

"You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men.." 2 Corinthians 3:2



Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

4606 16th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20011
202-829-2773

www.19thstreetbc.org

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D., *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Jerry C. Cheatham Jr.
Rev. Christopher O. Crawford
Rev. James A. Crosson Jr.
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall
Rev. Reginald Townsend
Rev. Edward Turner
Rev. Robin L. Turner
Rev. Leslie A. Wiley
Rev. Lorise White Wolfe
Rev. James L. Harris, *Youth & Young Adult Pastor*

Church School, Sunday 9 a.m.
Morning Worship, Sunday 10 a.m.
Prayer Meeting, Thursday 6:30 p.m.



GOD is Our Passion. Serving **People** is Our **Mission**.

The mission of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church is to profoundly *experience*, joyfully *celebrate*, and meaningfully *share* God's grace.

We do this through Christ-centered **worship**, **biblical instruction**, **prayer**, **nurturing fellowship**, and **caring acts** that are reflective of our love for God and one another.

We, through the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel and Jesus Christ to all people while supporting the work of missions in our church, our community, our country, and the world.

The Epistle

is an official publication of
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

Editor

Karen E. Williamson

Assistant Editor

Lydia Cole

Epistle Contributors

Sybil A. Barbour
Emmanuel Bonhomme
Edith Bullard-Britt
Sheryll Cashin
Oretha Chandler
Phillis W. Cooke
Charles Gordon
June L. Jackson
Deaconess Brenda Lightening-Tolbert
Deacon Johnnie Love
Trustee Robert McNair
Trustee Donza M. Poole
Trustee Franklin Smith
Robin Smith
Trustee Charlie Sprow
Siera Toney
Robin Williams

Cover photo by Emmanuel Bonhomme shows participants at the start of the Haiti Walk 5K on Saturday, September 25, 2021. See pages 10-11 for more pictures.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Pastor's Corner	3
Men's Ministry Breakfast	5
Trustee Talk	6
October is Stewardship Month	8
Ways to Give	9
Final Haiti 5K Walk Pictures	10
DC Baptist Convention	12
Deaconess Grab & Go Dinner	12
Thanksgiving Project	13
Officer Nominations Due Now	13
Life's Enduring Cycle	14
Communications Volunteers Needed	15
Part-time Positions Available	15
Taking a Knee	16
Trustee Service	17
Page-turner Book Review	18
Join Yoga Classes	19
Extra Special Sunday Service	20
Church Media	21
October Birthdays	22
October Calendar	23

The Epistle is published monthly on the first of the month. **The deadline for materials is the 20th of each month.**

Submit articles and photographs for publication via email to Epistle@19thstreetbc.org.

Questions? Contact Karen Williamson at 202-829-5973 or williamsonke@gmail.com.

Reaching the Lost to the Glory of God

By Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D.



The pandemic has pushed us in ways we never imagined. And, if there is one thing this pandemic has taught us, it is that the church is bigger than any building. An effective evangelism strategy must involve sharing Christ in the air and on the ground. We must live in the message and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ wherever there is a need. This

new season is ripe with uncharted possibilities for our church as we welcome a reimagined Evangelism Ministry under the strong and committed leadership of Rev. Edward Turner.

We have accepted our charge to be disciples of Jesus Christ because we have the audacity to believe that God can take a handful of everyday people to make a major impact in a changing world to the glory of God. As our Communication's Ministry has reminded us, a brand is not what we think about ourselves; it is who others say we are. It is a result of what a person feels about us. We set our brand apart by clarifying three questions: 1) who we are, 2) what we do, and 3) why it matters. A logo is an important aspect of our brand that helps people understand who we are. Our new logo is inspired by Psalms 37:23. The steps symbolize the inviting nature of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church; the crown and the cross represent the pathway to discipleship and the blessings that flow from our faith-filled witness.

The words "Baptist Church" are written in a smaller font in our logo because, while we honor our identity as a Baptist

church, we understand that our ministry is not unique to our denomination; it is a central part of the mission of the Christian Church. The clear background reminds us that the world is filled with untold possibilities. Eyes have not seen what we can accomplish for God! What we achieve with God is based upon the boldness of our faith. While we must zealously preach the Gospel to the poor, "proclaim liberty to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord's" (Luke 4:18), our work is never complete. We are always balancing the tension between working for God's Kingdom in the world and realizing that our work for God is incomplete.

As disciples of Christ in this new season, Nineteenth Street will focus even more on evangelism as a necessary part of carrying out our mission. We are laboring to reach those trying to strike a balance between the demands of life and the call to discipleship.

Statistics point to the discrepancy between the Christian church's professed commission and the church's witness. Note these statistics from Bible.org:

- 95 percent of all Christians have never won a soul for Christ.
- 80 percent of all Christians do not consistently witness for Christ.
- Less than two percent are involved in the ministry of evangelism.

continued on next page

- 71 percent do not give toward the financing of the Great Commission.

As we carefully examine these statistics, a few things are clear. The church has done a lackluster job, at best, in discipling souls to Christ. We have not done an effective job teaching and empowering most Christians with the tools and the inspiration to share their faith with others around them, especially people they do not know. The Christian church says that it values evangelism as a high priority, but it does a poor job aligning its spending with its professed values. Even if relational evangelism—inviting people to church based upon personal relationships—is the most effective strategy for bringing new visitors to the church, nearly half the persons surveyed in church have never invited an unchurched person to church.

As we chart a path forward, it is important for the church to keep in mind several key principles that will help us be more effective witnesses for Christ. First, it is critical for the church to be acutely aware of the patterns, practices, key events, hot button issues, demographics, politics, laws, unspoken rules, dreams, hopes, and successes of the community. This will involve building on our existing outreach efforts with an increased focus on evangelism (e.g., our food pantry, homeless ministry, ministry to children, ministry to grieving families and global missions). The more attuned we are with to community, the better we will meet human needs to the glory of God.

Second, we need to pray for what we want. With the covering of the Holy Spirit, we must pray that God leads us to places where we can have an impact and connect us to people who have a hunger for God. Praying doesn't just transform the new convert; it transforms the believer who sees what can be accomplished when we put our faith in action. Third, we need to establish realistic and aspirational goals for how many people we want

to reach, which people do we want to target given our current congregational makeup, and what kind of resources do we need to leverage to achieve our goals. The goal must never be just about achieving target numbers. It must always be about meeting human needs, helping people live out their purpose, and expanding the umbrella of God's family.

Next, let us continue to build upon the great network of community partners we have and add others who share our vision of meeting human needs while graciously sharing Christ. Finally, let us celebrate the progress we make at every stage of doing God's work. This involves assessing what we can do better and celebrating the blessings as we seek to go higher to the glory of God.



Remembering our past serves us well as we look forward with hope. Nineteenth Street has been a part of this community since 1839. Our church established a home for believers in a time when Blacks barely had any rights in this country. We stood up for teachers at a time when others were sitting down. We advocated for women's rights when our sisters were denied the right to vote. We fought for Black cultural pride

continued on next page

and recognition before the world could imagine the wonder of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Through our founding members, past saints, and the present faithful, our church had 182 years of faithful witness, worship, and work!

God has brought us a long way from the group led by Rev. Sampson White to 19th & I Streets. We are grateful for those who paved the way, answering God's call to begin a new church in 1839. Nineteenth Street's progress to date is due in large part to the tenures of Rev. Dr. Walter Brooks, Rev. Dr. Jerry Moore Jr., and Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins, who collectively served our church faithfully for over 133 years. As our logo reminds us, the canvas of our future is blank, and the future is limitless. I know the best is yet to come because I believe God!

God has given us a blueprint in the Word that teaches us how to be disciples and make disciples for Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). Making disciples for Christ must be a priority for the church, reflected in our commitment and use of treasure. People cannot come to know the Good News unless we're a living witness for Christ. As we boldly share the hope, power, and glory of Christ through our collective intentional evangelism efforts, the Lord will send the laborers we need to help us care for God's harvest to the glory of God. ❖



Calling All Men of Nineteenth Street

Men's Ministry Breakfast with Pastor Roberts

Saturday, October 23, at 9 a.m.

**Golden Corral Buffet & Grill
1001 Shoppers Way
Largo, Md. 20774**

***To RSVP: Call the church office
with how many will attend.***

Coming Up...

Dear Ministry Leaders:

Pastor Roberts will be embarking on a **Listening Tour** to meet with all church ministries. A small team of church members will accompany him.

Be on the lookout for more information about the Listening Tour.

By Deacon Gerald Young

Let's Talk About Being a Trustee

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

You've probably seen the announcement seeking nominations for church officer positions. Maybe you've even noticed that there are several vacancies on the Board of Trustees—six, to be exact. But have you thought about who might fill those positions? Could being a trustee be in your future?

In this month's *Epistle*, we make a case for serving as a trustee, including a personal perspective from a current trustee, Robert McNair. Read on to see just how much more there is to this role than counting the offering.

Being a trustee can be what you make it

The Board of Trustees handles the business side of the church and is accountable to the church membership for its actions.



2018 Board of Trustee Retreat

The Board also plays a major role in helping the church stay true to its mission and vision. Each expenditure and decision must be consistent with the church's core beliefs.

It takes a Trustee Board with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to run a church of our size. Current trustees include those with backgrounds in accounting, architecture, education, employment recruitment, information technology, law, the military, real estate, nonprofit management, and social welfare.

With so much to oversee, being a trustee can also be what you make it. Depending on your goals and aspirations, serving as a trustee may present opportunities you may not have outside of the church. It can also present the opportunity to pursue causes you're passionate about and impact areas as diverse as social justice, climate change, and business development from a faith perspective.

What might you do as a trustee

During my tenure as a trustee, the Board has added new technologies, taken steps to protect the environment, and strengthened the church's investment in the Black community. It also has become more involved in grant writing and grant management to take advantage of grant opportunities. And when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Board became part of a once in a lifetime change in how people do business, church, and life.

continued on next page

Here are some projects the Board has worked on during my time as a trustee:

- Secured a \$79,460 SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan.
- Secured a \$100,000 FEMA grant to upgrade the church's security system.
- Converted to electronic check processing.
- Converted to renewable energy with the addition of a solar panel system.
- Renovated the Jones-Handy House.
- Diversified the church's investment portfolio.
- Converted the church's phone and internet system to fiber optics.
- Strengthened the church's investment in the Black community by expanding its banking relationship with D.C.'s Black-owned Industrial Bank.
- Helped spearhead the installation of a new Black Lives Matter sign on the church's exterior.
- Expanded the church's streams of income to include money received from three long-term leases.
- Provided spaces for a small business, a minority owned arts conservatory, and a Baptist church serving the Korean American community.

I cannot tell you how much I've learned, on so many levels, as a trustee and how honored I've been to serve as one during this time. Like many churches, Nineteenth Street faces the twin challenges of pandemic uncertainties and changes in how people view the role of religion in their lives. It's truly a unique time in our society—one with the potential to offer unique possibilities for service to the church as a member of the Board of Trustees.

For more information

If you or someone you know would like to share your time and talent by serving as a member of the Board of Trustees or would like more information, contact Trustee Chair Franklin Smith, at 202-829-2773 or email him at Fsmith@19thstreetbc.org. Nominations are due by October 18 and will be presented at the quarterly church business meeting on October 22.

Read more about serving as a trustee from Trustee Robert McNair, on page 17.

Work Closely with the Trustee Board as Treasurer

Want to work closely with the Trustee Board? Consider serving as the church treasurer or assistant treasurer.

Although trustees do count the offering each week, accounting for and managing the church's income and expenses are at the core of what we do. And we do so by working closely with the church treasurer and assistant treasurer.

The treasurer prepares weekly reports of church income and expenses, submits them to the Board, and gives a financial report at monthly Trustee Board meetings and quarterly church business meetings. The treasurer maintains a record of church member giving and assists the Trustee Board in preparing the contribution reports sent to members each year. The treasurer and assistant treasurer also track the income and expenses of church accounts known as restricted accounts used for certain ministry programs, such as the scholarship and benevolence funds. The treasurer works closely with the church bookkeeper in preparing financial reports and preparing for church audits.

If you like numbers and know your way around a spreadsheet, serving as church treasurer could be in your future. For more information, contact Treasurer Shirley France at the church office, 202-829-2773. ❖

October is Stewardship Month

By Sybil A. Barbour, Stewardship Sunday Co-Chair and Trustee Donza M. Poole, Chair, Building Fund Committee

October is a special time of year for the Building Fund Committee. It marks our monthlong focus on Christian stewardship and lead-up to Stewardship Sunday, October 24, the fourth Sunday in October. While we are not one with another, we are with one another virtually. Because of your faithful gifts, our church will continue to celebrate the joy of stewardship both inside and outside of our sanctuary.

This year's Stewardship Sunday theme, "Rebuilding with Love, Faith, and Joy," was inspired by the story of the return of the Jews to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of their temple post-exile. In keeping with our theme, this year's scripture is taken from Haggai 2:9 (NIV): "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place, I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."

Join Us for the Celebration!

Stewardship Sunday Co-chairs Ferlandia Townsend and Sybil A. Barbour, along with the entire Building Fund Committee, invite you to join us as we celebrate stewardship. This year's celebration will include:

- **Weekly Testimonials** – Be inspired by personal testimonies of stewardship from members of our Nineteenth Street church family.
- **Annual Stewardship Sunday Fundraiser** – Help raise \$10,000 by October 24 for capital improvements. We're focused this year on completing improvements to the

church's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC). The sanctuary air conditioner and one of two steam boilers for heat were replaced earlier this year, leaving the second boiler to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$93,000. When giving, mark your donation for the "Capital Improvement Project."

- **90-Day Giving Challenge** – Add the Capital Improvement Project to your regular giving by taking the 90-Day Giving Challenge! Just include a gift (in any amount) for the Capital Improvement Project in your offering in October, November, and December. The challenge, which returns for a second year, runs from October 3 to December 31, 2021. Help care for our wonderful church home. Visit the church website at www.19thstreetbc.org for more details.

Why a Theme on Rebuilding?

We hope our church family will be inspired by the aspirational message of this year's theme, "Rebuilding with Love, Faith, and Joy," and the scripture message from Haggai 2:9.

With many of us now vaccinated, there is cautious optimism that we may soon be moving into a new, more promising phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Churches, schools, and businesses are reopening. Still, the coronavirus continues to impact and disrupt our lives, with new variants, financial challenges, and ongoing loss of life due to the infection. To survive and move forward, we have had to adapt, reimagine, and yes, rebuild.

continued on next page

Like the Jews' return to Jerusalem, our congregation's eventual return to in-person church and our beloved church home will surely be a time of rejoicing and rebuilding.

What it won't be is a time of going back to the way things were—how could it, after what we've been through? Instead, our return will be a time of change as we become a hybrid church—one that is on the ground and in the air. It will be a time of renewing connections while also observing new safety protocols. And though the place will be familiar, we will be the architects and stewards of a new and different church experience. To be sure, we will face challenges. But if we approach this unique time of rebuilding with love, faith, and joy, we can be even better stewards than we were before of all that God has entrusted to our care.

We hope you'll join us for the celebration! ❖



Cash App

Ways to Give

By Mail – Send your contribution to Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, 4606 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011. Place your offering in your numbered offering envelope or write your envelope number in the memo section. You can also have your bank send the offering to the church using the bill pay feature.

Online by PayPal or Givelify – Give online through the church website www.19thstreetbc.org. Choose PayPal to give by credit or debit card or PayPal account, making sure to designate the purpose of your donation. Choose Givelify to give through your Givelify account, selecting the donation option.

By App – Give via **Cash App** to \$NineteenthStreet.

Or give via the **Givelify** app to Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

Those with **PayPal** accounts may give using the PayPal app.

All three apps may be downloaded for free from the App Store (for Apple devices) or Google Play (for Android). ❖

Final Haiti Walk 5K Finishes Strong

Early on Saturday, September 25, 2021, Global Missions Ministry, in partnership with VillageMed, brought Nineteenth Street members, family, and friends to the C&O Canal in Georgetown for the fifth and final Haiti Walk 5K. The walks have helped to raise funds to build a pediatric clinic in Layaye, Haiti.



continued on next page



Sign Up Now for D.C. Baptist Convention Conference

The Board of Christian Education of Nineteenth Street wants members to be aware of their opportunity to participate in the District of Columbia Baptist Convention Hybrid and Virtual Conference, October 21-22, 2021. The theme for this year's annual gathering is "Making the SHIFT."

The church will pay the registration for church leaders and members interested in participating. Please review the DC Baptist Convention's website for additional information on the sessions and master classes at dcbaptist.org.

To register, email DeVera Redmond at dyredmond@aol.com. Provide your name, address, email address, telephone number, and the church will provide your registration.

The teaching arm of the Board of Christian Education is responsible for providing church leaders and members with powerful and exciting methods, strategies, and information that will equip us to be proficient in sharing the good news of the Gospel.

If you have additional questions, please contact DeVera Redmond at 202-966-6491 or dyredmond@aol.com. ❖

29th Annual Deaconess Family Dinner

benefiting
The Ettyce Hill Moore Scholarship Fund
October 17, 2021



By Deaconess Evangeline Stevens, Chair, Board of Deaconesses

Thank you to all who supported the Deaconess Board's first ever "Grab & Go" Family Dinner by ordering dinners before the September 27 deadline. If you purchased a dinner, we will contact you by email or phone to let you know the specific time between 12 and 2 p.m. on October 17, when you can pick up your order at the church.

Good news! The 3 p.m. virtual program is now open to all who wish to attend. We will share the Zoom link, including telephone access information by email, weekly eblasts, and announcements on the church website. Please help share this information with those who may not have access to online sources.

We also thank everyone who generously donated to the Ettyce Hill Moore Scholarship Fund. We will continue to welcome donations during the event and afterward. Our college students need and appreciate our support.

We look forward to seeing you on October 17! ❖

Let Our Hearts Be Full of Both Thanks and Giving!



The Church School would like to thank those who have already contributed to our annual Thanksgiving project.

Our goal is to provide 60 or more families in need with Giant Food gift cards to help purchase their Thanksgiving meal.

Beginning Sunday, October 3 through Sunday, October 24, the church family can provide names and contact information for families and individuals to the Thanksgiving Project Committee. Please include the number of adults and children in the household.

Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 14, 2021. We are asking each church ministry to donate \$100 and asking church family members and friends to donate any amount.

Donations can be made by going to the church website 19thstreetbc.org using Cash App, Givelify, or PayPal. Donations by check should be made payable to Nineteenth Street Baptist Church and indicate Church School Thanksgiving Project and your envelope number on the memo line. Please mail your check to the church at 4606 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011.

Please contact one of the committee members listed below via email for further information and to submit names.

Sister Dorothy Curtis - dorothyjordancurtis@gmail.com

Sister Karen Sidney-Drumgold - karen.drumgold@gmail.com

Sister Robin Williams - robinwilliams1114@gmail.com

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God,” 2 Corinthians 9:11

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 25, 2021

Nominations Due for 2022 Church Offices

There are several church officer vacancies that need to be filled for the upcoming year. Be prayerful if you, or someone you know, would be a good candidate for one of these important roles.

- Board of Trustees - 6 vacancies
- Director of the Board of Christian Education - 1 vacancy
- Church School Superintendent - 1 vacancy
- Church Clerk - 1 vacancy
- Assistant Church Clerk - 1 vacancy
- Church Treasurer - 1 vacancy (three-year term)
- Assistant Church Treasurer - 1 vacancy (three-year term)
- Disbursing Officer - 1 vacancy (Disbursing Officer must be a Trustee)

Nominations for these positions are due by October 18 and should be sent to the church at office@19thstreetbc.org. ❖

Life's Enduring Cycle of Faith and Renewal

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister

The presence of God's Spirit within nature and humanity are gifts and an enduring cycle of love and forgiveness. In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). Light is the essence and beginning of a process of renewal. The light is meant to sustain us in times of darkness, weakness, suffering, and pain. Night comes into our lives at times when our vision is impaired, and we feel weak. At such times, we need a special kind of strength, a different kind of energy to keep going. We look for the light—the sun—but even when we see it dawning, we are still searching for answers to our temporary loss of strength. The Holy Spirit gives light to one's questions of meaning and purpose.

In times of grief and bereavement, it is always important that we never forget that God has not forgotten us, nor our loved one. God has a plan and a purpose that is good and that is still being played out in the eternal cycle of life itself. This is how God helps us overcome death and what is sometimes incomprehensible. Psalm 24:1 (NIV) reminds us that "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it."

The GriefShare Ministry at Nineteenth Street is a ministry of the Church Initiative in Wake Forest, N.C. It is based on biblical principles of providing participants with support, hope, compassion, encouragement, and prayer. Enrollment is open to church members and the community for anyone going through the experience of grief and bereavement caused by the loss of a loved one.

When we go through major suffering resulting from death, our spirit may cry out to the Lord, "why?" and there is no

answer. The GriefShare Ministry seeks to help with the "why" question. GriefShare is available to help participants find the truth about who God is in light of their loss. The ministry also seeks to clarify questions regarding whether we can trust God to respond to our spiritual needs in this most critical time of uncertainty. We may not always get direct answers to our "why" questions on this side of life, but the answers do reside in who God is. (Genesis 1:1-29). Consequently, if God is sovereign over life today, that means He can be sovereign over life in eternity.

We all have been through a night, in which our confidence, our hope, and our faith have radiated out into the dark unknown. Just as dawn comes every morning, a time when the sun's rays have re-established their dominance, I find it intriguing that something as powerful as the sun could become weak at any time.

Yet, we also have dawns in our lives when our spiritual



continued on next page

strength fights to regain its rightful place in God's universe.

The GriefShare Ministry helps when we have been cold—shivering from our losses. It is designed to help you become stronger and more knowledgeable of the power of prayer and the Word of God. The group facilitators consist of a supportive team of caring Christians who know that God will never leave nor forsake you, whether in the darkest night or the light of the day. With that confidence comes the power to withstand the changing challenges and circumstances of life and even death.

Just as the power of the sun never diminishes, neither does the radiance of the Spirit of God. We might be troubled, but we should remember that though dawn may be the coldest part of any day, the warm rays of the sun still prevail. And God's warmth will sustain a broken heart. The hymnologist reminds us:

Many things about tomorrow,
I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand.

Please contact the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church office at 202-829 2773 for more information on the GriefShare Ministry. The ministry holds all information in strict confidence. ❖

Communications Ministry Seeks Talented Members

Are you skilled in writing, graphic design, website and social media content management, or public relations? If so, the Communications Ministry is looking for you.

The Ministry needs more members who are willing to help lift the many activities and ministries of the church by helping manage and contribute to the church's communications platforms.

If this sounds like a way for you to be connected to the church, please contact co-chairs Edith Bullard-Britt and Karen Williamson at communications@19thstreetbc.org. ❖

Church Seeks to Fill Two Positions

Nineteenth Street is looking to hire a church administrator and a bookkeeper/accountant. Both positions will be part-time initially.

The church administrator will be responsible for on-site management and administration of church operations on a day-to-day basis. Prior experience as a business manager/administrator of a medium-to-large size organization is required. Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, current resume, and three references to the Board of Trustees at Fsmith@19thstreetbc.org.

The part-time accountant will assist the treasurer with bookkeeping and monthly reconciliation of ministry financial reports. Contact the church office at 202-829-2773 for more information about either position. ❖

Taking a Knee for God's Healing Powers

By Trustee Charlie Sprow Jr.

In the last few years, the world has seen numerous groups of people, regardless of race, creed, or gender, kneeling or “taking a knee” to call attention to many circumstances that affect them. Many consider this act unpatriotic, ungrateful, disrespectful, and even a degenerate gesture. But research has shown that this act of communication actually suggests signs of deference and respect. We kneel for prayer; we kneel to ask a lady's hand in marriage, and we kneel at the altar. So why not take a knee to show the world the greatness of God's healing and how it even exceeds anything the researchers have discovered.

A couple of months ago, I finally decided to visit an orthopedic surgeon to discuss a procedure to eliminate the arthritic pain in my knees caused by the wear and tear of sports activity on tennis and basketball courts. I had been hoping that a cure would be developed that would make in and out surgery a medical charm with very limited pain and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, that procedure never surfaced.

It's been six weeks since I had surgery for a “total knee replacement.” After following the rehab program from the physical therapists, I am able to walk without the aid of a walker or cane. I even had full range of motion after only four weeks.

The surgeon and physical therapists were amazed.

This update is really about my dear and dedicated Nineteenth Street church family and friends who have prayed to tears for complete healing and restoration. I have never received such an overwhelming abundance of calls and cards from you loving Christian souls. And from the bottom of my heart, I love and thank you for your caring and generosity. And the tears flowed like never before when I received a couple of cards from friends who were actually patients in a hospital.

I am a living witness that God hears and answers prayer. He gave this knee back to me much better than I rendered it to Him! So let us all take a knee for God's unlimited physical and spiritual healing.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you! ❖



The Rewards of Trustee Service

By Trustee Robert McNair



Serving on Nineteenth Street's Board of Trustees is one of the most responsible and rewarding positions a member of our church can hold. Being a trustee affords the opportunity to learn much about the church, including how it is organized, the rich history that led to the move to our current location, and the purposes of the different church rooms and ministries. And you get the satisfaction of knowing you contribute in many ways to the church's mission.

When I was elected to the Board for a three-year term beginning in 2013, I knew very little about the duties and responsibilities of the Board, except that they counted the money. Board Chairman at the time, Thomas Montague, Trustee Emeritus, assigned me to a group responsible for counting the church's weekly receipts twice a month. That was no problem because it freed me up the remaining two weeks to continue serving on the Usher Board, a position I had held since 2002.

I soon realized that being a Trustee involved a lot more than counting money. During our monthly meetings, we discussed varying topics, including maintaining the physical plant and grounds, managing the office staff, responding to the District of Columbia regulatory requirements, paying the bills, maintaining the Jones Handy House, and many more. In 2013, when I became the Board vice-chair, I soon discovered that the vice-chair had to assist in the day-to-day management of the

Board functions. I began working in the trustee office almost daily to handle a myriad of responsibilities, notably making sure the church complied with the District of Columbia's regulatory requirements. I was elected Board chair in 2016 and served in that position for the next two years. After deciding not to run for chairman in 2018, I served as a regular Board member under current Board Chair Dr. Franklin Smith. After sitting out for one year (as required by the church constitution), I rejoined the Board in 2020 and serve as chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee.

My eight years of service as a trustee have been rewarding. I have worked with some remarkable church members who have been dedicated to managing the church's assets in the most effective, responsible manner. I also have worked with the staff and volunteers to ensure the church is ready to hold weekly worship services, prayer meetings, bible studies, rehearsals, and funerals. I have seen how much the church family loves this institution and fulfilling our mission from God.

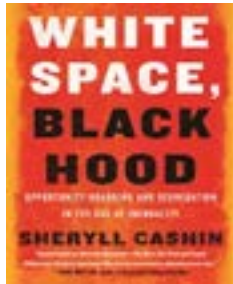
Trustees understand that getting calls at night from our security monitoring firm, defending church expenditures during business meetings, or working on the HVAC system to ensure it is ready for Sunday service is part of why we are here.

I can't imagine a more fulfilling and enjoyable position for contributing to our church. God willing and as provided for in the church constitution, I hope to continue to serve Nineteenth Street Baptist Church as a member of the Board of Trustees. ❖



Page-turner Book Reviews

By Deacon Johnnie Love



White Space, Black Hood: Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality. By Sheryll Cashin (2021)

I am pleased and honored to have Professor Sheryll Cashin, a member of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, as our guest author this month. The title of her fifth and most recent

publication is *White Space, Black Hood: Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality*. Professor Cashin is the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law, Civil Rights and Social Justice at Georgetown University Law Center. The book is being hailed by legal and literary reviewers. Professor Cashin contributed to the review below.

Paul Butler, author of *Chokehold: Policing Black Men* (2017) and *Let's Get Free* (2010), says that “White” America is not ready for this book!” “Sheryll Cashin is one of the most important civil rights scholars of our time, and *White Space, Black Hood* is her magnum opus, the searing culmination of decades of research about the devastating consequences of segregation. He concludes that Cashin builds on Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow* and Isabel Wilkerson’s *Caste* to take down liberal and conservative orthodoxies on race.

Another important award-winning researcher and American literary critic, Henry Louis Gates Jr. states that “In this brilliant and nuanced new volume, Sheryll Cashin exposes the ways

in which American policy decisions, from the early twentieth century to the present, have constructed a ‘residential caste system resulting in the entrapment of Black people in high-poverty neighborhoods while ‘overinvesting in affluent white space.’ Riveting and beautifully written, *White Space, Black Hood* convinces the reader of the centrality of geography in economic and social inequality.”

The author shows how government created affluent white space and its opposite, concentrated poverty “ghettos,” and entrenched a system of American residential caste that is the linchpin of US inequality—and issues a call for abolition. The iconic Black hood, like slavery and Jim Crow, is a peculiar American institution animated by the ideology of white supremacy. Politicians and people of all colors propagated “ghetto” myths to justify racist policies that concentrated poverty in the hood and created high-opportunity white spaces.

In *White Space, Black Hood*, Professor Cashin traces the history of anti-Black residential caste—boundary maintenance, opportunity hoarding, and stereotype-driven surveillance—and unpacks its current legacy so we can begin the work to dismantle the structures and policies that undermine Black lives. She draws on nearly two decades of research in cities including Baltimore, St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and Cleveland. Cashin traces the processes of residential caste as it relates to housing, policing, schools, and transportation. She contends that geography is now central to American caste. Poverty-free

continued on next page

havens and poverty-dense hoods would not exist if the state had not designed, constructed, and maintained this physical racial order.

Cashin calls for the abolition of these state-sanctioned processes. The ultimate goal is to change the lens through which society sees residents of poor Black neighborhoods from presumed thug to presumed citizen and to transform the relationship of the state with these neighborhoods from punitive to caring. She also calls for investment in a new infrastructure of opportunity in poor Black neighborhoods, including richly resourced schools and neighborhood centers, public transit, Peacemaker Fellowships, universal basic incomes, housing choice vouchers for residents, and mandatory inclusive housing elsewhere.

Deeply researched and sharply written, *White Space, Black Hood* is a call to action for repairing what white supremacy still breaks. This book is an absolute Page-turner, and you will no doubt want to be a part of the upcoming interview and discussion that Pastor Roberts will have with Professor Cashin. The date will be announced soon.

Other titles by Professor Cashin



The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class Are Undermining the American Dream (2004).

The Agitator's Daughter: A Memoir of Four Generations of One Extraordinary African American Family (2008)

A Place Not Race: A New Vision of Opportunity in America (2014)

Loving: Interracial Intimacy in America and the Threat to White Supremacy (2017) ❖

It's Not Too Late to Join Yoga Classes

By Oretha Chandler, Senior Ministry

Nineteenth Street's Senior Ministry is sponsoring Three and A Half Acres Yoga (THAY) to conduct virtual Yoga sessions. The classes began in September and will continue until Saturday, December 18. The series is free and open to the public.

The sessions last one hour from 10 to 11 a.m. THAY will provide yoga, breathing, and mindfulness techniques that can help improve your sleep, eye-hand coordination, range-of-motion, posture, and balance. Class dates are:

- October 9 and 23
- November 6 and 20
- December 4 and 18.

You will need a sturdy chair without arms, a yoga mat or towel, and water for hydration.

Register for the yoga series at:

<https://forms.gle/Db7AHGrSvqvmZ6pq6>



September 19 Sunday Service Was Extra Special

By Siera Toney

This year, the 19th day of September marked 19th Street's 19th month in the COVID-19 pandemic! A truly historic occasion, the worship team took this synchronicity around the number "19" as a reason to connect and celebrate in their 19th Street church t-shirts!

Connection Suggestion: Unified attire provides members and supporters of Nineteenth Street an opportunity to connect and show our love for our church. If you have a 19th Street t-shirt, consider wearing it on the 19th of every month! Take a selfie and post it on the church Facebook or Instagram page using the hashtags #ItHappenedOnThe19th, #19thStreetBaptistChurch, and #iLoveMyChurch!

The music for the service was provided by Minister of Music Kenny Peagler with Siera Toney, Charles Gordon, and Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon. It was the first time the Thomas-Gordons had sung in the choir loft in person in 19 months. Deacon Stephanie also led devotions and the

hymn of preparation. In recognition that September was Gospel Music Heritage Month, she rendered her signature piece, "I Know Something About God's Grace," by Dr. Patrick Bradley. The song fittingly spoke to the church's mission to "profoundly experience, joyfully celebrate, and meaningfully share God's grace."

The couple described the experience of returning to the sanctuary as "truly refreshing" and "completely different from sitting at home and watching service from the couch."

They also noted that the experience was "extremely safe and well-organized," a major concern of many who might be leery of coming back into the sanctuary to participate in a worship service.

On the Choir Connection Call that week, they joined other members of the music ministry in testifying to the joy of contributing to the worship experience, and their hope that other members of our church will have the opportunity to feel like a part of the team as they have, whether virtually or in person.

continued on next page



Connection Suggestion: Consider how you would be willing to contribute in worship.

Pastor Roberts preached a powerful message called “Living in the Sunshine” and invited us to get in position to rebuild our community. He ended the service by talking about the Connection-19 Form. The pandemic has shown us we can be doing even more to help each other feel connected, engaged, and cared for as a church family. The Connection-19 Form is for every member and family of Nineteenth Street and is sponsored by the Fruit of the Spirit Ministry, our church’s community-building and discipleship team. This five-minute form will help us to better check in with each other, to build even stronger connections within our congregation and to draw nearer to God as a community.

Connection Suggestion: Use this [link](#) to complete this fast and easy step to a more connected Nineteenth Street!

Sunday, September 19, was pretty special. We thank God for this multifaceted celebration of God’s grace and our commitment to connecting to God and one another in response.

To view the service again, visit Nineteenth Street Baptist Church on YouTube. ❖

www.19thstreetbc.org

ACCESS NINETEENTH STREET SERVICES

Access **LIVESTREAM** on YouTube at
youtube.com/channel/UCIL8xG5-YbTSRVVx1odHcZA

Access the **PRAYER MEETING** and **PRAYER CALLS** at
605-472-5349, access code 348952#

Access all **CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES** via Zoom

Contact organizers for access to **ZOOM** programs

Check out and follow our social media accounts:



Facebook: www.facebook.com/Everyblessing.org



Instagram: www.instagram.com/nsbcdc/

Pastor Roberts on the Air

Tune into the Coach Butch McAdams Show on Sunday, October 17, at 12:30 p.m. to hear Pastor Darryl Roberts talk about Nineteenth Street ministries and initiatives.

Listen live on radio stations WOL (1450 AM) and MAGIC (95.9 FM) or listen to live radio streaming on a computer or cell phone device by going to www.woldcnews.com. ❖





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Deacon Donald B. Rankin	10/1	Earl F. Robb	10/11	Dellareesa M. Banks	10/24
Carolyn Taylor	10/1	Clark Edmond	10/12	Dorothy Burgess	10/24
Courtney Duke Foster	10/2	Lori Allison Futz	10/12	Kim R. Haney-Brown	10/24
Charles Agurs Jr.	10/3	Deborah Heard	10/12	Trustee Reginald A. Cole	10/24
Michael Bowie	10/3	Deacon W. Sudduth	10/12	Christopher Trotman	10/24
Gary Datcher	10/4	Ellen R. Mills Lewis	10/13	Bernard Bellamy Sr.	10/25
Wanda Barett	10/5	Edith Bullard-Britt	10/14	Deacon-in-Training	
Dennis L. Johnson	10/5	Shaylah Nunn Jones	10/14	Michael Leon Nelson	10/25
Deea' Smith	10/5	Claudette Smith	10/15	Triston Thompson	10/25
Rukiya Bonner	10/6	Monique Cypress	10/16	Tyler Thompson	10/25
Delaunte Allen	10/7	Saundra W. Handy	10/18	Maxine P. Bynum	10/26
Michael C. Hayes	10/7	Karyn L. White Sanders	10/18	Sharon Russell	10/27
Gail Parson	10/7	Randy Woolridge	10/18	Deaconess Maureen Young	10/27
Shirley W. France	10/8	Rev. Christopher O. Crawford	10/19	Ethan Cypress	10/29
Robert W. Taylor	10/8	June L. Jackson	10/20	Lawrence Bruce Hayes	10/29
Teresa Chase Brown	10/9	Nikki Weldon Miller	10/20	LaCrisha Butler	10/30
Mary Ruth Darlington	10/9	Barbara DeLaine Jumper	10/22	Sandra W. Patterson	10/31
Natalie Q. Winters	10/9	Nancy R. Lewis	10/22	Trustee Charles Sprow Jr.	10/31
Deaconess Barbara Y. Johnson	10/11	Lucille Crawford	10/23	Deaconess	
Cynthia Moore	10/11	Cornelius Williams	10/23	Brenda Lightening-Tolbert	10/31

*Please notify the church office
of additions or corrections.*

October Calendar

Sunday, October 3

Church School, Adult Class, Zoom, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Bring Your Own Elements Communion,
livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 5

Intercessory Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 6

Prayer Conference Call, led by Deaconesses, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom and Call-in, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 7

Prayer Meeting Call, led by Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 9

Senior Ministry, Three and A Half Acres Yoga, Zoom, 10-11 a.m.

Sunday, October 10

Church School, Adult Class, Zoom, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Twins and Teens Church School, Zoom, Noon
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, October 11 – Columbus Day Holiday, church office closed

Tuesday, October 12

Intercessory Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 13

Prayer Conference Call, led by Deaconesses, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom and Call-in, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 14

Food Pantry Distribution, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Call, with Rev. Lorise White Wolfe preaching, led
by Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 15

Relax, Relate & Release, A community Check-in, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 17

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.
Deaconess Board Annual Family Dinner, Grab & Go, 12 p.m.,
Program at 3 p.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, October 19

Intercessory Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 20

Prayer Call, led by Deaconesses, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom and Call-in, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 21

Prayer Meeting Call, with Rev. Robin Turner preaching, led by
Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 22

Quarterly Church Business Meeting, Zoom and Call-in, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

Men's Ministry Breakfast with Pastor Roberts, Golden Corral
Buffet & Grill, Landover, Md., 9 a.m.
Senior Ministry, Three and A Half Acres Yoga, Zoom, 10-11 a.m.

Sunday, October 24

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Stewardship Sunday, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Twins and Teens Church School, Zoom, Noon
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, October 25 – Ministry Leaders Forum, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26

Intercessory Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 27

Prayer Conference Call, led by Deaconesses, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom and Call-in, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 28

Food Pantry Distribution, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Call, with Rev. Leslie Wiley preaching, led by
Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 30

Church School and Youth Ministry, Trunk or Treat, church parking
lot, 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, October 31

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Homecoming Sunday, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Information on how to access these services is on page 21.