



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

4606 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011
202-829-2773

www.everyblessing.org

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts, *Pastor*
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.

Editor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. I. Benni Singleton

Editor

Karen E. Williamson

Epistle Contributors

Sybil Barbour
Karen Sidney-Drumgold
Charles Hall
Deborah Heard
Deaconess Sageta Jackson
Rev. J. Sifa Johnson
Deacon Fred Leftrict
Evelyn Sellers
Trustee Franklin Smith
Gloria Smith
Robin Smith
Emmanuelle St. Jean
Deaconess Brenda Lightening Tolbert
Rev. Reginald Townsend
Robin Williams

Epistle Photographers

Deaconess Gwen Harris Gale
Deacon-Elect Deborah Crain Kemp
Deacon Kevin Little
Deaconess Gloria Tisdale

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@everyblessing.org.

Questions?

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

IN THIS ISSUE...

Pastor's Corner	3
Installation Events Set	5
Appreciation Reception	6
The Greening of Nineteenth Street	7
Spotlight on New First Lady	9
Future Search Continues	11
Ushers' Day Celebrated	12
Deacon Jackson - 84 Years at NSBC	15
A Sealed Bargain	17
New Members	18
Departed Saints	18
Congratulations	19
Where Are They Now?	20
Member News	21
March on Washington Attendees	22
Justice for Juniors Discuss Ethics	23
Calendar	24



Recalling & Reclaiming Our Mission: A Magnet For The Multitudes

By Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts

As we joyously embark upon this new season of ministry, let us recall and reclaim the words of a pastor-prophet first delivered to our celebrated church on the occasion of our 110th Anniversary. They are as relevant today as they were in 1943:

The fathers planted here
This Zion, in their tears,
A little flock of God,
To stand through countless years.

Eleven decades past,
'Tis glad new year today;
O Church of God rejoice,
In loftiest, sweetest lay.

What multitudes have found,
"This is the gate of heaven,"
The place where God abides.
To him be glory given!

May children's children come
To this dear House of Prayer,

And, finding here their God,
With praises, rend the air.

I love this sacred spot—
There's none, on earth, so dear.
Let thousands hither come
And know that God is here

Rev. Dr. Walter H. Brooks,
The Pastor's Voice

Too often churches are not experienced by the "multitudes" as houses of prayer "where God abides." For some, many churches look less like the community where they are located, but more like islands of socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic exclusion that suffer from a deficit in service. Others experience churches as museums more interested in building monuments and reminiscing about "how good things used to be" than engaging in the business of applying past lessons to current problems so others know that Christ is still moving in the world. Still others believe that the church has

become an impediment to its growth and human flourishing by seeking to conform to the culture, instead of strengthening the spiritual and moral fiber of our nation.

And so, as we seek to honor our past and build a glorious future, I would like to share several principles that I sincerely believe will help us carry out our enduring mission to be a "House of Prayer" that proclaims "the Gospel and Jesus Christ to all people."

First, we will be a magnet for the "multitudes" as we carry out our mission to be a welcoming and loving church. Jesus declared "whosoever will let him come and take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17). As extensions of the body of Christ, our posture toward the world should always be outstretched arms and hearts ready to share God's love. That is what inspired our fore parents to plant "[t]his Zion...in their tears" and enabled our church to "stand

continued next page

through countless years.” It is what has inspired “thousands” to come to this “House of Prayer” for the last 177 years, and it is key to our success moving forward.

One of the things people love so much about Nineteenth Street is that our commitment to love all of God’s children has been unwavering. Our church mothers and “fathers” understood so well that the Christian duty to love and welcome all people may begin when visitors and members walk through our entrance; but it ends with how people feel when they leave “this sacred spot.” The responsibility to foster a welcoming environment for all who may walk through our doors does not rest solely on the shoulders of the pastor, the ushers, the ministers and the church leaders. It is shared by pastor and people, pulpit and pew, working together to help all experience God’s amazing grace “through Christ-centered worship, biblical instruction, prayer, nurturing fellowship, and caring acts that are reflective of our love for God and one another.”

To be a welcoming church means that all are welcome. A church for the multitudes does not welcome some praise and worship, but not others. It does not welcome some gospel music,

but not others. It does not welcome some nationalities, but not others. It does not welcome some age groups, but not others. As the anointed apostle wrote many centuries ago when he first penned these immortal words, in Christ, “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Second, we can fulfill our charge to be a magnet for the multitudes when we support and sustain ministries that prepare God’s people for effective Christian discipleship. The Board of Christian Education, the Director of Christian Education, the Superintendent of the Sunday School, the lay leadership, associate pastors and volunteers all must be commended for the work we do to support excellence in education through classes that promote spiritual formation, evangelism, missions, new member orientation, leadership development and cultural enrichment.

As we build upon our past success, let us remember that the church should always be a place where people (of all ages) are learning and growing. From Christian Education classes for the entire family that cover a broad range of topic areas to engagement classes

for the community that focus on voter empowerment, political enfranchisement, educational reform and economic development; from rights-of-passage training programs that provide young girls and boys with biblical instruction and programs that promote educational independence, cultural competence and social engagement to support groups that provide pastoral care for persons dealing with mental health challenges, personal addictions, and social isolation. The basic goal is to provide the best possible setting, resources, administrative and financial support to enable our church to offer a “holistic” approach to Christian education that supports spiritual, social, cultural, economic and professional development.

Third, and finally, we can fulfill our charge to be a magnet for the multitudes when we support and sustain missionary outreach activities that advance Christ’s love and grace through local and global ministry. I am honored and humbled to pastor a church that has such an amazing legacy of service and sacrifice. We have built successful partnerships with ministries within our church and community partners to faithfully meet the needs of members, local residents and the community writ large.

continued next page

Together, we offer ministries that impact the micro and macro social institutions in our society. Micro level ministries and programs include the food pantry and homeless outreach, youth ministry outreach, the Haiti5K Walk, and other vital ministries. Macro-level outreach initiatives include programs to support reform in the criminal justice system, public education, health care, voting rights, marriage rights, economic development, anti-discrimination, and environmental justice. In this critical hour, as our country deals with major changes in our political, economic and democratic systems, it is imperative that our church look for new and creative ways to expand our local and global mission projects and engage in sustained and systemic advocacy that seeks to improve the plight of “the least of these” so that all of God’s children “might have life, and that more abundantly.”

And so, as we seek to fulfill our calling in this present hour, let us reaffirm our commitment to be a church that welcomes and loves all of God’s children, supports ministries that sharpen the tools of our spiritual growth and shares the hope, love and grace of God at home and abroad. As we carry out this sacred charge, I truly believe that we shall continue to be that place where “thousands hither come” and, “finding here their God,” leave earnestly declaring that “God is here.” ❖

Installation Events Set for Pastor Roberts

By Gloria Smith

Plans are finalized for activities to observe and celebrate the installation of Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts as Nineteenth Street’s next pastor.

Thursday, February 16 - Prayer Service in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM

Friday, February 17 - Family Dinner to honor and welcome Pastor Roberts and his family. The dinner will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel at 10 Thomas Circle NW in DC. Doors will open at 7:30 PM.

Saturday, February 18 - Luncheon to honor and welcome First Lady Dr. Laura Morgan Roberts. The event is open to all—males and females. The event will be in the fellowship hall and will begin at 12:30 PM.

Sunday, February 19 - Regular worship service, lunch, installation service and reception. Rev. Robert Franklin of Atlanta, Georgia will be the guest preacher at our regular 10 AM Sunday morning worship service. Following the service, all are invited to enjoy lunch in the fellowship hall. The installation service for Pastor Roberts will begin at 2 PM. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr. will be the guest preacher. Following the installation, there will a reception in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend.

Tickets are required and still available for the Friday dinner and Saturday luncheon. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call Trustee Franklin Smith at (202) 839-2100.

Interim Pastor Honored at Appreciation Reception

Rev. James A. Crosson Jr. was the guest of honor at an Appreciation Reception in the fellowship hall on January 22. Over 150 church and family friends gathered to thank Rev. Crosson for ably serving as Nineteenth Street's Interim Pastor for the past twenty months. Tributes were given by ministerial staff, church officers, guest clergy and representatives of church ministries and groups. Deacon Peyton Lively was the event coordinator. Thank you to Rev. Crosson for a job well done!



The Greening of Nineteenth Street Has Begun

By Trustee Franklin Smith

Update: Our solar panels have been delivered and are in the process of being installed on the roof. We will be using solar energy by the middle of February and expect to see an immediate reduction in our electricity bill.

As reported previously, Nineteenth Street is going green with the use of solar energy. Below are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about this initiative. Please stay tuned for future articles on our progress in preserving our environment and saving money on our electric bills.

Q. What is the cost of this project to the church?

A. There is no cost to the church for any aspect of this installation. Volt Energy pays for the permits, equipment, and other costs for this project.



Nineteenth Street's roof with new solar panels installed

Q. Is there a warranty and for how long?

A. Yes, Volt Energy is responsible for the 15-year warranty on labor and maintenance care for the solar panels. The equipment manufacturer warranty is for 25 years.

Q. What is the duration of the contract?

A. The contract is for 15 years, after which we have the option of having Volt Energy remove the panels at their expense or we can accept the panels as a donation (tax-deductible) from Volt Energy.

Q. What other benefits will the church receive?

A. Volt Energy will provide us with speakers, publicity, marketing and other necessary materials to promote a Green Ministry for the membership and community.

continued next page

Q. What happens if there is a storm and the electricity goes out?

A. We will be on the Pepco grid and will be serviced by Pepco. If Pepco is not providing electricity to our church for whatever reason, we will not have electricity until Pepco restores energy and resolves the problem.

Q. What happens to the stored electricity generated by the solar panels?

A. We will only be generating about 50 percent of the electricity used from Pepco. Therefore, we will not have any electricity to be stored. Hopefully, the Green Ministry will teach us how to use less electricity and move us closer to the goal of generating most of the electricity we need.

Q. How do we know that the roof structure is strong enough to support the weight of the solar panels?

A. Prior to contracting with Nineteenth Street, Volt Energy had engineers review our construction plans prior to submitting them to the city engineer for approval. Approval had to be granted by the city engineer before a permit could be issued for installation to commence.

Q. What if our new roof is damaged by this installation?

A. The roofing installers and roofing manufacturer have confirmed that solar panels installed on our roof will not violate the contract. If any damage occurs from the installation, repair cost will be covered by Volt Energy.

Q. Who is Volt Energy?

A. Volt Energy is a DC based minority owned company that has installed solar panels on city owned buildings, schools, Howard University facilities and Federal government buildings. They have received awards and accolades from the office of the President, Washington Post, business journals and several other renewable energy advocates.

Q. What happens if the panels are covered with snow and cannot generate electricity?

A. The church would receive a credit for the anticipated amount of electricity that would have been generated during the time the panels were not producing electricity.

Q. Who is responsible if the wind blows off a solar panel and injures someone or damages someone's property?

A. The panels belong to Volt Energy for the first 15 years and they have insurance to cover these types of incidences.

Q. How much money will we save?

A. We anticipate saving over \$16,000 the first year of operation. Over the 25-year span of these panels, we hope to save over one million dollars. Currently we are spending approximately \$48,000 per year for electricity with an annual escalation of 5 percent expected. ❖

Spotlight on First Lady Laura Morgan Roberts

By Deborah Heard

Christian. Wife. Mother. Scholar. Teacher. Psychologist. Singer. Leader. Writer. Mentor. AKA. All those titles fit one person: Sister Laura Morgan Roberts, the new first lady of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

Sister Roberts, who is 42, has built a life with one goal in mind: “My priority is to serve God and to serve God’s people, using the gifts and talents that God has placed within me to help meet the needs of my family, congregation, community and society at large,” she said. “My journey in life is to help people to discover the very best of who we are and to experience the extraordinary life and beauty and giftedness that God has uniquely designed within each of us.”

Her journey began in Gary, Indiana, the child of an orthopedic surgeon and a math teacher and bookkeeper. During childhood, she was active in the youth ministry, choir and Sunday school of Marquette United Methodist Church in Gary and the Calvary Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana. At the University of Virginia, where she earned a BA in Psychology, and later at the University of Michigan, where she earned her M. and PhD in Organizational Psychology, she continued participating in gospel choirs.



Rev. Darryl Roberts and Sister Laura Morgan Roberts have been married for 14 years and have two children, 8-year-old Anaiah Elizabeth and 3-year-old Isaiah Emmanuel. Their story began with some family intervention. Sister Roberts’ father and her

father’s older cousin—Alphanette White Price—both attended Grinnell College in Iowa. That was Rev. Roberts’ alma mater as well. Rev. Roberts and Ms. Price met during a Grinnell alumni event in Chicago. “As a gentleman, he offered her a ride home,” Sister Roberts recounted. “Then he said, ‘I live in Hyde Park. If you ever need anything, give me a call.’” When they ran into each other again, Ms. Price gave Rev. Roberts a phone number. At the time, Sister Roberts was in graduate school in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was surprised by her cousin Alphanette’s introduction. But after a few conversations, the two met and made an instant connection.

The most recent stop in their journey together was at Mount Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia, where he was senior pastor for five years. There, she used her gifts on the praise team and the children’s programs, in particular. She expects to do similar work here as she continues to develop

continued next page

her role as a first lady in an African American church in the 21st Century.

In her professional life, Dr. Roberts is the Professor of Psychology, Culture and Organizational Studies in Antioch University's Graduate School of Leadership and Change as well as a Visiting Scholar of the Harvard Business School Leadership Initiative. She has served on the faculties of several business schools, including Harvard, Georgia State University and Wharton. A member of the Academy of Management and the International Leadership Association, she also works as a consultant to teach leadership skills in business and faith-based institutions, including delivering speeches and conducting workshops for marriage ministries, and youth and women's conferences. In addition, she has edited two books and written one book, as well as numerous articles and chapters. "I get very excited about helping people," she said.

It's something she has been interested in since she was a teenager in Gary. "I was blessed," she said, but "I started to notice the range of experiences." The steel mills were closing and the economic circumstances were changing for many in the town. "I wanted to work on behalf of those striving to grow and have a greater impact on their world."



She had learned that perspective from her parents as well as both sets of grandparents.

Although she grew up in Indiana, Sister Roberts has deep roots in Washington, DC. Her mother was born and raised here and her great-grandparents were owners of the Murray Brothers Printing Company, a very successful Washington business that started in the early 20th century and included a popular U Street NW ballroom. "I always identified with having ownership, with seeing what was possible. I wanted other people to have that vision," she said.

She has fond memories of time spent in Washington and is looking forward to being here with her extended family. But first and foremost, she's excited to come to Nineteenth Street. "It's a blessing that Nineteenth Street is in DC," she said. She and the children will move here in June, after the academic year ends, because her daughter is in the third grade.

When asked how church members can help with the transition, she had this response:

"Just by offering a welcoming spirit. That is as good as gold for any new family that's coming into the congregation.... We've already experienced so much of that. We're grateful and we're appreciative." ♦

Work Continues to Imagine Church Future

By Charles Hall

Nineteenth Street's Future Search participants will reconvene in a large group session in the spring of 2017. After being briefed by Future Search co-leaders Charles Hall and Deborah Heard, Pastor Darryl Roberts has expressed his support for continuing this work. A meeting is being planned to review what has been done thus far and to update the goals.

Former Pastor Derrick Harkins commissioned the Future Search project in 2013 because he saw great potential for Nineteenth Street Baptist Church to grow in ways that benefited the church and the community. The Future Search process starts with a large group planning meeting that brings a "whole system" into the room to work on a tasked-focus agenda. The emphasis is on finding common ground.

In November 2013, about 45 Nineteenth Street members came together in an invigorating and inspiring Future Search meeting to imagine and plan the future. The theme was "Nineteenth Street Baptist Church 2025: Honoring Our History, Forging Our Future." Through various exercises, the Future Search participants first identified five concerns on which to concentrate:

- 25 to 40-year-olds visit but do not stay or join
- An aging congregation
- Decreased number of young family members
- Digital communications, including e-commerce
- Capital repairs as our building ages

By the end of the session, the group agreed on nine common ground goals and formed committees to pursue them:

- Capital Improvements
- Enhanced Music Ministry
- Institutional Development
- Operations
- Outreach Ministries
- Spiritual Growth: Developing a Plan For Spiritual Growth for Our Congregation and New Members
- Targeted Programs for Adults
- Technology
- Youth Ministry

The committees have been asked to prepare status reports on what they have accomplished thus far, including recommendations for next steps, for discussion at the upcoming meeting.

Watch for more details about the next meeting and how you can get involved. ❖

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

President Barack Obama

Ushers' 48th Anniversary Celebrated – and on YouTube!

By Deaconess Brenda Lightening Tolbert

Did I hear someone say that the Usher Board of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church is on YouTube? Yes, there we are featured in a video from our 48th Ushers' Day Anniversary on January 8, 2017. Click on the photo below or go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOluA6jL-RI&t=49s.

Celebrating our special day is always a grand time, one that never gets old, but being on YouTube is a first. The Usher Board was also blessed to be the first ministry to join Rev. Dr. Darryl Roberts in the pulpit in his official capacity as our new pastor. No, we didn't plan it; the stars just happened to align in our favor.

We did plan, however, another awesome high-spirited Ushers' Day program. With Usher Board President Barbara DeLaine Jumper and Committee Chairperson Edith Bullard-Britt leading the charge, we couldn't go wrong. Sister Edith crossed "T's" and dotted "I's" and pretty much ran every detail of our program through a fine-tooth comb. We rehearsed marching routines and participant program roles, and fine-tuned our ushering skills. Although we were challenged by time and weather, we enjoyed getting together

and preparing for our annual event. We joked, laughed, made mistakes, and prayed for God's presence and guidance in all that we sought to achieve—another day in Christian stewardship.

As in years past when our special day arrived, we checked and re-checked everything from our uniforms to the smallest program details. The worship service began with praise and worship followed by the usher processional which set the tone for a spirit-filled time in the Lord's presence from start to finish. Worship Leader Cynthia Thompson continued the uplifting tone for worship. Sister Angela Griffin kept the momentum going with her choreographed Grand March and precision-executed Drill Team. Year after year, Sister Griffin creates a praise performance enjoyed by both ushers and the congregation.

Other pulpit participants included Junior Usher Jaia Wilensky who read with emphasis and purpose the responsive reading "Dedicated Service," an all-time usher favorite. Brother Louis Ford honored our dearly departed ushers in a memorial tribute giving honor to their gifts of service. Junior Usher Hannah Kirby offered words of welcome,

continued next page

followed by Trustee Robert McNair's rendering of the offertory prayer. Junior Usher Mark Little read the scripture, Romans 12:9-13. In keeping with the scripture and corresponding theme, "Ushers: The Heart of a True Servant," Brother Roman Holton gave a personal account of how being in the Lord's Service requires one to be kind and compassionate and show brotherly love and honor to one another. Lastly, Sister Betty Montague introduced our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders, Senior Pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, DC and Professor of Christian Ethics at Howard University School of Divinity. She delivered an insightful sermon lesson, "Respect and Respectability," a welcomed reminder that ushering is far more than being a doorkeeper. Rev. Sanders emphasized that God also calls ushers to share their ministry of hospitality by establishing an atmosphere for worship, extending brotherly love, and respecting self and others. This, she remarked, is truly serving God and His people with a servant's heart.



Junior Ushers Hanna Kirby, Jaia Wilensky, and Jara Wilensky received awards for their committed and dedicated service to the Usher Board. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Church School Superintendent Shirley France and Minister of Music David Griffiths for their support of the Usher Ministry. Sisters Heather Boyce and Cynthia Thompson were recognized for the beautiful pulpit flowers they donated for the occasion.



Following the service, all were invited to enjoy a scrumptious repast prepared by Deaconess Hester Jones.

The Usher Board and 48th Ushers' Day Anniversary planning committee extend to our church family and friends a heartfelt thank you for helping us celebrate our day. Your continued support is appreciated. We gladly serve with "The Heart of a True Servant." ❖

continued next page



USHER BOARD OFFICERS

- President Barbara De Laine Jumper
- 1st Vice President Angela Griffin
- 2nd Vice President Eugene Byrd
- 3rd Vice President Edith Bullard-Britt
- Recording Secretary Cynthia Thompson
- Corresponding Secretary Brenda Lightening Tolbert
- Treasurer John Jackson
- Financial Secretary Betty Montague
- Chaplain Yvonne Gowdy

USHERS' DAY COMMITTEE

- Edith Bullard-Britt, Chairperson
- Angela Griffin
- Pat Hodge
- Betty Montague
- Brenda Lightening Tolbert



Deacon Emeritus Walter Jackson Reflects on 84 years of Church Membership

Deacon Water Augustus Jackson Jr. was born in Washington, DC on May 27, 1924 to the late Trustee Walter A. Jackson Sr. and Deaconess Rebecca M. (Grant) Jackson. He was affectionately known as “Little Jack.”

His church membership and Christian relationship began at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church where his father, known as “Poppa Jack,” was a trustee. Deacon Jackson was baptized on February 5, 1933 along with his older sister Ora Vivian Jackson (Sidney) by Rev. Dr. Walter H. Brooks during a Youth Revival. The siblings enjoyed a close relationship which lasted until her death in June 2005. His church activities began early. He was a member of the 1st Club called the Young Men’s Christian Fellowship in the 1930s and was in the Primary Choir, Junior Choir, Young Peoples Choir, Cathedral Choir, and Gospel Choir. He was a member of the Senior Choir for 65 years.

Deacon Jackson served in the United States Army during World War II, stationed in Northern Ireland, England and France, and in the Army Reserves until being discharged in 1949. He worked as

a carrier for the United States Postal Service for many years and retired as a postal police officer.

In 1947 Deacon Jackson was married to the late Deaconess Betty Louise (Graham) Jackson by Rev. Dr. Jerry A. Moore Jr. They had two children, Rev. Walter A. Jackson III and Rev. Cynthia M. (Jackson) Swann. In 1956 “Little Jack” became a deacon and was faithful in this calling. On first Sundays, Deacon Jackson, accompanied by his wife and children, would visit the sick and shut-ins, singing the hymns of the church and administering the Lord’s Supper. When his mobility began to decline, Deacon Jackson was awarded Deacon Emeritus status for his 61 years of service.

Deacon Jackson was known for his glorious voice. He sang in a local group called the Overtones for many years, singing at churches, weddings, and funerals

throughout the DC Metropolitan area. He accompanied Rev. Moore to Arlington National Cemetery to sing “The Lord’s Prayer” at the interment of the late Heavyweight Boxing Champion Joe Lewis in 1981.

continued next page



Patriarch Deacon Jackson surrounded by four generations of the Jackson Family.



*Little Jack with his mother Deaconess
Rebecca Jackson*

Deacon Jackson recorded three concerts for Nineteenth Street; two became albums: *A Bright Tomorrow* and *I Can Face Tomorrow*. Proceeds from the sale of these recordings went to the church.

Deacon Jackson has witnessed much during his lifetime. His most memorable

moments are when he sang the national anthem at the US Postal Convention in Baltimore, Maryland; when former President George H.W. Bush attended a morning worship service and Deacon Jackson sang in the choir; and when former President Barack Obama and the first family attended a morning worship service. He never thought he would live to see an African American become president of the United States of America.

Deacon Walter A. Jackson Jr. has been a dedicated servant of God, devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, great uncle, great-great uncle, Mayor of 24th Street NE (oldest resident of Kingman Park, now Capital Hill East since 1929), and friend.

When reflecting on his longevity he says, "I'm living on dividends." His family knows him as the patriarch to seven generations of Jackson descendants who are still active at Nineteenth Street. They believe because he is living the words of his favorite song, "Only What You Do for Christ Will Last," he's gained heavenly dividends. He has always been available to do the work of God and available to his church, family and friends.

God has truly blessed Deacon Walter Augustus Jackson Jr. (Little Jack); "His Living Shall Not be in Vain." ❖

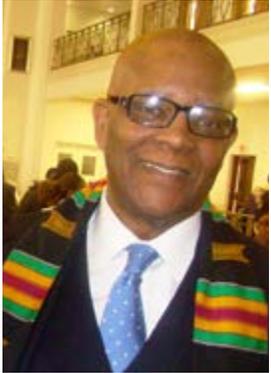


*Deacon Walter Jackson was recently visited
by Pastor Roberts at his home.*

*Information for this article was provided by
members of the Jackson Family.*

A Sealed Bargain

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister



The Nineteenth Street Baptist Church family is beginning a new journey under the pastoral leadership embodied in our new Senior Pastor, Reverend Doctor Darryl D. Roberts. The journey we have embarked upon may seem to some as a new thing but, to others, it is a continuing legacy of faithfulness. As our spiritual legacy as faithful followers of Jesus Christ continues, we are never to forget that our church continues

to be led by the Holy Spirit. We are to trust in Christ. God gives us His Spirit as a pledge or, as some translations read, a guarantee. Scripture informs us:

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) NIV

In the time of the apostle Paul, a deposit, or pledge, did three things: it was a down payment that sealed a bargain, it represented an obligation to buy, and it was a sample of what was to come. As an example, suppose you decided to make a down payment on a new car. What did your deposit represent?

First, it sealed the transaction; from then on, both you and the seller are committed. Also, it committed you to pay the rest of the purchase price. Finally, it enabled you to take possession of the car right then (even though it still belonged to the bank!).

In the same way, the Holy Spirit in our hearts is God’s pledge or deposit to us—sealing His commitment to save us guaranteeing that someday our salvation will be complete and enabling us to experience its joys right now. Paul mentions two gifts God gives when we become believers: (1) a seal of ownership to show who our Master is, and (2) the Holy Spirit, who guarantees that we belong to him and will receive all his benefits (Ephesians 1:13-14). NIV

The Holy Spirit guarantees that salvation is ours now and that we will receive so much more when Christ returns. The great comfort and power the Holy Spirit gives in this life is a foretaste or down payment (“deposit”) of benefits of our eternal life in God’s presence. With the privilege of belonging to God comes the responsibility of identifying ourselves as His faithful servants. Don’t be ashamed to let others know that you are a child of God. John Wesley once said, “Employ whatever God has entrusted you with, in doing good, all possible good, in every possible kind and degree.” ❖

Welcome New Members

DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017

Brother Keelin Brown

Sister Lydia Cole

Brother Reginald A. Cole

Brother John Gentry

Brother Jordan Londyn Johnson

Brother Samuel O. Laoye

Sister Odelia McFadden

Sister Arin Samantha Buggs Neel

Sister Beverly Jasmine Paige

Sister Bria Danielle Wooden



We Remember with Love the Saints We Lost June-December 2016

Sister Martha Washington Gordon

Deaconess Marita Langford

Deaconess Bertha Lewis

Deacon Larry Darnell Holland

Sister Ellen Elizabeth Pearson

Sister Rosemary Morris Brinkley

Congratulations!

The following were elected to fill church offices at the January 27, 2017 business meeting:

Deaconesses-Elect:

Patricia Andrew
Margaret Blakemore

Trustees:

William H. Hoff
Jacqueline Ivey
John Jackson
William Quander
James Rodgers
Juniors Thompson
Carolyn Wilson

**Director of the Board
of Christian Education:**

Deaconess Patricia Robb

Church School Superintendent:

Shirley France

Church Clerk:

Deaconess Sageta Jackson

Assistant Church Clerk:

Deaconess Jean Jackson

Disbursing Officer:

Trustee Dwight Crawford



Why There Was No January Epistle

The Epistle Editor Karen Williamson was away for four weeks to welcome her first grandchild, Thomas Anthony Maher, who was born December 20 in Sydney, Australia. His parents are Karen's daughter Stephanie Zuniga-Maher and son-in-law Gary Maher. Thomas was born on his grandmother's birthday. Karen could not have asked for a better birthday and Christmas present!

Wanted: Volunteers for The Epistle!

The Epistle is looking for volunteers to help generate, write and edit stories each month. This is a great way to meet and connect with other church members and be involved with the work of the church. It is also very rewarding to see the results of your efforts every month and know you are helping to improve communications to and within our church family. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Karen Williamson at 202-829-5973 or williamsonke@gmail.com.

Love Pals: Where Are They Now?

By Dr. Fawn A. Cothran

I began the Love Pal Program while at Howard University pursuing a BSN in Nursing. Deacon Yvonne Dickson was my love pal and was consistent in providing an encouraging word in a card and, of course, a token of love that always came when I needed it most.

Since leaving the program, God has opened doors professionally that I couldn't even imagine. Shortly after graduation I had the opportunity to travel to Thailand for a summer and conduct research on Breast Cancer among Thai women. That



research abroad experience opened my eyes to the possibility of being a nurse researcher; and when I returned home, I immediately applied to graduate school. I was accepted into the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and began a journey to pursue a PhD in nursing with a focus on older adults.

While I have worked in a variety of settings including acute care, care transitions, corrections, and long-term care/rehabilitation, my research, which focuses on dementia caregiving in the African American community, has been present in every context. I completed my PhD in 2010 and am now an Assistant Professor in Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing at Rush University in Chicago. I am continuing to build my program of research with the long-term goal of developing and testing tailored behavioral interventions for African American caregivers to promote their physical and mental health. I do not know where this path will take me as doors continue to open, but I always remember that the support of the Love Pal Program played an integral part. ❖

Dr. Fawn Cothran, a graduate of Howard University, was in the Love Pal Class of 1996. She is the granddaughter of Deaconess Mozelle E. Watkins and daughter of Eunice Watkins-Cothran. Love Pal Deacon Yvonne Dickson shared this remembrance: "Ministering to Fawn was so important to me. I am proud of her accomplishments and career over the years. A beautiful young lady inside and out."

~ Evelyn Sellers

Visit to the NMAAHC

By Beverly and Gerald Barbour

On Thursday, November 24 our family gathered for a festive day of Thanksgiving. We attended worship services and afterwards assembled at our sister Dorothy's home in Mitchellville, Maryland for dinner, football, and lively conversation. We were truly blessed to have had the opportunity to visit The National Museum of African American History and Culture on Friday, November 25. Our sister, Sybil Barbour, obtained six tickets for herself, sister, brother, sister-in-law, great-niece, and great-nephew.

A visit to the NMAAHC takes you on a profound, intense, and in-depth journey of the four hundred year experience of the African in America. The care and attention to detail and accuracy propels you from one exhibit to another with an



Sybil Barbour and family at NMAAHC

equally increasing desire to learn more. It provides the visitor the opportunity to not only celebrate the lives, wisdom, fortitude, and contributions of our ancestors and contemporaries but brings you close to feeling that you are actually "walking in their shoes."

There is a wealth of information arguably unparalleled in other museums and should be considered a mandatory tool in the education of all who don't know, want to know, and need to know more of the African American experience and culture. ❖

Shirley Ali Shares Family News



Sierra M. Ali, granddaughter of Shirley Ali, had the opportunity to go to Thailand to teach English there. A December 2015 graduate of Sacramento University, Sierra wants to become a teacher. Going to Thailand was a wonderful experience for her, reports her grandmother. Sierra, centered at bottom of picture, is shown with her students in Thailand.

Shirley Ali's son, Ajom H. Ali, has produced and directed a new documentary film, *Walking While Black: L.O.V.E. is The Answer*, that premieres February 1 in Santa Monica, California. Several screenings are planned in Maryland, February 3-7. The film is about reconciliation and putting love into action. Ali, who teamed with Oscar-winning producer and director Errol Webber, spent more than four and a half years making the film. The film is the launch of a movement to end racial profiling and excessive force, usher in a new era of equal protection under the law, and improve relations between peace officers and the communities they serve. The website for the film, www.walkingwhileblackthemovie.com, has trailers, select scenes and more information about the film.



Women's March on Washington

As seen in these pictures, Nineteenth Street was well represented at the January 21 Women's March in Washington, DC and also in Florida and New Mexico. The following are some of the members who were at the march with their family, friends and organizations.

Tanya Agurs-Collins
Valerie Ashley
Kailee Beckham
Kiara Beckham
Edith Bullard-Britt
Hilda Douglas (in Sarasota, FL)
Angela Griffin
Deborah Heard
Adair Holton
Roman Holton
Barbara Jumper
Steven Jumper
Deacon-Elect Deborah Crain Kemp
Deacon Sandra LeSesne
Deborah Lewis Thornton
Emmanuelle St. Jean
Deaconess Evangeline Stevens
Deaconess Brenda Tolbert
Minister Leslie Wiley (in Sante Fe, NM)
Karen Williamson



Justice for Juniors Volunteers Tutor on Ethics

By Rev. J. Siafa Johnson

Each week, college and community Justice for Juniors volunteers tutor ethics on the cell blocks (called pods) at the DC Youth Services Center. A two-page article on an ethical dilemma is read and solutions are offered and critiqued. The youths read and consider all facts of the dilemma - then the upside and downside of each choice primarily from the perspective, experiences and expectations of the victims. How youths conclude the best option provides insights into where they are on the ethical spectrum. Follow up questions from college and community volunteers often lead quickly to a reconsideration of the option, especially if the victim is replaced by one's mother. What is it that informs our ethics? For Christians, is it not the Holy Spirit speaking through scriptures and the conscience? Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice and follow." For Muslims, the Koran is the final authority on ethics.

Immediately after the weekly sessions on the pods, volunteers gather in the community room to reflect on the overall process



and begin interfaith dialogue—analyzing the passages from the Bible and the Koran and how they relate to the dilemma. Why the Koran and the Bible? First, juvenile detainees mostly self-identify as Muslim or Christians. So are most of our volunteers — Muslims, Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jewish.

In the community room, college and community volunteers take turns responding to the ethical dilemma addressed by the juveniles. Through these conversations, college and community volunteers—Protestants, Catholics and Muslims—better understand the context of the juveniles, but also share how scriptures inform their personal ethical decision-making process.

In an email reflecting on her experience, a GW Chinese graduate student now living in Japan said, "Chaplain Johnson, in Asia, not many people are doing what students and community volunteers are doing in DC. In some ways, it changed how I see what a person can do for others." Let your light so shine that others will see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Rev. J. Siafa Johnson is a member of Nineteenth Street and is active with campus ministry outreach. He serves as the Luther Rice Baptist Chaplain at George Washington University and coordinates the Justice for Juniors Program. He invites members of Nineteenth Street to learn more about this ministry. For more information, contact Rev. J. Siafa Johnson.

Calendar

FEBRUARY

February 3-5 – Youth Ministry Weekend, The Rock Retreat, Ocean City, Maryland

Saturday, February 11 – Progressive Adults Theater Outing, *Watch on the Rhine*, Arena Stage, 2 PM

Sunday, February 12 – Helping Hand Club Sunday, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings speaking

Wednesday, February 14 – Valentine's Day

Monday, February 20 – President's Day, Church Office closed

Saturday, February 25 – Church School Winter Trip to Massanutten Resort, McGaheysville, Virginia
Bus departs at 7 AM

Sunday, February 26 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 AM

Sunday, February 26 – Jubilee Sunday, Reception and Vendors Marketplace, following worship service

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1 – Ash Wednesday Lenten Service and Lunch
Worship service at Noon, followed by lunch at 1 PM

Wednesday, March 8 – Lenten Service and Lunch, Noon

Sunday, March 12 – Deacon Ordination Service and Deaconess Installation Service, 3 PM

Wednesday, March 15 – Lenten Service and Lunch, Noon

Sunday, March 26 – Pastor's Aid Club 70th Anniversary Sunday

Wednesday, March 22 – Lenten Service and Lunch, Noon

Wednesday, March 29 – Lenten Service and Lunch, Noon