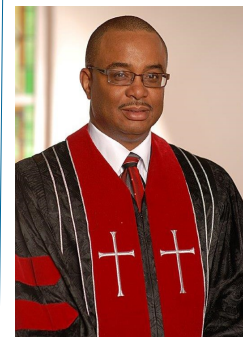




*Bethel Baptist Church  
1 Fisher Court  
White Plains, NY 10601  
949-2792*

# Bethel Baptist Church

## “GOOD NEWS” NEWSLETTER



*Dr. E. O. Williamson*

### ***Have A Joyful and Hope Filled New Year!!!***

***2020 Theme: Doing A Great Work: Building Hope, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives  
Emphasis for January: “Keeping God First”***

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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#### **Church Officials**

- Dr. E.O. Williamson** Pastor
- R. Jackson** Deacon Chair
- M. Andralliski** Trustee Co-Chair
- W. Gibbons** Trustee Co-Chair
- F. Hudson** Treasurer
- B. High** Church Clerk
- M. Bagley** Bookkeeper

**Vol. 19, Issue 1  
January 5, 2020**

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- Ruth Rainey**
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bbchurch1



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**Next Issue: February 2, 2020**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. I greet you with Jesus’ joy as we enter the New Year. This year our congregation will celebrate 135 years of service to God and community. God continues to richly bless us. As we look toward celebrating this year, let us make a commitment to fulfill the mission of the church which is to make disciples. As we celebrate the past, let us look toward the future and continue to build upon the legacy left by those who have gone before us. We must not only make disciples, but we must also develop leaders and equip them to serve the needs of people in a postmodern and post-Christian age. We must continue to learn and adapt in order to effectively minister to the changing culture and community around us.

One writer has said, “The learner will inherit the earth while the learned will be prepared for a world that no longer exists.” We must heed the words of Paul who exhorted Timothy to study to show thyself approved unto God a workman who needeth to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.” I challenge all members to be engaged in study and development this year. Study independently or as part of a small group. Attend organized training events and conferences. Become equipped and prepared so God can use you to change the world.

Let us begin the year by determining that we will keep God first in our lives. John closed his letter 1 John with these words, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” Our heart has been described as an idol factory, if we don’t worship God and keep him first in our lives we will create idols to worship. Eric Geiger and Kevin Peck in their book *Designed to Lead* quote Time Keller, David Powlison and others who have identified four common idols that drive sinful and destructive behavior in the church and society today: Control (a longing to have everything go according to my plan), Approval (a longing to be accepted or desired), Power (a longing for influence or recognition), and Comfort (a longing for pleasure).

These idols can impact our ability to serve and lead in God’s church. I want to encourage every member to take the next step, become involved in a small group or ministry if not involved. Take the next step and become involved in a process for discipleship or leadership development and training. We want to build the capacity of our church so that we can truly be the premier church in Westchester County. The words of Jesus continue to ring true, “The harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few.” Join with us as we continue to build upon the legacy of Bethel and serve as a beacon of hope for individuals, families, the community and the world. The needs of the world are great but our God is greater! **Remember our motto: “We’re all in this together, being the church God has called us to be.”**

*Cont’d on page 8*



## Missionaries “On The Move”!

One of the services that closes out our church calendar year is the Missionaries’ Annual Day. It is celebrated every year on the 2nd Sunday in December. This year’s anniversary was chaired by Sis. Victoria Johnson-Taylor. Her committee consisted of: Sisters Janet Allen, Diana Bason, Sheryl Franklin, and Desiree Smith.

The 107th Anniversary service was held on December 8, 2019. The theme was: “Following Still...Doing His Will” with a scripture reference from Matthew 4:19 – “And he saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (KJV). Sis. Barbara

Andralliski served as our Worship Leader with the following persons serving during the service: Sisters Lauren Burwell, Pamela Coleman, Rosalind Keys, Diane Hadley, Sheryl Franklin, Kyla Harding, Cynthia Johnson, Mae Basnight, Trustee Joe Abraham, Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith, and Rev. Virginia Mebane-Young. Sis. Sylvia Latimer, our 2019 church delegate to the Lott Carey Convention, gave a very informative summary in her echoes from the convention. The convention was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan which was a first time for the state of Michigan.

After the altar call was offered by Rev. Deborah Williamson, Kyla Harding introduced our guest preacher, Dr. Michael Gerald, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Tuckahoe, New York. The sermonic selections were rendered by the Male Chorus under the direction of Deacon Donald Stevens.

Dr. Gerald expounded on our theme in a skillful, creative, and challenging manner. He took us back to the Old Testament in the book of Joshua – chapter 5 verses 9-12. His subject was: “After This...” He stated, “After a high occasion usually there’s a let down”. His reference to an old hymn of the church, “How Great Thou Art” is true testimony that “the devil is a liar”! Dr. Gerald gave new meaning to our theme. We will keep his sermon at the forefront of our minds, as we continue striving to be the “hands and feet” of the Master.

Special recognition was given to the ladies who spearheaded our 2019 “Special Projects”. They were: Sis. Diana Bason – Knitting Instructor; Sis. Lorna Williams – Sewing Instructor; and Sis. Pat Blackwell – Liaison to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. Ms. Frances Welch, Assistant Seamstress and Sis. Dorothy Hudson, Knitting Instructor, were unable to attend the service. In an effort to complete the certificate presentations, arrangements were made with Ms. Welch’s residence (The Kensington) for December 19, 2019. Ms. Welch was so surprised and grateful for the recognition plus it happened to be her 94th birthday! Although she is not a member of Bethel, she offered her expertise when she learned of the project. Bethel is her neighborhood church and she visits often. Sis. Dorothy Hudson’s certificate will be presented before the end of December.

Once again, we fellowshiped with the women of the YWCA at their annual Christmas dinner on Friday, December 20. It was a JOYOUS occasion for all in attendance. Missionaries present were: Pam Coleman, Janice Perser and Dr. F. Reece-Smith.



Submitted by:  
Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith

Shirley Hall	Jan. 1
Gail Gregg	Jan. 2
Lisa Bennett	Jan. 4
Seriana R. Bennett	Jan. 4
Shinea Smith	Jan. 4
Leonard Hadley	Jan. 5
Audrey Hardy	Jan. 6
Marisa Marquis	Jan. 6
Sheran Lyons	Jan. 9
Rosemary Young	Jan. 11
Khailen White	Jan. 11
Martha Rogers	Jan. 13
Ann W. Miller	Jan. 15
Brandon Moore	Jan. 15
Malinda White	Jan. 16
Beverly Powerful	Jan. 17
Faye Gordon	Jan. 17
Samuel Taylor	Jan. 17
Mildred Patricia Blackwell	Jan. 18
Desiree Smith	Jan. 19
Steven Schmidt	Jan. 19
Anthony Smith, Jr.	Jan. 20
Debbie Alvarez-Brown	Jan. 20
Rahem Urguhart	Jan. 21
Dominique Hudson	Jan. 22
Natasha Jackson	Jan. 23
Stefanie Williamson	Jan. 27
Min. Latisha Robinson	Jan. 27
Schneider Thompson	Jan. 30
Betsy Mitchell	Jan. 30
Janeen Perkins	Jan. 31
Jocelyn Perkins	Jan. 31
Bertha Keller	Jan. 31
Dolores Manigault	Jan. 31

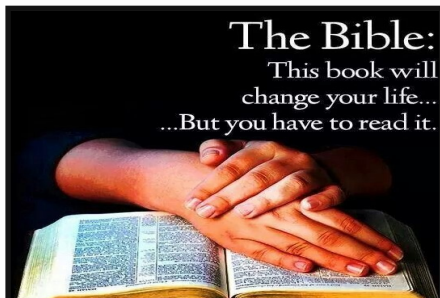


**Let Us Pray**

What better time  
 And what better season  
 What greater occasion  
 Or more wonderful reason  
 To kneel down in prayer  
 And lift our hands high  
 To the God of creation,  
 Who made land and sky.  
 And, oh, what a privilege  
 As the new year begins  
 To ask God to wipe our  
 Our errors and sins  
 And to know when we ask,  
 If we are sincere,  
 He will wipe our slate clean  
 As we start a new year.  
 So at this glad season  
 When joy's everywhere.  
 Let us meet our Redeemer  
 At the alter of prayer.

*Helen Steiner Rice*

Submitted by: Sis. Betsy Mitchell



**Jan 1-7** Prayer and consecration,  
**7:00 pm nightly**

**Jan. 12** First Baptist Church,  
 Mamaroneck, NY,  
 Annual Officers Day,  
 Pastor Williamson, guest  
 preacher, **3:30 pm**

**Jan. 15** Ministers Fellowship Council  
 Dr. MLK, Jr. Service,  
 Calvary Church, **7:00 pm**

**Sheran Lyons**

On Friday, December 27, 2019 at the Kwanzaa celebration at the Thomas H. Slater Center, Sheran was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the Slater Center.

Sheran received this recognition for her hard work and the volunteering of her time to support many service organizations throughout the City of White Plains.

After retiring from White Plains Hospital where she was employed for 50 years, she has worked tirelessly as a volunteer at the For Diane Drop In Center, Juneteenth Committee and countless other agencies and projects where ever she is needed and when ever she is needed.

Congratulations to Sheran ...  
 Keep up the good work!



## #NATIVITY2K19

An Adaptation of the Original Play:

*A Modern Day Christmas*

Written by: Michelle Gordon-Bartley



If you missed this award worthy production, you've missed a real treat! How better to bring in the Christmas holiday than to be with family and friends at a live performance of a modern day story of the birth of our blessed Savior Jesus Christ!

The story, while true to the biblical narrative, provided us a glimpse into what Mary and Joseph may have gone through had the immaculate conception have happened during our modern day times. Casting included a snap shot of the talent of Bethel's children, youth, young adult and adults. Modern and traditional songs were weaved throughout the acts such as "Mary Did You Know" and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" to keep the audience focused on the plot and message of the story.



Playing the main role of Mary was **LaQuinta Jones** as well as **Arthur Bobian** (brother of Theatrical Director) as Joseph. The choreographers for the very energetic Praise Dancers were **Taheera Muschatt & Kyla Harding**. The behind the scenes production team was **Marian Bobian**, Theatrical Director, **Deacon Donald Stevens**, Musical & Videography Director, **Jemal Mosley**, Media & Sound Director and the entire Lighting and Stage Team.



This production benefited the Green Christmas efforts of the Missionary Ministry and the Voices of Inspiration which is done annually to share the joy of Christmas with seniors and those in need of a special blessing.

Pastor Williamson thanks all those who participated in this church wide effort to bring glory to God as we remember our Motto: "We're All In This Together! *For there is born to you*

*this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! (Luke 2:11)*

Submitted by: Rev. Deborah Williamson



### Sunday School Publishing Board Conference

The 41st Annual Sunday School Publishing Board Conference was held on December 2-4, 2019 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. The Bethel leaders who were blessed to attend were: Sunday School Superintendent — Stephanie Christian, Christian Education Director — Min. Latisha Robinson, Sunday School Teacher (Teen Class), — Rev. Sarah Louise Smith and Children's Church Teacher — Sis. Penny Hilliard.

The SSPB conference is well attended by Baptist Christian Educators from across the USA. Each of these God gifted pastors, teachers, church leaders, and believers who have a passion for the true Kingdom work of Jesus Christ assemble to actively engage in edifying, celebrating, and collaborating to build up the body of Christ and maintain the unity of the Spirit. Our own Pastor-Teacher, Rev. Dr. Edward O. Williamson was in attendance and instructing the Guidelines for Recertification of Deans.

The focus of the 2019 conference was "The Prophetic Call of the Beloved Community: Engaging the Culture through Transformational Love and Justice." The Beloved Community is called to Love (John 13:35), The Beloved Community is called to Personal Transformation (Romans 12:1-2), The Beloved Community is called to Social Justice (Micah 6:8). Dr. Carolyn L. Gordon, Associate Professor of Mass Communication Mississippi Valley State University, historically executed the closing commencement ceremony. In her closing address, she reminded us as the beloved community, we can not be afraid when we are called to Love, called to Personal Transformation and called to Social Justice. Dr. Gordon presented a colorful yet pungently aromatic feast for our Spiritual imagination. In paraphrasing her tale, She was preparing chitterlings (chitlin) and recalled someone telling her to put a lemon or potato in the pot to draw out the stench. She said, "The Beloved Community (We) are like that potato. We must not be afraid when we are called to Love, Personal Transformation and Social Justice. It may be a situation that stinks, and God is using us to draw in that which stinks and HE WILL turn it around for HIS glory." Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

During this three day intentionally intensive Christian education experience we attended workshops, seminars and worship that centered on faith and application. Our respective classes offered moments of inspiration, introspect, motivation and transformation through transparent dialogue. We are returning to BBC with sharpened tools in the area of devotional life, leadership task, intergenerational relationship building, effectively shepherding young people and effectively impacting discipleship.

At Bethel Baptist Church, we are "Doing A Great Work Together in Building Hope, Building Relationships and Changing Live through Our Worship, Our Walk and Our Witness." We are all in this together! We are becoming A Healthy Church together!

We thank you again for the opportunity to attend the SSPB Conference and invite you to participate in the great work being done at BBC. We have openings available for Vacation Bible School Volunteers, Sunday School Teachers, Children's Church Volunteers, Scholarship/Education Ministry, Bereavement Ministry, Short-Term Ministry Opportunities and more!



Please see: Min. Latisha Robinson, CED or Sunday School Superintendent, Stephanie Christian for additional details.

Submitted by: Min. Latisha Robinson

### Joy to The World



On Saturday December 21st The Parent and Volunteer Support Ministry welcomed children of all ages to participate in Joy to the World. Seasoned saints worked with a younger buddy for the day. The work stations offered were Hot Chocolate Reindeer, Global Ornaments, Have a heart card making station, Sweet to the belly Rice Krispy treats, and King’s Kids’ Corner for our little ones. It was time to switch stations when the “Joy Bell Rang”. We were blessed with the presence of Mr. and Mrs. McIver, who shared what Christmas was like growing with their families. It was truly a time of laughter, cheer, and blessings galore. We look forward to spreading more Joy in months to come for all ages.



Submitted by:  
Sis. Taheera Young Mushatt



### 37<sup>th</sup> Senior Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon

Brother Charles Mebane was an honoree at the 37<sup>th</sup> Senior Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon on December 6, 2019. He was joined by family and friends from Bethel Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church. As a lifelong resident of White Plains, Mr. Mebane felt especially blessed to be celebrated by church family and neighbors. Seventy-four new inductees from Westchester County were recognized Friday afternoon at the Westchester Marriott Hotel, and four alumni inductees showed their support. It was a joyous occasion.



Submitted by: Rev. Virginia Mebane Young

## Senior Ministry Christmas Outing



During their regularly scheduled meeting in November, the Senior Ministry decided to have their annual Christmas outing at the Golden Corral in Poughkeepsie, New York.

The date was set for Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Deaconess Sylvia Latimer took care of the special arrangements and reservations at the restaurant.



Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith was the driver for the day. The following members were on board for the trip: Sisters Betsy Mitchell, Georgetta Kent, Esther Johnson, Brenda Mills, Christy Scrubb, Brenda Johnson, Barbara High, Mary Hudson, Mae Basnight, Louise Blair, Deaconess Sylvia Latimer, Deacon Henry Mills and Dr. F. Reece-Smith. Sister Phyllis Harris from First Community Baptist Church was our guest.

Once we arrived at the restaurant, no time was wasted on perusing a menu or deciding what to eat. The food awaits you when you enter the restaurant and "It's All You Can Eat"! The management had already arranged a special area for our group beforehand.

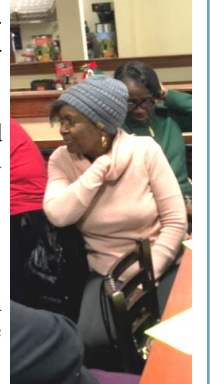
We asked them if it would be alright for us to sing some Christmas carols after our meal.

Their response was: "Yes, go right ahead!"

Yours truly was responsible for bringing song sheets for everyone. When we started to sing, several people in the restaurant came over to our area immediately and joined in with us to sing the carols. It was such a festive occasion! The singing added another element to our outing.

It is not an easy thing to walk away from de-li-ci-ous food! Some of us purchased containers 'to go' to make sure we didn't just walk away from the food! Of course, it was for later, since we had already dined sufficiently. (smile) It was a wonderful outing with the Senior Ministry. The Golden Corral is the place to go!

*Submitted by: Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith*



## Grandpas United

### First Annual "Down Home"

#### Community Awards Breakfast



The City of White Plains Youth Bureau has addressed "the need to enrich seniors' lives with Grandpas United, a new and innovative intergenerational program". On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, a First Annual "Down Home" Community Awards Breakfast was held at the Thomas H. Slater Center at 8:30 a.m.

Deac. Frank Williams, Jr., Executive Director/White Plains Youth Bureau, gave the Welcome address to begin the program. Jim Isenberg, Co-Chair of Grandpas United, gave the Statement of Purpose. Greetings followed from: Hon. Thomas M. Roach, Mayor of the city of White Plains and Hon. George Latimer, Westchester County Executive. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins was also present with proclamations for the honorees from the state of New York.

A very informative video was presented to enlighten the attendees on what the Grandpas United Group has accomplished. Rev. Erwin Trollinger, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, delivered a timely message befitting for the occasion.

The breakfast was truly "down home" when we saw that shrimp and grits were at the top of the menu. The breakfast was delicious!

The honorees were: Commissioner Kevin McGuire, Dennis Cuddy, Nicholas Wolff, and Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith. Once again, a Bethelite shines a bright light for all the community to see. **Congratulations to Deacon Smith!**

*Submitted by: Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith*



## Boy Scouts Cub Scouts

BSA / Troop #111 & Pack #11 of White Plains, New York - chartered by Bethel Baptist Church / Annual Toy Drive with all gifts wrapped and delivered on Christmas Eve (53) residences and (4) group homes with a total of (134) gifts. The scouts finished the day feasting @ "WENDY'S and each scout was given a "Target " Christmas Gift Card (\$20.00) donated by "GRANDPAS UNITED". We were glad to be able to share and to make others have a more joyful Christmas. We're thankful to our BETHEL FAMILY for their generous donations and assistance/ Special thanks: To Almighty God / Volunteer gift Wrappers - Tasha Pine, Penny Hilliard, Deaconess Emily Rowe-Smith, special assistance Marea Bagley and all the parents for allowing your children to be a part of BSA/ Boy Scouts and Cub Scout units of "BETHEL".



Submitted by: Deacon Dewitt R. 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 and described 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 designed 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 concerns. The goal of this ministry is to provide a loving, supportive environment, while addressing Guest's spiritual needs. A Team must be developed that prepares for Guests and the upcoming Weekend. In order to form a Team, these Kairos volunteers meet for six Saturdays from 10am-4pm. That Team will carry out the next Kairos Weekend, scheduled to take place May 15-17, 2020.

Bethel Baptist Church members helped 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 immensely helped this ministry by loading and unloading Kairos supplies. 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](http://www.kairosoutsidenyc.org) / [konyc2009@gmail.com](mailto:konyc2009@gmail.com). If you would like to participate in this Kairos Ministry, in any way please speak with Pastor Williamson or Sharon Gilham [shaham@optonline.net](mailto:shaham@optonline.net)*

**Weekly Sunday School Lessons -- Unit II: Dedicating The Temple of God:**

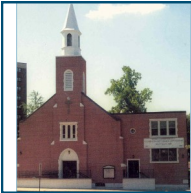
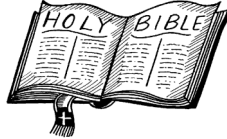
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|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1/5  | A Long-anticipated Celebration | Devotional: Deut. 31:7-13        | Print: 1 Kings 8:1-13         |
| 1/12 | I Promise                      | Devotional: Psalm 132:1-5, 11-18 | Print: 1 Kings 8:14-21        |
| 1/19 | A Bright Future                | Devotional: 1 Tim. 2:1-6         | Print: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 52-53 |
| 1/26 | Commitment To Success          | Devotional: Ps. 136:1-16, 23-25  | Print: 1 Kings 8:54-61        |

**Weekly Devotional/Bible Reading Plans:**

- 1/5 New Roads New Rivers (5 Days)
- 1/12 New Year New You (6 Days)
- 1/19 The I-Factor (7 Days)
- 1/26 Don't Look Back (5 Days)

*Be Blessed,*

*Pastor Williamson*



*Dr. E. O. Williamson*  
*Bethel Baptist Church*  
*1 Fisher Court*  
*White Plains, NY 10601*

