and 8/22/23)**

**Senior Citizen Center meets in Fellowship Hall Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 10:00am-4:00pm**

**From the Desk of the Pastor Jackson:**



*This is a reprint from last year’s July-August newsletter*

**Grace, mercy and peace!**

The summer season has arrived.

It’s a time when we plan vacations, and look for opportunities to have some “me” time. While that is good and healthy, scripture implores us as Disciples of Christ to deny ourselves of thoughts and behaviors that are ingrained in the lives of worldly-minded people. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatian church declares that “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (2:20)

I pray that we take some time during this season to reflect on the ways in which we have with joy died to self, following are some ways of knowing:

8

“When you are forgotten or neglected or purposely set at naught and you don’t sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight, but your heart is still happy being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, **THAT IS DYING TO SELF!**” (Author unknown)

“When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and your best intentions misinterpreted and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself but rather take it all in patient loving silence knowing that Christ alone is your defender, **THAT IS DYING TO SELF!**” (Author unknown)

“When you patiently bear annoyance, disorder, inconvenience, irregularity and even impunctuality

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*Continues from pg.2 column 2 (From the Desk of the Pastor)*

from others, when you feel your time has been wasted and you've been treated harshly and unfairly and yet you still respond in love, maintain your peace and enduring these things with meekness as Jesus endured, **THAT IS DYING TO SELF!**  
(Author unknown)

“When you don't care to refer to yourself in conversations, when you don't feel the need to boast of your accomplishments and record every good deed you do for the world to see, when you don't itch after commendation and applause, when you don't mind when others are acknowledged and your name is ignored, when you're more concerned with being faithful to God's call, when you are OK to be unknown, **THAT IS DYING TO SELF!**  
(Author unknown)

“When you see a brother or sister prospering, when you see him or her succeeding with a project that you contributed to and yet you can honestly rejoice with him or her in spirit, being happy to remain behind the scenes, not questioning God, but being grateful that the work is being accomplished so that God is glorified, **THAT IS DYING TO SELF!**  
(Author unknown)

**May it be so!**

**Have a blessed and safe summer season!**

*Pastor Jackson*



### Strictly for Laughs

The church was holding baptisms during the service, so they brought in a large tub. As the sermon continued, a boy near the front stared at the tub. He nudged his father. The father turned and the boy whispered, “Where did they get such a big bucket for the leaking roof?”

Why didn't Noah's family play cards on the ark? He was standing on the deck.

*Christianity.com*

## **“Jonah in the Belly of Darkness”**

The story of Jonah is a reminder that those who belong to God are not always brave, but can become cold feet or be frozen in fear when given a mission.

Jonah was sent to Nineveh to preach and warn of eminent destruction to the city, he chooses instead to run away on a ship sailing to an exotic place called Tarshish. Unfortunately for Jonah, God exposed his presence as a Prophet and servant through the storm on the sea.

In time of crisis humans pray to their ‘god’ as the ship's captain requested of Jonah and the crew.

What did Jonah's action teach us?

1. Our disobedience cannot stop God's purpose of Salvation for unbelievers.
2. Running away to avoid an assignment does not stop the purpose of the mission.
3. God reveals His servants to unbelievers specifically, to glorify His name.
4. Jonah perhaps wanted a vacation but God said no.
5. Jonah had to be placed in the darkness of a whale to come to acknowledge the superiority of God's power.
6. Even in reluctance the spoken Word of God saved an entire city.

Jonah wanted Nineveh to be destroyed, because he believed the people were wicked, but God wanted their repentance. God thoughts are bigger than our thoughts. God loves all humanity equally and sees their heart.

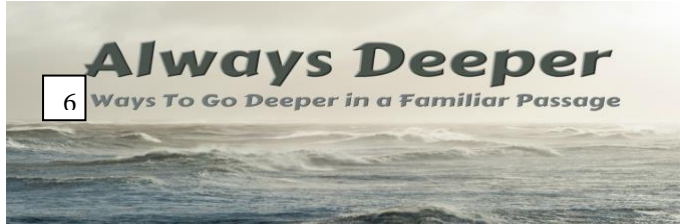
Whenever, we judge others think of Jonah, can we see the heart of man, of course not. We know the heart of God, is to save those who will repent and believe on Jesus, the meaning of the Cross and the resurrection hope.

*Continues on pg. 4 column 1*

*Continues from pg.3 column 2 (Jonah in the Belly of Darkness)*

This time of contemplation for believers reminds us that we need to run into the love of God and embrace the gift of salvation through Jesus and the Blessed Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*



*Contributed by Chaplain Selena Lubell*

***"Parish-wide Adult Baptism and Rededication Service Held 6/25/23"***



Candidates pose for group picture after receiving instructions and prayer prior to the commencing of the service

*Continue on pg. 4 column 2*

*Continues from pg.4 column 1 (Baptism & Rededication)*



Pastor and Rev. Boone in pool



**BAPTISM**

Cecille "Peggy" White    Densa Belony    Carmen Hoffman



*Continue on pg. 5 column 1*

Continues from pg.4 column 2 (Baptism & Rededication)



### REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Patricia Henry      Irlene Jones-Braithwaite      Daphne King  
Benita Lynn Malloy           Glenner Strachn  
Pauline Thomas      Marjorie Walters

**FYI:** Acts of reaffirmation of faith are not acts of rebaptism.

### The Republic of Ghana – West Africa



Sister Marlene Ferguson recently visited Ghana and shared photo of how the children she met were friendly and affectionate. She is presently exploring ways of developing lasting relationships with those of this great country.

## REMINDE ME



**DEAR GOD,** when I am lonely, and when I feel in despair,

**Let not** my ailing heart forget you hear my every prayer.

**Remind me** that no matter what I do or fail to do, there still is hope for me as long as I have faith in you.

**Let not** my eyes be blinded by some folly I commit, but help me regret my wrong and to make up for it.

**Inspire me** to put my fears upon a hidden shelf, and in the future never to be sorry for myself.

**Give me** the restful sleep I need before another dawn,

**And bless me** in the morning with the courage to go on.



Author Unknown  
Contributed by Sis. Cynthia Grant

### QUOTATIONS – TO PONDER

*“A smooth sea never made a skillful mariner.”*

*“Reputation is what you need to get a job; character is what you need to keep it.”*

*“God always provides food for the birds, but he doesn’t throw it into the nest.”*

*“Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.”*

Anonymous  
Contributed by Sis. Marlene Ferguson



**THE SCHOOL OF USHERING DEPT.**

of

**The Church Ushers Association of  
Brooklyn & Long Island**

**71<sup>st</sup> Commencement Exercises  
was held on Friday, June 2, 2023 at  
Fenimore Street United Methodist Church**

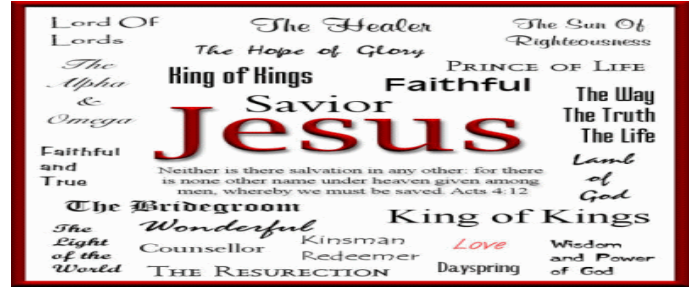


Graduates: Jada Pringle (Honor student),  
Gail Murray (Valedictorian) and Ashley Smith

The School of Ushering was an intensive 8-month program that required faithful commitment, floor demonstrations, a mandated annual usher sermon, quizzes, local and national exams and to be properly attired when required.



Graduating Class of 2023 with Class Instructors  
(Victor J. Johnson and James O. Wright III)



**THANK YOU GOD  
FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME**

**Thank You** for the days and nights,  
In which you have spoken to me, blessed  
Me, provided for me, protected me, comforted  
Me, healed me and given me strength to  
Get through.

**Thank You** God for reminding me to trust  
In You with my life.

**Thank You**—for your GOODNESS & GRACE—  
For Your mercy—for Your forgiveness—  
For Your guidance—for Your peace—for  
Your sacrifice—for Your

*Unconditional love*

I have faith in Your plan for me.  
Amen



*By Inspire Positive Soul Solutions  
Contributed by Deborah Jackson, Admin. Asst.*

## *Beyond Our Shores*



### **Willing to Pay the Price:**



### **Water and the Spirit**

#### **MANCHE MASSEMOLA**

**1928**

*“Beaten to death by her own mother after attending pre-baptism classes with her cousin.”*

Despite facing Islamic extremist groups, harassment from various government authorities within their respective countries, including harassment from communities and even family members, Christian converts daily, willingly face persecution including those baptized into the global body of Christ.

Front-line workers in restricted and hostile countries continue to baptize new believers in local waters willing to pay the price of obedience in response to the word of Jesus found in Matthew 28:19 to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Following for illustration purposes, are pictures of people being baptized similar to the process that the persecuted Christian converts may experience.

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*Continues from pg.7 column 1 (Beyond Our Shores)*



*Contributed by: Sis. Kim Jackson*

## Words of



### 24 Things to Always Remember and One Thing to Never Forget

*Your presence is a present to the world.  
You're unique and one of a kind.  
Your life can be what you want it to be.  
Take the days just one at a time.*

*Count your blessings, not your troubles.  
You'll make it through whatever comes along.  
Within you are so many answers.  
Understand, have courage, be strong.*

*Don't put limits on yourself.  
So many dreams are waiting to be realized.  
Decisions are too important to leave to chance.  
Reach for your peak, your goal, your prize.*

*Nothing wastes more energy than worrying.  
The longer one carries a problem, the heavier it gets.  
Don't take things too seriously.  
Live a life of serenity, not a life of regrets.*

*Remember that a little love goes a long way.  
Remember that a lot... goes forever.  
Remember that friendship is a wise investment.  
Life's treasures are people... together.*

*Realize that it's never too late.  
Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.  
Have health and hope and happiness.  
Take the time to wish upon a star.*

*And don't ever forget ...for even a day... how very special you are.*

Colin McCarty.

Contributed by Sis. Cynthia Grant

## Highlights from the 224<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Session

### Commendation and Welcome of Confirmands



Jada Pringle marching in with fellow confirmands in the Hofstra University Arena



Jada (7<sup>th</sup> from left) and confirmands were welcomed by Bishop Thomas Bickerton who commended families and members of the household of God, to “do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.”

### Frontier Foundation

The Family Life Committee received a \$5,000 grant from the Frontier Foundation which was accepted by Sis. Cynthia Grant. Chairperson Marlene Ferguson had declared in a previous edition of our newsletter that the committee “in keeping with our Core values, are committed to loving God, each other and those whom we come into contact with. These less

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*Continues from pg.8 column 2 (Highlights from Annual Conf.)*  
fortunate families have kept us grounded in our core values.”



Sister Cynthia Grant accepting grant in the Hofstra Arena

### Other Highlights

Pastor and clergy marching in at the commencing of the Ordination Service



Brother Joseph Roberts was part of the team that provided music for the



entirety of the conference

*Contributed by Sis Kim Jackson*



### SUMMER JOKES

1. How do we know that the ocean is friendly? **It waves!!**
2. What kind of tree fits in your hand? **A palm tree!!**
3. How do you prevent a summer cold? **Catch it in winter!!**
4. What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish? **Swimming trunks!!**
5. Why do bananas use sunscreen? **Because they peel!!**
6. Why are there fish at the bottom of the sea? **Because they dropped out of school!!**

Author Unknown

Contributed by Deborah Jackson, Admin Asst.



### July & August Fenimorians



*Continues on pg. 10 column 1*

Continues from pg.9 column 2 (Happy Birthday Fenimorians)

### Your Birth Verse

Your month & date is matched with a chapter and verse in the bible.

**Example:** if you were born on 1/30 your birth verse is 1 Corinthians 1:30 which reads "It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

Look for your birthdate below:

Romans 7:4	Genesis 7:5	Romans 7:6
Matthew 7:11	Deuteronomy 7:13	2 Chronicles 7:14
1 Corinthians 7:17	Matthew 7:21	Romans 7:22
Luke 7:27	John 7:30	Zechariah 8:8
Romans 8:14	Romans 8:24	Romans 8:26

## Happy Birthday to You

Patty and Mildred J. Hill

Hap - py birth - day to you! Hap - py birth - day to you! Hap - py  
 birth - day dear (sing name) Hap - py birth - day to you!

bethsnotes.com



To Our Fenimorians Graduates,

Congrats on this wonderful milestone and to the start of a new chapter. May it be filled with His love, grace and new adventures.

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."*



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*Newsletter Ministry:  
Kim Jackson – Editor  
Cynthia Grant, Rev. Roger Jackson*



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