



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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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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Questions?

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Channels of Blessings

By Rev. Reginald Townsend, Associate Minister



Many years ago the song writer Harper G. Smith wrote the hymn, “Make Me a Channel of Blessings.” The hymn is a reminder that our life is a mirror before the eyes of the world. We are to be channels of blessings and inspire others to focus on Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

The hymnologist asks, “Is your life a channel of blessings? Is the love of God flowing through you? Are you telling the lost of the Savior? Are you ready His service to do?” The refrain is, “Make me a channel of blessings today, make me a channel of blessings, I pray.”

Our fortitude and faith in times of trials can encourage others. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 8:35, 37, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble of hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all of these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

God may allow trials to assail His people, but by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched. Their example may be a source of strength to others. You may

presently be going through some painful trial. God may be using your testimony to provide strength and encouragement to others in worse situations than yours.

The good deeds that we perform are twice a blessing, benefitting both the giver and the receiver of the kindness. You can be a blessing to others by speaking kind words, volunteering in your community, giving money to charity, sharing things, giving food and clothing, sharing your testimony, praying for someone in need, or listening to someone.

Our lives should resemble channels, not reservoirs. A reservoir stores water; a channel distributes it. God wants us to be channels of blessings to others. The church is the channel of God’s blessings through its work and ministries. As a Christian, you are a member of the church.

You have the truth about life and death and abundant life. You have the truth about God, Christ, sin and forgiveness, and the world to come. You have it, and you dispense it through your words and deeds.

By giving to others we testify to God’s love for them, and we point them to the greatest gift of all—God’s gift of His Son for our salvation. ❖

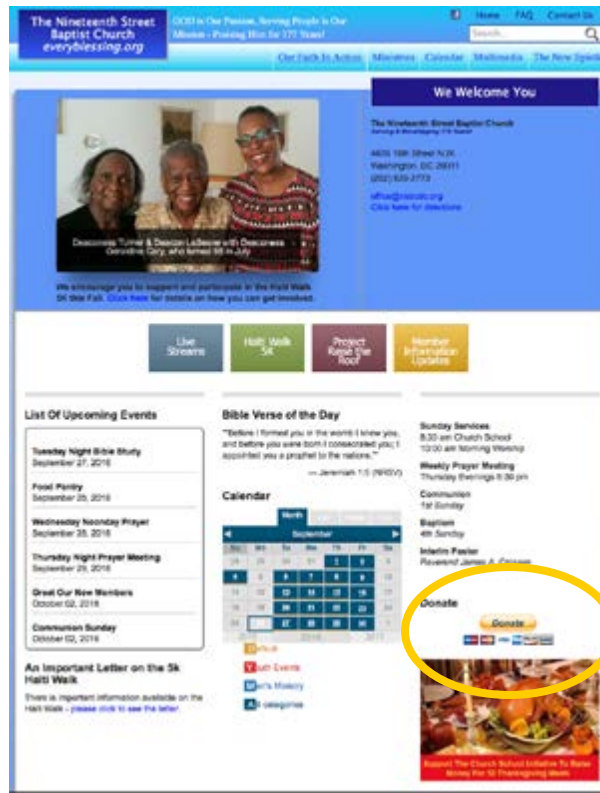
The Digital Collection Plate – Another Way to Give

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

Technology has brought many changes to our lives, including to our church lives. Our Sunday morning worship service can be viewed live every week over the internet. The Bible is just a click away on our cell phones and tablets. We can find out what is happening at church, even when we are not there, by visiting the church's website, www.everyblessing.org, where Nineteenth Street Baptist Church is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is home to the church newsletter, the new *Epistle*.

The church website is also where you can go to give your tithes and offerings online—to place your digital offering in what some have called the digital collection plate.

I have known about the church's online giving option for years. But like many, I had never given to the church online. I had not taken the time to figure it out until a few years ago when I wanted to give, but was out of town. That is when I visited our church website and



experienced just how quick and easy online giving can be.

Online giving is one of the several ways you can give your tithes and offerings to the church, in addition to placing them in the offering plate at church or sending them in by mail. With fewer people

carrying checkbooks or much cash on them, giving online can be a convenient way to give, even when you are at church. You can give online at the Church's website using a credit card or a PayPal account.

If you would like to try online giving, visit the Church website at www.everyblessing.org and look for the yellow "Donate" button near the bottom right side of the home page. Click on the Donate button and follow the prompts. It really is quick and easy. ❖



Spotlight on Church Clerk Sageta Jackson

By Deborah Heard

During church business meetings, Deaconess Sageta Jackson can be found front and center taking notes as the Church Clerk. It is one of several responsibilities she fulfills at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. She is a Deaconess, singer in the choir, member of the Global Missions Ministry and member of the Building Fund Committee and its Project Raise the Roof campaign.

The church clerk, an elected position defined in the church constitution, is responsible for “keeping accurate minutes of the business proceedings,” as well as maintaining election records, creating documents and preserving information concerning the life of the church. She also writes and sends letters to and on behalf of members of the congregation. Or, to use Deaconess Jackson’s words, the job of the clerk “is to serve the congregation” and be “sensitive to the needs of the congregation.”

It is a job she has held for about 10 years, using her writing skills and her crisp diction to keep the church informed. In addition to the more visible activities of the clerk, she provides personalized service to members of the congregation. “I interact with them during happy times and during bereavement,” she said. “It’s extremely important

to listen, to try to understand what they’re going through. ... At times, I write thank you notes for them. At times, I’m asked to write the obituary.” She interviews family members and listens closely so she can write an obituary that brings comfort to the family and correctly conveys a loved one’s life.

“I consider it an honor,” she said. “It is something I feel I’ve been called to do.”



Thinking back about her life, she realized that she had an early inspiration as church clerk. “My mother was the church clerk. I’d forgotten all about that... She was a good role model.”

Deaconess Jackson majored in communication at California State University - Fullerton and became a speech pathologist. She also was newsletter editor and writer, and she taught as a speech pathologist in the public schools in Placentia, California.

She arrived at Nineteenth Street in 1983 after her husband, Rudy G. Jackson, was told about the church by one of his co-workers in the State Department. Shortly thereafter, however, his job took them to Germany. They continued to worship here when they weren’t on various overseas assignments.

continued on next page

Those assignments in the diplomatic community provided opportunities for Deaconess Jackson to hone her record keeping and letter writing skills. At one time, she was called upon to be the American community liaison for the American ambassador in Greece, writing letters on his behalf.

“I never expected to do as much writing as I’ve done,” she said. “God was preparing me for this.”

Deaconess Jackson has been a deaconess since 2007, and serves as the financial secretary for the Board of Deaconesses. As in her role as clerk, she places great emphasis on the importance of being sensitive to the needs of the congregation. To serve.

“We visit the sick and shut in. We provide solace and love. We provide spiritual inspiration. We do it with a smile and much love,” she said. For example, during Lenten season, the deaconesses, in collaboration with the deacons, deliver dinners to the sick and shut-in. Sometimes that means long drives but “we don’t miss anyone,” she said. “It’s always a blessing, not a hardship, to give love to our sick and shut-in and anyone else who needs it.”

“I feel like God has called me to serve,” she said. “It’s been a joy.” ❖

Leadership Meeting

On Saturday, September 17, preachers, deacons, deaconesses and trustees of Nineteenth Street participated in a Leadership Workshop. Shown are Rev. Robin Turner, Deacon Sandra LeSesne, Deacon Jessie McCrae, Deaconess Elizabeth Banks, Deacon in Training RJ Parker, Deacon Howard Smith, and Trustee Charles Sprow. ❖



Guest Preachers



Left: Pastor Tyrone P. Jones, IV of First Baptist Church of Guilford with Interim Pastor James Crosson on September 25.

Right: Rev. Wallis C. Baxter, III of Zion Baptist Church on September 11.



Love Pals: Where Are They Now?

By Katy Elise Turner

Even though it has been several years since I graduated from Howard University, I still am most grateful for the “Love Pal” program. There is nothing like having prayerful support, not only from your family, but also from your home church and Christian community—even if you are studying locally. As I dealt with the stress and demands of an academically rigorous program, I remember how my Love Pal, Ms. Evelyn Sellers would check in with her thoughtful notes, phone calls—and, yes, the Progressive Adults’ generous gifts. As a student, I knew I was welcome to call her if I ever needed to chat. I especially enjoyed getting together with her for lunch and learning more about her journey, as well.

My Love Pal was and is a wonderful mentor to this day. She is a cheerleader who has given me professional counsel and who truly celebrates my accomplishments and efforts even now in my continued spiritual growth, my progress in graduate studies and on the job. As an Assortment Manager on the allocations team at Foot Locker’s New York City corporate headquarters, I am also responsible for analyzing trends in the athletic portion of the fashion industry. In recent years, I have enjoyed mentoring other students through a professional association and at the church where I worship in New York.

I may now be living, working and studying in New York, but I never feel far

from home because I draw on the love, strength and guidance of my family, Ms. Sellers and other Godly mentors who have helped me to stay grounded and grateful. I feel blessed and pray others will benefit from this ministry and find ways to give back as well. ❖

Former Love Pal Katy Elise Turner graduated from Howard University in 2012, with a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising with a concentration in business marketing. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with Footlocker at their corporate headquarters in New York City. She was recently promoted and is now responsible for a team of three merchandisers on the Foot Locker women’s footwear and Lady Foot Locker footwear team. Katy is the daughter of the Associate Ministers, Reverend Robin and Edward Turner.

- Evelyn Sellers





Bonner Family Helps Open New Museum of African American History

Four generations of the Bonner Family participated in the grand opening celebration of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Mrs. Ruth Odom Bonner, 99 years young and daughter of a slave, with her son our own Deacon Michael Bonner, grandson Michael, and great granddaughter Christine helped President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama ring the historic First Baptist Church Bell that signaled the opening of the museum.

Family members present at the festivities included: Front Row: David Bonner Forston, Ruth Odom Bonner, Christine Bonner, Rukiya Bonner, Sekai Bonner-Flagg. Second Row: Michael VF

Bonner, Wilma Bonner, President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Kerri Bonner (partially hidden), Michael V Bonner, Junious Woodrick (hidden).

The Bonner Family are not the only members of Nineteenth Street involved with the new museum. Several church members have been working on the new museum for years, and others have been trained as docents and for other volunteer roles. In future issues, the Epistle will spotlight Nineteenth Street members who were involved as well as publish articles from members who visit the museum and are touched by what they experience. Please share your stories and photos with us at epistle@everyblessing.org. Thanks, The Editor. ❖

My Incredible Trip to the 2016 Olympics

By Dorean K. Collins

I had an amazing opportunity to travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games with an organization called Community Collaborations. I, along with 50 other college students and recent grads, participated in the Rio L.I.V.E Olympic Project, a community service project that took place in the heart of Rio de Janeiro's favelas (slums).

As a team we painted murals to add pops of color to houses in Rocinha, the largest favela in Brazil. We worked on a gardening project to ensure that residents had access to fresh produce. My favorite project was building a playground for children in the Pavão-Pavãozinho favela. We turned an old area that was

discarded with overgrown weeds and trash, and transformed it into a space where neighborhood children could play!

Not only was I able to do community service but I also had the chance to see the Final Five gymnastics team compete. I witnessed incredible speed on both land and water by Olympic Gold Medalists, Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps. I cheered alongside my fellow Americans at the USA vs. Australia basketball game and danced with Brazilians during a beach volleyball match.

This incredible trip would not have been possible without your support. I had the opportunity to experience the 2016 Summer Olympic Games and touch lives in the favela communities, as well as be touched by the warmth and joy of Brazilians! ❖



Dorean Collins graduated in May 2016 from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she double-majored in Portuguese/Brazilian Studies and Sociology and also earned a certificate in International Relations. She is pursuing a career in media. Dorean and her parents, William Collins and Tanya Agurs-Collins, are long-time members of Nineteenth Street.

Summarizing the Book of Isaiah through Haiku

by Members of Sunday School Class #14

Thus says the Lord of Hosts
Heaven is my mighty throne
I am your one God.

by Sunday School Class #14

Listen closely now
No, really hear what I say,
There's only one God.

by Abrielle Anderson

God, my salvation
I will trust, not be afraid
Give thanks to the Lord.

by Patricia Andrewn

Those steeped in the Lord
They will soar on wings like eagles
Will walk and not faint.

by Patricia Andrewn

Profound are His words
Beyond our grasps are His ways
Praise the Great I Am.

by Wilma Bonner

He spoke—but few heard
The words of God—straight from Him
We now comprehend.

by Gary Datcher

Salvation for all
Isaiah taught the people
Believe and be saved.

by Augustus Hollowonger & Wilma Bonner

A savior will come
He will be beaten and killed
Through His death we'll live.

by Augustus Hollowonger & Wilma Bonner

Come here and listen
If you will only obey
I can remove sins.

by Laurice P. Juggins

Tho' despised by all
Jesus ransomed everyone
Praise God for His gift!

by E. Louise White

Thus saith our God
Spoke the prophet Isaiah
Love one another.

by E. Louise White

More poetry continued on the next page.



Other Forms of Poetry

There is a book in the Bible
That tells us all we must know
When you read it, you will tremble
As the might, love and wrath of God
shows.

The whole story of fallen man
Through disobedience and rebellion
Is separated from God's protective hand
And follows man's path to destruction.

Hear the Good News, Isaiah shouts
God has devised a golden plan.
His son will come as a plant that sprouts
And reconcile fallen man.

Obedience is what God asks
Walk in His ways and be upright.
For redemption to live with Him
In all God's majesty and might.

by Mildeen Worrell

Oh! The glory of Isaiah 40
That lifts and strengthens us.
When we are weak, He is strong
Trusting Him is never wrong.
His understanding is searchable
Spread your wings like eagles.
Run, run for Him and don't get weary
He's always right near you.

by Maureen Young

Congratulations!



Deacon Yvonne Dickson, on the birth of her great-granddaughter Nile Emery McKinny, born on September 24, 2016 at Oklahoma City Medical Center.

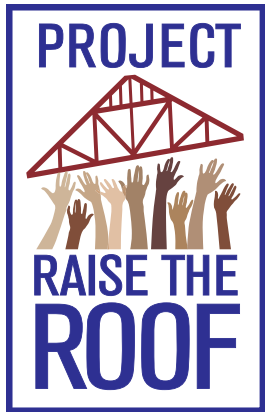
Nile is the daughter of Dr. Jeri Baucum-McKinny, who grew up in Nineteenth Street, and Dr. Kibwei McKinny. Nile is Deacon Dickson's seventh great grandchild.



Trustee William and Karen Quander on the birth of their first grandchild, Zariah Milanii Johnson, born June 20, 2016.

Wanted: Assistant Editor for Epistle!

The Epistle is looking for an Assistant Editor to help generate, write and edit stories for the monthly issues. This position offers 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. ❖



Stewardship Sunday to be Celebrated October 23

By Trustee Donza M. Poole

Join the Building Fund Committee on Sunday, October 23, as we celebrate our second annual Stewardship Sunday. The theme for this year's observance is "Abundant Grace," based on 2 Corinthians 9:8.

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Cor. 9:8 (NLT)

Ferlandia Townsend, chair of this year's Stewardship Sunday Subcommittee, along with Sybil Barbour, co-chair, are planning a glorious Stewardship Sunday as well as a month-long focus on stewardship and the theme of God's abundant grace.

Rev. Roger C. Williams, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, New York, will return as the guest preacher for the occasion. He will be joined by over 60 members of First Baptist who will fellowship with our congregation. ❖

Support the Inaugural 5K Walk for Haiti!



Global Missions Ministry seeks your support and participation in the Inaugural Haiti 5K Walk to benefit VillageMed. It will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at Carter Barron. Activities begin at 7:30 AM and are scheduled to last until noon.

Be a walker, donor, supporter, volunteer or spectator. Let this be a great way to fellowship together as a church. Visit haitiwalk5k.org and join in the fun. No donation is too small to help the children of Haiti. ❖

Pulpit Search Committee to Hold Information Session

The Pulpit Search Committee will be holding a one-hour meeting following church service on Sunday, October 9, 2016. The purpose of the session is to answer any questions regarding the Call Weekend.

See the calendar on page 13 for the schedule of activities during the Call Weekend, Thursday, October 20 through Saturday, October 22. ❖

SAVE THE DATE

**Vitas Healthcare Annual
Community Memorial Service**

November 19, 2016
11 AM - 1:30 PM

Sponsored by
The Comfort and Care Ministry

Calendar

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1 – Evangelism Committee Annual Prayer Breakfast, 8:30 AM
Guest Speaker: Rev. Laurence Dash, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

Sunday, October 2 – God’s Daughters Meet and Greet, following worship service

Sunday, October 9 – Pulpit Search Committee Information Session, 12:30

Sunday, October 9 – Jarvis Memorial Club 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 Walk for Haiti, Carter Barron Park, 7:30 AM - Noon

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 – Information Session and Presentation of Final Candidates, 6:00 PM

Saturday, October 22 – Information Session/Virtual Town Halls with Candidates, 9 AM – 4:30 PM

Saturday, October 22 – Voting Begins for New Senior Pastor. 5 PM

Sunday, October 23 – Guest Preacher Rev. Roger C. Williams, First Baptist Church of Glen Cove

Friday, October 28 – Church Business Meeting, 7 PM

Sunday, October 30 – Homecoming Sunday

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day Holiday

Sunday, November 13 – Christian Mite Sunday

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

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