

First



Word

March 2013

A Monthly Publication of the First Baptist Church

FROM THE PASTOR

Our 150th Anniversary year is moving fast. Let me first thank each of you for making your contribution to the Anniversary celebration early. Many of you gave the anticipated \$150. Others are giving on a plan. Total gratitude to every one of you!

We are proud of the success of the Pastor Shirley Caesar Concert held at the Lincoln Theatre on Saturday, February 24. What a glorious celebration! The event served to lift up our work in the community, with particular emphasis on our Senior Center. The outstanding support of our members was truly overwhelming. Our Choir is commended for its sacrificial service and gift of love. Gratitude is also extended to the University of Maryland Gospel Choir for their generous participation. We thank all of the Sponsors of the Concert for their tremendous generosity.

We concluded our February Black History Month with the Afro-centric Celebration on the Fourth Sunday featuring Dr. Alton B. Pollard, Dean of the Howard University Divinity School. Our Combined Choirs provided the music. Our First Baptist Church family was wonderfully supportive and beautifully attired. To God be the Glory!

We are extremely proud of our newly formed Young Adult Choir as they anchor our Fourth Sunday 10:50 A.M. Worship Service. We are appealing to all young adults to support this special worship with leadership and service. Sisters Joi Anderson and Ashley Burton need your help in developing the total young adult ministry. Many activities and opportunities for talent contributions are being planned.

On Sunday, March 17, 2013, we have our Officers Day at the 10:50 A.M. Worship Service. This service is a part of our 150-Year Celebration. Our guest preacher is the Rev. Dr. John M. Alexander, Jr., Pastor of the St. Johns United Baptist Church. We need all of our members to support our officers as we celebrate together. All deacons, trustees, deaconess and associates are expected to be present.

March not only ushers in spring but also the Holy Season of Easter. The fourth Sunday in March is Palm Sunday. Let us plan now to worship and praise the King of Kings. On Friday, March 29, 2013 at 12 noon, we will celebrate Good Friday Service. The messages will be based on the "Saying from the Cross." This annual service is always a special blessing. If you appreciate what God has done for us on the cross, you don't want to miss that service.

Our Easter Sunrise Service will be held on March 31, 2013 at 6:00 A.M. The special program will feature music, dance, and scripture. Following the Sunrise Service, we will serve breakfast at 7:00 A.M. Our Easter Services will be held at the regular 7:50 and 10:50 A.M. Worship Services. Come let us worship God together.

Finally, let me appeal to you to be faithful in your tithes and offerings. I will talk soon with you about our stewardship. "To whom much is given much is required." The abundance of God's grace requires my all. How much do you owe God?





CHOOSING THE HIGH ROAD DURING BAD TIMES



By Brother Kevin Shamblee

Making good choices during difficult times may prove to be tough for some. For others, despite many obstacles, setbacks or mistakes, the right road is the only direction to take. Take for instance the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob and Rachel, who was sold by his brothers into slavery. He became a prisoner and eventually a high political official under Pharaoh in Egypt. As his story continued those same brothers later came to Egypt and received his help during a time of famine in Canaan. Joseph chose the high road during very bad times. Under the direction and protection of Joseph, all of Jacob's offspring and servants multiplied and prospered during a significant famine season.

As four hundred years have transpired in our text from the Book of Exodus, other heroes are catapulted into the forefront. These new stars of the story are the midwives. In Old Testament times, the midwives helped women during childbirth, as well as until the mothers became strong enough to care for their child on their own. This story of Joseph's success and Jacob's offspring changes to one of despair. Pharaoh wanted to kill Jacob's offspring. He wanted the midwives to do his dirty work. The women who chose the high road of helping to deliver babies were now asked to destroy all of the newborn boys. It seems as though there are often people who make it very tough for us to choose the high road. When we try to do the right thing and prosper, there are always others who wish to destroy our success. There are others who are banking on us to give up and fall into a life of sin. It seems there is always opposition to the plan of God in our lives.

How and when do we decline the request of others

when it conflicts with our belief in what God wants for us to do? This is a tough question to answer, especially, when the conflict is with those in authority (i.e. bosses). The conflict is even greater when those closest to us or our peers are in opposition to what God wants us to do. Just imagine the pressure the midwives felt as they defied the commands of Pharaoh. The answer is always best pursued when we take the high road. This road is always difficult, especially in tough times.

Having said that, a greater question learned from the heroism of the midwives is "How do we stop the pressures or passions of life from altering our commitments to God?" From the story of the midwives, three answers come to mind.

These include:

- (1) our faith in God;*
- (2) our remembrance that pressure only makes us stronger and;*
- (3) the assurance that God will deal well with us, while we travel on the high road of His will.*

Faith is demonstrated because the midwives feared God and chose the high road. Pressure is demonstrated because the babies multiplied in spite of attempts to destroy them. In the end, God dealt well with the midwives.

During the month of March, as we continue to celebrate the "150th Anniversary", this is an excellent opportunity to begin a journey on the high road as we deal with life's obstacles, setbacks or mistakes. The high road is found through faith, prayer and commitment. Enjoy the high road.



HOLY WEEK ON THE HILL



By The Reverend Donald Robinson

Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready! You don't want to miss out on any of the up coming "Holy Week" activities.

Beginning Friday, March 29, 2013 (from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M.) get ready for seven dynamic accounts of the "Via De la Rosa" (Way of the Cross) and the painful words uttered by "Our Lord and Savior, Jesus The Christ. Seven sons and daughters of The First Baptist Church will render these utterances, we commonly call "The Seven Last Words."

The government usually extends religious leave to persons, that they may share in this deeply personal religious event. Therefore, this is a great opportunity to invite some of our co-workers, colleagues, neighbors, friends, and family who have not accepted Jesus The Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, that they might come to know "HIM."

You can rise early Sunday morning and experience dramatic expressions from our young people as they use their collective gifts to tell the story of "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ". Our annual "Easter Sunrise Service" will be held on Sunday, March 31, 2013 @ 6:00 A.M. Our own Sister Cynthia Tinsley, Youth Arts Coordinator, will be leading our young people in a creative adaptation of "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ", through music, dance, song, spoken Word and dramatic presentations. You don't want to miss what it might have been like for those who were closely related or acquainted to Jesus prior to his death on the cross. What is it like for you when you revisit his death? Do you believe He has risen? Come see for yourself that the tomb was borrowed!

Then, we'll conclude these corporate koinoria experiences with two spiritually enriching worship services at 7:55 A.M. and 10:50 A.M. The senior pastor of the historic First Baptist Church, The Reverend Dr. Frank D. Tucker will proclaim "The Gospel" at both services. If you know someone who needs to be spiritually revived, encouraged or restored, bring them with you. If there's someone who doesn't know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, bring them also.

Whatever you do, if you care for them, don't let this moment of opportunity pass them by. Get them to Jesus! Get them up to the "Holy Hill"...Jesus is waiting!

Listed below are the

"SAYINGS FROM THE CROSS":

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

(Luke 23:34)

The Reverend Joel Limerick

"Today Thou shalt be with Me in Paradise"

(Luke 23:43)

The Reverend Ralph Peters III

"Woman, behold Thy Son! Son, behold Thy Mother"

(John 19:27)

The Reverend Nancy Knight

"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

(Matthew 27:46)

Minister Reginald L. Williams

"I Thirst"

(John 9:28)

The Reverend Renée Few

"It is Finished!"

(John 19:30)

The Reverend Donald Robinson

"Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit."

(Luke 23:46)

Minister Curtis McLaughlin II



YOUTH NEWS YOU CAN USE



By Sister Kareema Robinson and Minister Reggie Williams

SPRING CLEANING....Since we're now approaching the spring season, this is a great time for all of us to start doing some "Spring Cleaning". For some of us that might mean cleaning your notebook, your room, your tennis shoes or even your closet. But what if you used this time to clear and clean your mind and spirit of clutter!!! Just suppose you spent one week, even one day without letting any negative thoughts, images, music or even people invade your mind, sight or spirit. Just one day without 2chainz degrading women, Meek Mell spitting venom, Nicki Minaj showing you what NOT to wear," or watching Beyonce showing you how NOT to dance!!! Our radios, TV's, the internet and social media are bursting with messages and images that are contrary to our walk with Christ. However, do you know there are gospel artists and Christian rappers whose lyrics and videos are positive and uplifting. Their songs have infectious beats, melodic rhythms and lyrics that will keep your mind and spirit free of detrimental messages. Kirk Franklin, Tye Tribbet, J. Moss, Israel and New Breed all have uplifting recordings with positive messages and videos. Christian rappers like Knine, Da' Truth and Canton Jones might not get any air play on your local radio and TV stations but they don't spit lyrics that degrade themselves or women. As young people, striving to reach the mark of the high calling, it's imperative that you fill your mind, spirit and time with messages and imagery that will add positivity to your life. Let's not continue to give any time to anything or anyone unless they influence us to stay on the path of righteousness. Remember your mind, body and spirit is like a "sponge", it soaks up everything you expose it to. So now is the time to get started and do some "Spring Cleaning."

∞

All over the nation, Girl Scout Day will be celebrated on Sunday, Mar. 10. On that day, our girl scouts

will be celebrated and are charged with leading our 11am service. Currently, we have five active troops at our church serving young ladies from the 1st through 12th grades. And if you didn't already know, they are in the midst of their 2013 cookie sales .

∞

On Sunday, Feb 24, our youth began the process of interviewing our members who were active in our church when it was located in S.W. Washington. This inter-generational activity was intended to bridge the gap and open dialogue between of youth and some of our older members. Additional interviews will be held on Mar. 3.

∞

Three of our youth competed in the D.C. Federation of Young Peoples 2013 Oratorical Contest and all three of them came home winners. Curtis Robinson won third place in the Middle School Division, Cheyenne Younger placed 2nd in the High School Division and Marcus Graves won FIRST PLACE in the Elementary School Division. Each one of them worked extremely hard to prepare and memorize their speeches entitled "What Is Your Swag". We congratulate and are extremely proud of each of them for having the courage, dedication and confidence to stand before an audience and recite their speeches like seasoned professionals. Kudos to their parents and youth leaders who assisted them with their preparations.

∞

Our first official Total Youth Experience was held on Sat., Jan 24 and everyone in attendance had a great time. Our youth enjoyed two Wii games and two X-Box stations, a foosball table, arts and crafts, face painting, games as well as other contests. Our next Total Youth Experience will be held on Sat., Mar. 23. Don't miss out on this wonderful experience.

On Sunday, January 13th, 2013, our young people were afforded the opportunity to attend the Martin Luther King Support Group, Scholarship Luncheon. While none of our youth actually received scholarships from this event, this elegant atmosphere was a great learning experience for them. Accompanied by Minister Reggie Williams, Minister Curtis McLaughlin, Ms. Dana Anderson, and Ms. Barbara McLaughlin, our College Prep Students enjoyed a 3-course meal which included enough silverware to confuse even the most advanced diners. Our high school seniors, Nicole Bayesmore, Jamiya Lassiter, and Rica Spriggs practiced proper table mannerisms and etiquette, such as using the silverware from the outside first, and then working yourself in. Also in attendance were Jr. Deacons Hunter Echols and Carl Williams. All of our young people, especially our high school seniors, saw this event as a great opportunity to be exposed to new things, as they move to the next phase of their lives.

to attend college. She's excited about accomplishing this goal because it will show her younger siblings that college is attainable and within their reach as well. Darian knows this is a very big step but one that she cannot wait to take.

In addition to her family, Darian wants to thank God for her church family who believes in her and continues to push her towards success. She says, because of them I have a new favorite scripture: Philippians 4:13 Yes! "I can do all thing through Christ who strengths me".

Please remember:

A good witness for Christ is like a signpost. It doesn't matter whether it is old, young, pretty or ugly; it has to point in the right direction and be able to be understood. Be good witnesses for Christ, and point people to Him!!

SENIOR PROFILE



DARIAN JAMYIA LASSITER is a 17 year old senior at Hospitality High School in Washington, DC. She is excited and looking forward to graduating in May 2013. Her overall goal is to be successful by following the path that God has mapped out for her.

So far, Darian has been accepted to Marshall University in West Virginia and Allegany College of Maryland. At this time, she is leaning towards attending Marshall University in the fall of 2013. She plans to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business.

Darian says a college degree has always been a dream of hers. She thanks God for granting her the privilege and opportunity to attend college. This opportunity will be especially rewarding for her because she will be the first person in her family



FBC Brownie Troop at Ice Skating Rink in Downtown Silver Spring, MD



Jazmine Robinson in disguise at the Total Youth Experience



Jazmine Robinson, George Banks and Kaya Best playing Foosball at the Total Youth Experience



Keyshawna painting Lanere's face during the Total Youth Experience



*L to R WINNERS of the City-Wide Oratorical Contest
Isaiah Robinson (3rd Place Middle School Div.), Cheyenne Younger (2nd Place High School Div.)
and Marcus Graves (1st Place Elementary School Div.)*



Minister Curtis McLaughlin, Assoc. Deacon Steven Harris, Jr. Deacon Carl Williams, Jr. Deacon Hunter Echols and Minister Reggie Williams discuss the significance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Luncheon



High School Seniors Sis. Nicole Baysmore (left) and Sis. Rica Spriggs (right) were participants at this year's DC MLK Group Luncheon

Chosen Generation Youth Conference

Saturday, April 20, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Theme:

It's Your Time!

*And who knows but that you have come to
your royal position for such a time as this?" - Esther 4:14*

GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS



Min. Rodney L. Carter
Washington, DC



Min. Reggie Sharpe, Jr.
Atlanta, GA

Hosted by:

The New Macedonia Baptist Church
4115 Alabama Ave SE Washington, DC 20019
Rev. Patrick J. Walker, Host Pastor

REGISTRATION:

\$15 per registrant



For more information,
please scan this QR code
with your smartphone.

YOUTH TRACKS

AGES 5-9; 10-12 and 13-20

ADULT YOUTH LEADERS TRACK

Sponsored by the

DISTRICT FEDERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

An Auxiliary of the Baptist Convention of DC & Vicinity

Rev. Patrick J. Walker, President, BCDCV

Sis. LaQuia Leonard, Youth President



“FINDING FREEDOM FROM INDEBTEDNESS THROUGH FINANCIAL FASTING”



by The Reverend Donald Robinson and Associate Deacon Bruce Roberson

Civil rights activist, author, lawyer, scholar and founder of “TransAfrica”, Randall Robinson, wrote a seminal book entitled “The Debt”. The book focuses on the building, empowerment and positioning of America as a dominant world power using the blood, sweat, tears and sacrifices of African-American slaves. In this powerful and controversial book, Randall Robinson makes a case for the enormous debt America owes to Africans and African Americans for the incalculable damage blacks have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of nearly two hundred and fifty years of slavery and segregation.

Well over a century after the end of slavery, black Americans are still poorer, less educated, and earning less than their white counterparts. Statistics reveal that they lag behind whites in nearly every area of mainstream American life. In Robinson’s view, this great divide cannot be bridged, or our racial problems solved, until two things happen: America must accept responsibility for the grievous wrong that has been committed against Africans and African Americans, and take steps to redress that wrong; and black Americans need to arm themselves with a more comprehensive awareness of

their ancient history and a fuller recognition of their ongoing contribution to our nation and the world.

Moreover, if we push the proverbial envelope further, we could say this present generation of African Americans also owe our ancestors a tremendous “debt” for leaving us a better world than the one they were born in. Having said that, one of the first things we can do to address this “Indebtedness” is to strive to be morally sound, spiritually rich, professionally poised, physically fit and financially “Debt Free” people!

On **Saturday, March 16, 2013** (from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M.), join The FBC Men’s Ministry, as we host a special breakfast meeting regarding **“Finding Freedom From Indebtedness Through Financial Fasting”**. Representatives of Lafayette Credit Union will help us work towards being “Debt-Free”, by using author, reporter Michelle Singletary’s award winning book, “Power To Prosper”.

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to begin erasing and paying back the enormous “Debt” we owe to God, our ancestors, our families, countless friends and countless persons who merely believed in us enough to leave the world a lot better for us than it was for them!



IT’S TIME “TO STEP UP” AS WE CELEBRATE OFFICERS’ DAY 2013”



By Deaconess Yvonne Harris

The year 2013 is already a challenging year for this nation, the region, our city, our families and even our Beloved Church. Therefore, I believe as Christians and leaders of this historical church, we are called just like the nation, “To Step Up”! We have “To Step Up” in all phases and facets of ministry. We have “To Step Up” our worship participation, our ministry and service to others, our giving, our reading and studying of The Word of God, our prayer life, our mentoring and discipleship, as well as our general availability. God expects us “To Step Up” in our various roles, responsibilities and assignments.

As a matter of fact, you can begin your personal

campaign “To Step Up” today! You can do this by making a commitment to be enthusiastically present at our “Annual Officers’ Day” celebration.

The Deacons, Trustees and Deaconesses invite you to worship with them on **Sunday, March 17, 2013, during our 10:50 A.M. worship service**. Our guest preacher will be The Reverend Dr. John M. Alexander, Jr., Senior Pastor, St. John United Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

We look forward to seeing you on March 17th, as we continue “To Step Up” our faithful participation throughout the church, knowing.....”we walk by faith, not by sight”. (II Corinthians 5:7)



FBC Sunday School History Program

Taking a Historical Look

at **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL**



151 Years of Teaching and Studying God's Word

**Reverend Dr. Frank D. Tucker, Pastor
Sheron Spann, Superintendent
Atiya Shamblee, Vice-Superintendent**

Place: First Baptist Church: **Ida Clark Hall**

Date: **Sunday March 10, 2013**

Time: **9:30 AM**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 3, 2013	Communion	7:50 A.M. & 10:50 A.M.
Sunday, March 10, 2013	Church School Anniversary	9:30 A.M.
	Girl Scout Sunday	10:50 A.M.
Saturday, March 16, 2013	Men's Ministry Breakfast	9:00 A.M.
	Birthday Celebration for Our First Lady, Sister Brenda B. Tucker	1:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 17, 2013	Pastor Tucker's Birthday OFFICERS' DAY The Reverend John Alexander, <i>Guest Preacher</i>	10:50 A.M.
Sunday, March 24, 2013	Palm Sunday	7:50 A.M. & 10:50 A.M.
Friday, March 29, 2013	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	12:00 Noon
Sunday, March 31, 2013	RESURRECTION SUNDAY Sunrise Service	6:00 A.M.
	Worship Services	7:50 A.M & 10:50 A.M

Save
the Date

ANNUAL CHURCH REVIVAL

Guest Revivalist:
The Reverend Stephen Thurston

April 17 - 19, 2013
7:00 p.m. nightly

FIRST WORD STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Frank D. Tucker

Editor

Rev. Donald Robinson

Article Coordinators

Sis. Lisa Tucker

Sis. Jacqueline Haskins

Graphic Layout

Min. Curtis L. McLaughlin, II