



# 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](http://www.everyblessing.org)

### Ministerial Staff

Rev. James A. Crosson Jr., *Interim Pastor*  
Rev. Jerry C. Cheatham Jr.  
Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall  
Rev. Dr. I. Benni Singleton  
Rev. Reginald Townsend  
Rev. Edward Turner  
Rev. Robin L. Turner  
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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Rev. Dr. I. Benni Singleton

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### Special Notice:

There will not be a January Epistle.

The next issue will be published February 1, 2017. The deadline for materials will be January 20.

Submit articles and photographs via email to [Epistle@everyblessing.org](mailto:Epistle@everyblessing.org).

Contact Karen Williamson at [williamsonke@gmail.com](mailto:williamsonke@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



## PASTOR'S CORNER

# Thank You for This Opportunity to Serve God

*By Interim Pastor Rev. James A. Crosson Jr.*

Time passes so quickly, and change occurs everywhere. In nature, the landscape changes with great predictability with the seasons: winter's bleakness and beauty; spring's beginnings and brightness; summer's warmth promotes growth and maturity; and fall's harvests prepare us for winter. Change also occurs in institutions and in our lives.

In October, a change occurred that impacted our Church. It was our vote for the Senior Pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church who will lead our congregation into the future.

In November, a seismic change impacted our country and the world. It was the election of a new President of the United States who will assume the leadership of the free world for the next four years. Voting for the president and elected officials is a civic responsibility. Whatever we think or feel about the election of 2016, the nature of our democratic process allows for the people to speak. The results

of those voices will now guide the country for the foreseeable future. Our activism should not stop with the past election. There is much to be done to secure equal justice for all in America. Let us continue to find ways to help America be its better self for all who grace its shores.

The work of the Pulpit Selection Committee reflected its strong commitment to bring to the congregation a servant well suited to be minister of our church family. The committee communicated the process each step of the way, involved the entire church, and made sure we were presented with three outstanding pastoral selections. The process concluded with the final vote by the church for Dr. Darryl D. Roberts to become our Pastor. Your prayers and support of the committee were invaluable. It is to God we give praise and thanksgiving for the great work of this committee.

November also marked the ordination of Reverend Lorise White Wolfe and Reverend Christopher Crawford. Rev.

Wolfe's ordination will allow for a continued expansion of the Youth Ministry. Rev. Crawford's ordination will make possible a vibrant Young Adult Ministry.

I am thankful for so many in the congregation who volunteered to do whatever was required during this interim period to make sure we met the needs of the great commission. I am thankful for the leadership of the trustees who dedicated themselves to making sure that our church would operate as cost-effectively as possible. Each of you is a blessing to the kingdom of God. Your dedication and work made it easier for me to do God's work in His house.

Saturday, December 31, will end my tenure as your Interim Pastor. To the Associate Ministers, I thank you for your cooperation, prayers, and dedication to the work of ministry in serving this congregation. To the Boards of Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees, I thank you for your cooperation and prayers as we served God's people. To the church members, I thank you for your trust in me. I love you and considered this to have been an opportunity to serve God by serving you.

On January 1, 2017, Dr. Darryl D. Roberts will assume the leadership of our church. I congratulate pastor and church, and pledge my support to the continuing ministerial legacy of our great church. ❖

## SAVE THE DATES: February 15–19, 2017



# Installation of New Pastor

*By Trustee Franklin Smith and Gloria Smith,  
Installation Activities Committee Chairs*

Activities celebrating the installation of Pastor Rev. Darryl D. Roberts will take place on Wednesday, February 15 through Sunday, February 19, 2017. The Installation Activities Committee is busily and excitedly working on the following installation events. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for these activities!

Wednesday, February 15: Youth Night and Pastor Roberts, 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 16: Prayer Service led by Pastor Roberts, 6:30 PM

Friday, February 17: Installation Dinner, Washington Plaza Hotel, 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 18: Community Service Activity, morning

Saturday, February 18: First Lady Luncheon, 1 PM

Sunday, February 19: Installation Service, 10 AM, followed by Reception

Watch for more information in the church bulletin in the coming weeks. We hope to have a cost sheet available in early December. This sheet will reserve your desires once you return it with your monetary contribution.

We are asking each auxiliary to begin thinking about its donation to the Lovable Basket for First Lady Dr. Laura Roberts.

We thank you for entrusting us with this very important and historical event. It is our hope you will enjoy the festivities as we officially welcome our new first family. ❖

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*Please call or text Trustee Franklin Smith at 202-839-2100 or call Gloria Smith at 202-436-5450 with any questions.*



## Ordination of New Ministers

The Nineteenth Street Baptist Church family gathered on the afternoon of Sunday, November 30, to witness the Service of Ordination to the Gospel Ministry for Minister Lorise White Wolfe and Minister Christopher Crawford. Former Pastor Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins and other visiting clergy joined Nineteenth Street's ministers to participate in the sacred service. Congratulations to Rev. Wolfe and Rev. Crawford!





## A Conversation with Dwight Crawford, Nineteenth Street's Disbursing Officer

### **Epistle: What does the Disbursing Officer (DO) do?**

DO: The primary responsibility of the disbursing officer is to safeguard the cash funds of the church. This is done by making sure that all payment requests are authorized expenses of the church.

### **Epistle: How did you become the church disbursing officer?**

DO: The disbursing officer is a trustee who is elected to a one-year term at the annual church business meeting in January. I became a trustee in 2013 and was elected to a fourth term as disbursing officer at the 2016 meeting. The Board of Trustees elects an assistant disbursing officer to help the DO. For the past four years, Avé Cannady has served as the assistant DO.

### **Epistle: When do the church's bills get paid?**

Every Monday morning, Avé and I meet at the church to pay the church's bills. We pay all check requests that have been left in the disbursing officer's mail box, which is in the trustee room in the church office. Unless it is an emergency, we only cut checks on Mondays. In addition to the check requests submitted by church members and auxiliaries, we also prepare checks to pay the bills related to operating the church, such as bills for utilities, maintenance, security, etc.

### **Epistle: How do check requests work?**

DO: Check request forms are used to request internal transfers of funds between church entities as well as to request payments to church members or outside vendors. Check request forms are kept in the church office. Robin (church secretary) or Portia (assistant church secretary) can direct members to the forms. All check request forms must be signed by a member of the auxiliary or ministry requesting the payment. No one can approve a payment to themselves.

### **Epistle: How are you safeguarding our funds?**

DO: The disbursing officer checks to make sure there are adequate funds in the budget or restricted accounts to cover any payment request. Also, we record all payments in the church's accounting system so the payment information goes into the monthly financial statement prepared by the treasurer.

### **Epistle: What do you like most about being the church's disbursing officer?**

DO: I have enjoyed gaining a deeper understanding of the various church ministries and auxiliaries. Also, I have had the opportunity to meet many church members and see how we all serve God in the work we do. ❖

# Buy Gifts that Give More at Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale!

*By Donza M. Poole, Trustee & Chair, Building Fund Committee*

Join the Building Fund Committee (BFC) after service on Sunday December 18 for a giving experience, as the BFC presents the “Project Raise the Roof” Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale. It all takes place in the fellowship hall.

This year’s theme is “This Christmas, Give Gifts that Give More.” Shop home-baked goods by Nineteenth Street’s bakers, one-of-kind gifts and gift baskets, original jewelry designs, photography, and Fair Trade crafts, coffees, teas, chocolates, and more. Enjoy light refreshments and free samples of Equal Exchange fairly-traded coffee and other items.

The bazaar will also feature vintage hats from the Holmes Heritage Hat Collection and a Santa’s Workshop where youth 12 and under can purchase reasonably priced gifts for family and friends. New this year will be a Photo Booth to capture memories of the Christmas season.

True to the theme of offering gifts that give more, sales from the BFC tables and Photo Booth will benefit the “Project Raise the Roof” fundraiser, small-scale farmers and artisans, and other great causes. When you shop the vendor tables you will be supporting local and global artisans and entrepreneurs.

The bazaar is an extension of the BFC’s monthly Fair Trade Coffee, Tea & More sales. These sales allow the BFC to raise money for the roof fundraiser while also supporting Fair Trade. Fair Trade is a way of doing business that allows small farmers and artisans to be an active part of the world marketplace and,

in turn, increase their economic opportunities. For example, most coffee and cacao are grown outside of the U.S. The BFC features products by Fair Trade pioneer and cooperative, Equal Exchange, including coffees from Ethiopia, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and chocolate made with cacao from the Dominican Republic.

BFC members are busily preparing for this year’s bazaar and would welcome more volunteers. Anyone interested in being part of this festive experience as a volunteer, baker or vendor should contact Donza M. Poole, BFC Chair, at [dmpoole@everyblessing.org](mailto:dmpoole@everyblessing.org) or call the Church Office at 202-829-2773. ❖



## **Project Raise the Roof Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale**

Sunday  
December 18  
12:30-3 PM  
Fellowship Hall

New this year...  
Photo Booth!

Volunteers Wanted!

# Christian Mite Sunday Observed

The Christian Mite Society celebrated its 149th anniversary on Sunday, November 13. Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall was the guest preacher for the worship service. During the service, Rev. James Crosson dedicated 50 new hymnals which the Christian Mite Society had purchased specifically for use in the fellowship hall. Christian Mite members underwrote the cost of the hymnals through tribute and memorial bookplates that will be placed in the hymnals. Following the service, the Christian Mites hosted a delicious, healthy repast in the fellowship hall. ❖



*Christian Mite Society President Marilyn Mitchell*



*Rev. James Crosson blessed the new hymnals.*



*Guest Preacher Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall*



*Christian Mite members helped serve the repast.*

# New African American Museum Tied to Nineteenth Street

By Cheryl Johnson



The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) opened on September 24, 2016—100 years and four months following the first meeting on its establishment. On May 24, 1916, the National Memorial Association met at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church to discuss the creation of “a beautiful

building to commemorate the deed American [N]egroes wrought for the perpetuation and advancement of the Nation.”

Nineteenth Street has several significant ties with the new museum. Our own four-generation Bonner family, including Deacon Michael Bonner and our beloved 99 year-old Ruth Bonner, along with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, rang the bell to mark the opening of the museum to the public. That was a great day for the country and indeed the world, as tens of thousands stood on the National Mall to witness the grand opening celebration. Millions more witnessed from home as the ceremony was televised live and more than 250 churches, local centers, and cultural organizations held watch parties to commemorate this grand event.

Many of the exhibits in the History Gallery were curated by Nineteenth Street member Mary Elliott. Another church member,

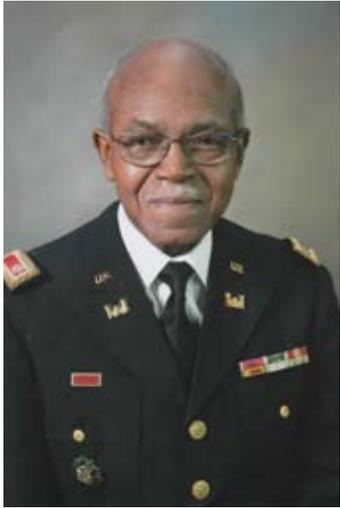
Cheryl Johnson, is the senior advisor and chief of staff to Lonnie Bunch, the museum's director. Other church members served as volunteers at the museum's opening activities and continue to be involved in various volunteer roles.

The museum is located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, across from the Washington Monument. It is divided into three themes, history, community, and culture. The museum is 400,000 square feet and displays more than 3,000 artifacts including Harriet Tubman's shawl, Carl Lewis' Olympic medals, and Chuck Berry's red Cadillac. Some of the most powerful artifacts in the museum are located in the History Gallery: Emmett Till's casket; a dress made by Rosa Parks; a prison tower from the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola; a segregated Southern Railway rail car from the Jim Crow era; the Greensboro, N.C. Woolworth's lunch-counter stools; and a house (c. 1874) built, owned and lived in by freed slaves in Maryland. The museum is open daily, except for Christmas Day, from 10 AM to 5:30 PM. It is free, but timed passes are required for the foreseeable future. The free, timed passes are available online at [www.nmaahc.si.edu](http://www.nmaahc.si.edu) and through ETIX Customer Support Center, 919-653-0443 or 800-514-3849. In addition, the museum distributes a limited number of same-day passes beginning at 9:15 AM daily. ❖

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*Share your stories and photos about visiting or being connected to the museum. Email them to [Epistle@everyblessing.org](mailto:Epistle@everyblessing.org) for future publication.*

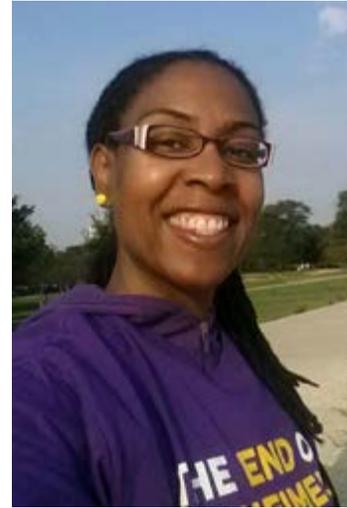
# Congratulations!



Congratulations to **LTC (Ret) Thomas Montague** on being inducted into the Virginia State University Military Hall of Fame on October 21, 2016. Montague received his Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia State University in Agriculture Education and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1954. His Army active duty service was continuous from 1954 to 1978, during which he progressed through the ranks from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel. He served at Fort Belvoir in

Virginia; Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and overseas in France, Korea, Vietnam, and Germany. His decorations included the Legion of Merit (Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal w/4 Battle Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal W/Device 1960, Meritorious Unit Citation and General Staff ID Badge.

Trustee Emeritus Montague has been a member of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church since 1981. He has served as a senior usher and was a member of the Trustee Board from 2004-2010 and served as its chair from 2012-2014. He has been married to Deaconess Mamie Montague for 56 years, and they have two daughters and a son. ❖



Congratulations to **Dr. Fawn Cothran**, who was selected as one of the National Spokespersons for the 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's Campaign, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Dr. Cothran is a nurse researcher who studies the effects that caregiving can have on individuals. She has participated for the past six years in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to raise awareness and funds to advance the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

Dr. Cothran grew up in Nineteenth Street and is a former participant in the Progressive Adults' Love Pal Program. She is the granddaughter of Deaconess Mozelle E. Watkins and daughter of Mrs. Eunice Watkins-Cothran. ❖

## Welcome New Members December 2016

### **Restored to Church Rolls:**

Sister Stephanie Thomas

Brother Justin Thomas

# Building an Eternal Legacy

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister



David prayed in Psalm 23, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” David continually praised God through both the good and difficult times of his life. Do you find something to praise God for each day?

Trusting God to be our rock, salvation, and fortress will change our entire outlook on life. Unborn generations are depending on our faithfulness today. As we teach our children about the Lord, so they will teach their children and their children’s children. As we age, we often reflect on what kind of legacy we will leave—how will we be remembered? Do not wait until the end of your life to think and act on your legacy. Everyone of any age should reflect on the legacy that he or she is building now for future generations. Building our lives on our relationship with Jesus Christ and living our lives as His followers are our legacy as Christians.

While attending the recent session of the D.C. Baptist Convention, I came across a book, *The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to www.com* by Peter Menconi. The book provides helpful insights into understanding the many changes churches are facing to resolve

the generation conflict. It is a must read for building a strong biblical foundation for intergenerational church growth.

As we prepare to welcome our new pastor and his family let us be ever mindful of our individual and collective legacy. If we are to grow as the body of Christ, we must share the Word and hold up our corner. We must be deliberate about building bridges of understanding across generational lines both inside and outside the church. Share the Good News!!! God has sent us a new pastor, but we must all work together in unity and faith, trusting in the leadership of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to direct this Old Ship of Zion into a new and brighter future.

We often hear the retort, “Why change? This is the way we have always done it.” To grow as a faith community and continue our eternal legacy of faithful service and commitment to the community, we must submit ourselves to new spiritual leadership. This may involve change. Church, we must trust God and depend upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit and earnest faithful prayer. God is able.

As we follow Jesus, our lives should be a living legacy for all generations around us, especially the younger ones. An intergenerational church will give us real and realistic opportunities to guide and mentor new generations and to leave a lasting legacy—a legacy for all eternity. ❖

# Family Mentoring Program is Completed

*By Yvonne Gowdy, Team Leader*

The Nineteenth Street Baptist Church completed its second phase of mentoring the Coleman family, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services's One Congregation One Family program. Our church hosted the program's exit celebration for all the families on November 5 in the fellowship hall.

We are proud of Ms. Coleman and can see a lot of growth in her. She is very grateful for all the love and support the church has given her. The following church members served as the family's mentors: Yvonne Gowdy, Sybil Barbour, Gloria Spann, Ferlandia Townsend, and Rev. Reginald Townsend.

Our committee is very proud of the church's immediate responses to requests. You always answered our call for whatever we needed to help Ms. Coleman. Thank you for your support. ❖



*Mentors Sybil Barbour and Yvonne Gowdy show certificates for Nineteenth Street with Ms. Sonya Cudrup of DHS's One Congregation One Family program.*



*Marlene Jones Kinney presented a \$5,000 check to Nineteenth Street Baptist Church at the November 27 worship service in honor of her Godfather Deacon Emeritus Lee A. Teague. Shown with Kinney in the church alcove are Trustee Chair Robert McNair and Interim Pastor Rev. James Crosson.*

## What are Chrismons?

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. (Chrismon is a combination of Christ and monogram, meaning symbol.)

They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are used on Christmas trees in churches and Christian's homes.



# Youth Ministry News

*By Rev. Eddie Martin, Youth Minister*

**The ROCK Youth Retreat** is two months away! – February 3-5, 2017 in Ocean City, Maryland. Many youth and chaperones have already signed up to attend, but we still have space available for youth! If you are interested in attending, please email our Youth Ministry Team by December 19, 2016 at [youthministry@everyblessing.org](mailto:youthministry@everyblessing.org).

**Youth Church** will be held the first **Sunday, December 4**. For the next few weeks, we will focus on the theme, “Know Yourself, Know Your Call.” The questions we will continue to explore include: What does it mean to look introspectively and truly examine ourselves? When we look at ourselves in a mirror, are we happy with whom we see? At this point of our lives, who is it that God is calling us to be, and how does that manifest in our relationships with others—in church, school, and the greater community? All youth are invited to attend our Youth Church services!

**Youth Ministry Meeting** - The Youth Ministry will meet **Saturday, December 3**, 9:30–11 AM in the Sisterhood Room. We will continue to plan an upcoming Police-Community Relations event, the ROCK Youth Retreat, Praise Step Opportunities, Winter Community Service events, the Church School Christmas Presentation, and much more!

**Parents’ Meeting!** Calling all Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts, and Other Caretakers. We will host a VERY IMPORTANT Parents’ Meeting on **Sunday, December 4** immediately after church in the Church Chapel. We will discuss specifics of the Church School Christmas Presentation, changes to/expansion of the Youth Ministry infrastructure, the ROCK Youth Retreat, and the Annual Youth Ministry Award. Please make every effort to attend.

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*If you have any questions or comments about these events, please contact Rev. Eddie Martin at [youthministry@everyblessing.org](mailto:youthministry@everyblessing.org).*

## 48th Ushers’ Day Anniversary

Sunday, January 8, 2017  
10 AM Worship Service

Reverend Dr. Cheryl Sanders  
Guest Speaker  
Third Street Church of God  
Washington, DC

“Ushers: The Heart of a True Servant”  
Romans 12:10

## 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](mailto:williamsonke@gmail.com).

# Calendar

## DECEMBER

- Saturday, December 10** – Progressive Adults Theater Outing, *Carousel*, Arena Stage, 2 PM
- Sunday, December 11** – Church School Events: Lighting of the Chrismon Tree and Annual Family Holiday Breakfast, 8:45 AM
- Sunday, December 11** – Missionary Society Annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive Collection, 8:30 AM – 1 PM
- Sunday, December 11** – Worship Service, Pastor-Elect Rev. Darryl D. Roberts preaching, 10 AM
- Sunday, December 18** – Church School Christmas Drama Presentation, 8:45 AM
- Sunday, December 18** – Building Fund Committee Christmas Bazaar, 12:30 PM
- Saturday, December 24** – Christmas Eve – Church Office Closed
- Sunday, December 25** – Christmas Day Worship Service, 10 AM
- Monday, December 26** – Christmas Day Holiday, Church Office Closed
- Saturday, December 31** – New Year’s Eve Service and Fellowship Meal with Zion Baptist Church at Nineteenth Street, 4 PM

## JANUARY 2017

- Sunday, January 1** – New Year’s Day Worship Service, Pastor Rev. Darryl D. Roberts preaching, 10 AM
- Sunday, January 8** – Usher’s Day, Guest Preacher Rev. Cheryl Sanders, Third Street Church of God
- Monday, January 16** – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Church Office Closed
- Friday, January 20** – Inauguration Day, Church Office Closed