



THE EPISTLE

*Newsletter of the
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church*

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



Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

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Washington, DC 20011
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Ministerial Staff

- Rev. James A. Crosson Jr., *Interim Pastor*
- Rev. Jerry C. Cheatham Jr.
- Rev. Cheryl Coleman Hall
- Rev. Dr. I. Benni Singleton
- Rev. Reginald Townsend
- Rev. Edward Turner
- Rev. Robin L. Turner
- Rev. Eddie Martin Jr., *Youth Minister*
- Rev. Dr. Jerry A. Moore Jr., *Pastor Emeritus*

Church School, Sunday 8:45 AM
Morning Worship, Sunday 10:00 AM
Prayer Meeting, Thursday 6:30 PM



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

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

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

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

The Epistle

is an official publication of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

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Questions?

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**Vote on
November 8**

Hard Work of Pulpit Search Committee Leads to Selection of Next Pastor

By Deborah Heard and Robin Smith

After an 18-month process, the Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts of Decatur, Georgia was elected to become the 15th pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

Rev. Roberts, currently the senior pastor of Mount Welcome Missionary Baptist Church, was among 107 applicants who underwent a rigorous process to identify a minister who best met the needs and priorities of the congregation.

Rev. Roberts, 41, who grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, cited his belief in Christ-centered worship, loving God with our minds



Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts at town hall during Call Weekend

as well as our emotions, serving God and Christ in the world, and nurturing a congregation that believes in sharing God's grace. "My priority is inspiring and supporting the salvation and spiritual growth of our members," he told us.

Roberts was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1997 and ordained in 2005. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Grinnell College; a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Chicago; a Juris Doctor degree from Boston College Law School; and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Christian Ethics from Emory University. Rev. Roberts is married to Dr. Laura Morgan Roberts and has two children, a daughter Anaiah and a son Isaiah. Rev. Roberts and his wife visited Nineteenth Street on July 24 when he was the guest preacher of the day.

Getting to this decision and vote took a vast amount of work and prayers. The process began soon after Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins announced in February 2015 that he was leaving after 17 years as pastor to become Senior Vice President of Union Theological Seminary in New York.

A Pastoral Search Committee was elected, comprised of Deaconess Dena Bowen, Trustee Emerson Bretous, Shirley France, Trustee John Jackson, Deaconess Linda Leftrict, Deacon Sandra LeSesne, Emmanuelle St. Jean, Carolyn Wilson and Deacon Gerald Young. Deacon Young became chair and St. Jean was co-chair. An NSBC Self-Study Survey was commissioned, led by Deacon Fred Leftrict, and the results were used

to identify the congregation's preferences and priorities for the search.

After the application process closed on December 15, 2015, the Pastoral Search Committee spent 10 months evaluating applications, researching candidates' backgrounds, conducting interviews in multiple formats, checking references, visiting churches, reviewing videos of preaching, discussing the choices and updating the congregation. The committee over time narrowed down the pool of applicants to between five and ten candidates. Ultimately, three finalists were revealed to the congregation during a Call Weekend that began Thursday, October 20 with prayer service.

Prayer service, which generally is held in the chapel, was moved to the sanctuary and drew more than 100 members. After a



Excited and prayerful members during voting activities



Deacons Yvonne Dickson and Jessie McCrae at help desk during Call Weekend



Deacon Gerald Young in front of easels showing finalists for pastor

welcome, the singing of “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place,” testimonies and prayers, the second part of the evening began. Deacon Young didn’t prolong announcing the names of the candidates. All evening there had been three covered easels at the front of the sanctuary. Standing in front of the easels, he disclosed the names in alphabetical order while Trustee Jackson unveiled the covered posters.

The sanctuary was quiet. Deacon Young broke the silence by saying he thought there would be questions, then encouraged members to submit questions for the candidates by placing them in a box on the Ushers Table. And with that, a meeting scheduled until 8:30 PM was over before 8 PM.

On Friday, the next phase began in the fellowship hall. The committee recounted the search process and played 20-minute videos of each finalist that included excerpts from the sermons each had preached during the Guest Preacher Series as well as the Q&As conducted with the candidates. Binders containing each resume, bio and statement of faith were set out on tables available for review at any time. The committee members added to this wealth of information by sharing their impressions and perspectives, including observations from visits to the candidates’ own churches.

This time, with a little less than 100 church members gathered in the fellowship hall, there were questions and comments. The committee members answered each one, even seemingly at times quoting a candidate word for word.

The Saturday activities began at 9 AM with voter registration for each member, 18 and older, who was in good standing as determined by the church constitution. The video packages were replayed, then each of the finalists, in alphabetical order, appeared during a town hall in the sanctuary. With between 100

and 125 members attending the sessions, a moderator posed the questions that had been submitted on Thursday and Friday.

It was almost time to vote. Interim Pastor Rev. James A. Crosson called the meeting to order in the fellowship hall and the attendees were polled to determine that a quorum—one-third of the 595 members in good standing—was present. Voting began at 5 PM in a precisely choreographed process, led by Shirley France, that employed electronic balloting as well as paper balloting.

With three strong finalists, a second ballot was required. With neither candidate obtaining the needed two-thirds majority, a third ballot was required. At 7:45 PM, Rev. Darryl D. Roberts was elected the new pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church to cheers from the room. ❖



Interim Pastor Rev. James A. Crosson with Rev. Dr. Darryl Roberts and Dr. Laura Morgan Roberts on July 24, 2016

Solar Installation Update

By Trustee Franklin L. Smith

Following your approval at the July business meeting, the Board of Trustees negotiated and signed a contract with Volt Energy to provide solar energy at our church. Additionally, our attorney granted approval of the language as printed in the agreement.

After doing further research on solar energy, we discovered some additional incentives provided by the DC Government for the use of renewable energy. The Trustees were then able to negotiate a more profitable financial return on our solar installation with Volt Energy. We are now in a position to take advantage of all the solar energy generated by the panels installed at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church at no cost to the

church. We are now able to double our potential savings from roughly \$8,000 to approximately \$16,000 per year. Additionally, the Board of Trustees is excited that we will still enjoy the opportunity to own the panels in twenty years, initiate a Green Ministry for the membership, and enjoy extended support and publicity from Volt Energy as we lead the way in reducing the carbon footprint in our city.

The Volt Energy agent informed us that they are now reviewing the structural drawings for the church. Upon completion of this review, they will commence with the official design of the panels and negotiations with Pepco to place Nineteenth Street Baptist Church on the electrical grid. The Trustees are still anticipating that we will have the panels installed by the end of this calendar year.

The Trustees ask for your continued prayers as we pursue this new venture and seek to be good stewards overseeing the resources you have entrusted to us. ❖



Save the Date

November 29, 2016
#GivingTuesday

Watch for more information from the Building Fund Committee on how you can support “Project Raise the Roof” on this Global Day of Giving.

Celebrating Stewardship

By Sybil Barbour

The second annual Stewardship Sunday was celebrated on October 23, using the theme “Abundant Grace” based on 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT):

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

The day marked the high point of a nearly month-long focus on stewardship presented by the Building Fund Committee. Inspirational testimonies, delivered by Cheryl Johnson, Trustee Charles Sprow, and Rev. Reginald Townsend on the Sundays leading up to Stewardship Sunday, helped add deeper meaning to the day. The day also included a special offering for “Project Raise the Roof.”

Our guest preacher for Stewardship Sunday was Rev. Roger C. Williams of the First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, NY (FBCGC). He and over 65 members of FBCGC shared in this special day, as they did last year. In his soul-stirring sermon, titled “Depend on God,” Rev. Williams reminded us to “turn it over to Jesus and he will work it out.”

The FBCGC choir filled the sanctuary with songs that warmed hearts and lifted spirits. And the Nineteenth Street’s congregation

and choir joyfully expressed their love for the musical praise. During their visit to Washington, members of FBCGC had the opportunity to tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



Guest preacher Rev. Roger Williams (center) with members of his congregation during visit to Nineteenth Street

Our Mass Choir, directed by Rhonda Glaudé, opened the special service with jubilant praise and worship. Following the worship service, Deaconess Hester Jones' culinary skills were showcased at a sumptuous reception in the Wyatt A. James Fellowship Hall.

The Building Fund Committee extends a deep appreciation to all who shared their time, talent, and treasure on the second annual Stewardship Sunday. ❖

Trustee and Building Fund Committee Chair, Donza M. Poole, contributed to this article.



Rev. James Crosson



Stewardship Sunday Co-Chair Sybil Barbour and Chair Ferlandia Townsend



Friendly servers and delicious food at reception

The Solid Rock

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister

In this season of Thanksgiving, brothers and sisters, we must never forget whose we are and how far He has brought us as a people.

Edward Mote, a Methodist preacher, wrote the lyrics to the hymn “The Solid Rock” in 1834. The hymn encourages us to trust in Jesus. The first stanza is as follows: “My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus name; On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.”



Why do you worry? We worry that we won’t have enough money; and when we have money, we worry that we won’t manage it well. We worry that someday we’ll learn that fat-free really doesn’t mean what it says. God’s message is: “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” for in due season, you will be blessed.

According to Acts 3:6-10, Peter and John encountered a crippled-beggar on their way to the temple. Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” The crippled man asked for money, but Peter gave him something much better—the use of his legs. We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. When we ask God for help, he may say, “I’ve got something even better for you.” Ask God for what you want, but don’t be surprised when he gives you what you need. “In the Name of Jesus Christ” means “by the authority of Jesus Christ.” In his excitement, the formerly crippled man began to jump and walk around. He also praised God! And then others were awed by God’s power. The apostles were doing this healing through the Holy Spirit’s power, not their own. They had a reliance on the rock-solid truth, grounded in the promise and founded in trust of the risen Jesus to save us from our sins.

Today, there are people all around us, who need to hear us speak the name of Jesus into their lives. They also need and want us to help them get to their feet spiritually, emotionally, physically and materially. It is your hand. The hand of the church, reaching out in love and compassion, with genuine help, not born of sympathy but of faith, will help them to stand without a crutch. ❖



By Virginia C. Lee

The Global Missions Ministry has long supported the people of Haiti with clothing drives and book drives for children. It was only natural for the ministry to join in with VillageMED, a nonprofit medical organization founded by women who recruit and deploy medical teams to care for children in distressed communities around the world. Their Healthy Child Project needed funds to build a medical clinic for children in Haiti.

Over a year ago Nancy Quincy, president and founder of VillageMed, brought the idea for Global Missions to be a part of this effort to the attention of Phillis Cooke, chair of the Global Missions Ministry. No convincing was necessary, and thus was born the first Haiti Walk 5K campaign. A committee of hardworking women sprang into action. Months of preparation, teambuilding and prompting by “Walktalks” made the inaugural event on Saturday, October 15 a date to remember.

It was more than just a walk in Rock Creek Park on a beautiful fall day. The Haiti Walk 5K drew 66 spirited walkers and 15 volunteers who braved the morning dawn to set up for the event. With the prayers and support of our church family and friends we achieved our goal, raising over \$15,500 thus far.

Special thanks to the team captain Andrea Bonhomme, who championed the walk in honor of her mother Velma J. Bonhomme and had over 30 family members and friends to participate. We also recognize those friends of Global Missions Ministry who walked with us in Austin, Texas.

We learned that a successful walkathon has many moving parts that must be coordinated. Global Missions Ministry is proud of our efforts to make this blessing happen. We look forward to seeing you in the crowd next year. ❖



Canary Islanders Visit Sunday School Class #14

By Abrielle Beaton Anderson

This fall we welcomed family friends of class member Abrielle Anderson to Sunday School Class # 14. Lili and Joshua Tomaic are from Lanzarote, the easternmost of the Canary Islands (Spain) in the Atlantic Ocean. Joshua is a freshman at the University of Maryland at College Park and a member of the Men's Basketball team.

Lili felt fortunate to spend four weeks here in the DC area visiting Joshua and getting a real feel for her son's new surroundings. While Joshua had previously visited the United States with his church and his basketball team, this was Lili's first trip to the States. Thanks to Monica Reeder's generosity, Lili had the opportunity to see Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Kennedy Center. Before Lili returned to Lanzarote, she and Joshua also traveled to North Carolina to visit a dear friend.

Joshua and Lili added rich perspectives to our Sunday School discussions and we look forward to having them visit with us again. ❖



Wanted: Volunteers for The Epistle!

The Epistle is looking for volunteers to help generate, write and edit stories each month. This is a great way to meet and connect with other church members and be involved with the work of the church. It is also very rewarding to see the results of your efforts every month and know you are helping to improve communications to and within our church family.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact Karen Williamson at 202-829-5973 or williamsonke@gmail.com.



Nineteenth Street's Deacons and Deacons in Training



Trustee Emerson Bretous leads info session about the pastoral search process.



Guest preacher Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Metropolitan Baptist Church, on October 9

Manhood Training Ministry Welcomes New Participants

The Manhood Training Ministry is celebrating a decade of 'coaching' the boys in our congregation and community. Our team themed ministry seeks to mentor our boys (Young Men in Training) regardless of their ages. Our mentors coach the young men through bible study, prayer and varied competitions that include public speaking, black history facts, current events discussion, and challenging team-building activities.

Approximately ten YMIT participate in the ministry each year from September through June, mirroring the school year. We meet for two hours in the fellowship hall on alternating Friday evenings, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Here are the dates for the Manhood Training Ministry for the next three months.

November 4

November 18

December 2

December 16

December 30

January 13

January 27

Young men are still welcome to join the Manhood Training Ministry for this year. Please contact Deacon Fred Leftrict or Deacon Howard S. Smith for more information about participating or volunteering.

You can email Deacon Smith at howardsmith@everyblessing.org or call him at 202-882-1444 (home) or 202-829-2773 (church office).

November Youth Calendar

Church School: November 6, 13, 20, 27

Youth Church: November 6, 13
Theme "Know Yourself and Know Your Call"

God's Daughters: November 18

Manhood Training: November 4, 18

November 6

Fall
BACK
one
hour



Calendar

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 8 – Election Day

Friday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day Holiday, Church Office closed

Sunday, November 13 – Christian Mite Sunday

Saturday, November 19 – Vitas Healthcare Annual Community Memorial Service, 11 AM–1:30 PM

Sunday, November 20 – Ordination Service for Minister Christopher Crawford and Minister Lorise White Wolfe, 3 PM

Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day Worship Service, 10 AM

Friday, November 25 – Church Office Closed/Food Pantry closed

Tuesday, November 29 – #Giving Tuesday, Global Day of Giving

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 10 – Progressive Adults Theater Outing, *Carousel*, Arena Stage, 2 PM

Sunday, December 11 – Church School Devotions, Lighting of the Christmas Tree and Annual Family Holiday Breakfast, 8:45 AM

Sunday, December 11 – Missionary Society Annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive

Sunday, December 11 – Building Fund Committee Christmas Bazaar, 12:30 PM

Friday, December 16 – Music Ministry Candlelight Concert, 7:15–8:45 PM

Sunday, December 18 – Church School Christmas Program, 8:45 AM

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve, Church Office closed

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship Service, 10 AM

Monday, December 26 – Christmas Day Holiday, Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve Watch Night Service and Fellowship Meal with Zion Baptist Church, at Nineteenth Street