

THE EPISTLE

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



Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

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

www.19thstreetbc.org

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D., *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Jerry C. Cheatham Jr.

Rev. Christopher O. Crawford

Rev. James A. Crosson Jr.

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall

Rev. Reginald Townsend

Rev. Edward Turner

Rev. Robin L. Turner

Rev. Lorise White Wolfe

Rev. James L. Harris, *Youth Pastor*

Church School, Sunday 8:45 a.m.

Morning Worship, Sunday 10 a.m.

Prayer Meeting, Thursday 6:30 p.m.



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

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

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

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

The Epistle

is an official publication of
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

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The Epistle is published monthly on the first of the month. **The deadline for materials is the 20th of each month.** Submit articles and photographs for publication via email to Epistle@19thstreetbc.org. **Questions?** Contact Karen Williamson at 202-829-5973 or williamsonke@gmail.com.

An Appeal for Restitution

By Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D

I am pleased to share the written testimony I recently submitted to the Maryland General Assembly in support of HB 121, a bill calling for the enactment of the Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act. The bill was introduced on January 13, 2021, by Delegate Wanika B. Fisher.

I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 121, the establishment of **The Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act**. This timely and audacious bill contributes to the growing movement of grass roots efforts on the local level seeking long overdue restitution for descendants of former slaves in the state of Maryland.

If HB 121 is enacted, it would establish the Maryland Reparations Commission to provide reparations to the descendants of former slaves subjugated in the state of Maryland. This legislation is in line with a few successful efforts for black reparations on the local level. In 2015, the city of Chicago approved a reparations ordinance to provide restitution for hundreds of African Americans who were tortured while in police custody. The ordinance sets aside \$5.5 million in financial compensation and hundreds of thousands to sponsor a public memorial, and assistance for health, educational and mental wellness. Furthermore, in 2020, the students at Georgetown University voted to establish a fund that would raise \$400,000 annually to provide restitution to the descendants of close to 300 slaves sold by the college in the 1830s. HB 121 goes a giant step farther than the ordinance in Chicago and the fund at Georgetown because it would develop unprecedented processes and procedures for providing ongoing cash and/or

tuition payments to the descendants of former slaves in the birthplace of the national anthem.

In addition, if HB 121 is enacted, it will likely have the domino effect of encouraging support for successful restitution within the legislative branch of other states across the country. Maryland has always played a key role in our nation's progress. As a border state during the volatile civil war, Maryland joined the union although the state was divided in its support for slavery, compelling abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman to escape.

Once again, Maryland has a unique opportunity to help chart the course in our nation's progress at a time when America is deeply divided over racial justice. This past summer, there were hearings on Capitol Hill in support of reparations and all democratic presidential candidates at least supported establishing a commission to study what form reparations could take. On Capitol Hill, H.R. 40 has not been brought to the floor for a vote since it was first introduced to Congress in 1989 by the late Congressman John Conyers, Jr. HB 121 will likely spark similar state bills that will, in turn, build momentum for a long overdue national discussion and legislative action on reparations and reparations proposals.

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While discussions about reparations are often racially polarizing, this debate is not new in our nation. The call for reparations has been trumpeted by some of our nation's greatest civil and human rights leaders for centuries who have supported such proposals that included land grants, cash payments, tuition assistance, repatriation and guaranteed income. For instance, the great educator, institution builder, entrepreneur, statesman and adviser to presidents, Booker T. Washington, urged white people to once remember "that they were dealing with people who were forced to come here without their consent and in the face of a most earnest protest." He believed that, since whites have and will continue to benefit from slavery, they should be able to give Black people the basic necessities they need to live a "free" life, although they were as "separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."

The renowned Swedish economist and sociologist, Gunnar Myrdal, asserted that America needed to make amends for the terror of slavery because America's failure to help ex-slaves with an "agrarian economic base" contributed to an "entrenched segregated society." The great freedom fighter, human rights leader, visionary pastor, teacher, Martin Luther King, Jr., once said: "I believe we ought to do all we can and seek to lift ourselves by our own bootstraps...But it's a cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps, and many Negroes by the thousands and millions have been left bootless as a result of all these years of oppression..." While King believed personal responsibility was important, he thought it was cruel for Americans to insist that blacks lift themselves up without providing them with the boots and the laces—a guaranteed job, a secure and adequate income, access to land, access to capital, and political power—to pick themselves off

the ground where they were left badly beaten after centuries of oppression.

In sum, the establishment of the Maryland Reparations Commission will position Maryland to be one of the first states to help America begin the long overdue process of healing from the stain of slavery. It will provide justice in the form of compensation for the descendants of slaves who continue to experience pain and suffering. It will help break the cycle of white supremacy that still terrorizes black and brown bodies because of America's denial of the terror of slavery. Black Americans will join the train of other groups who have been wronged and rightfully receive compensation from the American government. As Randall Robinson, a lawyer, founder of TransAfrica and fierce advocate of reparations, reminds us, we will never shatter the system of virulent racism and white supremacy that left a formidable and masterful African people beaten and left for dead until America makes amends for the original sin of slavery.

Recently, the 46th president, Joseph R. Biden offered these insightful words in his inaugural address: "[T]o heal we must remember." While the president was talking about the white supremacist, violent insurgency that took lives and attacked our democracy on January 6th, the same logic applies to the reparations debate which is a response to another more deadly rein of white supremacy that forced Africans into chattel slavery. Indeed, in order for America to heal from the nightmare of slavery, we must remember by providing reparations to the descendants of slaves who experienced the terror of slavery so that we can, in the words of Dr. Joy DeGruy, break the cycle of multigenerational trauma and lingering oppression. For these reasons, I enthusiastically endorse the enactment of HB 121. ❖

Four Years Served!

Join us as we celebrate the fourth anniversary of Rev. Darryl Roberts as pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church during our morning worship service on Sunday, February 21.



On a Sunday afternoon four years ago, Rev. Darryl D. Roberts joyously entered the sanctuary of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church for his formal installation as pastor. The February 19, 2017, service capped four days of celebratory activities that brought together church members, family, clergy, and friends from across the country.

The COVID-19 Vaccine and You

A Town Hall
Presented by Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
and our Emergency Management Team

Friday, February 12, 2021

7 p.m. via Zoom

All are welcome.

Register at
www.19thstreetbc.org



Moderators

Dr. Reginald Cole
Trustee and Emergency Management Team Member

Dr. Shawn Davis-Wilensky
Deacon and Emergency Management Team Co-chair

Expert Panelists

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H. - Browne and Associates, Inc.,
Past president, National Medical Association

Heather Burris, M.P.H.
D.C. Department of Health

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, D.C. Department of Health

Rev. Darryl D. Roberts, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

Daniel Woolridge, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
University of California, San Francisco

155 Years of Black History

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

There's an abundance of history to explore at a church that's over 181 years old, including about its trustee board. In this month's column, we open with a Black History Month tribute to the Board of Trustees' early members. We also give an update on our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system and provide information on annual contribution statements.

The Fiscal Five

According to a church history written by William I. Lee Sr. for the church's 100th anniversary, the Board of Trustees dates back at least 155 years to 1866. The property at 19th and I Streets, the church's original location, conveyed to the five trustees of the First Colored Church of the City of Washington for \$4,000. Those trustees were Carter A. Stewart, William H.A. Wormley, Henry Jarvis, Daniel E. Muse, and William Pierre. The parcel was one of three that would form the church's original location at 19th and I Streets. Four years later, in 1870, the First Colored Church was incorporated as Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. The church charter provided for the trustees to hold all real and personal property belonging to the church.

In the early days, the church suffered many challenges, including numerous lawsuits to clear title to the property and parcels conveyed to Nineteenth Street's trustees by First Baptist Church's white members. Lee noted that, in 1872, the trustees

somehow borrowed \$14,160 from Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company and gave a note due in one year. The church defaulted on the note and had to borrow more money to clear the encumbrance. In 1874, Freedmen's Savings would fail, in part, due to a change in lending policy. But that's another story.

Eventually, the church resolved the title defects and the property titled to the church. According to Lee, the church adopted a strict fiscal policy early on, including giving the pastor and deacons full control over church spiritual affairs and the trustees' supervision over all matters touching the church's business and property relations.

It is not clear what prompted the church to form a board of trustees. Some of their duties appear to have first been performed by the church treasurer, a position that dates back to at least 1840, about the time of the church's founding in 1839. In a 1922 issue of *The Journal of Negro History*, during Dr. Walter H. Brooks' pastorate, Nineteenth Street was described as one of the country's best-managed churches.

Just think of the obstacles the church and trustees surely faced as African Americans in those early years—some previously enslaved. That they were able to navigate the legal and financial world of that time successfully and lay the foundation for a church that has endured for over 181 years is nothing short of awe-inspiring. We owe these early leaders a debt of gratitude.

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HVAC Work to Begin in March

The first of two planned HVAC improvements should begin next month and will include installing a new air conditioning system for the sanctuary. Later this year, the installation of a new heating boiler will begin. The HVAC work is made possible, in part, by contributions to the Capital Improvement Project.

Financial Statements Mailed

It's time to thank the church family for your generous giving in 2020. So much was made possible through your support, even as we navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, economic insecurity, and the loss of loved ones.

In these times, the Board is especially grateful for the support the church has received. We know not everyone is in a position to give financially. But through the gifts received, our church quickly pivoted from in-person to virtual church, ensured essential operations continued without layoffs, secured a Paycheck Protection Program loan, and gave to those in need.

We even launched a new brand, redesigned our website, and embraced Zoom in 2020 while also maintaining connections by phone and mail and supporting church ministries. I could go on.

So, when you open your contribution statement, know your giving helped the church weather a continuing pandemic and thrive in a way that brings to mind the scripture, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:21 (KJV).

Contribution statements for 2020 were mailed last month to church members and contributors with assigned envelope numbers.

The church also sent 2020 IRS Forms W-2 to church employees and IRS Forms 1099 to independent contractors last month.

If you have not received your 2020 contribution statement or IRS form, call the church office to find out if the church has your preferred mailing address or if your contribution statement or IRS form has been returned.

If you have questions about the financial statements, contact Treasurer Shirley France or the church office at 202-829-2773. ❖

Give Your Tithes and Offerings

MAIL A CHECK

Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
4606 16th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20011

DONATE ONLINE

at 19thstreetbc.org
by debit or credit card or PayPal



DONATE VIA APP

Givelify: Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
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Lenten Season Begins February 17

By Rev. Jerry Cheatham

Lent is a 40-day period that we as Christians observe every year just before Easter, typically from late February to early April. The Lenten season begins on a day known as Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter Sunday. The Sundays, which are considered days of celebration, are not counted in the 40 days.

Lent is meant to be a time of reflection and repentance before the celebration of what we call *Holy Week*. For centuries we Christians have commemorated Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday and His subsequent resurrection from the grave on Easter Sunday. We believe that Jesus' death on the Cross provides forgiveness of our sins and His victory over death gives every one of us who believe in Him a new life and a restored relationship with Him.

The idea of Lent dates to the third and fourth centuries. The number of days is based on the Biblical significance of the number 40, specifically, the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert and Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness.

Historically, Christians give up something during Lent as a symbolic way to mark our journey and refocus our energy on our relationship with God. Most often, we give up or abstain from certain foods or drinks. Some of us even skip a meal each day or give up specific foods, such as meat, caffeine, alcohol, or sweets. Others may give up more modern luxuries, such as the internet, social media, email; reading books, magazines, or newspapers; shopping; watching TV; or listening to music.

None of these things are inherently bad, sinful, or evil; however, they can easily become overly important in our lives. The idea

of a Lenten fast is to abstain from these subtle yet powerful influences in our lives and to realign ourselves with God to pursue a renewed relationship with Him. Remember, Lent should never be an annual ordeal in which we begrudgingly forgo a handful of pleasures.

The Wednesday Noon Lenten Services will be on Zoom. Pastor Roberts will lead off the series on February 17. Guest preachers from local churches will alternate with Nineteenth Street's associate ministers for the remainder of the sessions. Check the website, e-blasts, or church office announcements for Zoom access information for the Lenten Services. ❖

Wednesday Noon Lenten Services

February 17 - Rev. Daryl D. Roberts, Ph.D.,
Pastor, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

February 24 - Dr. Lora F. Hargrove,
Founder and CEO of Bokassi Ventures, LLC

March 3 - Rev. Edward Turner,
Associate Minister, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

March 10 - Rev. Darryl M. Washington,
Pastor, St. Mary's Baptist Church

March 17 - Rev. Lorise White Wolfe,
Associate Minister, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

March 24 - Dr. Joseph W. Lyles,
Pastor, Fort Foote Baptist Church

Helping Hand Club Reveres History and Brotherhood

By Deaconess Mattie Gay

On Sunday, February 14, the Helping Hand Club will celebrate our 114th anniversary and the 95th annual observance of African American History Month.

According to Helping Hand history, about 114 years ago the club's founder, Mrs. Mary Emma Cabiness, proposed the first Sunday worship service celebration of Negro History at the church's historic 19th and I Street location. This first event was in 1907, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson was our morning speaker. His theme was *Brotherhood in 1907*. Dr. Woodson was a charter member of the Helping Hand Club and is recognized as the father of African American History and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Since 1907, the Helping Hand Club has continued the tradition of observing our rich history on the second Sunday in February.

The one-day Sunday event in 1907 morphed into Negro History Week in 1926. The observance expanded to a month-long recognition of Negro History in 1976 and is today celebrated as African American History Month.

Pastor Darryl Roberts will be the preacher for Helping Hand Sunday this year. We are thankful for the present, as we celebrate our past and reflect on our future. Notably, we meditate today on how we move from chaos to understanding to reconciliation to unity as a beloved community.

We pray that God's love leads us as a nation of brothers and sisters to His vision of Brotherhood, Anew in 2021. ❖

Quotes for African American History Month

Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

—Harriet Tubman, abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy

We have one life;
it soon will be past;
what we do for God
is all that will last.

—Muhammad Ali, champion boxer

History has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.

—Michelle Obama, former First Lady of the United States

All Smiles Matter in February

By 181st Anniversary Committee

February is National Dental Health Month, and the 181st Anniversary Committee is sponsoring a series of informational sessions throughout the month to promote good oral hygiene habits. Coincidentally, the members of the committee are all registered dental hygienists (R.D.H.s).

All sessions will be on Zoom and will provide valuable dental information for ALL ages. The programs are presented in partnership with the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures children's oral health improvement program.

Thursday, February 4: Virtual Colgate Van Visit Children ages 2 to 9 years, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

We invite children to join us for an informative and fun 30-minute virtual visit to the Colgate dental van. At 4 p.m., we invite the parents to join for an educational presentation with Q&As of interest to children and parents. Sharon Russell, R.D.H. will moderate the program.

Wednesday, February 10: Dental Career Day Youth 8 to 13 years, 6-7:15 p.m.

This session will begin with a 30-minute educational presentation on dental health. It will be followed by a career panel and role-modeling session to introduce youth to various dental vocations. Session participants will win *dental goodies!* Join the panelists, Sharon Russell, Judith Neely, and Janyce Jefferson, for a simulation of the TV show *To Tell the Truth*—the dental professional truth!



Wednesday, February 24: Wildin' Out for Oral Health Youth and young adults 13 to 21 years, 6-6:40 p.m.

This session will be a *Healthy HappEE Hour* for young people to learn why *Healthy Smiles equal Kool Smiles*. Janyce Jefferson will facilitate the session with a youth member of the church.

Saturday, February 27: Senior Tooth Talk: Beyond Flossing, Taking Care of your Teeth Through Diet and Lifestyle, 1-2 p.m.

Co-hosted by the Senior Ministry, the session will feature a presentation by Dr. Lynn Locklear Nehemiah, celebrated Washington, D.C. cosmetic dentist, followed by a Q&A session. Judith Neely will be the moderator.

Look for the Zoom information for these sessions on our church website and in the weekly e-blasts. Invite

your friends and plan to join us for fun and games as we learn the ins and outs of proper oral health care for all ages. Remember, All Smiles Matter! ❖



181st Anniversary Committee

Janyce Jefferson, R.D.H., M.P.H.

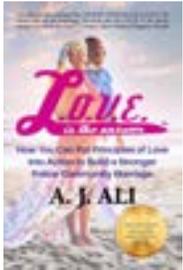
Judith Neely, R.D.H., M.S.

Sharon Russell, R.D.H.



Page-turner Book Reviews

By Deacon Johnnie Love



Love is the Answer: How You Can Put Principles of Love into Action to Build a Stronger Police-Community Marriage. By A.J. Ali

This book is an exceptional “Page-turner” with clear implications for showing love in action. A.J. Ali’s book is a companion to his critically acclaimed documentary film, *Walking While*

Black: Love Is the Answer. It is also the inspiration for the *L.O.V.E. Is the Answer Movement* and improving police-community relations and teaching anti-racism. The author is the son of our church member Shirley Ali.

I found A.J.’s sensitive and honest writing style about his marriage to be absolutely refreshing. His book clearly examines the author’s own personal growth and ability to be open, honest, and compassionate after he and his wife Jane “rebooted, refined and re-energized” their relationship after a brief separation. He places emphasis on marriage being a place where people be given space and opportunity to learn and grow as they are growing together. He then uses the growing relationship of his marriage as a tool and model for a community marriage with police. But he reaffirms that reconciliation cannot take place until hearts have been transformed. And that transformation can only take place after one has developed a close relationship with God.

A.J. Ali has thoughtfully identified situations that the reader can easily identify with as areas of growth for their own lives. He

puts the mirror on himself, his personal life, and relationships. He also demonstrates truth and openness as key to growing and healing. For example, he addresses seeing a therapist for mental health support, a need which many people in our culture are unwilling or afraid to openly admit and share.

Ali gives power to the reader to act on his or her own needs. His honesty is what makes *Love is the Answer* a great book! It is the basis for his 25 LOVE practical ideas and action steps to help police and people of color improve their relationships.

The author states that he wrote this book to transform hearts. While some solutions can only be resolved by incarceration or removal from the police force, he goes on to say, “Most people, when shown grace, with a healthy dose of genuine love will prove themselves worthy of it and change their ways.” The author challenges readers to ask themselves: what are the challenges they need to overcome and to have clear communication with those around them?

I love this book for it serves as an excellent tool for making life changes and is a guide for living and doing God’s work. A.J.’s reviews of his working with police departments are exciting, especially when they use his material to effect change! Love is the Answer...isn’t it?

Free Podcast: loveistheanswermovement.com/podcast

Film: walkingwhileblack.com

Movement: loveistheanswermovement.com



This Queen Makes 100 Look Fabulous

By Deaconess Brenda Lightening-Tolbert

Deaconess Eleanor Banks, affectionately known as *Momma Banks* to many, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, January 3, 2021, surrounded by family and friends. She was elated to reach this incredible milestone and to share it with her niece, with whom she resides in Baltimore; other family; and friends. Momma Banks got a surprise visit from her son, Jeffrey Banks, who she would tell you is an acclaimed New York fashion designer.

She also was said to have had a huge smile on her face when Pastor Roberts arrived—masked up and bringing several bags of ready-to-eat food. Momma Banks was still beaming about his visit when Deaconess Evangeline Stevens and I arrived shortly thereafter.

We were truly blessed to be with the amazing Deaconess Banks in person. We were warmed to see her smiling face, witness her energy, and bask in her love and God-filled spirit.

God be praised for the opportunity to share in the celebration of the 100th birthday of our beloved, fabulous Deaconess Eleanor Banks. ❖





Trustee Cheryl Johnson was again spotlighted in the national news for her role on January 25, 2021. As Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, she carried the second articles of impeachment against President Trump and led trial managers in a processional from the House of Representatives to the Senate Chamber.

Second Communications Workshop Planned

A Communications Ministry Workshop for ministry leaders is being planned for Saturday, February 20, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Plan to join us to learn about our communication tools and how we work together to improve communications for the church. Watch for more details soon. ❖

www.19thstreetbc.org

ACCESS NINETEENTH STREET SERVICES

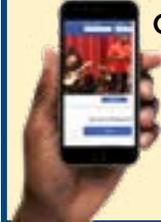
Access **LIVESTREAM** on YouTube at youtube.com/channel/UCIL8xG5-YbTSRVVx1odHcZA

Access the **PRAYER MEETING AND PRAYER CALL** at **605-472-5349**, access code **348952#**

Access the **CHURCH SCHOOL ADULT CLASS CALL** at **712-770-5572**, access code **577559#**

Contact organizers for access to **ZOOM** programs

Check out and follow our social media accounts:



 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/Everyblessing.org

 **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/explore/tags/nsbcd

Pastor Roberts on the Air

Tune into the Coach Butch McAdams Show on Sunday, February 21, 12:30 p.m. to hear Pastor Darryl Roberts talk about Nineteenth Street ministries and initiatives.

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



Jubilee Sunday Observed on February 28

By Trustee Donza Poole

Plans are in the works for the annual Jubilee Sunday celebration taking place February 28. It is a time when we praise God as we trace our journey from Africa to the present day. This year we look forward to worshiping and celebrating the day with church family and friends—virtually!

The day will begin with our 10 a.m. livestreamed worship service, featuring African drumming and this year's African textiles display adorning the sanctuary, courtesy of curator Rufus Stevenson.

At noon, a virtual Jubilee Sunday Marketplace will open on Zoom, featuring jewelry, clothing, art, and one-of-a-kind gifts. It will be a wonderful opportunity to shop local and support African American small business owners, entrepreneurs, and creatives. Each vendor will have its own virtual pop-up shop at the marketplace. If interested in being a marketplace vendor, email the Building Fund Committee before February 21 at BuildingFund@19thstreetbc.org.

A highlight of Jubilee Sunday is always the African cuisine. Nineteenth Street's Tolani Rufai has taken care to bring us the best in traditional Nigerian foods each year. Last year, the reception menu also featured foods from Kenya and Nigeria. Although we will miss the in-person gathering this year, we plan to share recipes for making your own Jubilee Sunday meal at home. Watch the church website and e-blasts this month for more information.

Finally, Jubilee Sunday is a day when everyone is encouraged to wear African attire or attire that represents your personal journey. While we will not be at church this year, Jubilee Sunday is still a day to wear your special attire. Indeed, join us on Zoom for the marketplace in your Jubilee Sunday best!

We hope to see you online for the annual Jubilee Sunday celebration—in the YouTube chat during worship service, and on Zoom for the marketplace. It will be another special day of reflection, celebration, and fellowship! ❖



Beyond the Board: A Virtual Visioning Session

By Siera Toney, Membership Care Coordinator

For many people, making a vision board is an extremely important aspect of having a successful year. For some, however, the challenge is the dreaded vision board party. It sounds good in theory, and vision board event announcements can garner a great deal of excitement from all kinds of people. But in practice, it appears there's never enough time in one sitting to create an accurate representation of one's vision for the year with a stack of magazines.

Additionally, while some enjoy the comradery of making vision boards in groups, for others, making a visual representation of their hopes, dreams, and vision for the year can be an extremely personal and private process.

If that is not enough, in 2021, we find ourselves in the throes of a global pandemic with the internet as our main gathering space. With all of this in mind, Relax, Relate, Release (R3) is teaming up with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry (Nineteenth Street Baptist Church YAYA) to make space for all kinds of visionaries to get the tools they need to write their vision and make it plain (Habakkuk 2:2).

On Friday, February 5, at 7:30 p.m., R3 and Nineteenth Street Baptist Church YAYA will present *Beyond the Board: A Virtual Visioning Session*. This is not your average vision board party! Instead of having to scrounge for materials and magazines, the goal of *Beyond the Board* is to empower participants to create their own vision for 2021, in their own space, at their own pace—without all the stress of group arts and crafts.

All are welcome to participate in this safe, laidback gathering space as we explore the importance of having a vision and what a strong vision consists of for Christians, our congregations, and communities. Participants will receive a vision-building worksheet, video resources, and an opportunity to connect and discuss vision with fellow Nineteenth Street members and friends.

As a jumping-off point, the session will use the wisdom of Proverbs 16:9, “We can make our plans, but the Lord orders our steps.” Not only is this scripture important as we continue to reflect on and live in the aftermath of 2020, one of our most revelatory years to date, but it is also the foundational scripture of our church's new brand. A great foundational scripture for a strong and successful 2021!

Whether or not vision boards are your jam, it is important that we discern God's next ordered steps for us as individuals and as a community. We hope you will join us as we go *Beyond the Board!* ❖



Relax, Relate, Release!
and the Youth and Young Adult Ministry
“Beyond the Board: A Virtual Visioning Session”

Friday February 5, 2021, 7:30–8:45 p.m. EST

Email 19thStreetR3@gmail.com
for the Zoom credentials



Challenge Accepted: 90-Day Giving a Success!

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

Last October, as part of Stewardship Month, the Building Fund Committee launched the 90-Day Giving Challenge to encourage members to be good stewards of our church home by regularly giving to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The friendly challenge also introduced the congregation to the Capital Improvement Project, the new name of the church's fund for capital improvements and repairs.

The challenge: contribute to the fund in October, November, and December 2020. By November, 24 members had answered the call and signed up for the challenge. All who signed up gave to the CIP at least once during the three-month period and over half gave two or more times. What's more, many who never formally signed-up for the challenge also gave generously to the CIP during this time, including some who gave more than once.

By December 31, the last day of the challenge, 85 church members, along with the Pastor's Aid Ministry, had contributed a total of \$20,220 to the Capital Improvement Project. The generosity and commitment to regular giving shown during the challenge, especially during a pandemic, is truly a blessing.

The funds raised will help with the costs of upcoming HVAC work, including the installation of a new sanctuary air conditioning system, scheduled to begin next month.

The Building Fund Committee is deeply grateful to all who gave to the cause during the 90-Day Giving Challenge. It is hoped that this three-month experience will inspire those who gave to continue giving a portion of their offering to the Capital Improvement Project and inspire others to also include the Capital Improvement Project in their regular giving. ❖

Missionary Society Praise Report

Dear Church Family and Auxiliaries,

With much appreciation, we thank you for your tremendous financial support for the Annual Church-Wide Toys for Tots Event. We were able to present over \$3,500 to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Anacostia Division. As always, you opened your hands and hearts to support the children during this COVID 19 pandemic.

Blessings of good health and safety as we forge ahead in this New Year.

Yours in His Service,

Patricia Thomas, Chair,
The Missionary Society Toys for Tots Event
Rosemary M. Massey, President,
The Missionary Society ❖



February 14

A Thank You Note from Burkina Faso

Phyllis M. Cooke, Global Missions Ministry Leader

The message below is from Nadiéba Namoussa, Director of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Program, that we work with in Fada N'Gourma in the country of Burkina Faso. His letter was translated from French to English using Google Translate.

To Nineteenth Street Baptist Church,

We bless God all drawing from the Creator of the heavens and the earth for all his great blessings manifested to us throughout the past year. This is why in this new year that he grants us we want to give him all the glory. We also want to present to you our sincere wishes for the year 2021. May the year bring you peace, joy, happiness, health, and may God grant your dearest wishes. My prayer is that God will try his hand and destroy COVID-19 so that your activities can resume properly at your level.

All my staff, children, parents, and the population of our intervention area in Burkina Faso express their gratitude to you for everything you do. Your multiple supports remain forever engraved in the hearts of the beneficiaries may God bless you and bless the Church and the entire Global Missions Ministry team.

We prepared a party with the children this month of January. Here are pictures from the activity.

I also wanted to inform you that we received a Distinction by the President of Burkina Faso in December. We were elevated to Knight of the Burkinabè Order of Merit with Youth*. We bless the name of God for that.

I cannot end without expressing my best wishes for health, peace and prosperity for your families, friends and loved ones.

Happy New Year 2021 to everyone. ❖

**Note: This is a coveted distinction that must be earned through ongoing evidence of the work they are doing with youth. Global Missions Ministry is blessed to serve with people who are so committed to youth and evidence such devotion and faith.*



“At a little party with the children on January 9, we took advantage of sharing food kits with them. All of this was possible thanks to you and we say thank you very much.”



Congratulations to Grateful Love Pal Taylor Sullivan!

My name is Taylor Sullivan, and I graduated in December 2020 from the University of Maryland - College Park with my B.S. in biology.

I have been part of the Love Pal program since my sophomore year of college, and I am so grateful for what the program provides. My caring Love Pal, Ms. Dorothy Whyte, has been a beautiful source of light, humor, and support. As a regular routine, she very generously took me to Montgomery Mall to shop before the start of each school year. While at the mall, we would also sit down for a meal and a lovely conversation. Ms. Whyte calls or texts me ever so often to check in on me to make sure I'm doing well, which is very sweet and greatly appreciated. Also, the Love Pal program provides a stipend.

As a college student, I attempted to work with my full schedule, but I often had to reduce work hours to focus on school. Receiving extra money via the Love Pal program every other month was such a blessing, and I know all college students will agree. The Love Pal program at the church is just one of many ways that the kind people of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church create a true church family. I have never experienced this type of genuine love and community from a church before joining, and I am eternally grateful.

Now, just a month out of college, I am proud to announce that I have begun my career in biology as a manufacturing associate at Rapa Therapeutics. I am grateful to God for preparing the perfect position for me. I love it! If I may include a prayer request, I would like to ask that the congregation prays for the health and safety of my loved ones and me. I would also like to ask that you pray for my relationship with God to continue to develop so that I may hear what He tells me with clarity and walk with Him on the path He designed for me. Thank you to everyone at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church for your love and support! ❖



Sing it twice while you wash your hands!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Judith Neely	2/1	Richard C. Jones	2/8	Judi Jones	2/21
Darren Pagan	2/1	Deaconess Dena B. Bowen	2/9	Arnita Turner	2/21
A. Lee Hairston	2/2	Sylvia Geffrard	2/9	Marilyn Mitchell	2/22
Darlene Taylor	2/2	Jerry E. Jackson	2/9	Erica Watford	2/22
Deaconess Eloise Turner	2/2	Anjelica E. Lewis	2/9	Karen Waters-Dumas	2/23
Tisha McCray	2/3	Danté Pope	2/11	Quentin E. Blakemore	2/24
Deaconess Martha L. Ward	2/3	Rev. Juran D. Moore Sr.	2/13	LaChela Johnson	2/24
Dwayne C. Brown	2/4	Dellaoise Saunders	2/13	Pamela Morgan	2/24
William Hoff	2/4	Brian Palmer	2/13	Frantz Bonhomme	2/26
Virginia C. Lee	2/4	Jonathan Woolridge	2/13	Sandra Keaton Brown	2/26
Donza M. Poole	2/5	Rodrick Owens	2/15	Adrian V. Nunn Sr.	2/26
Dawnielle C. K. Robb	2/5	Monica Reeder	2/15	Betty J. Montague	2/27
George T. Washington	2/7	Tami Hayes	2/16	Samuel O. Laoye	2/28
Lavern Davis	2/8	Reginald Fenelon	2/18	Howard Watkins	2/29
Vickie Hicks-Washington	2/8	Koya Glaudé	2/21		

Please notify the church office of additions or corrections.

February Calendar

Tuesday, February 2

Pandemic Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.
The Presence of Blacks in the Bible, Bible Study, Zoom and Call-in, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3

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

Thursday, February 4

Virtual Dental Van Visit for ages 2-9 years, Zoom, 3:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting *Covenant* Call, led by Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 5 – *R3's Beyond the Board: A Virtual Visioning Session*, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 6 – The Presence of Blacks in the Bible, Bible Study, Zoom and call-in, 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 7

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Bring Your Own Elements Communion, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9

Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study with Rev. Roberts, livestream, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10

Prayer Call, led by Deaconesses, Noon
Youth Dental Career Day, Zoom, 6 p.m.
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 11

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

Sunday, February 14

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service, Helping Hand Club Day, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Tweens and Teens Sunday School, Zoom, Noon
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 1 p.m.

Monday, February 15 – President's Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 16 – *Shrove Tuesday*

Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study with Rev. Roberts, livestream, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17 – *Ash Wednesday*

Lenten Service, Rev. Roberts preaching, Zoom, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 18 – Prayer Meeting Call, led by Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 20 – Communications Ministry Training Workshop, Zoom, 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 21

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Celebrating Pastor's 4th Anniversary, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, February 23

Prayer Call, led by Clergy, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study with Rev. Roberts, livestream, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24

Lenten Worship Service, Zoom, Noon
Wildin' Out Youth Oral Health Session, Zoom, 4 p.m.
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 25 – Prayer Meeting Call, with Rev. Crosson, led by Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 26 – Women's Ministry Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Cheryl Hall, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 27 – Senior Tooth Talk: Taking Care of Your Teeth, Zoom, 1 p.m.

Sunday, February 28

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service, Jubilee Sunday, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Jubilee Sunday Virtual Marketplace, Zoom, Noon
Tweens and Teens Sunday School, Zoom, Noon
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 1 p.m.

Information on how to access these services is on page 13.