## Bethel Baptist Church @ Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-Teacher



### eNotes From the Pastor's iPad:

BBC: Building Hope, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives 2022 Theme: Resetting the Ministry Scriptural Foundation – Ephesians 4:11-16 Emphasis for March: Emotional and Mental Health



Praise God from whom all blessings flow! For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. As I write this article, we are emerging from the experience of a global pandemic and shifting to an endemic situation. Welcome to the emerging new normal. In this article, I will attempt to share a brief synopsis of where we are and where we are headed as a congregation. For over two years we have persevered through the disruptive impact of a global pandemic. The church cannot remain the same or go back to the way things used to be if it is to remain relevant and have an effective ministry and outreach to the world.

I have repeated the phrase, "I am not going to waste this crisis." In James 1:2-4 we find these words, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its be perfect and complete Jacking pothing."

perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

I believe God used this crisis to perfect and position us to be better leaders, better disciples, better ministers, and better witnesses for Him in the world. Perfect as used in the scriptures is not about being without flaws, but about being mature or complete and ready for use by God. Many of us have gone through the trials, challenges, and tribulations of the past two years and become closer to God. As a result, we are more ready than ever to serve God in ministry and the work of the kingdom.

How do we do it? We begin by resetting the ministry. Ministry is not about maintaining the institution. Ministry is about meeting the needs of people. Ephesians 4:12 emphasizes that "saints are to be equipped for the work of ministry". Equipped saints will minister and build up the body of Christ. As members of the church are discipled and trained, the question on their lips should be, "How can I serve?" How can I best represent Christ in this emerging new world in which I find myself? Make it personal. Let God through the Spirit and the word guide you.

(Pastor eNotes continued on page 11)

Bethel Baptist Church, 1 Fisher Court, White Plains, NY 10601, 914-949-2792



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## Welcome to eLights of Hope!

Thank you for your interest in B.B.C.'s new quarterly "elights of Hope" electronic newsletter. Our prayer is that it is not only informative, but also inspirational and educational.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this communication please forward this with our blessings. To join our mailing list, please send an email with subject line efriends to eNewsletter@BethelBaptistChurchWP.org.

It is our "*eLights of Hope*" prayer that the information shared will keep you encouraged and proud of the many powerful blessings, events, and revelations locally and throughout God's world. Enjoy!

#### eLights of Hope Staff:

Rev. Deborah Williamson - Editor-in-Chief/Founder Min. Latisha Robinson - Editor/Dir. Christian Education Jemal Mosley - Graphic Designer/Illustrator Rev. Dr. Edward O. Williamson - Pastor-Teacher







www.BethelBaptistChurchWP.org





ZOOM MEETING ID# 862 0901 8774

LEARN MORE @ WAWW.BETHELBAPTISTCHURCHWROP

I enjoy Real Talk for Teens because we talk about God and how to get through things in life. If we are going through anything or if we have questions we can ask the teachers. They give us topics to think about and we have to answer questions that deal with our lives so when something comes up we know how to handle it.

Tyrone M., Jr.

Real Talk for Teens allows me to engage In conversation about life issues, learn bible versus and how to apply them to help me in the challenges ahead. Keep focused and keep the faith.

Brianna G.

When I attend Real Talk for Teens I enjoy the chance to get together with people my age to converse. It is good to see familiar people from my church. We talk about different topics and how God relates to our personal *life. Sometimes the pastor (Rev. Williamson)* ioins the talks and it is nice to see him there

Maya A.

My Real Talk for Teens experience was very good. The conversations that we have are engaging. I also like how there are PowerPoint slides that help us to answer our questions, and also how we always have a verse from the Bible that we read and we talk about. Also I like how at the beginning of a meeting we always look back at what we talked about at our last meeting. I like how when we talk we can somehow relate to what we say or reflect off of it. My overall experience was amazing and I would love to continue to attend Real Talk for Teens.

Kylie H.





## **"THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S HISTORY**



We celebrate Women's History Month to shine a light on the accomplishments of numerous women throughout the decades to our culture and society. A dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women, well known or otherwise, to U.S. history. But as with any minority we have come a long way and yet we have so much further to go. As black women we are a minority twice over. 2021 ushered in our first, yes our first, female Vice President. A woman of color. And 2022 may bring us

our first African American Supreme Court Justice.

Courageous women marched for and won the right to vote, fought against injustice, shattered untold barriers, and widened the possibilities of American life for so many. As we've been hearing a lot lately, representation matters. So why is Women's History Month so important? To show us what to celebrate despite all of the obstacles we may face. We weren't allowed to create history for a very long time and seeing how women have contributed to the past and present can be and is inspirational to future generations. Little girls everywhere can see they can be anything they set their minds and sights on.

We are doctors. We are lawyers. We are teachers. We are artists. We are mothers and daughters. We are the first of many!

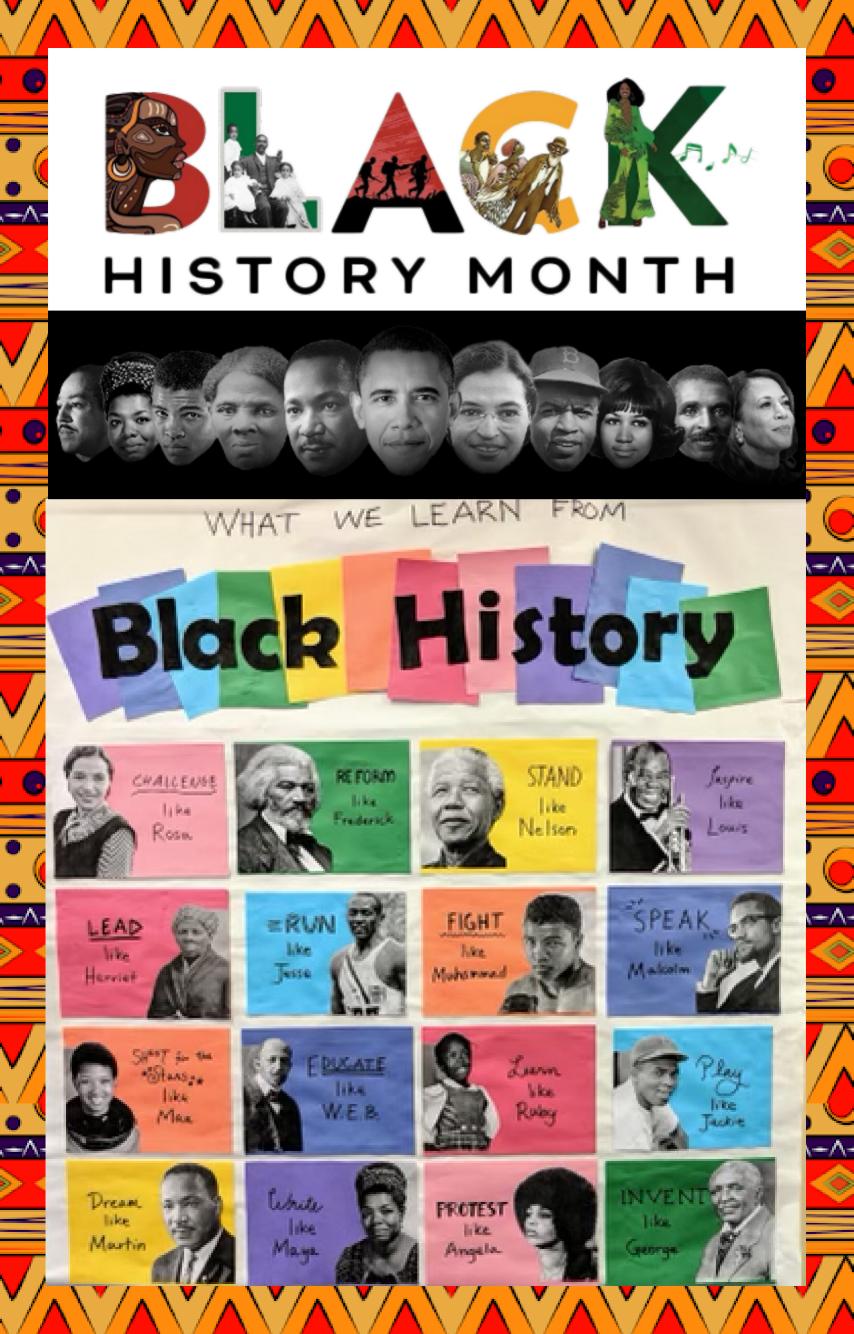
## Nicole Gooden

"A woman is like a tea bag. You never know how strong it is until it's in hot water" is relatable to the women in the bible and throughout history. These women have used their voices to be heard in a male predominate society and it's important to celebrate their accomplishments. Their accomplishments have made our lives easier and noticeable to others, especially the young women today. Young women need to



know the history of other women who have paved the way to create the opportunities for them to continue to create moments for the future women after them.

## Vickki Massy



### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Members Making a



Humanitarian Award Presented To FRANK WILLIAMS, JR.

> For continuing the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through dedicated service to the community

Ministers Interfaith Coali of Greenwich, Port Chester

CORNER

\*\*\*\*

**Deacon Frank Williams** Receives the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Tommy Bouyer Speaks**



On Tuesday, January 18, our K-12 community came together to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After a few words of introduction by Cyndy Jean, Assistant Head of School for Community and Inclusivity, the school community heard from Tommy Bouyer, grandparent of two Hackley students, about his experiences as a youth activist during the civil rights movement. Mr. Bouyer's and Ms. Jean's comments reflected a message of hope and action.

As Ms. Jean shared, "I'm comforted knowing that Dr. King's legacy shines as brightly as the stars in the sky. And even when stars fade, we can turn our attention to another because the beauty of the night sky is taking in the collection of the million stars that burn brightly together. I want you to know that your story shines brightly with the promise of creating your own legacy. You can be counted among the constellations of those fighting for justice – in big and small ways. What will that legacy be? How will you bring sunshine to someone else's life?

### News Article 🔗

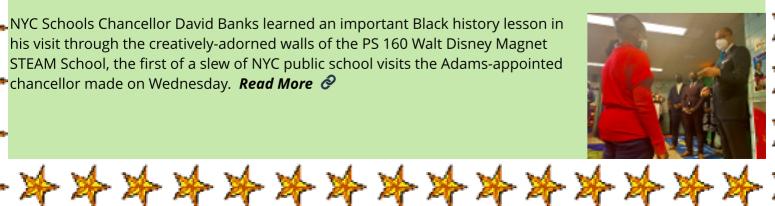
### Principal Lori Baker-Flowers of PS 160, The Walt Disney Magnet STEAM School



The Walt Disney Magnet STEAM School, commits to addressing the disproportionality of the students referred to the Multi-Tiered Support System (RTI), as well as, the disproportionality of boys of color being referred to self-contained classes by having staff participate in professional learning that will focus on building student rapport, developing intervention strategies, understanding student data and how it can be utilized effectively to move students forward instructionally, as well as, developing a greater understanding of the referral process.

### Co-op City school lauded by chancellor, elected officials for its infusion of Black history

NYC Schools Chancellor David Banks learned an important Black history lesson in his visit through the creatively-adorned walls of the PS 160 Walt Disney Magnet STEAM School, the first of a slew of NYC public school visits the Adams-appointed chancellor made on Wednesday. *Read More 🔗* 



CORNER

RACIAL JUSTICE

COMMUNITY

No PEACE

No

Building

Movement

SAVE THE DATE 🖈 SAVE THE DATE 🛧 SAVE THE DATE 🛧 SAVE THE DATE

### Join WESPAC

## at our

## ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

☆ ☆ IN PERSON ☆ ☆

### Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 2pm

Wainwright House 260 Stuyvesant Avenue Rye, NY 10580

OUTDOOR SEATING ON THE WATERFRONT

THIS YEAR WE ARE HONORING



Rev. Dr. Edward O. Williamson Bethel Baptist Church



Patrick Schelle Alternatives to Incerceration Coalition



Cynthia Kling Transforming Lives

Tickets are available at <u>wespac.org</u>. Please consider buying a journal ad or making an additional contribution to support this special event.

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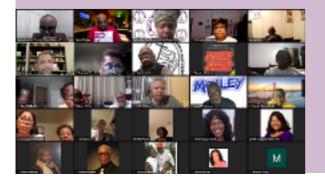
Fair housing

Solidarity

Safe Energy

## 7 Days of Prayer and Consecration

Bethel Baptist Church believes in the power of prayer. Therefore, annually we start our year off with our Pastor in prayer & consecration. Chronicles 7:14







9

Truth to power

CIVIL DISSENT Economic justice



#### eNotes from Pastor's iPad continued from page 1

Begin by getting closer to God during this Lent season. What is Lent? Lent is the 40-day season (excluding Sundays) that begins on Ashe Wednesday and ends the Saturday before Easter. It is a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is an occasion for preparation and an opportunity for people to grow deeper in their relationship to God. Lent involves the practices of prayer, fasting, scripture reading, and alms giving or charity. Resources for celebrating Lent may be found on the You Version Bible App or a host of other resources that can be discovered by searching the internet. Our congregation will be reading the "Devotional for Lent from Holy Bible Mosaic" on the You Version Bible App. Join with your Bethel church family as we seek to draw closer to God together.



Resetting the ministry will involve shifting our emphasis from an inward focus to an outward focus. We will shift from an emphasis on annual days and programs to an emphasis on making disciples and doing the work of ministry. We want to be a transformational church where people become like Jesus, the church represents the body of Christ, and the community reflects more the kingdom of God.

One of the key initiatives to achieve this objective will be launching of the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship Courses. An emotionally healthy disciple slows down to be with Jesus, goes beneath the surface of their life to be transformed by Jesus, and offers their life as a gift to the world for Jesus. Awesome!

We want to be healthy disciples and produce healthy disciples as part of the vision and mission of Bethel. Moving from shallow Christianity to deep transformation is key. You cannot mature spiritually unless you develop emotionally. Join with us as we embark on this life changing journey that will be a blessing not only for our church, but also for individuals, families, the community, and the world.

Another initiative that we will be launching this month is our Financial Boot Camp. *The Financial Boot Camp will meet on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on the following Mondays, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9 and 5/23*. This initiative will focus on helping participants develop financial literacy and wealth building skills such as budgeting, debt elimination, first-time home buying, savings and investment, and overall wealth building skills and strategies. Join with us as we learn strategies and biblical principles to manage our finances and become good stewards of the wealth God entrusts to us.

Where do we go from here? We will have to be adaptive leaders and adaptive followers to make the adjustments to the new normal for life and ministry in this new world in which we live. The focus of ministry will have to be reset from inward and maintenance oriented to outward and mission oriented. Some ministry groups will have to be reorganized and other groups will have to be formed to pursue a renewed vision and mission for the church.

We will have to be open and flexible, as well as being willing to work collaboratively with other ministries of the church as well as with organizations outside the church to meet the needs of our members and those in the community around us. We will have to use in-person activities and events as well as social media and technology resources to promote and deliver our ministry programs and services.

### (Pastor eNotes continued on page 12)



### eNotes from Pastor's iPad continued from page 11

In times of change, don't focus on the negatives and loses; focus on the positives and gains. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

Remember our motto: "We're all in this together, being the church God has called us to be. To God be the glory!

Peace apo Blessings. Pastor Williamson

### **Denominational Activities:**

Central Hudson Baptist Association News

- 2022 Is The Year of Triumph Centennial Year Celebration
- 4/29 100th Anniversary Celebration Gala The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, NY cost \$85 per person
- 6/11 100th Anniversary Celebration Boat Ride The Captain JP Cruise Line, Troy, NY cost \$65 per person
- 7/12 100th Anniversary Luncheon (during the annual session) Villa Borghese, Wappinger Falls, NY cost \$65 per person
- 7/9-7/13 100th Annual Session Beulah Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Auxiliaries of the association will be selling memorabilia such as t-shirts, hats, masks and other items to commemorate this historic event.
- 3/11 The Congress presents a webinar, "Where Do We Go From Here" a workshop on Christian education for pastors and teachers.

### Empire Baptist Convention and Congress of Christian Education

- 1/21 3/4 Bethel participated in the Empire B.E.A.T.S. Obesity Walk Across New York challenge. Over 20 member and friends of Bethel joined the effort to walk 1,000 steps or exercise 20 minutes to promote the fight against obesity in our community. The event concluded with a celebration on March 4th recognizing participants and giving awards to participants.
- 2/21 -- Bethel participated in the 90th Annual Retreat (Virtual Session) 33 Delegates participated including children and youth. Sis. Tasha Pine served as an instructor. Pastor Williamson serves as the dean and state director.
- 3/21 4/21 The Empire Baptist Congress of Christian will hold its Annual Session with Virtual (Zoom platform) and Hybrid classes and sessions. Visit the Empire Baptist website or Bethel's website for additional information. Pastor Williamson serves as dean and state director. Pastor Williamson will give his annual address on Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m.





## Mask Mandate in Westchester County 🖉

Westchester is rolling back some of its mask mandates as the county continues to see improved COVID-19 numbers following the post-holiday surge of new infections.

County Executive George Latimer announced on Monday, Feb. 14 that the mask mandate inside county buildings is no longer required.

According to Latimer, the mandate is being lifted at county buildings in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and White Plains, though it remains in effect on Bee-Line buses, as per state requirements.

Latimer said that lifting the mask mandate is consistent with state guidance.

## Free Home Test Kits 🖉



## **COVID-19 Vaccine** *P*

See if you are eligible. Find a New



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order #4 free at - home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

Need help placing an order for your at - home tests?

Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).





## In Loving Memory of our departed

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, that they may rest from their labors and their works follow them." Revelations 14:13

## Shannon Yancey Carrie Rogers Ann B. Hadley

Ella M. Wren Earlean Robinson Lolita Glover

Special prayers and condolences to all those who have lost loved ones.

Men's Prayer Line: Every Thursday at 6:00 AM - (712) 775-7000 Access Code: 225429# Women's Prayer Line: Every Tuesday at 7:00 PM - (515) 606-5118 Access Code: 912814# Congregational Prayer Line: Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM - (712) 775-7000 Access Code: 225429#



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maren					
Alma Daugett	March 1				
Rose Adams	March 1				
Wendy Dallas	March 1				
Diane Hadley	March 1				
Geneva Benton	March 2				
Deaconess Audrey Seay March 3					
Mary Watson	March 4				
Pamela Earl	March 5				
Rosa Nelson	March 6				
Dyrick Houston	March 6				
Kimberly Brown	March 7				
Louise Hamme	March 9				
Bryce Mitchell	March 10				
Dionna Coleman	March 14				
Kenndi Leak	March 15				
Shamalle Upton	March 18				
Julia Anderson Lee	March 19				
Ervan Caesar	March 20				
Amaya Mebane	March 22				
Stephanie Coaxum	March 22				
Janice Perser	March 22				
Rev. Delores Patterson	March 24				
Doreen Dozier	March 24				
Marea Bagley	March 25				
Dea. Randy Abraham	March 26				
Michelle Bartley	March 28				
Michael Martin	March 28				
Hans Peter Accus	March 29				
Shyanne Johnstone	March 29				
Melvin Smith	March 31				

April

inda Robertson	April 2	
(enan Weaver	April 3	
yhiana Moody	April 3	
enee Davis	April 5	
atricia Morton	April 5	
eaconess Ann Williams	April 9	
elecia Hudson	April 10	
astor Williamson	April 12	
ames Johnson	April 17	
Carolyn Lynk	April 19	
Videon McKoy	April 20	
vonne Hamme	April 20	
veth Shaw	April 22	
aymond Mitchell	April 27	
iloria Jean Mclver	April 30	
/lin. Jacqueline Bozier	April 30	

Мау	
Christopher Bartley	May 1
Wilbur Gibbons	May 1
Richard Jackson, Sr	May 1
Deborah Hardy-Giles	May 4
Saliym Fitch	May 6
Victoria Wilson	May 8
Lauren Burwell	May 9
Florence Robertson	May 10
Francine Burnett	May 11
Brenda Johnson	May 13
Rev. Deborah Williamson	May 15
Dea'ness Monetta Abrahan	n May 15
Georgetta Kent	May 16
David Hadley	May 17
Taheera Mushatt	May 17
Zyaira Abraham	May 17
Marie Ridgway	May 19
Erieuse Brice	May 20
Victoria Johnson-Taylor	May 21
Dea. Wallace Mclver	May 21
Gladys R. Wiggins	May 22
Mark Newman, Jr.	May 23
Toni Tweedy	May 23
Shirley Johnson	May 24
Deaconess Emily Smith	May 24
Tommy Bouyer	May 25
Emory Watson	May 29
Tracey Williams	May 31

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March

Doreen & Gregory Dozier March 26



May Dea. Richard & Deaconess Karen Jackson May 6 (*33 years*) Jemal & Katrina Mosley May 6 (*15 years*)

April

Dea. Wallace & Deaconess & Gloria McIver April 1 (49 years)

> Clarence & Marlene High April 13 (48 years)

