



THE EPISTLE

*Newsletter of the
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church*

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



Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

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www.everyblessing.org

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Rev. James A. Crosson Jr., *Assistant Pastor*
Rev. Jerry C. Cheatham Jr.
Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall
Rev. Christopher O. Crawford
Rev. Dr. I. Benni Singleton
Rev. Reginald Townsend
Rev. Edward Turner
Rev. Robin L. Turner
Rev. Lorise White Wolfe
Rev. Eddie Martin Jr., *Youth Minister*
Rev. Dr. Jerry A. Moore Jr., *Pastor Emeritus*

Church School, Sunday 8:45 AM
Morning Worship, Sunday 10:00 AM
Prayer Meeting, Thursday 6:30 PM



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 the
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

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Questions?

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Salute to Fathers

By Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall, Associate Minister



Now is the time of year we turn a reflective attention toward fathers. Loving fathers, protective fathers, present fathers, absent fathers, missing fathers, and fathers who are no longer with us. Our collective mind recalls shared moments, intimate talks, back-slapping hugs, smiles, praise and encouragement, or the lack thereof. We know our fathers as workers, laboring

long and tirelessly, as full of mirth, always ready with an easy laugh or smile, as stern disciplinarians correcting when needed, as spendthrifts with a tight hold on the coin, or as merciful givers surrendering to heartfelt desires and timid requests. Our fathers instruct, illustrate, and instill, train and guide. They teach us to tie shoe strings, tie a tie, parallel park, change a tire, cook on the grill, throw a football, ride a bike, bait a hook, play the guitar or beat a drum. We are taught by their actions, as memories, words and deeds are imitated.

In the village community, fathers may be represented by strong men who are neighbors, coaches, school teachers, pastors, deacons, uncles, or cousins. Fathers may even be brothers who step up to assumed responsibilities. Fathers ... those who take an interest in another's life, who seek to forge a paternal bond. Many lives are impacted by someone who may not be a

biological father, but who mentors and shows the way. These persons have indeed changed our lives. The prophet Malachi tells us that "We all have one Father. One God created us. We should be faithful then to one another." (Malachi 2:10)

Don't despair, Jesus taught, "Our Father who art in Heaven." Each of us has a Father in heaven that is with us. God is with us in our moments of greatest joy. God is with us through the chaos and sorrow that appears in our lives. God is with us in the familiar, and God is with us in the unexpected and unfamiliar. God fathers us through our friends and family. God fathers us through the stranger who brings words of hope and clarity amid life's storms. Praise God for God fearing men who are fathers, and for every man who accepts the challenge to father. We honor our dads, who stand straight and tall, or whose carriage is stooped with age and wear. We praise the men upon whose shoulders we stand, who continue to march fearlessly for all of us who continue to endure the knocks and bruises of unfairness. We honor men who had no role models, but did and do the best that they could and can, be it almost right and sometimes wrong.

Thank God for daddy, or dad, or pops. Thank God for the grandfathers, the poppas, and the papas, and every man who fathers, as we celebrate fatherhood. Hallelujah and Amen.

Happy Father's Day! ❖

Awards, Golf & Going Green

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

New Trustee Rally Day Awards

The Board of Trustees celebrated Trustee Rally Day on May 21, raising much needed funds for our church's care. New this year was the Trustee Rally Day awards ceremony held to recognize the support the Board receives from so many in carrying out its responsibilities.

The awards were presented to Trustee Emeritus Ronald Taylor, Former Trustee John Jackson, Church School Superintendent Shirley France, Deaconess Hester Jones, Rev. James A. Crosson Jr., and Eric Sanders.



Board of Trustees on Trustee Rally Day



Trustee Emeritus Elmer Brooks and Deaconess Kathryn Brooks with piano's new commemorative plate

In addition, Trustee Robert McNair was honored with a plaque for his dedicated and devoted service as vice chairman of the Trustee Board for two years and chairman for two years.

Ministries were also recognized. The Deaconess Board received an award for donating \$12,839 toward the church's exterior door replacement project, while the Building Fund Committee was recognized for keeping the "Project Raise the Roof" fundraiser in the forefront.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a commemorative plate to Trustee Emeritus Elmer and Deaconess Kathryn Brooks in recognition of their donation of the new baby grand piano to the church in 2014. The plate was attached to the piano during the ceremony and a copy of the plate was also awarded to the Brookses.

The annual day ended with a wonderful repast prepared by Deaconess Hester Jones.

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We've Gone Green!

That's right. The church went green on May 25, when it received official approval from Pepco to operate the church's solar energy system.

Use of this renewable energy source will not only save the church some "green" but it will also reduce the church's carbon footprint by allowing the church to use less carbon dioxide-producing electricity. Watch for more information on the church's solar energy system and support of environmental stewardship

It's Tee Time!

Calling All Golfers and Sponsors! Sign up now for a day of great golf at the 21st Annual Rosemary & John H. Brinkley Memorial Golf Tournament on Monday, June 26 at Enterprise Golf Course in Mitchellville, Maryland. The deadline to reserve your place is June 18.

The annual tournament, begun some 21 years ago, honors John H. Brinkley, a former trustee and avid golf player, and celebrates his years of dedicated service to God and his church. The tournament name was changed in 2017 to add Brinkley's wife, Rosemary, who passed last year. The event supports various church ministries and projects. Past recipients have included His Homeless Ministry, Manhood Training, and the Church School.

The popular competition attracts 85 to 100 golfers each year. Registration for

continued on next page



Church School Superintendent Shirley France with Trustee Chair Franklin Smith and Pastor Roberts

Golfers of All Abilities Welcome!

Join us
Monday - June 26, 2017

**Registration Deadline
June 18, 2017**

**21ST ANNUAL ROSEMARY & JOHN H. BRINKLEY
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Sponsorships Available

Contact:
Charlie Sprow
Tournament Coordinator
301.980.1030
202.829.2774

Visit:
www.everyblessing.org

**Enterprise Golf Course
Mitchellville, MD**

9 am Shotgun Start
Registration Starts 8 am

the 4-person best ball tournament starts at 8 AM, followed by a shotgun start at 9 AM. The \$100 per player fee includes continental breakfast, greens fees, range balls, golf cart, gift bag, beverage cart, and buffet lunch. There will be team and individual prizes.

You can help sponsor the tournament starting at just \$100. Sponsor a hole for \$200 and join several church ministries in supporting this benefit competition. The tournament also presents a great opportunity for businesses to gain valuable exposure while supporting a worthy cause.

For more information, contact tournament coordinator Trustee Charlie Sprow at 301-980-1030 or 202-829-2774. ❖



Trustee Donza Poole accepts Project Raise the Roof recognition.



Trustee Robert McNair accepts awards from Deacon Billy Gay and Trustee Chair Smith.

New Members

MAY 2017

Sister Geraldine Brown-Drake

Sister Monica Reeder



Church School Has Room for You

By Deborah Heard

You're invited to attend. That is the message Church School Superintendent Shirley France wants all members of Nineteenth Street to hear, and to act on.

"In times like these, Church School is even more important for children and adults," she said. "I believe it is important for our youth to get rooted in Biblical teaching. I would say for adults, you're never too old for Church School. You always grasp something new."

Church School is held every Sunday morning, starting at 8:45. Currently, there are three classes for adults and three classes for youth, grouped by age from pre-kindergarten through high school.

France, who was installed as superintendent in January 2014, wrote a letter to parents describing the church school philosophy. Among the beliefs she cited for youth were that Church School "provides a basic systematic study of the scriptures at a level of understanding for each age group" and "gives them the opportunity to develop their skills and talents for the Lord."

Deaconess Gloria Tisdale, who teaches the pre-teens, recalled one powerful example of the impact of Church School. "One Sunday, years ago, the whole class accepted the Lord in class," she said. "It was so natural. We explained what being a Christian meant, what Christ did and why he did it. We used the scriptures." Afterward, Deaconess Margie Thomas, then the Church School superintendent, took the students and teachers down to meet with Rev. Derrick Harkins, the pastor at that time.

"That's what we're here about," Tisdale said. "We're here about the walk with the Lord. We give examples and teach Bible stories. But it really is about their walk with the Lord. We try to help them grow in the Lord. That's the main thing."

The organization and responsibilities of the Church School, as well as the Board of Christian Education, are carefully spelled out in the church constitution. It designates a Director of the Board of Christian Education, currently Deaconess Patricia Robb. The board's role is to "unify, supervise, and promote all educational interests of the Church, including Church School, Vacation Bible School, young people's groups, and other groups

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Adult Class #14, taught by Deaconess E. Louise White and Wilma Bonner, meets in the fellowship hall.

and classes operating in the field of Christian education.” The constitution continues: “The day-to-day operation of the Church School functions through the office of the Superintendent. ... The ability of the Superintendent to employ optimally the spiritual and physical resources of the Church is critical to the success of the program.” It also cites other duties, including responsibility for the church nursery.

Every Sunday, Church School begins with a short devotional period in the chapel. It creates a time for all attendees to come together, to share scripture and a prayer, “to get ready and excited for class,” as France described the goal. Every class has a month to lead devotion, even the pre-K class.

During the summer session — July through August — the three adult classes combine into one, but the youth classes remain separate. This year’s theme is “Suit Up ... Preparing to Face a Confused World.” The scripture: “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:13)

France chose the theme after reading and research. The Church School developed the youth curriculum and the Board of Christian Education is developing the adult curriculum. The arrangement between the two units is part of a new collaboration. Each class category will have a special focus and tailored curriculum. The teenagers, for example, will focus on learning faith lessons. One Sunday’s topic will be “Gossips and Other Trumpet Mouths (and how not to join the band).”

The summer session also creates a unique opportunity when regular teachers are taking a break. “It’s a chance to let other members of the congregation share their gifts through teaching,” France said. Every year, she tries to pull in new



Adult Class #9, taught by Judy Dillon, meets in the Deacon Board room.

people to engage them in Church School. Some might become volunteers, some teachers.

But church school activities extend far beyond the classroom. “Celebrating Family in the Month of May” is just one example. France explained that the program originated in Church School. When discussing the 2017 calendar in their January Church School Council meeting, she remembered the family month celebration that the Church School once organized and she proposed that it be reinstated. Pastor Darryl Roberts liked the idea and asked that the program be expanded out into the church. France, Wilma Bonner, Rukiya Bonner, and Deaconess E. Louise White formed subcommittees to lead the planning. Ultimately, the group designed a program that featured families

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leading church school devotional as well as the main worship service, a family challenge to encourage quality-time activities, free family portraits on Mother's Day, and other events. "Hopefully, it's been an exciting month for people," she said. The photo booth was certainly popular. We printed and gave away 77 family photos that day," France added.

The Church School has overall responsibility for the nursery, which cares for children ages 5 and under so their parents can more easily attend worship services. Now, on any given Sunday, the nursery keeps just a few children and France is seeking to spread the word. "We want people to know there is a nursery," she said. "We want parents to feel confident about leaving their children in the nursery."

Working with Elvinese Wyche, the long-time supervisor of the nursery, France has revamped the program to bring in more volunteers and provide more training. In 2016, nursery staff were trained and certified by the Red Cross to provide pediatric CPR and first aid. That training continues. In 2017, the Church School purchased a pager system so that parents can be reached quickly at anytime. Adult and teenage volunteers also are encouraged to sign up. An added benefit for the teenagers is community service points.

Like many churches, Nineteenth Street has grappled with the challenge of increasing Church School attendance. Youth, in particular, have numerous activities, such as sports and arts, that previously were not scheduled on Sundays. In addition, France said, when the church shifted from two Sunday services to one at 10 AM, Church School had to move from a 9:30 AM start to an hour earlier. "I don't know if we ever recovered," she said.

On the roll today are 46 adults, 34 youth and 14 teachers. There's plenty of room for more. ❖



Adult Class #10, taught by Deacon Stan Britt and Gayle Patrick, meets in the new conference room.

Teen Class,

taught by Emmanuelle St Jean, Chaplin Eddie Martin, and Trustee Emerson Bretous, meets on the third floor.

Middle/Junior Class,

taught by Deaconesses Gloria Tisdale, Catherine Cheatham and Sharon Tucker, and Judy Brandon, meets on the third floor.

PreK-K Class,

taught by Dorothy Curtis and Karen Drumgold, meets in the church nursery on the second floor.

Becoming a Godly Man of Faith and Conviction

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister

Testimonies are like fingerprints. Each one is different. A testimony can never be argued with or disputed; it's yours and no one else's. It's your proof that Jesus is real in your life. It's true because of the way He changed your life. The philosopher Immanuel Kant has said, "Treat humanity, whether in your own person, or in the person of another, always as an end and never as a means."

According to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of

comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy." The nineteenth-century evangelist Dwight L. Moody once said, "If we have the true love of God in our hearts, we will show it in our lives. We will not have to go up and down the earth proclaiming it. We will show it in everything we say or do."

Why is it that today Americans still think of a powerful man as a born leader and a powerful woman as an anomaly? Can it be that some are misunderstanding scripture?

God's Word makes it clear: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word." (Ephesians 5:25-26) The Bible teaches that the man is the spiritual head of the family and his wife should acknowledge his leadership. But real spiritual leadership involves service to others.

Submitting to another person is an often-misunderstood concept. It does not mean becoming a doormat. Christ was our example, submitting his will to the Father. When we submit to God, we become more willing to obey his command to submit to others, that's to subordinate our rights to theirs. In a marriage relationship, both husband and wife are called to submit. For the wife, this means willingly following her husband's leadership in Christ. For the husband, it means putting aside his own interest to care for his wife. Marriage, for Paul, is a holy union, a living symbol, a precious relationship that needs tender, self-sacrificial care. We are never more like God than when we



Associate Minister Rev. Reginald Townsend and Mrs. Ferlandia Townsend

continued next page

give. Just as Christ served the disciples, even to the point of washing their feet, so the husband is to serve his wife.

How should a man love his wife? Glad you asked. He should be willing to sacrifice everything for her. He should make her well-being of primary importance. He should care for her as he cares for his own body.

Brothers and sisters, there will come a day when all things will come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance. It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed. As Christian men, we are called to live lives that matter.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice. In the words of the hymnologist Raymond Rasberry, "Only What You do For Christ Will Last:"

"You may build great cathedrals large or small,
You can build skyscrapers grand and tall,
You may conquer all the failures of the past,
But only what you do for Christ will last.
Remember. Only what you do Christ will last.
Only what you do for Christ will last."

So, what will matter in the end? How will the value of your days be measured? What will be your testimony?

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example. ❖

Nineteenth Street Recognized for Community Service

The DC Children's Trust Fund selected Nineteenth Street Baptist Church to receive the Community Organization Award for our long-standing commitment to feed those in need. The award recognized Nineteenth Street and our Food Pantry for supporting children by providing healthy foods and resources for families in the District of Columbia.

Deacon Michael Bonner represented Nineteenth Street and accepted the certificate of recognition at the Fund's 5th Annual Parent Summit on April 27. The topic of this year's summit was "Eat Well 2 Live Well."

The DC Children's Trust Fund is a public/private partnership established in 1993 to foster the well-being of the District's children and families by leading the way toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect. ❖

Block Party

Saturday, August 12 • 10 AM - 4 PM

Volunteers Needed!

Contact Rev. Christopher Crawford, Chair
Community Block Party Planning Committee
chrisc726@hotmail.com

Nineteenth Street's Tie to Haiti

By Andrea Bonhomme and Virginia C. Lee

Global Missions is gearing up for its 2nd Annual Haiti5K Walk, a church-wide effort to raise \$25,000 to help build a pediatric medical clinic in Haiti. Our church's connection to Haiti dates to the late 1980s when Nineteenth Street's Pastor at that time, Rev. Dr. Jerry A. Moore Jr., opened its doors to the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Washington, DC which was seeking a place to hold its services. The pastor of this small congregation was Rev. Arthur Bonhomme, who had served as Haiti's Ambassador from 1967 to 1971.

Because of his early work as a missionary minister and his love for the writing of Paul, Rev. Bonhomme became known as the "Ambassador for Christ." In the 1940s when there were no Bibles written in Haitian Creole, he spearheaded the initiative to translate the Bible into Haitian Creole and distributed Bibles throughout Haiti, hastening the spread of Christianity on the island. He took the message of compassion for the oppressed and those living in poverty to the Security Council of the United Nations during his years as an ambassador.



*Rev. Arthur Bonhomme,
Haitian ambassador*

Ambassador Bonhomme was the father of church member Frantz Bonhomme.

The legacy of serving Haiti and the church continues with the current generation of the Bonhomme family. On May 21, the family led Nineteenth Street's morning worship service as part of the Family Month series in May. In addition, last year family members helped with the planning and fielded a large team of walkers to support the first Haiti5K Walk. ❖



Team Bonhomme at the 2016 Haiti5K Walk.

Justice for Juniors Starts New College Access Initiative

By Chaplain J. Siafa Johnson

Have you ever wondered who helps a high school student prepare for college when a parent is sentenced to adult corrections or an English language learner, or the student is the first in the family to apply to college?

Justice for Juniors, in collaboration with the Montgomery College Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) Engagement Coordinator Ms. Kimberly Bloch-Rincan and ACES Academic Coach at Montgomery Blair High School Jose Medrano, initiated the Spring 2017 College Access Program to do just that. During the three consecutive tutorial sessions held in April and May on the Montgomery College Takoma Campus, 17 mentoring pairs met to draft essay responses and to discuss the college application process. Mr. Medrano shared that the sessions “were very motivating for the rising seniors so that they were able to visualize their senior year and end goals.” Additionally, the college mentors who volunteered represented a diversity of majors, ethnicities, career interests and academic backgrounds which reflected the ACES students.

Our thanks and appreciation to Carol Ehrlich, Sean McCarthy, Linnea Warburton, and Nick Stewart, who enlisted and trained volunteers and coordinated this ministry at no cost to students. The Justice for Juniors/ACES Team

is working towards organizing a follow-up program this fall for mentors and high school students who participated in the pilot program.

For more information, contact our church member Chaplain Johnson.



Church member Chaplain J. Siafa Johnson (front row, 3rd from left)

Youth Visit NMAAHC Museum



Youth Ministry members and chaperones visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture on Saturday, May 20.

Youth Ministry News for June

By Chaplain Eddie Martin

Youth Ministry Weekend is right around the corner! Check out the list of events planned for the weekend:

■ Youth vs. Adults Basketball Tournament and “Younger” Games! – Saturday, June 10 at 10 AM

It's that time again! The Youth Ministry will be hosting its 3rd Annual Basketball Tournament and 2nd Annual Younger Games. If you are a youth or adult interested in participating in either (or both) of these events, please contact Chaplain Martin or a Youth Ministry member.

■ Youth Ministry Weekend Sunday Service – Sunday, June 11 at 10AM (Repast Following the Service)

■ Youth Ministry Annual Oratorical Contest – Sunday, June 11 Following the Repast

Come support our middle and high school youth during the 2017 Youth Ministry Oratorical Contest. The theme for the oratorical contest is “Faith and Social Justice.” The contest will differ from oratorical competitions of the past as each youth will be presenting on a different issue under the theme. Each youth member will present arguments for and against his or her selected issue, articulate how the Bible and extra-biblical sources inform the issue, and then present his or her stance.

We hope to see you at our many events during the second weekend of June! ❖

**19TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTS**

YOUTH VS ADULTS

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

&

**SATURDAY
JUNE 10TH
10:00AM**

THE YOUNGER GAMES

**LOCATION:
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS GYMNASIUM
4901 16TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON D.C.**

Calendar

JUNE

Sunday, June 4 – Church School Promotion and Recognition Program, fellowship hall, 8:30 AM

Wednesday, June 7 – Rev. Dr. Roberts is Guest Preacher for Galilee Baptist Church Men’s Revival, 2101 Shadyside Avenue, Suitland, Maryland, 7 PM

Friday, June 9 – Progressive Adults Theater Outing, The Music Center at Strathmore, “*Gladys Knight,*” 8 PM

Youth Ministry Weekend Activities

Saturday, June 10 – Youth vs. Adults Annual Basketball Tournament, Church of the Latter Day Saints Gymnasium, 4901 16th Street NW, Washington, DC, 10 AM – 2 PM

Sunday, June 11 – Youth Sunday Worship Service, 10 AM
Reception following worship service, 5th Annual Oratorical Contest, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Sunday, June 18 – Father’s Day Worship Service, 10 AM
Men, Fit for Life, kick-off for Haiti5K Walk by Men’s Ministry and Global Missions Ministry, following worship service

Monday, June 26 – 21st Annual Rosemary and John H. Brinkley Memorial Golf Tournament, Enterprise Golf Course, Mitchellville, Maryland, 9 AM shotgun start

Vacation Bible School – Monday, June 26 through Friday, July 7, 9 AM - Noon

JULY

Sunday, July 2 – Church School summer session begins, fellowship hall, 8:45 AM

Tuesday, July 4 – Independence Day Holiday, Church Office closed

Friday, July 7 – Closing Ceremony for Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 10 – Vacation Bible School annual trip to Kings Dominion