

Bethel Baptist Church 1 Fisher Court White Plains, NOV 10601 949-2792

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Next Issue: March 1, 2020

Bethel Baptist Church "GOOD NEWS" NEWSLETTER



Celebrating 135 Years of Service To God and Community!!! **2020 Theme:** Doing A Great Work Together: Building Hope, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives Emphasis for February: "Freedom"



Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. This year our congregation will celebrate 135 years of service to God and Dr. E. O. Williamson community. A practice that we have established over my tenure as

pastor has been to celebrate milestone years in the history of our congregation. This year is a milestone year. Milestone year observances allow us to reflect upon the great history of our church and to celebrate achievements that have been made since the last milestone year celebration.

Every milestone year we note how our congregation has grown and developed since our last celebration. God continues to richly bless our congregation to serve as a beacon of hope to individuals, families, the community, and the world. With the rapid pace of change in our culture and community, a lot can happen over a period of ten years. We have many new members and families who have become part of our church family in the last ten years. Many have also moved away and relocated to other areas. Some members have transferred their membership to other churches. Yes, and sadly we must remember the lives and contributions of many saints who were a part of our church family who have gone from labor to reward.

In spite of all the changes and transitions that have occurred over the past ten years, God remains faithful and continues to bless our congregation. We praise God for those who have preceded us as members and leaders of the congregation upon whose shoulders we stand. They laid a firm foundation in Jesus Christ for us to build upon. We celebrate and acknowledge the many that served well and made tremendous sacrifices for the advancement of God's kingdom and the mission and ministries of this church. Let us celebrate the rich heritage and legacy that has been entrusted to us. Let us also be challenged to serve our present age and contribute our own faith stories and achievements to the history of this great church until Christ's return. No matter what the culture says, we are doing a great work-building hope, building relationships and changing lives.

This month and next month we will seek the congregations support for our programs, plans, and budget for 2020. We will present our church program and calendar, roster of church officers and ministry leaders, reports and budget recommendations to the congregation on Sunday mornings in February and March following the morning worship services. Please pray for our church and prepare to stay a few moments following morning worship services to share in the important business meeting sessions of the church. We will also be presenting a revised constitution for review and adoption to the congregation in the spring of 2020.

We want to use these early months of 2020 to clarify our vision and direction for our congregation. Our mission is to make disciples and to serve as Christ's witnesses in the world. We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We want to build our capacity to do ministry through moving people from membership to discipleship. We want every member to become involved in ministry, missions, and service. We want to strengthen existing ministries and add new ministries and programs to meet the needs of members and individuals in the community. We want to develop leaders to support the work of the church and the advancement of the kingdom of God. We are doing a great work together: building hope, building relationships, and changing lives. We do all of this for God's glory. To God be the glory! Remember our motto: "We're all in this together, being the church God has called us to be." Cont'd page 7 & 8

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

by Kylie Hall

Facts about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man. He was one of the people who helped stop segregation. In the South, segregation was enforced through the Jim Crow Law. Because of segregation black people and white people couldn't go to the same restaurants, bathrooms, schools, water fountains and buses. After Rosa Parks was arrested, Dr. King boycotted the Montgomery bus company. Dr. King went to jail a lot for his peace protests. In August 1963, 250,000 people marched on Washington where Dr. King said his "I Have A Dream" speech. It says "I have a dream that my four little children, will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin or the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racism, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and "nullification" one day right in Alabama little black boys and girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain shall be made law, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope and this is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hear out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together to pray together, to struggle together to go to jail together to stand for freedom together."

These are some facts about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Have a Blessed Day!

Sis. Kylie Hall

Thomas H. Slater Center 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast

On Monday January 20th we attended the Thomas H. Slater Center 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Sis. Delphine Burton was the Emcee and Reverend Smith opened the program with a beau-



tiful prayer/blessing. Several talented youth participated in the program including Ms. Hayes's granddaughters Brooklynn and Laila Sanchez. Selah Armstrong lead the program with our Black National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" with an additional musical selection towards the end. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Belinda S. Mike who is the President of Westchester Community College. She spoke about the importance of staying focused on getting an education, com-

munity and personal well-ness. She focused on "Revolution" in regards to leadership development, partnerships and building a healthy foundation as people of color. As a young lady of color, I feel she is a powerful s peaker and motivator for young adults attending college.

Thank you Pastor Williamson, First Lady Reverend Deborah Williamson, Youth Workers (Ms. Valerie Williams and

Ms. Penny Hillard) my mother Ms. Tasha Pine and our driver Bro. Samuel Abraham, for allowing us the opportunity to attend this wonderful event.

Submitted by: Sis. Kyla B. Harding



CALENDAR

Danesha Johnstone	Feb. 1
Sydney Jenkins	Feb. 1
Darrell Watson	Feb. 4
Brook Lawrence	Feb. 4
Deaconess Gwendolyn Ridgway	Feb. 5
Joyce Orange	Feb. 5
Nicole Gooden	Feb. 6
Lela Clayton	Feb. 6
Tatyana Mitchell	Feb. 6
Pamela Vample	Feb. 7
Adrienne Minkins	Feb. 7
Carol Tribble	Feb. 8
Helen Callaway	Feb. 8
Sean A. Lampkin	Feb. 8
Michael Young	Feb. 10
Jacki Alexander	Feb. 11
Barbara Carelock	Feb. 12
Patricia Mann	Feb. 12
Emily R. Garnett	Feb. 14
Carolyn Carelock	Feb. 17
Shani Tromp	Feb. 25
Shatera Weaver	Feb. 25
Dea. DeWitt Roy Smith	Feb. 25
Lorna Williams	Feb. 26
Emma Cheese	Feb. 26
Candace Tabbs	Feb. 27

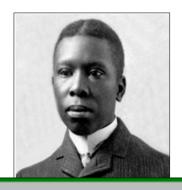
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy &

& Bay

Brown Feb. 21 (59 yrs.)

Debbie



Paul Laurence Dunbar, born in 1872 and the author of numerous collections of poetry and prose, was one of the first African American poets to gain national recognition.

Sandra Abraham Zennie Johnson Emma Cheese Learis Palmer Charlene Coram Mae Sanders Pattie Dunston Audrey Seay Cornelia Evans Gracie Smith Nancy Fitch Elenora Smith Manda Green Lyndora Upshaw Ann Hadley Shirlee Hilton Mary Watson Evelyn Hudson Karen Watts Sylvia Jacobs Dora Williamson Dorothy Jenkins

WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU

Annual Grandparents Day

Deacon Dewitt R. Smith one of "Grandpa's United" visiting with other grandparents and their grandchildren on Annual Grandparents Day at Church Street Elementary School in White Plains, New York on January 15, 2020. It was only Fitting for "Grandpa's United" to share in this wonderful day.

Submitted by: Deacon Dewitt R. Smith





Feb. 3	Young Adult Praise Dance, 6:00 p	m
	Men's Ministry, 6:00 pm	
	Male Chorus 7:00 nm	

- Feb. 4 Homeless Ministry, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 7 Young Adult Praise Dance, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 8 Jr. Ushers Bake Sale, 10:00 am Divinely Inspired Drama, 12 Noon
- Feb. 9 Installation of 2020 Officers
- Feb. 10 Missionaries Knitting, 6:00 pm Young Adult Praise Dance, 6:00 pm
- Feb. 11 Healthy Cooking, 6:00 pm Senior Ministry, 12 Noon Deacon's Ministry, 7:30 pm
- Feb. 14 Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm Young Adult Praise Dance, 7:00 pm Children/Youth Choir, 6:00 pm
- Feb. 15 Divinely Inspired Drama, 12 Noon Homeless Dinner, 3:30 pm Family Bowling, TBA
- **Feb. 16** Missionary Meeting following Wor ship
- Feb. 17 President's Day Office Closed
- Feb. 18 Healthy Cooking, 6:00 pm VOI, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 20 Working Churches Black History, 1:00 pm
- Feb. 21 Children/Youth Choir, 6:00 pm Teen Night, 6:00 pm
- Feb. 22 Missionaries Sewing, 9:00 am Young Adult Praise Dance, 11:00 am Divinely Inspired Drama, 12 Noon
- Feb. 23 Youth Sunday Special Black History Program
- Feb. 24 Male Chorus, 6:00 pm
- Feb. 25 Boy Scouts, 6:15 pm VOI, 7:00 pm Joint Board, 7:30 pm
- Feb. 27 Passage to Excellence, 6:30 pm
- Feb. 28 Read Aloud (parents), 6:00 pm
- Feb. 29 Men Who Cook, 12 Noon Divinely Inspired Drama, 12 Noon

"In the flush of love's light we dare be brave And suddenly we see that love costs all we are and will ever be. Yet, it is only love which sets us free."

– Maya Angelou





For nearly 39 years, **Hydrum Middleton-Weaver**, Professor—Information Technology and General Education at Monroe College, Bronx, New York, has contributed to the success of her students throughout the Tri-State area. She has inspired the lives of thousands of students during her tenure. Professor Weaver is now retired as of January 9, 2020. She is now ready to do the following on a regular basis:

Relax Travel Read Entertainment Indulge

Sister Weaver said that her satisfaction from teaching came from her students who shared their gratitude with her. Below is an e-mail that one of her former students sent to her on 12/13/2019:

Hello Professor Weaver,

I cannot believe so much time has passed. I am officially finished with my Bachelor's degree. I am writing because I want to take this opportunity to say thank you.

You encouraged me so much over the years to never give up and that whatever obstacles I might be facing that I could achieve my degree. Your own story about your obstacles while you were in school really helped me to stay on track and it kept me determined to finish.

I could not have reached this milestone in my life without you and your positive support. Thank you for every word of encouragement that you gave me. I will forever be grateful.

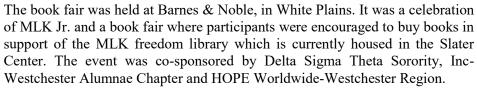
A very Merry Christmas and a bright and healthy New Year to you and your family.

God bless you.

Yours truly, Kurine Herbert

Amare Davis MLK Day

On January 20, 2020, in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. and in support of the MLK Freedom Library, Amare Davis performed African drumming alongside Greenburgh griot Lynn Beville.



Amare also closed out the book fair with the Ptah Djembe drummers.

Amare is 8 years old and is currently in the 3rd grade. He is a student at the Learning Tree Preparatory School in the Bronx, NY. He also plays the djembe drum and is a drumming student of Dr. Rodney Shabazz

Submitted by: Sharon and Jollanna Gilham



MISSIONARIES "ON THE MOVE"!

The New Year has placed us at the top of a new decade and believe it or not the Missionary Ministry is still "on the move". We journeyed over to First Baptist Church in Mamaroneck, New York for Officers' Day on January 12, 2020. Rev. Dr. James E. Taylor is the Pastor. Our Pastor, Dr. Edward O. Williamson, was the guest preacher. Our large church van was filled to capacity and several members came in their cars. Other representation from Bethel included: The Deacon Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, Trustee Ministry, and the Male Chorus. A delicious meal was ready for us upon our arrival. It is always a pleasure to fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ at First Baptist Church.

On Monday evening, January 13, the Missionary Ministry was at the church from 6:00-7:00 p.m. moving quickly into the kick-off of another year of knitting. Sister Diana Bason is very structured in her teaching style. She shared her vision for this year's class and stated that we will be knitting items for the homeless. We started our class with prayer offered by Dr. Smith. There were eight present: Vincenza Greco, Brenda Mills, Pamela Earl, Bertha Keller, Patricia Blackwell, Shirley Johnson, Diana Bason, and Dr. F. Reece-Smith. We pray that our first project will reach its intended destination in South Africa and that the orphaned children will be kept warm wrapped in our squares that made their blankets. May God bless them 'one by one'.



The Working Churches' meeting was held on Thursday, January 16, at the First Baptist Church in Elmsford, New York where the Rev. Nicholas Soto is the Pastor. Again, Bethel's Missionaries were in the house: Sisters Rosalind Keys, Desiree Smith, Lola Hunter, Rev. Virginia Mebane-Young, Trustee Joseph Abraham, Dr. F. Reece-Smith, and Deac. Dewitt Roy Smith. Sisters Barbara High and Christy Scrubb were also in attendance.

Deacon Smith gave an extensive summary of his stewardship for the year 2019 which was distributed to all members present. His recommendations were received and his vision was accepted. Dr. Reece-Smith facilitated an inspirational workshop on Spiritual Disciplines. The workshop admonished the missionaries on the importance of being alert to do the Lord's work. There is no time for



"sleeping on duty". Missionaries have to be "on the move"! At the conclusion of the meeting, the Missionaries of First Baptist invited us downstairs for a delicious meal. The meeting for next month, February, will be held here at Bethel. The date is February 20, 2020. Sister Barbara Andralliski is the Chairperson for our Black History Program which will be presented after the meeting. Sister Geneva Benton, our honorary member, is in charge of the Culinary Ministry and the preparation of our traditional meal for the celebration. The meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, a sign-up sheet will be in the Christine Mitchell Fellowship Hall.

We boarded our church van again on Wednesday, January 22, to attend the Second Quarterly Session at Springfield Baptist Church in Beacon, New York where the Rev. Dr. Ronald O. Perry is the Pastor. We departed White Plains at 7:15 a.m. and arrived in Bea-

con at 8:30 a.m. just in time for a delicious hot breakfast! Minister Cheryl Kelly delivered an inspiring devotional message to begin the day! Min. Kelly is an Associate Minister at Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York where Dr. Jesse V. Bottoms is the Pastor. The closing sermon was

delivered by Rev. Dr. Edward L. Hunt, Pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls, New York.

After the opening preliminaries, Rev. Erwin L. Trollinger, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in White Plains, New York, spoke to the assembly about a Critical Issue – Prison Reform. The statistical data he shared was priceless! His presentation was followed by the breakout sessions for the various groups: Pastors, Women's Auxiliary, Ushers & Nurses Auxiliary, Ministers' Wives & Widows and the Laymen.

As president of the Missionary Ministry of Bethel, I encouraged the missionaries to attend and become more involved with Central Hudson. We participated in the Women's Auxiliary breakout session. The first issue of



their newsletter, *The ADVOCATE*, was introduced. I was given a gift for being the only person who had read the newsletter in its entirety. I also introduced *The ADVO-CATE* to the Missionaries at the January meeting. Sister Desiree Smith made copies of the newsletter for all the ladies who attended the session from Bethel. Attendees from Bethel were: Sisters Emory Watson, Sheryl Franklin, Janice Perser, Pam Coleman, Susan Harrison, Desiree Smith, Yvonne Harris, Brenda Johnson, Barbara High, Christy Scrubb, Deacon Caleb Lawrence, Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith, Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith (Driver), and Pastor Edward O. Williamson (Vice Moderator).



As I put on my brakes to close this article, I am saddened by the news of the death of one of our dedicated members, Sister Dorothy O. Hudson. Sister Hudson was always "on the move" in Missionary work when she was actively involved. She, along with her Mother and several other Missionaries, traveled yearly to the Lott Carey Missionary Convention. Sister Hudson will be greatly missed by all.

Submitted by: Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith

THESE WOMEN ARE NOT BEHIND BARS BUT ARE IN PRISON!!

Kairos Outside NYC, chartered in 2009, is the local chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International. Mass Incarceration, is defined in the New Jim Crow. From 1970 to 2005 the number of inmates increased 700%. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world. This Ministry is designed for women impacted by incarceration. Someone in their life is or was in prison. In many ways the families are "doing time" right along with the incarcerated. This ministry is also for women that were previously incarcerated.

JoAnne Edwards, Sharon Gilham, Yvonne Harris, Crystal Murray, Janice Robinson, Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith, and Stephanie Ward are members of Bethel Baptist Church and this Ministry. Each year Kairos Outside NYC offers two Weekends (Friday-Sunday) for women. These women referred to as "Guests" have an opportunity to get to know others that share similar struggles and concerns. The next Weekend will take place May 15-17, 2020. The goal of this ministry is to provide a loving, safe and supportive environment, while addressing the Guest's spiritual needs.

Members of Bethel Baptist Church supported this ministry helping to make a memorable experience for Guests that attended the November Weekend. Pastor Williamson, Wallace McGiver, Henry Mills, Lloyd Scrub, Leonard Hadley, David Coleman and Leonard Johnson supported this ministry by loading and unloading supplies for that Weekend. Kairos refers to those that assist and volunteer their time as "Angels".

It cost approximately \$15,000 to carry out these Weekends. ALL expenses are covered by donations, Guests do not pay a fee. If you would like to make a monetary donation... please speak to Pastor Williamson or one of the members mentioned above. Donations can also be made to: Kairos Outside NYC, P.O. Box One, Larchmont, N.Y. 10538. Website: www.kairosoutsidenyc.org / kon-yc2009@gmail.com. The next Kairos Weekend will take place in May 2020. If you would like to participate in any way, please speak with Pastor Williamson or Sharon Gilham (shaham@optonline.net).

Internet Safety



Youth Take Away: "One thing that I learned was if someone sends you a negative comment, you should not reply. If you do they will send something else, and it would just go on and on. This helped me to understand what cyber-bullying is. The negative comments help teach me to ignore people that appear to be haters."

Mayeliza Johnstone, 11

On two separate occasions, we were blessed with the presence of Assistant District Attorney Susan Brownbill-Vega and Assistant District Attorney

Emily Rowe-Smith. The topic of discussion "Internet Safety" sounded alarms for adults as well as our youth. In the adult seminar, we discussed topics pertaining to things that could get you as an adult in trouble. You must be mindful of all pictures and videos that are posted, personal information being disclosed, as well as what you think is deleted is not gone. There is someone, somewhere reading ALL that you feel is being kept confidential. We also discussed if you are the primary for your phone lines and there are inappropriate things found on an electronic device attached to you, the police can



trace it back to you and the primary could possibly be held accountable. As an adult, it is important to know the different Application Software (Apps) that are circulating and their intended purpose of use. Sit down with your young person and ask questions. Make sure you <u>Get in the Know!!</u>

In the youth seminar, we discussed setting up apps or games on devices and having an older adult with you. People are not always who they say they are. The young people were told to never give out personal information and if something does not seem right tell an adult immediately. Do not use your device to bring harm to others in any type of way. Most of all we learned that an electronic device with internet capabilities is not necessarily a bad thing, it is all about what and how you use it. Make your electronic device work for you and help you to become a better and smarter person!!



Join The dfree Movement: Say Yes To No Debt

Pastor Williamson and Bro. Michael Young

Below are some excerpts and insights from Bro. Michael Young after he read the book, Say Yes to No Debt by Rev. Dr. Deforest Soaries, Jr. Dr. Soaries is the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, NJ. I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Soaries several years ago when he presented the dfree program and philosophy at the Lott Carey Convention. In Dr. Soaries' words consumer debt is a new form of slavery. He states,

"Consumer debt grips millions of people with plastic shackles every bit as powerful as the iron chains that once bound slaves. A bold, even audacious, statement, I know, particularly considering the historical atrocities of slavery in our country. As a descendant of some of those slaves, I do not make this analogy without recognizing the gravity of its implications. I do not make such a comparison lightly or for the sheer effect of its cultural shock value, although the ongoing enslavement of millions of Americans should shock and concern all of us. While many of my fellow African Americans may be particularly upset or offended by my literal comparison, I find that enslavement is the only adequate word to express the dire, life-draining, debilitating condition in which we find ourselves today."

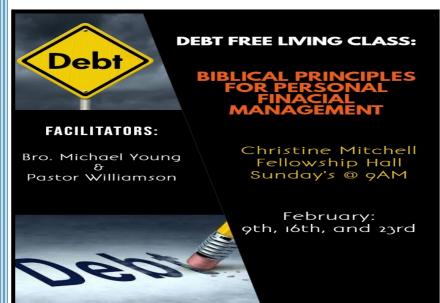
Dr. Soaries is passionate about leading a movement that leads people toward financial freedom. Freedom is our emphasis for the month of February. We want to challenge people to learn principles and practices that lead to liberation from the chains of consumer debt and other forms of financial bondage. Beginning this month we hope to take the initial steps to begin a new ministry that will link members of our congregation and community with this liberating movement. The book, Say Yes to No Debt is available in electronic version or paperback form from Amazon.com. You can also purchase the book from Barnes & Noble or other locations where books are sold. Order your copy today and join with us as we begin the journey together toward becoming debt free.

Pastor Williamson

Say Yes to No Debt Editorial Comments and Insights from Bro. Michael Young

The book *Say Yes to No Debt* by Rev. Deforest Soaries is well written and an easy read. I must say that this is the fastest I have ever read a book. This goes to the timeliness and relevance of the topic. You can tell how deeply Rev. Soaries believes in the program as it is referred to as a "movement." He also wants to take this movement to as many churches and community organizations as possible. I think many members of Bethel can benefit from the information in this book. But it is not just the relevance of the book that can help the Bethel family. The methods and practices described within give ways to implement a debt free lifestyle. That alone can be helpful to us. Moreover, if done well, the methods of the program can provide us with, as the author states, "an evangelistic outreach in order to connect with community members outside the church."

The dfree program as presented in the book is a very comprehensive program. It has four levels and twelve steps. It starts with



how to help people that are in deep financial trouble including consumer debt and delinquency. It ends with how to train people to teach the dfree methods and practices. We would be able to modify the model to fit our specific needs. Dfree Ministries provides resources and assistance for those that would like to participate in the movement. Our initial steps will be to identify individuals in our congregation interested in the dfree ministry movement and then to establish a core group to launch the ministry. We invite you to attend the first dfree orientation sessions and classes beginning this month, February 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Other sessions will be offered in the future.

For additional information, feel free to speak with me, Bro. Michael Young.

Cont'd from page 1

Weekly Sunday School Lessons – Winter Quarter Honoring God Unit III: Jesus Teaches About True Worship:

2/2 Passing the Tests Devotional: Psalm 91 Print: Matthew 4:1-11 2/9 The Pitfalls of Showing Off Devotional: Luke 11:1-13 Print: Matthew 6:1-8 Devotional: Psalm 40:1-10, 16-17 Print: Matthew 6:9-15 2/16 Ask for What Really Matters 1/23 Making the Request Devotional: Psalm 13 Print: Luke 11:5-13

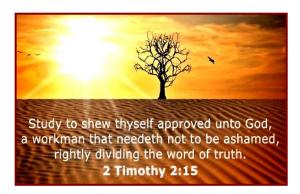
Weekly Devotional/Bible Reading Plans:

2/2 Living In the Light: Money, Sex and Power (5 Days)

2/9 The Treasure Principle (5 Days)

2/16 Debt Free: God's Promise, Our Duty, Your Freedom (7 Days)

2/23 Jump Start Your Finances Don't Look Back (7 Days)



Be Blessed, Pastor Williamson



Dr. E. O. Williamson
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