

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

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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Cover photo by Charles Gordon shows Revs. Robin and Edward Turner and their pets greeting Pastor Roberts during his fifth anniversary drive-by on February 19, 2022.

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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.

2022 Revival Preacher Series Launched

By Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon

We do not hear the term *Revival Service* used as much today as we did just a few years ago. The word *revival* is from the Hebrew word *Chaya*, which means “to bring back to life,” to “restore to consciousness,” or to “restore to a previous condition.” If there is ever a time that the Church needs Revival, it is today!

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has worn down the land and people. For Nineteenth Street, it has removed familiar traditions and ways we gather in worship, celebration, loss, and service to one another and the community. We are living in times when many feel that we do not control very much. We lack control over the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice. We cannot control inflation, the economy, or the global politics that influence our world.

But we do have a choice. Amid unprecedented and unpredictable times, we can choose to seek the Lord. As Rev. Roberts has shared, God is calling us to revival and new levels of ministry on the other side of the pandemic.

Nineteenth Street is seeking God to revive us again to “Bring Up This People.” Our guiding text is in Exodus 33:12-17, where Moses with the Israelites in the desert pleads with God and insists that His presence must go with them.

12 Moses said to the Lord, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’

Begun on February 27, the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church 2022 Revival will be a nine-month guest revivalist preaching series on the fourth Sunday of every month. The series will conclude with a three-day revival worship service on Homecoming Sunday in the fall. Our inaugural guest revivalist preacher was Rev. Dr. André D. Ivy, a fifth-generation pastor of the First Baptist Church of Marshall Heights in Washington, D.C. and vice president-at-large of the Baptist Convention of DC & Vicinity.

Join and connect with us in this nine-month journey of refreshing, repentance, and renewal! ❖

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 27

Rev. Starlette Thomas, Guest Revivalist



Rev. Starlette Thomas, director of the Raceless Gospel Initiative at Good Faith Media and an associate minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in D.C. will be our guest revivalist preacher on March 27, 2022.

Join Us for Lenten Worship Services

On Wednesdays, beginning March 2 (Ash Wednesday) through April 6, the church will have a one-hour Lenten worship service that begins at noon. All services will be virtual on Zoom. Here is the preaching schedule for Wednesday Lenten services:



March 2, 2022

Dr. F. Bruce Williams, Senior Pastor
Bates Memorial Baptist Church
Louisville, Ky.



March 23, 2022

Rev. Dr. Christine A. Smith, Senior Pastor
Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc.
Euclid, Ohio



March 9, 2022

Rev. Dr. Trisha Miller Manarin, Executive Director
DC Baptist Convention
Washington, D.C.



March 30, 2022

Rev. Dr. Frank D. Tucker, Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church
Washington, D.C.



March 16, 2022

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry, Senior Pastor
Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church
Washington, D.C.



April 6, 2022

Rev. H. Lionel Edmonds, Pastor
Mount Lebanon Baptist Church
Washington, D.C.



To join Zoom video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83171448488?pwd=RIBHbzhuZDI3NnIYU0FjK01SZUJ0Zz09>

To join Zoom by phone:

Call 301-715-8592 US (Washington DC)

Or, to find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83171448488?pwd=RIBHbzhuZDI3NnIYU0FjK01SZUJ0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 831 7144 8488 / Passcode: 356084

Deacon Board Makes Women's History

By Donza M. Poole

March is Women's History Month, the national celebration honoring the contributions of women to American history. This year, our Board of Deacons is making women's history of its own. For the first time in the Board's 182-year existence, all its elected officers and Executive Committee are women:

Deacon Shawn Davis-Wilensky, Chair

Deacon Deborah Crain-Kemp, Vice Chair

Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon, Treasurer

Deacon Yvonne B. Dickson, Secretary

Deacon Johnnieque B. Love, Corresponding Secretary

Not that long ago, such leadership would have been unimaginable. Today, it might almost go unnoticed, but its significance should not be overlooked. It is an unprecedented achievement, especially, given the historical context. The debate over whether women should occupy certain leadership roles within the

church, like pastor or deacon, is still ongoing in many churches, but not at Nineteenth Street. To be sure, there may still be some within our church family who do not fully embrace the idea of women deacons or ministers. Given our history, this is not surprising.

It was in 2005, just seventeen years ago under the pastorship of Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins, that Deacon Sandra LeSesne became the first woman in our church's history to be ordained as a deacon. She would go on to serve as vice chair (2009-2012) and later chair (2013-2015) of the Board.

What appears to have sparked this change was a decision to revise the church constitution to be gender neutral, eliminating pronouns, like "he" and "she." Afterwards, Deacon LeSesne recalled being contacted by the late Terry Friday, then Minister of Music, to tell her that he had nominated her and another

continued on next page



*Shawn
Davis-Wilensky*



Deborah Crain-Kemp



*Stephanie
Thomas-Gordon*



Yvonne B. Dickson



Johnnieque B. Love

female member to be deacons. Being a deacon had not been on Deacon LeSesne's mind; she was very involved in missions work at the time. The nominations predictably caused a stir, even leading to a suggestion that the women remove their names from consideration because the prospect of women deacons was creating division within the church. Deacon LeSesne said she almost withdrew her name but sought the counsel of Rev. Harkins. He expressed concern that the women were being discouraged from becoming deacons. Deacon LeSesne



Sandra LeSesne

recalled that Rev. Harkins addressed the issue during a church business meeting, speaking in support of their nominations and saying in no uncertain terms that he was for women becoming deacons.

Deacon LeSesne also credits the late Deaconess Lela Burleson who admitted she was unsure about a woman being a deacon but offered to pray with Deacon LeSesne. For nearly a year, the two prayed together five days a week, eventually

becoming prayer partners for life. Deacon LeSesne said Deaconess Burleson, along with Deaconess Mozelle Watkins, were her motivators during that time. When she was ordained as a deacon, the two became the deaconesses she served with. "We became sisters in Christ," said LeSesne. Deacon LeSesne could not recall what happened to the other female nominee who did not go forward with the process.

In the past seventeen years, available records show that eleven women have been ordained as deacons. Two of these pioneering women have gone from labor to reward, Deacon Valeria Joyce Tutt Day and Deacon Louise Richardson. Former Deacon, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall, was called to the ministry and is now part of the church's ministerial staff.

The current Board of Deacons has eight women among its 21 members. We often hear the words "representation matters." Women and girls at Nineteenth Street can look to today's Board of Deacons and see in the Board what is possible for themselves. Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon had this to say about the Board's current female composition, "Prayerfully, it will encourage other women, as they answer and give God the pen to write their call story." ❖

Note: We have tried to provide an accurate listing of the church's female deacons. If we have missed someone, please contact the Deacon Board's Archivist, Deacon Johnnieque B. Love at johnniequelove@comcast.net.

Women Deacons (Year Ordained)

Deacon Sandra LeSesne (2005)
Deacon Valeria Joyce Tutt Day (2007)
Deacon Yvonne B. Dickson (2007)
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall (2007)
Deacon Johnnieque B. Love (2007)
Deacon Jessie McCrae (2007)
Deacon Louise Richardson (2012)
Deacon Deborah Crain-Kemp (2017)
Deacon Shawn Davis-Wilensky (2017)
Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon (2019)
Deacon Yvonne T. Gowdy (2021)

Trustee Board Fills Part-time Positions

By Trustee Jacqueline Ivey

The Board of Trustees has now transitioned from its 2021 members to its 2022 members, under the leadership of Trustee Board Chair Reginald Cole. Words cannot express our appreciation and gratitude for the service of the 2021 members who have rotated off the Board: Trustees Franklin Smith, Emerson Bretous, Donza Poole, Cheryl Johnson, Charles Sprow, and Juniors Thompson. Please welcome new Trustees Stacey Lincoln and William Hyde and returning Trustee Dwight Crawford.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for management of the finances and the physical assets of the church. With that responsibility in mind, we will continue to advance the agendas already established and create new opportunities to keep moving Nineteenth Street into the future.



Last year the Board was in the process of hiring a part-time church administrator and a part-time church accountant. We are pleased to announce that Rev. Troy Denson will be starting soon as the part-time church administrator.

Former church treasurer Shirley France is currently training Jacklyn “Jacqui”

Austin, the newly hired part-time accountant.

In other news, the media ministry is completing the installation of additional monitors in the sanctuary, which is projected to be completed in mid-April. ❖



Cash App



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 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). ❖

Rethinking Sunday School Virtual Workshop

By DeVera Redmond, Board of Christian Education

“Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 31:12

The Nineteenth Street Baptist Church Board of Christian Education is calling our church ministers, leaders, Sunday School teachers, and church members to participate in a special virtual workshop session to discuss innovative practices and lessons learned from a successful Sunday School.

To be relevant, Sunday Schools must provide an intentional-structured program to our children, youth, young families, and adults. A Sunday School program is a vital arm of the church, serving to reach people so we can teach them, win them to Christ, and then care for them spiritually.

The Baptist Educational Congress of DC & Vicinity is offering an opportunity to hear Pastor Sonja Dawson and her Sunday School team talk about how to create and develop leadership teams, as we teach in the distance learning environment.

Rethinking Sunday School in the Midst of a Pandemic

Pastor Sonja Dawson and her Sunday School

New Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Calif.

March 5, 2022, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST)

For registration (no fee) or more information, please contact:

DeVera Redmond at dyredmond@aol.com or (202) 966-6491

Our hope and prayer are that during these pandemic times, we learn the lessons God would teach us individually and collectively as the universal Christian Church and as a nation. ❖

Thank You to Shirley Ali!

In January 2022, Shirley Goffney Ali donated a copy of *Black History 365: An Inclusive Account of American History* to the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church Library. The book was given in honor of her son, Ajom (AJ) Ali, who is written about in the book starting on page 746.



Black History 365: An Inclusive Account of American History by Joel Freeman and Walter Milton Jr.

“*Black History 365* is a U. S. History textbook that documents the unique stories of Black persons, groups, and cultures in North America, beginning in Ancient Africa continuing to modern events and movements.” ❖

My Favorite Liberian Dish

A Jubilee Sunday Taste of African Cuisine

By Donza Poole, Chair, Building Fund Committee

Last month, Nineteenth Street celebrated Jubilee Sunday with a virtual worship service. Jubilee Sunday is a time when we praise God as we trace our journey from Africa to the present date. Pre-pandemic, this Black History Month service would be followed by a festive reception featuring African cuisine. Tolani Rufai would coordinate the foods—some prepared at church and some catered. Church family and friends looked forward to this annual spread with its spicy Jollof rice, fish and meat stews, donut-like Puff-Puffs, peeled black-eyed pea Moin-Moin pudding, and more.

For many, the annual feast was their first exposure to authentic African cuisine. For others, it may have been the one time of year they ate African food. Recently, on the sitcom *Bob (Hearts) Abishola*, a show about Nigerian immigrants, the characters were eating Moin-Moin (also called Moi-Moi). I felt so in the know, having eaten this bean pudding myself at several Jubilee Sunday receptions.

While we could not replicate the Jubilee Sunday food reception virtually, we still wanted to celebrate the food aspect of the day and continue to help expand our church family's African food palate. So, we contacted a few church members from Africa and asked them to share one of their favorite homeland dishes. Trustee William Hoff and his sister, Emily Woolcock, responded enthusiastically, telling us about their favorite Liberian foods.

The two grew up in Monrovia, Liberia's capital. In 1980, when they were teenagers, their families had to leave Liberia and migrate to the United States due to the Liberian coup d'état

that resulted in the overthrow and killing of Liberia's then-president, William R. Tolbert Jr., who was a family member.

"Our families have been blessed to adapt to our new environments," said Trustee Hoff, "and we are grateful to make Nineteenth Street Baptist Church our home of worship."

Here are two of their favorite dishes to learn about and even try at home.



allrecipes.com

Liberian Style Collard Greens

Trustee Hoff sent us a recipe for Liberian Style Collard Greens, one of his favorite recipes during the holidays.

One look at the ingredients will show what distinguishes the Liberian version of this soul food favorite from other collard green recipes. The

Liberian Style recipe includes peanut butter and flounder in its ingredients. Here's a link to a recipe for this Trustee Hoff holiday favorite:

[Liberian Style Collard Greens Recipe | Allrecipes](#)

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lovepeaceandtinyfeet.com

Authentic Liberian Cassava Leaf Dish

Emily Woolcock, a physician, sent us a cassava leaf recipe and explained its benefits. In the United States, cassava is known as yucca. Not

only is cassava leaf delicious, but there are also many associated health benefits. It is a vegetable-based, freshly cooked meal that contains red palm oil, which also has many health benefits. Cassava leaves are low in calories and are known to assist in digestion. They also have a high iron content, vitamin C, and high amounts of magnesium. Red palm oil has been reported to overcome vitamin A deficiency, promote heart health, and have anti-cancer properties.

Finely chopped yucca/cassava leaves are used to create this dish and can be found in frozen packets in grocery stores. Here's a link to the recipe for Emily Woolcock's favorite, Authentic Liberian Cassava Leaf:

lovepeaceandtinyfeet.com/liberian-cassava-leaf-recipe

We are sincerely grateful to Trustee Hoff and Emily Woolcock for sharing a bit of Liberian food culture with their church family and helping us to continue the Jubilee Sunday African food tradition. ❖

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:** facebook.com/Everyblessing.org

 **Instagram:** instagram.com/nsbcdcd/

Pastor Roberts on the Air

Tune into the Coach Butch McAdams Show on Sunday, March 20, 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 woldnews.com. ❖



Communication Ministry Reminders and Resources

The Communications Ministry is a resource to help ministries develop and execute great communications about the church to all audiences. It oversees social media, the website, the monthly newsletter, weekly eblasts, mass communications, marquee, and church-wide publications. The ministry has developed the following factsheet to assist ministries and members.

Key steps

After receiving approval from church officers for events and programs, please do the following:

Fill out a Communications Plan

It tells us what you are planning and what kinds of promotions you want to do. You can download a copy of [the form](#) here or you can send an email to communications@19thstreetbc.org requesting that one be sent to you.

Provide material on time

- Planning tools are due a minimum of four weeks before promotions are to start.
- Announcements are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesdays. They appear on our website on Fridays and are read during Sunday worship.
- Eblast text and images are due by 5 p.m. on Thursdays for distribution on Saturdays.
- *The Epistle* text and images are due one week before the 1st of the month.
- Website content is due on the 20th of each month for posting online on the 1st.
- Social media requests are due two weeks before the event. The Sunday sermon title is due by 5 p.m. on Thursdays.

Contact Information

Send queries or material to communications@19thstreetbc.org.

If you send information directly to a specific Communications Ministry member, copy communications@19thstreetbc.org.

Ministry Co-Chairs

Co-chairs: Edith Bullard-Britt and Karen Williamson.

Communication Tools

- Announcements: Robin Smith, rsmith@19thstreetbc.org, 202-829-2773
- Epistle: Karen Williamson, epistle@19thstreetbc.org
- Eblasts: Edith Bullard-Britt, theeblast@19thstreetbc.org
- Instagram & Facebook: Lydia Cole, communications@19thstreetbc.org
- Website content: Deborah Heard, communications@19thstreetbc.org

Questions? Contact communications@19thstreetbc.org.

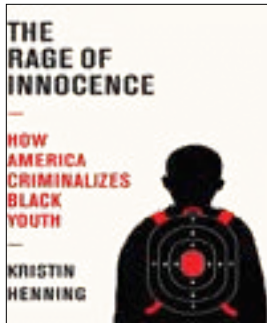
Additional resources

- Editorial Style Guide ([short version](#); [long version](#)) that covers such topics as formal references to the pastor and titles for church officers.
- [Brand & Design & Messaging Guide](#) that covers the new logo, color palette, and dimensions for graphics. ❖



Page-turner Book Review

By Deacon Johnnieque Love



The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth by Kristin Henning

Our March author is Kristin Henning, Esq. She will give a presentation at the Pastor's Book Club, which will be an integral part of our programming for the first Annual Fruit of the Spirit Day on March 27. I feel as if I know Kris, and yet we have never met. Her desire to work with our youth is a sign of

godly patience and the "Fruit of the Spirit" in serving humanity. She is a nationally recognized advocate, author, trainer, and consultant on the intersection of race, adolescence, and policing. *The Rage of Innocence* lays bare the long-term consequences of racism and trauma that Black children experience at the hands of police and their vigilante surrogates, and explains how discriminatory and aggressive policing has socialized a generation of Black teenagers to fear and resent the police. The book is an awesome example of copious research.

She is the Blume Professor of Law and Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic Initiative at Georgetown Law. She has been the lead attorney of the Juvenile Unit at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia for more than twenty-five years, representing children accused of a crime. She and her law students represent youth accused of delinquency in Washington, D.C. She is currently the director of the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center.

Kris Henning is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2021 Leadership Prize from the Juvenile Law Center and the 2013 Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense from the National Juvenile Defender Center.

This book has been reviewed by several highly reputable review sources.

The most noteworthy and reputable words of praise came from James Forman Jr., the J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law, Yale Law School, and author of the Pulitzer-prize winning publication, *Locking Up Our Own*. Foreman says, "We've long needed a great book on race and the juvenile legal system. Thanks to Kris Henning, we have it. Deeply researched and passionately argued, *The Rage of Innocence* details how we criminalize Black children—and explains how we can stop."

New York Times Book Review says: "*The Rage of Innocence* is reminiscent of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*." It also says, "*The Rage of Innocence* is a serious and thoughtful book about a subject of great importance, and it deserves to be widely read." *New York Times Book Review* goes on to say, "Henning believes in the redemptive power of storytelling. It's storytelling that can make people understand the racial inequities of the legal system, and it's storytelling that can restore the humanity this system has cruelly stripped from its victims."

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Paul Butler, Albert Brick Professor in Law, Georgetown University, and author of *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*, states that “*The Rage of Innocence* gives us “a vivid and enraging account of how Black children don’t get to be children in the eyes of police, politicians, and sometimes their own teachers. Henning, a star defense attorney and law professor, tells stories—in and out of school—of how the new Jim Crow targets Black boys and girls and tears families apart. It is a lucid analysis from a brilliant scholar at the top of her game. *The Rage of Innocence* blesses readers with common sense solutions that provide hope that we can do better for our children and our democracy.”

Laurence Steinberg, Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, Temple University, and former director of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, says that “Henning’s vividly told stories, meticulous research, and trenchant analysis teach us just how widespread the pernicious mistreatment of children of color in contemporary America is—not just on the streets, but in our schools, courts, and social institutions. *The Rage of Innocence* is much, much more than a compelling and timely indictment of our justice system. It is a deeply disturbing look at what it means to grow up as a Black child in a society that fears, vilifies, and demonizes young people simply because of the color of their skin.”

Library Journal states that the “Georgetown law professor Henning draws on high-profile cases, sociological research, and her experiences representing defendants in D.C.’s juvenile courts to document the institutional mechanisms that criminalize the normal adolescent behavior of Black youth. Copiously documented and passionately argued, *The Rage of Innocence* is a powerful and persuasive call for change. Thanks to Kris Henning. Her book is deeply researched and passionately argued. “

Kris has trained state actors across the country on the impact of racial bias in the juvenile and criminal legal systems. Her workshops help stakeholders recognize their own biases and develop strategies to counter them. She has also worked closely with the MacArthur Foundation’s Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network to develop a 41-volume Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP), a national training curriculum for juvenile defenders. She now co-hosts with the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC), an annual week-long JTIP summer academy for trial lawyers, and a series of “Train the Trainer” programs for experienced defenders. In 2019, Kris partnered with NJDC to launch a Racial Justice Toolkit for youth advocates, and again in 2020, to launch the Ambassadors for Racial Justice program, a year-long program for juvenile defenders committed to challenging racial injustice in the juvenile legal system through litigation and systemic reform.

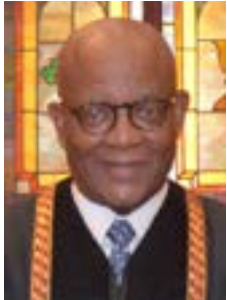
One excerpt from the book: “American society and its criminal legal system won’t let Black kids be kids.” (inquest.org/fear-of-the-black-child)

This book is an absolute “Page-turner!” Our church needs to be proactive for our youth and community. We must become equipped with the tools that God has sent into our midst. Our church must listen to one who has studied, researched, and developed answers to solve some of the problems for our youth. ❖



Trusting God's Will

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister



When Jesus confronted the reality of His impending death on the cross, He asked God to lift this terrible burden. But facing the possibility of suffering that was beyond description, Jesus prayed, “Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42 KJV). As Christians, we too must be willing to accept God’s will, even when we do not fully understand the reasons for the hardships that we must endure.

When we lose a loved one or experience profound loss, darkness can overwhelm us for a while, and it may seem as if we cannot summon the strength to face another day. But, with God’s help, we can make it and begin again.

When we confront circumstances that trouble us to the very core of our soul, we must trust God. If we are in the center of God’s will, our sense of joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment in life increases, no matter what the circumstances. God still has important lessons to teach us, and our task is to be open to His instruction and purpose.

When we are worried, we must turn our concerns over to Him. When we are anxious, we must be still and listen for the quiet assurance of God’s promises. “As I was with Moses, so will I be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Joshua 1:5 KJV). This means that as we place our lives in His hands, we

learn that He is our Shepherd today and throughout eternity. Brothers and sisters, let us trust the Shepherd.

When God’s will becomes your will, good things begin to happen. You cannot continue doing things your way and accomplish God’s purpose in His way. He is “The Great I Am,” the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is our Heavenly Father. Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28 NIV). He is the God of the living, not the dead. His name is Jesus. He is sovereign, and we are to submit to Him, not the other way around.

Our thinking cannot come close to God’s thoughts. In order for us to do the will of God, we must adjust our lives to His will and study His Word. Recognize that all things happen for a reason. We may not know why at the moment, but God knows. You may someday find yourself in a crisis or an overwhelming situation of faith. Trust God—Be still, pray, and ask yourself: “What is God trying to tell me?”

Perhaps you are asking yourself today, “Why Lord?” If you have experienced recent losses and need support and comfort, please contact the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church GriefShare Support Ministry Team. Call the church office at (202) 829-2773 or email office@19thstreetbc.org for scheduling information and a confidential call back from the GriefShare Ministry Team. ❖

Church Celebrates Pastor's 5th Anniversary

By Deaconess Brenda Lightening-Tolbert

Being Built Together Ephesians 2:19-22 (NKJV)

The celebration of Pastor Roberts' fifth anniversary began with a drive-by motorcade on Saturday afternoon, February 19. On this sunny, windy day, church family, members from other churches, community friends, and passersby gathered for two and a half hours to congratulate Pastor Roberts on his ministry, leadership at Nineteenth Street, and commitment to the larger community.

Pastor Roberts greeted car occupants with a bag of generous goodies, lovingly provided for him by Deaconess Hester Jones. Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George stopped by to present the pastor with a letter commending his steadfast support and commitment to Ward 4 and the region.

The anniversary celebration continued on Sunday, February 20, with a powerful worship service. Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall served as the worship leader. Deacon Board Chair Shawn Davis-Wilensky offered words of welcome and honored Pastor Roberts on this milestone anniversary.

Under the leadership of Minister of Music Kenneth Peagler, the music was soul-stirring. Selections included the vintage recording of the Mass Choir singing "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land," the Mass Choir singing "Enter In," and a vintage video of the Male Choir singing "How Great Thou Art." The Liturgical Dance Ministry joined the Mass Choir on Zoom as the choir sang "I Need You to Survive" by Hezekiah Walker.

One of the highlights of the service was a heartwarming video expressing appreciation, gratitude, and love for Pastor Roberts through photos from various church events. Also, an excerpt of the pastor's interview with WHUR's Jacquie Gales Webb was shown. Later Sunday evening, the pastor appeared on Ms. Gales Webb's online show that aired live on Facebook, YouTube, and HUR@Home Inspiration.

Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon, chair of the Pastor's Anniversary Committee, extended congratulations to Pastor Roberts on behalf of the church family and friends and expressed appreciation to all the members of the Pastor's Anniversary Committee, the Communications, Liturgical Dance, Media, and Music ministries, and the many others who helped. Deacon Thomas-Gordon also read a congratulatory letter from D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, was the guest preacher for the anniversary service. Rev. Moss, a long-time friend of Pastor Roberts, is one of the new generation of ministers committed to preaching a prophetic message of love and justice, which he believes are inseparable companions that form the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His sermon was titled *We Have Nothing to Lose*, and scripture reference was Mark 5: 24-34. He preached about removing any restrictions that are keeping us from connecting to the power

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of our God. Pastor Roberts described Rev. Moss's message as amazing, inspiring, instructing, courageous, biblically sound, and biblically inspiring to lift us up and to encourage us and to strengthen us for the work God has called us to do.

Revs. Edward and Robin Turner led the altar call prayer, and Rev. Dr. Walter A. Jackson III prayed a powerful covering prayer for Rev. Roberts. Pastor Roberts gave the closing remarks and benediction. It was obvious when the pastor rose to speak that he had been moved by the outpouring of love for him and his family. He thanked everyone who helped to support the weekend program and expressed special thanks to:

Deacon Board: Deacon Shawn Davis-Wilensky

Media Ministry: Deacon Gerald Young, Roman Holton, and Robin Smith

Music Ministry: Kenneth Peagler

Liturgical Dance Ministry: Rev. Lorise White Wolfe

Communications Ministry: Edith Bullard-Britt, Karen Williamson, Lydia Cole, and Deborah Heard

Pastor's Anniversary Committee:

Chair Deacon Stephanie Thomas-Gordon; Deaconesses Brenda Lightening-Tolbert and Hester Jones; Deacons Sandra LeSesne, Deborah Crain-Kemp, and Michael Nelson; Robin Williams

To see the February 20, 2022,
Anniversary Worship Service,
go to the church YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeZ8794ecDE>



You and Your Computer Classes in March

“You and Your Computer” technology workshops, sponsored by the Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) and the Senior Ministry continue this month. These small-group workshops will help you utilize your smartphone, tablet, and/or computer more effectively. Mr. Adrian Sutton from the D.C. Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) will conduct these workshops. Feel free to join only the workshops that interest you.

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

In the comfort of your home via Zoom

What You Need: Smartphone, tablet, and/or computer, paper, and pen

March 11 Basic Data Transfer & Data Backup
Learn how to move data from one device to another and/or move data from your current device to an external drive or cloud storage service. Learn how to back up your documents.

March 25 Computer Clean-up
Learn how to make your machine run faster by removing unnecessary temporary files that are slowing down your computer’s operating system.

To register for the *You and Your Computer* series, click [here](#).



Because Helping Hand Sunday was observed virtually last month on February 13, 2022, worshipers were encouraged to wear African attire (like we did when we gathered in person) and to submit their photos to The Epistle. We were delighted to receive these regal photos from Judy Neely and Deacon Kenyatta Hobson.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Deacon Deborah Crain-Kemp	3/2	Nikki France	3/10	Sheila Williams	3/19
Dayanna Robb	3/2	Justin Edward Thomas	3/12	Renee McCoy-Collins	3/22
Tiffany Ryles	3/2	Deborah Lewis Thornton	3/12	Violetta Graham	3/23
Mattie C. Cheek	3/3	Avé Cannady	3/13	Trustee Robert McNair	3/23
Deborah A. Drummond	3/3	Kim Ferguson	3/13	Elvinese S. Wyche	3/23
Elmer Bowman	3/4	Noah Cooper	3/14	Jonathan Burns II	3/24
Martaz Turner	3/4	Lajuan Johnson	3/15	Alex Parson	3/24
Hilda P. Douglas	3/6	Larry Howell	3/16	Sylvia Glover	3/25
Jamal Gowdy	3/6	Deaconess Patricia Kilby-Robb	3/17	Deacon Peyton Lively	3/25
Maya Jumper	3/6	Trustee Dwight W. Crawford	3/18	Joann Jacobs	3/26
LaTonya E. Clark	3/7	Ada D. Keaton	3/18	Ayden R. Williams	3/26
Deacon Yvonne B. Dickson	3/8	Kiara Elysse Beckham	3/19	Rick DuBose	3/27
Victoria Angel Watkins	3/9	Camille Crawford	3/19	Deacon Billy Gay	3/29
Deacon Vernell S. Wooden	3/9	Deborah Mack	3/19	Sheila Y. Jordan	3/29

Please notify the church office of additions or corrections.

March Calendar

Tuesday, March 1

Intercessory Prayer Call, Clergy-led, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study w/Revs. Roberts and Hall, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2

Lenten Service, Dr. F. Bruce Williams preaching, Zoom, Noon
Music Ministry, Choir Connection Call, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 3

Food Pantry, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Prayer Covenant Meeting Call, Deacon-led, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 5

Deacon Board Meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.
Deaconess Board Meeting, Zoom, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 6

Church School, Adult Class, Zoom, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Communion, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 10:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8

Intercessory Prayer Call, Clergy-led 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study Revs. Roberts and Hall, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9

Lenten Service, Dr. Trish Miller Manarin preaching, Zoom, Noon
Trustee Board Meeting, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 10

Prayer Meeting Call, w/Rev. Lorise White Wolfe, Deacon-led,
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 13

Church School, Adult Class, Zoom, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Scholarship Sunday, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Twins and Teens Church School, Zoom, Noon
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, March 14

Relax, Relate & Release (R3), Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15

Intercessory Prayer Call, Clergy-led, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study w/Revs. Roberts and Hall, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Information on how to access these services is on page 10.

Wednesday, March 16

Lenten Service, Dr. Kendrick Curry preaching, Zoom, Noon
Music Ministry, Choir Connection Call, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 17

Food Pantry, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Call, Deacon-led, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 20

Church School, Adult Class, conference call, 9 a.m.
Worship Service, Pastor's Aid Sunday, livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 10:30 a.m.
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22

Intercessory Prayer Call, Clergy-led, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study w/Revs. Roberts and Hall, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23

Lenten Service, Dr. Christine A. Smith preaching, Zoom, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection Call, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 24

Prayer Meeting Call, Rev. Leslie Wiley preaching, Deacon-led,
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

Fruit of the Spirit Ministry, Koinonia Day, Zoom, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 27

Worship Service, Fruit of the Spirit Sunday, Rev. Starlette Thomas
livestream, 10 a.m.
Youth Church, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.
Pastor's Book Club, Guest Author Kristin Henning, Zoom, Noon
Church School, Pre-K to Age 10, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29

Intercessory Prayer Call, Clergy-led, 6:30 a.m.
Bible Study with Revs. Roberts and Hall, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Lenten Service, Dr. Frank Tucker preaching, Zoom, Noon
Music Ministry Choir Connection Call, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 31

Food Pantry, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Prayer Covenant Meeting Call, led by Deacons, 6:30 p.m.