

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. Leslie A. Wiley
Rev. Lorise White Wolfe
Rev. James L. Harris, *Youth & Young Adult Pastor*

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



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

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

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

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

The Epistle

is an official publication of
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

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

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

Standing at a Crossroad

By Rev. James A. Crosson Jr.



As we begin September, let us reflect on our rich heritage—built by our faith in God, sustained by focusing on God's direction, strengthened by the Word, and renewed by our dedication to prayer.

Our church celebrated its 177th anniversary on August 29, [2016]. We were organized as the First Colored Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. in 1839, located at 19th and I Streets NW. We were later incorporated as the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church on May 5, 1870. The church worshiped in that location for 136 years. After the city's business corridor developed around us, we moved to our present location at 4606 Sixteenth Street NW on January 26, 1975.

Our church history dates back even earlier and reflects the history of race relations in the District. We initially were part of The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC which was founded in 1802. However, similar to other congregations, the church began requiring black worshipers to sit segregated in the balcony. Discontented with this, the black members chose to leave and establish their own church. (The church they left is now known as First Baptist Church and is located at 16th and O Streets NW.)

Today we stand at a crossroad like those saints of old who purchased the building and organized the First Colored Church of Washington in 1839. ❖

Editor's Note:

This Pastor's Corner is excerpted from the September 2016 issue of *The Epistle*. The words written by Rev. James A. Crosson Jr., who was interim pastor then, are as meaningful today as they were five years ago. In 2016, the church was observing its 177th anniversary, and the crossroad was the imminent election of a new pastor for Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

Today, under Pastor Darryl D. Roberts, the church celebrates 182 years of proclaiming the Gospel and Jesus Christ to all people while supporting the work of missions in our church, our community, our country, and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. Examples of our community and world mission work are highlighted in this issue.

Some feel that our church is again at a crossroad as we move into the next, and still uncertain, phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. When will we resume in-person worship and what changes must we make to ensure we are connected in this more virtual world? We have been at crossroads before, and God has always ordered our steps forward. We have no doubt that He will continue to do so.

Take the time to learn or refresh your knowledge about our historic and history-making church by visiting the [Church History page](#) of our church website.

*Happy 182nd Anniversary,
Nineteenth Street
Baptist Church!*

The Makings of a Virtual Church

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

It has been an interesting 18 months as trustees of a largely virtual church. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit last year, we transitioned to an online format almost seamlessly. Many churches could not, but Nineteenth Street had been livestreaming for years and offering online giving even longer. Although neither played a major role pre-pandemic, the seeds had been planted. In this month's column, we look at the origins of our virtual church—where we are and where we are heading.

No Longer a One Camera Church. Remember when you could buy an audio recording of the church service? I purchased a CD of the sermon preached the Sunday before President Obama's inauguration in 2009. It was historic! Those recordings served us well for years, but then came video.

Deacon Billy Gay gifted the church its first video camera for livestreaming over seven years ago, allowing services to be viewed online via the church website. He sought the advice of the late Deacon Larry Holland, who saw to the installation of the church's first livestreaming system. I'm not sure many of us saw the utility of the livestream at first. In 2014, the Media Ministry moved the livestreaming from a program on the church website to the church's new YouTube channel.

Then, about a year before the pandemic, the Trustee Board approved a proposal by the Media Ministry to upgrade the audiovisual system to add cameras to the sanctuary, transfer the existing camera to the fellowship hall, and overhaul the sound system in each space. The fellowship hall sound upgrade was

completed early last year. The plan was to hold services there last summer, while the sanctuary was being upgraded. But then came the pandemic in March.

After months of pandemic-related equipment order delays, much of what the church ordered finally arrived. The church began the sanctuary upgrades, which were important to enhance the livestream experience. You may have noticed some of these changes already. Instead of livestreaming from a single camera, the church recently began livestreaming from three newly installed high-definition cameras, offering better pictures and more camera angles. You also may have noticed the words that appear on the livestream identifying the person onscreen, a feature called lower thirds. The old system lacked this feature. Some may have noticed the upgraded audio. The church has also expanded its use of videos and electronic flyers on YouTube. Instead of just showing the service, a "digital" deacon engages with viewers on the YouTube chat line. More changes are coming, so stay tuned.

The Audio Livestream. We know from the YouTube chat that the congregation really appreciates the Media Ministry for bringing us the livestreamed service each week. Even with the occasional technical difficulty, the livestream has been a blessing. But not everyone has online access, and some members could not worship with us. However, the Media Ministry was able to set up a telephone conference line for people to call in for worship, and an unexpected service was born: the church's audio livestream.

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Then Came Zoom. Few of us knew about Zoom before the pandemic. Now, it is just another part of church life. As its usage grew, the church added its own Zoom account. At first, used mostly for ministry meetings and Church School, Zoom later became the space for Bible study, church business meetings, and Lenten services.

Online Giving—a Pandemic Plus. Online giving through PayPal has been an option on the church website for years. The church added the Givelify app in 2019 and then Cash App in March 2020 when in-person services were suspended. Both allow people to give using their phone or tablet with just a few taps of the apps.

Pre-pandemic less than 10 percent of tithes and offerings came in online. Now over 30 percent of tithes and offerings are given that way. Even when in-person services resume, the church will continue to encourage online giving, partly because it will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by eliminating contact with ushers and reducing the number of offering envelopes trustees must process by hand.

If you are not enjoying the convenience of online giving, these COVID-19 safety features may be reasons to consider the option. Click [here](#) to learn more about online giving.

A Work in Progress. The virtual church continues to be a work in progress at Nineteenth Street, full of promise, with more changes to come. Along with social media, eblasts and the church website, it offers the opportunity to expand how people experience church.

Other News

Your Help is Needed. Become a part of the church's financial management team!! We have vacancies for the positions of church treasurer and assistant treasurer. Or, if you have financial

skills, you can volunteer in another capacity. To explore these opportunities and more, please contact Trustee Chairman Franklin Smith or current Treasurer Shirley France at 202-829-2773. This is a great opportunity to give back with your *time and talent*.

Problem Trees Removed. Last month, three trees were removed from around the church for safety reasons, one from the backyard of the Jones Handy House and two from a neighboring backyard where limbs had fallen very close to the sanctuary and the prayer garden. Had the limbs fallen on the church building there would have been substantial damage which would have been costly to the church, even with insurance. After coordinating with the neighbor, the Board determined it would be more cost effective to have the trees removed.



Mail Delivery Slows Check Processing. Some members have expressed concern that it seems to take longer for the church to cash checks they mail in. The Board has found that it is taking longer for mail to be delivered to the church, which adds to the time it takes the church to process mailed checks. The church can deposit checks electronically, which is done once a week and takes less time to clear than when the check is deposited at the bank. The Board appreciates the church family's ongoing generosity and commitment to giving, especially during these unprecedented times, and endeavors to cash checks in a timely fashion once received. ❖

Haiti Walk 5K – Let’s Finish Strong!

By Edith Bullard-Britt

In 2015, Nineteenth Street and the Global Missions Ministry committed to partner with VillageMed to raise \$100,000 in five years. Thanks to generous donations over the years, we’ve almost reached our goal. So far, we’ve raised approximately \$76,000. With your continued support, we know we can reach our goal and honor our commitment to VillageMed.

And why is it important we meet our goal?

The need for a pediatric clinic and more immediate medical care in Layaye is more urgent than ever. Many children in Haiti, especially in the rural areas, have never seen a doctor. After recent events, including the loss of their president and a devastating hurricane and earthquake, the need is even greater. (See page 9 for more about events in Haiti.) And as the earthquake of 2010 showed us, when there are disasters, rural areas like Layaye are often overlooked.

While building the clinic will still take time and the recent devastation may slow down these efforts, our commitment remains as strong as ever to see that the children of Layaye and other parts of Haiti receive the medical care they need.

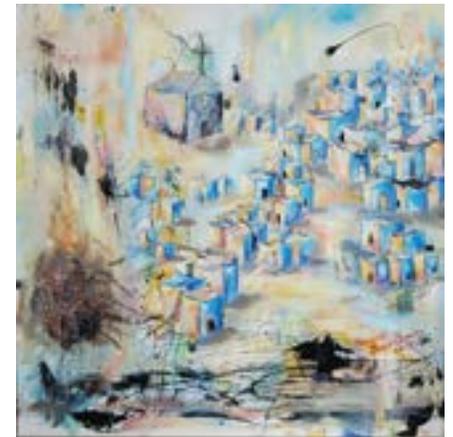
There are several ways you can help.

Pray for Our Efforts. First and foremost, we need your prayers for the success of our efforts. We need your prayers for the people and children of Haiti in these most desperate times. And we need your prayers that ambitious undertakings will become

reality. We know that with the prayers of the righteous all things are possible.

Participate in our Silent Auction. Beginning on September 12 and running until September 27, we will be hosting a silent auction of Haitian art. The silent auction is a fun way to support our efforts. The paintings and artwork have all been contributed by Global Missions Ministry members and VillageMed team members who acquired authentic Haitian art while in Haiti for medical missions. Art is the heart of Haiti and can be found on every street corner and marketplace, making artist identification difficult.

Our feature painting *Tent City* was created by Florence Louis-Charles. Florence was born and raised in Haiti until moving to the United States permanently during her teen years. She has painted since the age of 10 when she was introduced to watercolors by her father. Florence has displayed her work at various events and locations, including the Haitian Embassy, and painted in front of live audiences in New York City.



The link to the auction site will be sent via the church’s eblast and will be on the Global Missions Haiti Walk 5K web page. Once the link is published, feel free to share it with family and

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friends. There's something for everyone, and bidding is easy. We invite you to peruse our art and bid generously.

Make a Donation. You can also help us reach our goal by contributing. Donations can be made through the silent auction site or by using any of the church's giving methods. Visit our website at www.19thstreetbc.org and give using a credit or debit card through PayPal or through our online applications Givelify or Cash App, or you can write a check payable to the church. Whichever way you choose to give, please make sure to notate that your contribution is for the Haiti Walk 5K.

Come Walk with Us. Once you've made your donation, join us for the fifth and final Haiti Walk 5K to be held on Saturday, September 25, along the historic C&O Canal. Bring your friends and family and don't forget your mask! Even if you can't join us for the walk, you can spread the word. The walk is not just a Nineteenth Street event. We will be most successful when we involve friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, colleagues, and others outside the church. The walk will start at 8 a.m.

We're asking everyone who plans to walk to let us know. Click [here](#) to fill out a simple registration form. You will receive all the logistics for attending the walk. Let's make it unforgettable!

The Nineteenth Street family has been faithful over the years, and we expect no less in this our final year. So in advance, we thank you for all of your support, all of your contributions, and everything you've done to help the Global Missions Ministry meet our goal and create a safer tomorrow for Haiti's children. With your help, we're claiming that today.

Please send any questions to GlobalMissionsMinistry@19thstreetbc.org. ❖



Nineteenth Street Answers Haiti's Call for Help

By Phillis W. Cooke, Global Missions Ministry Leader

On our 2018 medical mission trip to Haiti with partner VillageMed, Pastor Maurice Jeanty offered us his much-in-need-of-repair church to set up a temporary clinic, as he has done each time VillageMed comes to Haiti. With its small balcony, the Apostolic Faith Church in Carrefour, Haiti, holds about 150 to 200 people and has no running water or bathroom. It still has serious floor-to-ceiling cracks from the big 7.0 earthquake in 2010. The cement stairs to the balcony are crumbling, and one can see outdoors through several jagged holes in the walls. But real worship happens here as members feel love and responsibility for each other.

Upcoming Global Missions Ministry Events

Haiti Walk 5K Silent Auction
September 12-27

Haiti Walk 5K at the C & O Canal
September 25

Global Missions Ministry Sunday
September 26

The well-being of church members is the pastor's highest priority. They sing, pray, and praise here and bring their children adorned in their Sunday best.

On July 7, 2021, the president of Haiti was assassinated. Many Haitian citizens were displaced from their homes, without food, shelter, or enough money to survive. Those in their own homes were afraid to leave, often hearing gunshots nearby. Chaos, fear, and political instability reigned on all sides. Amidst this chaos, Global Missions Ministry contacted Pastor Jeanty to ask how he, the church members, and those near him were doing. He responded, "By the grace of God, the situation is not able to destroy us, but it is really terrible at this period. Nothing is going good." He noted that 52 families in the church were out of their homes, living in devastating conditions. He wanted to give each of these families \$50 to buy beans, rice, and oil. He asked for prayer.

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 earthquake hit Haiti. Nippes, a very rural area near the earthquake epicenter, was hardest hit, suffering death and devastation. The next day we contacted Pastor Jeanty

again, and this time he responded, "Oh, we bless the name of our God who keeps us until now. Everything is okay for the church members with the bad news. We plan to go help the people affected by the earthquake. And we plan to give the money we received from you on Wednesday 25 of August at the Apostolic Faith Church. Thank you, stay blessed."



Phillis W. Cooke and Pastor Maurice Jeanty in 2018

Then, on August 16, 2021, Haiti was ravaged by Hurricane Grace, which brought its own destruction and severely hampered search and rescue efforts from the earthquake. These calamities resulted

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in devastation, illness, death; unsanitary and sketchy conditions; COVID-19; the lack of food, clean water, shelter, clothing, medicines, and medical supplies; psychological ailments multiplying, and severe shortages of doctors and medical staff.

Who would voluntarily go into these conditions to bring comfort and aid to the people? “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” Isaiah 6:8

Nineteenth Street Baptist Church took action! Responding to Pastor Jeanty’s request for prayer, Global Missions Ministry and the Intercessory Prayer Ministry joined in prayer for a faith-filled “Hour of Power for Haiti. Prayers were intense, loving, heartfelt, and powerful.

Our church family raised \$3,330 over a four-week period to send to Pastor



Jeanty to assist the devastated families of Apostolic Faith church, even providing rice, beans, and oil for the 52 families who could no longer live in their homes.

The money was sent in increments to guard against fraud or being lost in the system, with \$1,365 sent prior to the earthquake. This money was desperately needed by the families of Apostolic Faith Church, yet they unselfishly and sacrificially gave that money to victims of the earthquake whom they made plans to help, believing those victims were suffering even more devastation than themselves.

In this way, money directly from Nineteenth Street was immediately on the scene to aid the earthquake victims via Apostolic Faith Church members. Only God’s plan could have put Nineteenth Street Baptist there at this most critical time. God is Great!

Global Missions Ministry and VillageMed began talking on August 16, and by that night had set up a Zoom meeting with the team in Haiti, including Pastor Jeanty. We devised a plan to take medicine, medical supplies, children’s clothing, and a relief kit to Haiti, traveling directly to the victims themselves.

We enlisted the help of our families, friends, and neighbors and quickly gathered scores of children’s outfits. We



put together a team who would serve as humanitarian couriers for the items we collected, including tarps and rope to fashion a shelter, a mylar blanket, ready-to-eat beans, and other supplies. Rice would be purchased once there.

Our own Pastor Darryl Roberts is part of this team. Our two-pronged approach is for some to make a one-day-turn-around trip to Haiti while some, including Pastor Roberts, will remain on the ground in Haiti to accompany the supplies to Nippes. There are many challenges and dangers to be considered to get help to this remote area, so we are awaiting the right time to go. We will keep the church posted.

Pastor Jeanty extends his thanks to Nineteenth Street for our expression of love for the Haitian people and the generosity of our pastor and church members. ❖

The Progressive Adults are proud to sponsor our Love Pal students for school year 2021-2022. Three are new, and 18 are returning Love Pals. They are enrolled in 19 different institutions across the nation, six of which are HBCUs. The Love Pal Program is designed to ensure students maintain a connection with their church while attending college or vocational institutions.

Your donations to the Love Pal Program will fund the bi-monthly stipends we send to students throughout the school year which they can freely spend on miscellaneous food or non-food personal items. This year's fundraiser is critical, and we believe everyone can take part in and enjoy it.

LOVE PAL POPCORN MADNESS

Four Days Only: September 8-12

We're selling **Double Good Popcorn!**

Tastes good! Feels good!

Each of their unique flavors is handcrafted in small batches and full of big flavor.

12 flavors to choose from. The choice is yours!

How will Popcorn Madness benefit our Love Pals?

We will receive 50 percent of the profits from all popcorn sales to help us fund the four bi-monthly stipends that we send to our college students.

How can you help?

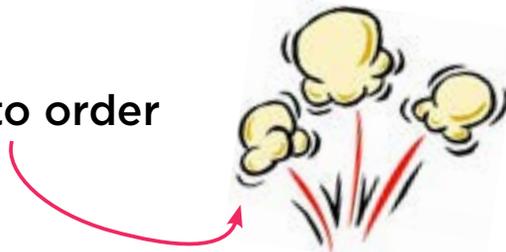
Option #1 - The Love Pal Pop-Up Store will open at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8. We encourage you to order popcorn for yourself and then share the [link](#) with your family and friends.

Option #2 - In lieu of buying popcorn, make a donation. Donations can be made by using any of the church's giving methods. Visit our website at www.19thstreetbc.org and give using a credit or debit card through PayPal or through our online applications Givelify or Cash App. Or you can write a check payable to the church and mail it to 4606 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20011. Whichever way you choose to give, please be sure to notate that your contribution is for "Love Pal Popcorn Madness" and include your envelope number. Encourage your family and friends to donate in lieu of buying popcorn. 100% of donations will benefit our Love Pals.

Option #3 - Buy Popcorn (Option #1) and Donate (Option #2).

Love Pal Popcorn Madness
starts on September 8 at 5p.m.

Click to order



If you have questions, contact Charles Hall at
chall52035@aol.com.

Spotlight on Love Pal Jadyn Wilensky

Jadyn Wilensky is a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated *magna cum laude* with English Honors in an English degree focusing on Africana Literature. Jadyn won the award for best thesis in her English honors group after writing a beautiful piece looking at the importance of an interdisciplinary education focusing specifically on Black feminist poetry.

Jadyn has been a part of the Love Pal program since her freshman year in college. Her Love Pal mentor is Sister Barbara Jumper. Jadyn describes Sister Jumper as a wonderful mentor who frequently checked in on her and provided her comfort since she knew there was someone who was always looking out for her.



Jadyn has credited her church family with providing her a diverse community who has offered her support and a group to reach out to, something she found especially helpful during the pandemic. She found that the teachings that she learned in church have helped her have continued gratitude and appreciation for all that she has accomplished. As part of the Love Pal program, Jadyn had a support system as well as the financial freedom to buy books so she could explore and indulge in her interests.

After graduating from college this past spring, Jadyn will be attending a pre-health post-baccalaureate core studies program at the University of

Pennsylvania. She will be working part-time as a medical technician and scribe at an ophthalmology practice. This program will allow her to carry out her plans of becoming a doctor who works and uplifts marginalized communities. Jadyn would like to use her English background to connect with her patients on a deeper level.

She extends her deepest gratitude to the church family for all they have offered her. ❖

Vacancies for 2022 Church Offices

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

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

Watch for more information about how and when to submit nominations for these positions. ❖

Ushers Help Local Families with Backpack Giveaway

The Usher Board's Drive-Thru Backpack and School Supplies Giveaway served over 200 area families on August 7. The campaign was a huge success, thanks to the generous donations of Nineteenth Street's members and friends.

Shown in photos: Angela Griffin, organizer of the backpack campaign, promoting the availability of backpacks along 16th Street. Project volunteers Deacon Sandra LeSesne, Deaconess Hester Jones, Pastor Darryl Roberts, Betty Montague, and Cynthia Thompson.



Let Our Hearts Be Full of Both Thanks and Giving!

By Robin Williams

For the 2021 Annual Thanksgiving Project, the Church School prayerfully plans to provide 60 or more families in need with gift cards from Giant Food to help purchase their Thanksgiving meals.

From Sunday, October 3, through Sunday, October 24, the church family can submit the names and contact information for individuals and families in need to the Thanksgiving Project Committee. Be sure to include the number of adults and children in the household.

In addition, donations are being accepted now through Sunday, November 14. We are asking each church ministry to donate \$100 and church members and friends to donate any amount.

Donations can be made by using any of the church's giving methods. Visit our website at www.19thstreetbc.org and give using a credit or debit card through PayPal or through our

online applications Givelify or Cash App. Or you can write a check payable to the church and mail it to 4606 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20011. Whichever way you choose to give, please make sure to notate that your contribution is for the "Church School Thanksgiving Project" and include your envelope number.

For further information and to submit names, please contact one of the committee members:

- Dorothy Curtis - dorothyjordancurtis@gmail.com
- Karen Sidney-Drumgold - karen.drumgold@gmail.com
- Robin Williams - robinwilliams1114@gmail.com

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

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 25, 2021. ❖



Urgent Request from Fruit of the Spirit Ministry

By Deacon Deborah Crain-Kemp, Fruit of the Spirit Ministry

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.” Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

How are you demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit in your life? How are you connecting to your church family and to the Body of Christ in these chaotic times?

BibleStudyTools.com says, “The idea of community comes from the sense of responsibility we have for each other. In the Bible, God encourages us to take care of our brothers and sisters—whether our friends or enemies! We must remember the importance of maintaining the connection with each other and focusing on building a community of love in word and actions.”

We are faced with many challenges on a daily basis. The impacts of COVID-19 have taken their toll on the social structure of our families and our country. The worldwide pandemic continues to rage on, but we know that we are in God’s hands. We are not an island unto ourselves but a community of faith. We take and give strength to one another. As our church celebrates its 182nd anniversary as a faith-based,

Bible-believing, Spirit-filled congregation, lean into the Word of God. Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”



To kick off our 182nd-anniversary year as a family, please go to the church website today to complete our brief **Fruit of the Spirit Connection Form!** Your responses will help the Fruit of the Spirit Ministry extend care and build community among the congregation this year and connect each member with opportunities for fun fellowship and fruitful discipleship! One form is requested for each household member who desires a connection with Nineteenth Street.

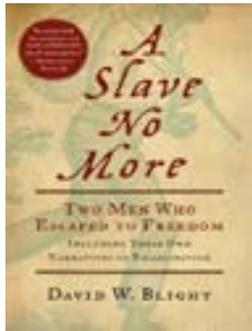
We need to hear from you. Take a few moments *today* to connect with the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church family. [Here](#) is the link to the Fruit of the Spirit Connection Form.

Thank you for helping us love one another better by completing the form. You are a gift and a blessing to us. May God continue to bless you and your family. ❖



Page-turner Book Reviews

By Deacon Johnnie Love



A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Own Narratives of Emancipation. By Dr. David W. Blight (2007)

For this month's Page-turner review, I chose a book that is in keeping with the history of our people and the times of our church. Author David W. Blight brings to light the inspiring slave diaries of two brave men who wrote their own stories about their

lives as slaves. Blight, a professor of history at Yale University during the writing and publication of this book, reproduced both slave diaries—written with misspellings and grammatical errors intact. Blight states that these narratives offer a precious commodity: “Unfiltered access to the process and the moment of emancipation.”

John Washington and Wallace Turnage considered themselves ordinary people and did not look for fame or fortune. Their goals were to leave written records of their lives as slaves for their families and friends. Both men wrote diaries, but their paths never crossed. Both were literate men and did not have to discern the state of affairs by just listening in on conversations. They lived it! Blight describes Washington as “equipped with literacy, if not with good spelling and grammar.”

John Washington was born a slave on May 20, 1838, in Fredericksburg, Va. He stayed in that area in servitude to his master's widow after being separated from his mother and four

younger siblings when he was twelve. Washington lived in a town where his life consisted of running errands and enduring hours of idleness looking out the window. His mistress never wanted him out of her sight due to her knowledge of how slave boys of light complexion were treated.

Washington began his narrative with the comment that he never had the pleasure of knowing his mother's owner, Thomas R. Wave Sr., who died before John was born. He never knew his father, although we can assume that he was white because John could easily pass for a white boy. In fact, he was classified as a mulatto. Washington was one of more than 400,000 out of four million African American slaves who were categorized as mulattos. It is also said that John Washington could have been a relative of George Washington's brother.

Washington's narrative captured both turmoil and nervous excitement as Union soldiers closed in on Fredericksburg. The slaves were so excited to see the movement of the Union troops as it offered them hints of their impending freedom. As he closed his diary, Washington escaped to the Union lines, working for a time for General King of the Union army in Fredericksburg. He later migrated to Washington City, where he and his wife Annie escaped the Union lines once again. He told the soldiers he was most happy to see them for “all” had been looking for them a long time. Washington and his wife became prosperous and of middle-class standing in the Washington Black Community. He died in 1918.

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Wallace Turnage was born on August 24, 1846, in Tyson's March District of Green County near Snow Hill, N.C. He was the son of Courtney, a slave woman, and Sylvester Brown Turnage, a white man who was the stepson of Courtney's owner Levin Turnage. Unlike John Washington, Turnage knew the identity of his father and listed his name on every official document for the rest of his life. As a teenager Turnage suffered menacing brutality and endured the savagery of both slavery and war until he ultimately gained his freedom.

In 1861, Turnage was hired out to a tobacco factory and plantation in Richmond, Va. He was sold and labored on an Alabama plantation and suffered constant lashes and beatings. He ran away six times. Turnage stressed that he was never taken without a fight, and he never surrendered to dehumanization. In his writing, Turnage expressed the desire to preserve his story because he wanted his family and friends to know the hell he had gone through and to win their respect for his endurance in his personal war to freedom. Turnage confided that once he had lasted four days without eating anything but a hickory nut left by a squirrel.

Blight states that when Turnage sat down to write his narrative, he had an extraordinarily accurate and detailed sense of geography for he named the towns and railroad crossings in order of his route. All the places Turnage named can be found on modern-day maps. His narrative also pointed out his strength and shed light on the network of support from slaves in their efforts to get to freedom and or to help others in their efforts. He wrote of a group of slaves who hid him at one plantation, as they admired his spunk for such a young person.

Turnage also recalled his first glimpse of Confederate soldiers. He wrote, "I now dreaded the gun, handcuffs and pistols no more." He also wrote of the moment of deliverance when

Yankee sailors plucked him out of Mobile Bay. Turnage fought a war within a war well before he saw any Yankee soldiers. His experiences of brutality were more than any one individual could bear. Turnage stated, "he could now speak his opinion to men of all grades and colors, and no one would question his right to speak." Upon Turnage's walk to experience freedom, he worked at various times as a janitor, sign painter, watchman, and glassblower in New York City. Turnage died in 1916. His diary makes his story exciting and a definite Page-turner! ❖

A supporting source for this Page-turner Book Review is taken from The New York Times. Book of the Times by William Grimes. 2007. www.nytimes.com/2007/12/05/books/05grimes.html

Communications Ministry Seeks Talented Members

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

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

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

Share Your Testimony for Stewardship Month

By Trustee Donza M. Poole and Sybil Barbour, Building Fund Committee

Annual Stewardship Sunday Celebration is October 24.

The Building Fund Committee invites church family and friends to join us as the church celebrates the seventh annual Stewardship Sunday on October 24, 2021. Our theme this year is “Rebuilding with Love, Faith, and Joy.” Sybil Barbour and Ferlandia Townsend will co-chair this joyous occasion. Stewardship Sunday is the key day of our annual Stewardship Month celebration. We will also kick off the 90-Day Giving Challenge on October 3.

This year our fundraising goal for Stewardship Sunday is \$10,000. We will be using the funds for the Capital Improvement Project to help complete upgrades to the church’s heating and air conditioning system.

With many of us now vaccinated, there is a growing sense that we are moving into a new, more promising phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Churches, schools, and businesses are reopening, and many are returning to the workplace after working remotely. Still, things are not the same as they were pre-pandemic, what with mask and vaccine mandates, new

variants, COVID-related financial struggles, and continued loss of life to COVID-19. The coronavirus continues to impact our lives and disrupt our routines. To survive and move forward, we have had to adapt, reimagine, and yes, rebuild.

This year’s theme, “Rebuilding with Love, Faith, and Joy,” was inspired by the story of the return of the Jews to Jerusalem after Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of their temple post exile. Like the Jews’ return to Jerusalem, our congregation’s eventual return to in-person church and our beloved

church home will surely be a time of rejoicing and rebuilding.

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



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and joy, we can be even better stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care.

The Building Fund Committee plans to continue the tradition of presenting weekly stewardship testimonials from our church family beginning in early October. Do you have a testimony or personal story about stewardship? If so, we invite you to consider sharing it.

Here's what you should know if you wish to share a testimony.

We are looking for personal stories of stewardship—stories about the giving of time, talent, or treasure. You may also share stewardship testimonials that speak to this year's theme, perhaps considering one or more of the following questions:

- As a person of faith, how do you remain committed to giving during times like these?
- How do you express love, faith, and joy in the giving of your time, talent, or treasure?
- What is your message of stewardship to those who may question the continued relevancy of Christian stewardship?
- How have the events of this past year affected your commitment to giving—have they opened new opportunities for giving, caused you to rethink the role of stewardship in your life, or made you more sensitive to the needs of the community or the church?

Stewardship testimonials will be part of an audiovisual presentation (e.g., video shown during livestreamed worship service or posted on the church website).

You may submit your testimonial in a video or in writing to be read in a video. Be aware that submissions may be edited for the presentation.

A video testimonial should be no more than 90 seconds long and shot in landscape format.

Video Tip: If making a video, wait a few seconds after you press record before you start speaking. Once you finish speaking, wait a few seconds before you stop recording. This makes the video easier to finalize for presentation.

A written testimonial should be no more than 200 words and take less than 90 seconds to be read aloud.

Submit your testimonial by email to the Building Fund Committee at BuildingFund@19thstreetbc.org. Please include your phone number. Testimonials may be submitted between now and **Friday, September 24**. Once you submit your testimonial, someone from the Building Fund Committee will contact you about the audiovisual presentation.

Please note that by submitting your testimonial, you consent to its use in print and/or digital format by Nineteenth Street, including on the church's website, YouTube channel, social media platforms, or church newsletters, eblasts, emails, or other written communications.

Trustee Donza M. Poole is chair of the Building Fund Committee. If you have questions, please email BuildingFund@19thstreetbc.org. ❖

GriefShare: A Ministry of Hope

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister

The GriefShare Ministry is a support ministry group for the bereaved that helps individuals navigate their season of grief. GriefShare was established at Nineteenth Street in 2017.

The purpose of this ministry is to provide hope, encouragement, and support for those who may be hurting from the pain of grief resulting from the death of a loved one. The ministry conducts life-changing support group sessions for individuals who have experienced a life crisis caused by death. If you recently or a while ago lost a family member or friend, please consider joining GriefShare.

The GriefShare Ministry follows a support group curriculum and church guidelines. Participants are provided with workbooks, which include weekly homework assignments on themes pertaining to the process of grief and hope. The 90-minute phone sessions are led by a leadership team of ministers, deacons, and lay facilitators who are experienced in dealing with the impacts of grief on social functioning. The discussion sessions blend biblical instructions and prayers with practical applications that might meet the needs of the group participants. Participants' confidentiality is highly protected.

GriefShare is open to our church family and to individuals in the wider community. All who sympathize with the church's purpose and programs, regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or mental or physical challenges, are welcomed to join the weekly sessions.

The next GriefShare support group session begins on September 9, 2021. If you are interested in enrolling in GriefShare, please contact the church office for further information at (202) 829-2773 or office@19thstreetbc.org. ❖

Get Limber with Yoga

By Oretha Chandler, Senior Ministry

Nineteenth Street's Senior Ministry will again sponsor Three and A Half Acres Yoga (THAY) to conduct eight virtual Yoga sessions, beginning on Saturday, September 11, and ending on Saturday, December 18. The series is free and open to the public.

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

- September 11 and 25
- October 9 and 23
- November 6 and 20
- December 4 and 18

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

Register for the 8-week yoga series at:
<https://forms.gle/Db7AHGrSvqvmZ6pq6>



SAVE THE DATE



29th Annual Deaconess Family Dinner

The Deaconess Board is hosting a *grab & go* meal and virtual program for our 29th Annual Deaconess Family Dinner. The event, which benefits the Ettyce Hill Moore Scholarship Fund, will take place on Sunday, October 17. The meals will be picked up at the church after the morning worship service between noon and 2 p.m. The Zoom virtual program for those people who purchase meals will begin at 3 p.m.

The meals will offer a choice of protein (e.g., fried chicken, baked ham or ribs, baked salmon), a choice of vegetables (e.g., macaroni & cheese, green beans, rice), a salad and roll. Meals will be priced at \$25 each.

The deadline for meal orders is October 1. Please watch for more details this month in the weekly eblasts and church announcements. Deaconess Evangeline Stevens is chair of the Board of Deaconesses.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Deaconesses' annual dinner and helping to raise scholarship funds for the youth of our church. ❖

Happy 94th Birthday Deaconess Jones!

Deaconess Philicia Jones celebrated her 94th birthday on July 26 and enjoyed a visit by Deaconess Hester Jones.

We pray for her good health in the coming year. ❖



Church Seeks to Fill Two Positions

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

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

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



Ways to Give

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.19thstreetbc.org

ACCESS NINETEENTH STREET SERVICES

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

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

Access all **CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES** via Zoom

Contact organizers for access to **ZOOM** programs

Check out and follow our social media accounts:



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

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

Pastor Roberts on the Air

Tune into the Coach Butch McAdams Show on Sunday, September 19, at 12:30 p.m. to hear Pastor Darryl Roberts talk about Nineteenth Street ministries and initiatives.

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





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Linwood Martinez Bentley	9/2	Sidney Blakely	9/10	Jordan M. Baucum Colbert	9/23
Eleanor C. Jefferson	9/3	Jacqueline E. Sutton	9/11	Jadyn Wilensky	9/23
Deaconess Mamie C. Montague	9/3	Avery Blakeney	9/11	Deaconess Catherine Cheatham	9/24
Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall	9/4	Rose Dawson	9/12	Robert J. Hines	9/24
Deacon Roy Smith	9/4	Ellen R. Lewis	9/13	Jamila Johnson	9/24
Lorraine Falls	9/5	Janet Nash	9/13	William D. Burks Jr.	9/25
James Kilgore	9/6	Lawrence Jamal Hayes	9/14	Benjamin Johnson	9/25
Kalyl Young	9/6	Tyler Hinton	9/14	Juawann Jordan	9/25
Jason France	9/7	Taylor Sullivan	9/15	James C. Tolbert Jr.	9/25
Ronald Quincy	9/8	John V. Gamble	9/16	Steven Jumper Sr.	9/27
Siera Toney	9/8	Mark Watson	9/16	Michelle Watson	9/27
Judy S. Brandon	9/9	Nicole Burleson	9/18	Angela Weldon	9/27
Chester Hendrick	9/9	Miliki Lee	9/20	Gwendolyn L. Williams	9/27
Allison Saunders	9/9	Victoria B. Omeri	9/21	Laurice P. Juggins	9/28
Marianne Seales	9/9	Markisha Garner	9/21	Alita Bonhomme Taylor	9/29
Carolyn V. Woolridge	9/9	Karla R. Harrison Conley	9/22		

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

September Calendar

Wednesday, September 1

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

Thursday, September 2

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

Sunday, September 5

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

Monday, September 6

Labor Day Holiday – Church office closed

Tuesday, September 7

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

Wednesday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 9

Food Pantry Distribution, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Call, with Rev. Edward Turner preaching, led by
Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 11

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

Sunday, September 12

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

Tuesday, September 14

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

Wednesday, September 15

Prayer Conference Call, led by Deaconesses, Noon
College Students Check-in with Rev. Harris, Zoom, 7 p.m.
Music Ministry Choir Connection, Zoom and Call-in, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 19

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

Tuesday, September 21

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

Wednesday, September 22

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

Thursday, September 23

Food Pantry Distribution, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Call, with Rev. Robin Turner preaching, led by
Deacons, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 25

Global Missions Haiti Walk 5k, C&O Canal, Georgetown, 8 a.m.
Senior Ministry, Three and A Half Acres Yoga, Zoom, 10-11 a.m.

Sunday, September 26

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

Tuesday, September 28

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

Wednesday, September 29

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

Thursday, September 30

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

Information on how to access these services is on page 22.