



THE EPISTLE

*Newsletter of the
Nineteenth Street Baptist Church*

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



Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

4606 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011
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www.everyblessing.org

Ministerial Staff

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

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



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

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

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

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

The Epistle

is an official publication of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

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- Deaconess Gloria Tisdale

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Questions?

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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. We were organized as the First Colored Baptist Church of Washington, DC 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.)

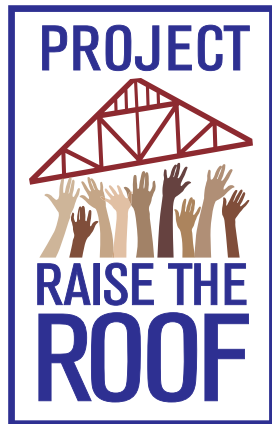
Today we stand at a crossroad like those saints of old who purchased the building and organized the First Colored Church of Washington in 1839.

Our crossroad is the election of a new senior pastor. We realize that we have embarked on a kingdom-focused journey that will be of enormous importance to the life of our congregation for years to come. The benefit of prayer by the whole church gives each member a sense of ownership of the selection process. Our hope and belief is that we will be obedient to the guidance of the Spirit as together we seek a new senior pastor to minister to us. We will gather next month to select the person God wants to guide His flock. We honor and value the work of the Pulpit Search Committee. Their final work can only be accomplished if we seek God’s will as we vote.

Let us pray, “Dear Lord, fill us with the knowledge of God’s will. Prepare our hearts and minds to let Your will be done as we vote.” ❖



SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, October 23, 2016

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

A special day to support
"Project Raise the Roof"
and
Celebrate Stewardship

Presented by
The Building Fund Committee

Guest Preachers Visit Nineteenth Street



*Deacon Sandra LeSesne, Carolyn Wilson,
and Rev. Dr. Lora F. Hargrove on July 10*



*Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts, JD and wife with
Rev. James Crosson on July 24*



Rev. Hodari Kenneth Hamilton on August 21



Rev. E. L. Taylor, Ph.D. on August 28

The Teacher Called Experience

The knowledge we gain from the teacher called Experience is hard to forget and the most valuable kind of learning. The trouble is that the teacher called Experience gives us the test first and the lesson we needed to learn *after* the test.

Trustees Launch New Column

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

Welcome to Trustee Talk, your source for activities and insights of the Board of Trustees.

We're excited about this new column, because it will let us connect with the congregation more often than just at the quarterly business meetings.

Watch this space for news on church management, current and upcoming projects, and how the Board works to manage your contributions for the good of the Church, its mission, and the glory of God.

We also want to hear from you. Send your comments and questions to Trustee Board Chair Robert McNair at rmstat45@comcast.net or me at dmpoole@every-blessing.org. We'll do our best to respond.

Now, let's get started with six tips to good credit..., church credit, that is. ❖

Six Tips for Receiving Proper Credit for Your Tithes, Offerings, and Other Contributions

Follow these six tips to ensure your offering is properly credited to you and to facilitate the church's record keeping.

- 1. Use an offering envelope for your donation**, either the personalized envelopes mailed to you or the general envelopes in the pews. The Church retains these envelopes for its record of your contribution.
- 2. Write your membership number on all donations**, especially, on the envelope, to help ensure the donation is properly credited to your name.
- 3. Be specific when making a donation to "Other"** by identifying the intended ministry (e.g., Raise the Roof, Homeless Ministry, or Benevolence) on the "Other" line.
- 4. Sign and date your check.** Be sure the check is dated within the last six months. The bank will return a check with a missing signature or date or one that is older than six months. The Church incurs bank fees for returned checks.
- 5. Make sure the payment amounts match.** The bank will return a check when the dollar figure and the written amount don't match. The Church also incurs bank fees for these returned checks.
- 6. Give your offering during the collection period.** Sometimes, we receive offering envelopes after the count has been completed. While your offering will always be gratefully received, submission after the count may delay crediting of that contribution to your name.

Nineteenth Street to Try Solar Energy

By Trustee Franklin Smith

At the July 2016 church business meeting, church members voted to accept the Trustees' recommendation to enter into a contract with Volt Energy, a nationally-recognized solar energy company, to install solar panels on the roof.

Trustees reviewed proposals from solar energy companies for four months to assess how using an alternative energy source could reduce the energy costs at our Church. Currently, we spend over \$48,000 per year for electricity, and costs are expected to increase five percent annually. Based on our study, the Trustees determined that use of solar energy could reduce our energy costs by about \$8,000 per year for the first 15 years.

In addition to significant cost savings, here are additional factors that influenced the Trustees' recommendation to contract with Volt for solar energy:

- We can install solar panels with no upfront cost.
- We can be one of the community leaders in greenhouse gas reduction.
- We can reduce the five percent anticipated annual electricity cost increase.
- We can generate approximately 40 percent of our electricity with solar energy at a guaranteed rate of \$0.0800/kwh for the first 15 years.
- After the first 15 years, the Church would accrue a cumulative savings of \$204,666.
- Over a 25-year period, the Church would accrue a cumulative savings of \$652,007.

Volt Energy, a minority owned company, has installed solar panels locally and nationally on prominent government, school, church and other building types. Volt Energy has been recognized by national magazines and newspapers. In July, Volt's co-founder was honored by the White House with the Champions of Change for Climate Equity Award.

Although normally a six-month process from approval to installation, Volt Energy has assured us they will use their resources to speed up the process. In addition to the opportunity to save substantially on the energy cost at Nineteenth Street, Volt Energy has also agreed to invest in helping us establish a Greenhouse Ministry for the benefit of our members and as a community outreach program.

The Trustees appreciate the trust the membership has in us. As stewards of the Church's finances, we will continue to seek ways to use our funds as economically and prudently as possible in ways that will be pleasing to His glory and in the best interest of our Church. ❖



Guest Preacher Series Includes Church Son

By Deaconess Gloria Tisdale

Rev. Walter Jackson III, a son of our Church, preached during the morning worship service on July 31 as a part of our Guest Preachers Series. Rev. Jackson, the son of Deacon Emeritus Walter Jackson Jr., was joined by his sister Cynthia Swann and their cousins for the occasion. All of them grew up at Nineteenth Street. The five older cousins worshiped at the

Church when it was located at 19th and I Streets NW. Rev. Jackson expressed surprise and joy upon seeing his mentor Rev. Jerry A. Moore Jr. in the congregation. Rev. Jackson proclaimed that he was the last person Rev. Moore ordained while he was Nineteenth Street's Senior Pastor. What a wonderful joy to have this son of the Church return. ❖



Seated: Cynthia Swann with McKenzie Sharps (in lap) and Rev. Walter Jackson III

Standing from left to right: Teona Drumgold (mother of McKenzie), sisters Ora Drew, DeLyse Slayton and Karen Sydney-Drumgold



Rev. Walter Jackson III, Pastor Emeritus Rev. Jerry A. Moore Jr. and Cynthia Swann



Interim Pastor Rev. James A. Crosson Jr. with Rev. Walter Jackson III

Love Pal Shows

This year's theater schedule includes the following performances:

Friday, October 14, 2016

Manhattan Transfer & Take 6

Strathmore Music Hall, 8 PM

Cost - \$100

Saturday, December 10, 2016

Carousel

Arena Stage, 2 PM

Cost - \$70

Saturday, February 11, 2017

Watch on the Rhine

Arena Stage, 2 PM

Cost - \$65

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Twisted Melody:

The Donny Hathaway Story

Center Stage (Baltimore), 2 PM

Cost - \$55

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Jazz of Toni Morrison

Center Stage (Baltimore), 2 PM

Cost - \$55

New Shows Announced to Support Love Pal Program

By Virginia C. Lee

The Love Pal program was established a quarter century ago as the outreach ministry for the Progressive Adults. To maintain a church connection with our high school graduates pursuing further education, Progressive Adults members serve as mentors to their Love Pals. This relationship also includes sending the Love Pals quarterly stipends from the Progressive Adults.

Our current Love Pals roster includes 16 students who receive a \$100 stipend each quarter. The students tell us that they have come to depend on the generosity of our church family. Funding for the Love Pal awards comes from direct donations and from money earned by the much-celebrated theater outings hosted by the Progressive Adults. Over the years, the Progressive Adults have brought the best in local playhouses to its patrons.

Tickets are now available in the fellowship hall for the October 21, 2016 performance. Bus transportation from the Church can be reserved for all performances.

We wish to thank the church family for its past support of our theater schedule and hope you will save the dates and plan to join us in the coming year. We also remind all eligible high school graduates to pick up 2017 Love Pal applications, which are available in the church office. ❖

Korean Seminarians Volunteer at DC Youth Services

By Rev. J. Siafa Johnson

Seventeen Buddhist seminarians from Korea visited the DC Youth Services Center on July 4 to meet with young men in the Justice for Juniors program. The seminarians substituted for college and community volunteers who took a break for the holiday.

With two exceptions, the Buddhist seminarians were Youngsan University students studying to serve as Won Buddhist monks. Rather than read and discuss a general article on ethics and analyze ethical implications, the seminarians and juveniles sat in a large circle. The conversation began with general questions about expectations. Juveniles asked, “Do all of you know

karate?” Seminarians asked, “Do all of you know how to play basketball very well?”

By the end of the session, juveniles had demonstrated their break dancing skills and seminarians demonstrated their karate moves. Juveniles wondered if they had had the daily Korean family and community structures, would they be in detention. Seminarians also spoke about the need for balance between Korean family expectations (especially the relentless persistence to succeed) and the students’ personal choices.

Justice for Juniors is a Baptist Chaplaincy ministry designed to reduce juvenile recidivism. Last year, approximately 260 college students from Catholic University, George Washington University and the University of Maryland signed up as Justice for Juniors volunteers. Approximately 50 juvenile delinquents were tutored and mentored weekly. ❖



Rev. J. Siafa Johnson is a member of Nineteenth Street and is active with our campus ministry outreach program. He serves as the Luther Rice Baptist Chaplain at George Washington University and coordinates the Justice for Juniors program.

Rev. Johnson invites members of Nineteenth Street to learn more about this ministry. Volunteers visit the DC Juvenile Jail on Mondays from 6 PM to 8:00 PM. On Sundays, from 10 AM to noon, juvenile residents from two local juvenile justice shelters are brought for mentoring and informal chapel services at the GW Marvin Center. On Sunday afternoons from 3 PM to 6 PM, juveniles on probation or those referred by the Juvenile Courts are transported to the University of Maryland Hillel Center during the academic year for academic tutoring, mentoring and faith formation chapel services. For more information, contact Rev. J. Siafa Johnson.

Thinking Out the Hatbox Helps Project Raise the Roof

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

Hats were trending in the fellowship hall on July 31 at the Summer Hat Sale & Social, held to benefit Project Raise the Roof. Hats of all shapes and sizes, plus baseball caps, were on display and available for purchase.

Not simply a hat sale, it was a hat experience. Church members were encouraged to wear their own summer hats that day, and a photo booth was set up for people to make their own hat memory. Photographer and Deacon-in Training Deborah Crain Kemp, with assistance from Violetta Graham, saw nonstop action at the booth. Those photographed left the event with a complimentary photo and priceless memory.

The featured hats were donated by the late Trustee Emerita Ursula Holmes to support the Project Raise the Roof fundraiser. The collection of over 60 pieces is a testament to the role of hats in the black church. In honor of Trustee Emerita Holmes, and to reflect the quality and styling of the hats, the Building Fund Committee is treating the donation as a collection and has named it the Holmes Heritage Hat Collection. The collection was introduced last year during the Project Raise the Roof Christmas Bazaar.

The Building Fund Committee is grateful to hat enthusiast Joyce Pascal-Kilgore, who is helping to coordinate the hat project and make it an out-of-the-“hatbox” experience. Many thanks also to all of the volunteers who helped make the Summer Hat Sale & Social a success. ❖





Minister of Music David Griffiths was feted by his wife Monique and choir members at a birthday party to celebrate his 50th birthday on July 13.



Church School Students Receive Awards for Attendance

Youth awardees: Jack Anderson, Gerald Young II (Jay), Kalyl Young, Kinsley Beckham, Abbott Anderson. Booker Memorial members: Joann Jacobs, Yvonne Gowdy, Delyse Slayton, Evelyn Sellers, Wendy Morris, and Gloria Morris

New Members

July-August 2016

Sister Anika Cooper

Brother Micah Cooper

Brother Noah Cooper

Brother Patrick Cooper

Sister Delilah Henry

Brother Demetrius Jordan Sr.

Brother Gerald Young II

Brother Kalyl Young



Gerald Young II at his baptism on August 28



Delilah Henry



Patrick Cooper, Anika Cooper, Noah Cooper, Micah Cooper, and Kalyl Young



Demetrius Jordan Sr.



Photographer "extraordinaire" Deacon in Training Deborah Crain Kemp is captured while she mans the photo booth at the Summer Hat Sale & Social on July 31.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day Holiday

Saturday, September 17 – Leadership Workshop for Joint Boards
(Preachers, Deacons, Deaconesses & Trustees), 10 AM – 2 PM

Sunday, September 18 – New Members Sunday

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1 – Evangelism Committee Annual Prayer Breakfast, 8:30 AM

Sunday, October 9 – Jarvis Memorial Annual Concert, 4 PM

Monday, October 10 – Columbus Day Holiday

Friday, October 14 – Progressive Adults Theater Outing, Strathmore Music Center, 8 PM

Saturday, October 15 – Global Missions 5K Haiti Walk

Sunday, October 16 – Deaconesses Annual Family Dinner, 1 PM

THE CALL WEEKEND – Election of New Senior Pastor

Thursday, October 20 – Prayer Meeting, 6:30 PM

Thursday, October 20 – Special Call Business Meeting, 7:30 PM

Friday, October 21 – Presentation of Final Candidates

Saturday, October 22 – Presentation of Final Candidates and Voting for New Senior Pastor

Sunday, October 23 – Stewardship Sunday, Building Fund Committee

Friday, October 28 – Church Business Meeting, 7 PM

Sunday, October 30 – Homecoming Sunday

