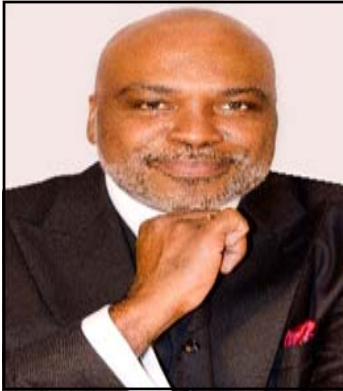


Little Union Gazette

From the Desk of the Pastor



Relishing about what God has brought us through in 2019, another significant year as we celebrated 116 years of Kingdom Service over 2 ½ years as your Pastor; it makes me very excited about where God is taking us in 2020. Where do we go from here? We are an extraordinary community, and we have reason to be proud! For me, challenges are opportunities for renewal, growth and change. As we embark upon 2020, we have embraced the theme: “Clarity in 2020” based on the scripture Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV). Clarity in 2020 will be a yearlong experience helping us to see Jesus clearly. We hope to seek Christ individually and collectively, having a unified vision of what it means to know and follow Jesus. How would the church look different if everyone was on the same journey, with the same mission, reading the same Scriptures, and talking about Jesus together? We want to see people’s lives transformed and see how our community and world would look different if we truly lived unified for the sake of the gospel. We want to see families coming together around the person of Jesus and see parents leading their children to love Him more. We invite you to join us as we work through the traditional church Calendar in weekly devotional, worship services, scripture readings, and small group gatherings to gain a more complete view of Jesus and experience the joy of seeking Him together.

I pray as believers, we must trust God in the process of facing the present squarely with the future clearly with perfected vision in mind, in order to be able to operate and position ourselves with greater focus and divine clarity to see clearly what God will do. In 2020, our agenda will be three-fold: Focus, Forecast and Freedom. The season of confusion and delay are over, and a new day is beginning to dawn so, pick up the vision again as we trust God in the process. Clear vision will move you into position to help restore the souls that will be swept into the Kingdom and as we reap the harvest promised us. The Lord is releasing fresh wind and a mantle of grace to see the vision come forth and hurries toward the goal of fulfillment.

May each of your dreams, plans, visions and goals be developed as we walk together into a new season and level of spiritual growth and clarity as this process unfolds and manifests for God’s glory. God bless you all as we set our hearts on the work that is ahead. In our allegiance to Him, we want to be characterized by good works. The result of spiritual clarity is that God is glorified, we grow, and others come to know Christ.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!!!
Clarity in 2020

Reverend Michael L. Sessoms, M.Div
Pastor, Little Union Baptist Church





Black History Month Spotlight - Honoring Doris “Dorie” Miller



Doris “Dorie” Miller was born on October 12, 1919. He was one of the first heroes of the war in the Pacific Region during World War II. Miller was on board the battleship USS West Virginia on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Although he was a mess attendant and had not been trained to fire a machine gun, Miller took over a gun and performed heroically, downing at least two Japanese planes. Some witnesses later claimed he destroyed as many as six enemy warplanes. His efforts earned him the Navy Cross. He was the first African-American to be awarded the Navy Cross, the third highest honor awarded by the Navy at that time. On November 24, 1943, he was one of over 600 men who lost their lives aboard the carrier USS Liscombe Bay, when it was sunk by a Japanese submarine during the Battle of Makin.

On January 19, 2020, the Navy announced that CVN-81 would be named after him, a Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier scheduled to be laid down in 2023 and launched in 2028.



Honoring Deacon Emeritus Clyde Nathaniel Washington, Jr.



Clyde Nathaniel Washington, Jr. was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to proud parents, Madeline Washington and Clyde N. Washington, Sr. (both deceased).

Clyde is a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He is the husband of Deaconess Gwen Porter Washington. He is the father of two loving children, Troy L. Washington (Anne-Marie) and Shannon W. Grayson (Rickey). He is also the proud grandfather of four wonderful grandchildren, Nico, Noel, Aidan and Mia, as well as, the great grandfather of Arya.

Clyde was educated in the Fredericksburg, VA school system. He graduated from Walker-Grant High School. While a student at Walker-Grant High School, Clyde was very active in school activities, especially sports. He lettered in and was a record holder in numerous sports such as: football, basketball and track. Clyde credits his parents, his church, his teachers and his participation in sports for

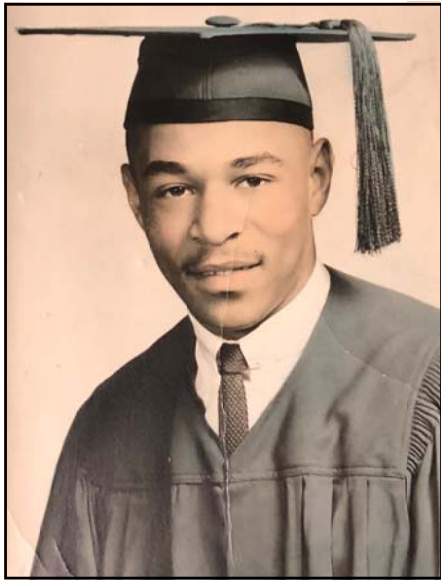
teaching him the importance of hard work and setting goals. While growing up in Fredericksburg, he was a member of New Site Baptist Church, where he participated in many youth activities. After completing high school, Clyde went on to be the first in his family to attend college.

Clyde graduated from Norfolk State College, with a B.S. degree in Vocational Education. He also has a Masters of Education degree from Virginia State University. While a student at Norfolk State, Clyde was active in ROTC, football, track, the Pershing Rifles Military Fraternity and several other campus organizations.

After graduation, Clyde began his teaching and football coaching career in Suffolk, VA at the John F. Kennedy High School. He loved his job and developed a true passion for mentoring youth. Clyde and his wife Gwen lived in the nearby city of Portsmouth, VA, where Gwen taught and coached at I. C. Norco High School. While living in Portsmouth, Clyde became very active in the community. He fellowshiped at Zion Baptist Church and participated in many community service organizations, including Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. After the birth of their son Troy in 1970, Clyde and Gwen decided to move to Dumfries, VA to be closer to their families.

Immediately after moving to his wife's hometown of Dumfries, VA, in 1971, Clyde joined his wife's home church, Little Union Baptist Church, and became active in many ministries, including Sunday School, Bible Study and the Usher Ministry. He soon became a member of the Trustee Board, where he spent several years as a member, prior to serving 16 years as the board's chairman. When a noon day Bible Study was established, he became the treasurer and one of the Bible teachers. Clyde also became active in numerous community organizations, including the NAACP and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Through his father-in-law, John "Wilmer" Porter, he became interested in town affairs and local government. In 1980, he ran for a seat on the Dumfries Town Council and was elected. He went on to serve the town of Dumfries as a Councilman for twenty-eight years; eight plus of those years serving as the town's Vice Mayor.

Honoring Deacon Emeritus Clyde Nathaniel Washington, Jr.



He served the town from July 1, 1980 thru June 30, 2010. Clyde was always thankful to the citizens of Dumfries for electing him to be their representative. He always strived to work cooperatively with each citizen and with other town officials. He was committed to the citizens and always promised them dedicated service and representation with integrity. For his dedication and service to the town, Clyde was recognized as the Grand Marshal of a Christmas Parade. His most proud moment came in 2019 when he and his wife Gwen were awarded the first ever Dumfries Mayor's Living Legend Award. This award came with a celebration banquet attended by his family, his church family, his friends, and many local governing officials.

Clyde is a retired educator, who has a total of 31 years of service in education. He retired in 1996, from Gar-Field Senior High School, after teaching and coaching there for 25 years. He was an assistant football coach, who had many successful seasons coaching

and mentoring young men. Because of his dedication to the young men he mentored and coached, upon his retirement, he was given a certificate of outstanding achievement by Mr. John Jenkins, deceased Neabsco District Supervisor. In addition to his teaching and coaching, Clyde was also a very active member of the Prince William County Education Association, the Virginia Education Association and the National Education Association. He was the Prince William County Representative on the Virginia Education Board of Directors. He also served as a Prince William County delegate to numerous State and National Conventions.



Today, outside of time with his family, most of Clyde's time (as much as his health will allow) is spent trying to give back to his church and community. Even though his health will not allow him to attend church as often as he



would like, he still loves his church, the Little Union Baptist Church, where he is currently a Deacon (who has served for many years) and is in-line to become a Deacon Emeritus. He is also still a member of the NAACP, a Lifetime Member of the Virginia Education and the National Education Associations, and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Clyde believes that "With God all things are possible" and he thanks God daily for the life changing experiences He has allowed him to have. He knows that he has been "Blessed and Highly Favored!" Clyde also knows that it is his faith in God that keeps him daily. He thanks his immediate family, his extended family and his church family for their continued support and prayers.

Honoring Deacon Emeritus Clyde Nathaniel Washington, Jr.



Honoring Deacon Emeritus Clyde Nathaniel Washington, Jr.



Honoring Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr.



Joel Thomas, Sr. was born in the quaint town of Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, in 1938. Puerto Limon is beautifully situated on Costa Rica's Caribbean Sea coast. His mother Ruth Edwards Thomas was also born in Puerto Lima; her parents, however, were from Jamaica. His father, George Lewis Thomas, was born in Nicaragua. Despite the tremendous military presence and turbulent environment that exists in the neighboring Central American countries, Costa Rica has maintained a peaceful existence without a military. It is located just south of Nicaragua and north of Panama.

Joel is the third of four children and the only son of his parents. As a young child, his family lived in a small house that did not have indoor plumbing or electricity. He attended elementary school and was taught in Spanish in the morning. In the afternoon, he attended the Salvation Army School, which was taught in English. He was raised in the Methodist Church, where he was a member of the youth choir. He was always expected to share his oratorical and

dramatic talents during special church programs. When not in school or church, which wasn't very often, young Joel played soccer, baseball and boxed.

At the age of seven, Joel's mother decided to relocate the family to Colon, Panama to join his father, who was a merchant marine. Because young Joel's parents could not afford to take all of the children at the beginning, young Joel went to live with Clarissa and Wilford Samuels, members of their church.

Inasmuch as the Samuels did not have a son, they welcomed him into their home with open arms. The Samuels and young Joel moved to Almirante, Panama, where Joel attended a private English school and worked as a page boy for the United Fruit Company. When young Joel was 16, he rejoined his family in Colon, Panama, where he completed high school and later earned an Associate's Degree in history from Abel Bravo College. While in Colon, he served as a lay person in the Methodist Church.

After receiving his degree, Joel worked with his father on various ships as a part of the international crews. On board, Joel learned to speak Greek as well as develop his culinary skills. He and his father traveled the world – stopping in ports on every continent. As a result of his upbringing in Costa Rica and Panama and his tenure working on the ship, Joel is fluent in Spanish, English and Greek. He is also a conversational speaker of French, German and Portuguese.

In 1957, at the age of 19, Joel immigrated to the United States. During his first year in the U.S., Joel worked in factories and restaurants in New York until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1961. He completed his basic training in New Jersey and was subsequently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, where he began his military career as a Chaplain's Assistant. On August 12, 1962, Deacon Emeritus Thomas was licensed to preach by the Independent Methodist Episcopal

Honoring Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr.



Church. Subsequently, on August 14, 1962, he was ordained a Deacon to conduct the Lord's Supper, Baptisms, marriage ceremonies, and the burial of the dead. And, finally, on January 9, 1964, he was appointed as a Reverend for the Independent Methodist Episcopal Church of Texas. While in Texas, he converted to the Baptist faith and joined the Baptist church, where he sang with a gospel group and frequently delivered sermons in the absence of the pastor.

A couple of years later, the young sergeant was transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia, where on September 1, 1965, he became a naturalized citizen. Shortly thereafter, he met and fell in love with a young coed, Demetria Purvis, at what was then known as Hampton Institute (now Hampton University). She accepted his "blueprint for marriage" and they were united on June 17, 1967, in Bennettsville, South Carolina. The newlyweds were later transferred to West Point Academy in New York, where Deacon Emeritus Thomas served as an Enlisted Aide to senior level generals around the world (Germany, Korea, Hawaii, and Belgium).

In July 1987, the family returned to Virginia, where Deacon Emeritus Thomas was stationed at Fort Myer. In December 1987, the Thomas family joined Little Union Baptist Church. He served on the New Members Committee, Vacation Bible School, and chairperson of the Food Committee. He was later appointed as a Trustee and in November 2000, he was ordained as a Deacon. After many faithful and happy years as a soldier, Deacon Emeritus Thomas retired from the U.S.



Army in 1991, after 30 years of service. Throughout his military career and following retirement, Joel and his wife, Deaconess Demetria Thomas enjoyed catering. In 2002, he moved his membership to United Faith Ministries; however, he continued to fellowship with Little Union. And, in 2016, he rejoined Little Union and continued his work as a Deacon.



In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, following current events and politics, collecting "stuff," and, of course, spoiling his grandchildren. He also loves to send cards to everyone in the church for birthdays, anniversaries, get well cards, and holidays.

Honoring Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr.



Honoring Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr.



Tailgating with: Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr.

By Trustee Donald Jones, Sr.



It is frequently said “It takes a village to raise a child,” and having two children, we can attest to the truth of that statement. Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr. is one of those in our village; he has often encouraged us as parents and our children with their endeavors. In 2019, Deacon Emeritus Thomas learned that Joshua was selected to be the Color Guard Commander for his ROTC Battalion at James Madison University. As a retired Army soldier, he knew the importance of that position. He said he would come down to see him present the Colors at a football game during the 2019 season. That opportunity presented itself on October 12, 2019, during Family and Friends weekend. We struck out early that Saturday morning for the two hour ride to Harrisonburg. During the trip, Deacon Emeritus Thomas seized on the opportunity to share his wisdom on a life well lived and his unwavering faith in God. Having

listened to him speak from where he came from to where God has brought him was inspiring.

We get to the football stadium with an overcast and a brisk breeze, just as we get to the elevator which was near the tunnel to enter the field, we saw Josh in uniform with his Color Guard crew. We proceeded to our seats and saw him present the American Flag during the “Star Spangle Banner.” While at the game, we figured out something about Deacon Emeritus Thomas - he has never met a stranger. He struck up conversations with folks and they were equally engaged with him.

At the conclusion of the game, we made our way down to the pickup lane and waited for DJ to pick us up (Did I mention JMU won the game?). The pick-up lanes were manned by Virginia State Police to make sure no cars camped out in the lane. While we waited for DJ to come with the car you can imagine what happened next ...yeah Deacon Emeritus Thomas struck up a conversation with the State Trooper. The trooper was so involved in their conversation, he wasn’t even doing his job, we had to break the conversation to get across campus. Once again never a stranger has he met.

After leaving the game, we went to the dining facility for lunch. The menu consisted of Alaskan Crab Legs, Prime Rib, Lamb, and several other delicacies. This is where we found out Deacon Emeritus Thomas had jokes. He and I were at the table waiting for the others to come back with their food so he and I could go and get ours. While we were waiting, there was an elderly lady at the table beside us and she had a cane exactly like Brenda’s cane. Deacon Emeritus Thomas said “You better get Brenda’s cane” so I started to move the cane and the lady politely said “Excuse me that’s my cane,” and just at that time, Brenda comes walking up with her cane. We had a big laugh about that even the elderly lady saw the humor in it. Note to self: “Don’t let Deacon Thomas run you up on a snag.” As we finished lunch, we ran into one of Brenda’s co-workers whose son attends JMU. As introductions were being made, Deacon Emeritus Thomas asked where they were from, which they replied Honduras and in mid-sentence, he switched from English to Spanish without skipping a beat. The surprise on their faces were priceless, I could only imagine what was going through their minds when he broke out the Spanish, yeah again never a stranger has he met. At the conclusion of their conversation, he and I proceeded to wait in the lobby of the dining facility while Brenda, DJ and Josh ran into others they knew.

Tailgating with: Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr. (con't.)

By Trustee Donald Jones, Sr.



As you can imagine while we were waiting for the rest of the crew to come out and join us Deacon Emeritus Thomas found some new friends. Evening was now upon us and it was time to begin the trip back to Northern Virginia. As we made our way north, we talked about the goodness of God and how God continues to bless us despite our short falls. As we got closer to getting home, the ride became quieter. As we drove back reflecting on our outing for the day, we were truly blessed to have had the opportunity to spend that time with Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr.

Thank You for Your Service

By Sister Marion L. Boulden



For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 3:13

On behalf of the New Members Ministry, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Deacon Emeritus Clyde Washington, Jr. and Joel Thomas, Sr., not only for their many years of service to the Little Union Baptist Church, but to the community at large. Their positive impact on the lives of the many generations of children and families in the church and community will be forever cemented in and illustrated by the many leaders that have grown from their good works.

For me personally, I have known Deacon Emeritus Washington and Thomas for most of my life and have looked up to them as a father figure for guidance and whenever I had a major life decision to make, would stop to say, "what would Mr. Washington or Mr. T. say or do." As Deacon Emeritus Thomas and Deaconess Demetria Thomas prepare for new adventures in North Carolina and beyond, I can suspect that I will continue to receive that special card or note for every special occasion from Mr. T. And, I know that although Deacon Emeritus Washington's health does not permit him to attend services every Sunday, I'm rest assured that he is thinking about his church family, as we think of and pray for him. Again, thank you both for your service and for all that you have done and continue to do for your church family and the community.

May God continue to bless you!



Pastor's Aide Ministry

By Sister Phyllis Williams



The Pastor's Aide Ministry would like to recognize Deacon Emeritus Clyde Washington, Jr. and Deacon Emeritus Joel Thomas, Sr. for their tireless efforts to ensure the membership of Little Union Baptist Church has the spiritual guidance and support needed in their Christian walk. Their years of service to the church family is greatly appreciated.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

LUBC Spotlight: Meet a Member - Sister Joyce A. Smith

By Sister Charvii D. Smith



Sister Joyce A. Smith is a native to the Dumfries/Triangle area and is a dedicated member of Little Union Baptist Church.

Joyce was born on October 25, 1939, in Triangle, Virginia. As a child, she enjoyed playing with her friends, and going to school. She is the mother of two children, Kathy and Tonya. Two grandchildren who are very near and dear to her heart: myself, and my little brother, Taelen.

Now retired, Joyce worked for the Federal Government for 30 years. She began at the Navy Annex, where she worked for 20 years, and retired from Quantico, where she worked an additional 10 years. Upon her retirement from the Federal Government, she received numerous awards to include a Letter of Commendation. After retirement, Joyce

worked at Dumfries Elementary School, where she made a positive impact on the students, and staff with her kind and caring disposition.

The late Reverend Peter Carter baptized Sister Joyce in September 1953. She was a member of the Usher Board, Food Committee, Gospel Chorus, and held the title of the Assistant Church Clerk for many years. She dearly loves serving the Lord, her church family, and her community.

Though her health may have changed how she is able to serve, it has not slowed her faith. To this day, she enjoys coming to service every Sunday to fellowship with her Pastor, the members of the church, and her friends. Sister Joyce LOVES to talk!

Her favorite scripture is Ecclesiastes 3:1- "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This scripture perfectly describes how Joyce lives her life. She is a believer and a faithful Christian. I am proud to say that Sister Joyce Smith is my grandmother. It brings me great joy to have her by my side each Sunday at church and it is a remarkable honor to follow in her footsteps.



Spotlight on Member - Sister Amijah D. Jordan

By Deaconess Verna Jordan



Amijah is a freshman attending Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. She is presently pursuing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Science in hopes of one day becoming a Veterinarian. In December, Amijah and two of her classmates were asked to help one of their professors, who owned a stable in Richmond, Virginia, in doing something she thought would be an exciting experience. Little did they know that it would be to help deliver a foal. They had to watch the mother closely for her breathing, making sure she was warm and comfortable, but most of all record every contraction. After about seven hours, the foal was born on December 3, 2019, at approximately 5:30a.m. They decided to name the foal Aidden, because it is Amijah's favorite boy name. Amijah says that this was an awesome experience and she hopes to have

more hands on experiences like this.



Black History Month Facts

- ◆ Sunday, February 2, 1915: Ernest Just is the first recipient of the NAACP's Spingarn Medal
- ◆ Sunday, February 9, 1965: President Lyndon Johnson meets Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the White House
- ◆ Sunday, February 16, 1874: Frederick Douglass appointed president of Freedman's Bank and Trust Company
- ◆ Sunday, February 23, 1868: W.E.B. Du Bois, scholar and founding member of the NAACP was born

A Letter to My Church Family

By Brother Donald Jones, Jr.



I joke to myself sometimes that I have been a member of Little Union Baptist Church for 25 years even though it is technically 20. I have many fond memories of the church. I remember the mass choir filling all three sections of the choir stand, the fishing trip with men's fellowship, Kings Dominion Joyfest with the Youth Ministry, Sight and Sound Theatre in Pennsylvania, and dribbling the basketball at the Ferlazzo building while my Dad coached the LUBC basketball team...just so many moments which turned into memories.

My mom engrained the scripture of Luke 12:48 into me "...to whom much is given, much is required...". Since God had given me so much to be grateful for, I wanted to show my appreciation to Him, so I served in the Youth Ministry, Choirs, Ushered and helped the Drama Ministry in Easter and Christmas plays. I am grateful to have been raised in a church that is dedicated to be more like a village that helped a child like myself grow into the man that I am today. The many life lessons that I learned from the wisdom that others poured into me, the hugs and kisses, the well wishes and even constructive critique has shaped my well-being. From the youngest to the oldest, we have some great people that sit in our pews and I wish the best for each and everyone. As you continue to walk your life's journey, I pray that there will be an abundance of blessings. When hard times come, remember, we are the "Union" our church professes to be. Therefore, we can carry one another's burden as God has called us to.

Although I am just over a 1,000 miles away, I want you all to know that I have love for each and every one of you and thank you for being willing to pour into my life so that I may grow.

With Love,

Donald Jones Jr (DJ)



LITTLE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH - WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

By Sister Tywana Perry

**THE WOMENS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY IS BEAUTIFUL
SIMPLY BECAUSE GOD MADE IT!!!!**

This personal invitation is extended to all the beautiful women and friends of LUBC
to come join the Women's Fellowship Ministry!

Romans 1:12

That is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.
Women's Fellowship Ministry is all about encouraging each other as women toward the ultimate goal of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. By encouraging women in their walk with the Lord, we develop Christian friendships and reach out to each other. Our purpose is to encourage women in their God-given role.

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
We all are necessary parts of the Women's Fellowship Ministry because we are unified in building up our spirits together and not tearing it down. When one of us goes forward we all go forward. We can celebrate each other's blessings.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are Gods masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus so we can do the good things he planned for us a long time ago.
God uses ordinary people. He has a design-purpose for all of us. Everyone has an opportunity to come together in Women's Fellowship on one accord, witnessing the spirit of the Lord and being in his presence.

Colossians 2:2

That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.

Above all, we show who we are as a Christian because of how we Love each other. God moves in mysterious ways and God can be a miracle in your life. Make a choice to move forward in the Women's Fellowship Ministry.

Proverbs 31:31

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.
There is a gift in gathering together with fellow Christians. There is joy in serving Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah!!!

We look forward to seeing you there!
Bring a guest!
Join us and let the Lord be a blessing in your life!

Noon Day Bible Study

By Sister Tywana Perry

Come Join Us for Noon Day Bible Study Every Wednesday!

What Is Bible Study?

Bible study is simply the analysis of the Bible. To include the academic application of a set of disciplines to the Biblical study of the Bible.

What Is The Purpose Of Bible Study?

The purpose of Bible study is to collectively grasp an understanding of God through His Word. It is often a small group of members and friends studying and sharing personal journeys to discovering the meaning and the purpose of God's word.

Bible study groups are often small groups within the congregation, while others may form casually due to shared interest or common circumstances. The group may range from young adults to the elderly. A devotional opening of worship and prayer is customary. During study times, the groups may set what the main topic is to be of biblical studies. The objective of the topic of discussion is to promote individual participation, sharing of personal opinions, giving insight and views which can lead to discovering the meaning of the passage.

How do I study the Bible and understand it?

Get a good study Bible.

Plan your study. Set aside a time and place to study.

Study the Bible with an attitude of prayer.

Pray.

Pick out topics to study.

Get a good study Bible. A study Bible is an edition prepared for use by a serious student of the Bible. It provides scholarly information designed to help the reader to gain a better understanding of the context of the text. Find a Bible Study group that you can study with. The text is very complicated and having some help to get through it is very important. The group will also help keep you motivated and inspired. Share what you have found with others within your Bible Study group. Discuss what you have read with others who may have more experience reading and studying the Bible than you do. Don't take what someone says about the topic, except as a guide, but study for yourself. Let the Bible inspire you. Increasing your knowledge about Biblical principles will come with dedication, hard work, and just plain reading.

See you at Bible Study!





Christian Outreach

by Harriet Lambert

One of the buzzwords often used in churches today is “outreach.” Have you stopped to consider what the term outreach means and how outreach is to be displayed? Outreach is defined as reaching out to others; becoming involved in an effort to extend services or assistance beyond usual limits at the locations where those in need are. Not only does outreach serve the physical needs, but Christian outreach is reaching out to those outside the church with the love of Jesus in word and felt needs. 1 Peter 4:10 New International Version (NIV) reads, *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

With that goal, the Little Union Deaconess Board is sponsoring its first outreach project for 2020 *Soles4Souls*. Nashville, Tennessee, based sustainable jobs and provides distribution of shoes and redistributes them through people in need around the that everyone around the good pair of shoes. Since in 2006, the organization has million pairs of shoes in 127 countries during times of disaster.



Soles4Souls is a charity that creates relief through the clothing and direct donations to world. It believes world deserves a *Soles4Souls* began distributed over 35

The Deaconess Board is taking the lead in this project, but to make an impact, we need the help of our Little Union Family—men, women, boys, and girls. This is an opportunity to help others while at the same time helping yourself. There is no cost to you except the time it will take you to clean out your closet. We are asking you to donate your new or gently used shoes to this worthy cause. You know those *“I bought them, but now I don’t like them.”* or those *“Why did I buy these?”* shoes.

Beginning on February 2, 2020, we are asking you to bring your donated shoes to the Church and drop them in the *Soles4Souls* donation box in the lobby or the *Soles4Souls* donation box in the David Robinson Fellowship Hall. The initial project will run until January 31, 2021. That will give you a year to donate your no longer needed or wanted, new or gently used shoes. After a reasonable number of pairs of shoes are donated, they will be taken to a *Soles4Souls* Distribution Center. The center will redistribute them to those in need.

Come on Little Union, let’s help people get back on their feet!

LUBC Dance Ministry.....Moving Forward!

By Sister Stacy Simmons

Remember when the gospel song “Oh Happy Day,” sung by Edwin Hawkins and the Hawkins Singers, hit the Gospel/Christian radio waves around 1968-69? It was new, different, and for various reasons, created a great deal of controversy within the Christian community. For the sake of this article, I will surmise that part of the controversy was due to the fact that the song was **“new and different.”** Mainstream Christians just had a difficult time accepting this variation of gospel music and its introduction into church worship.

Now fast forward, here comes Praise Dancing interjected into mainstream Christian worship services. Another controversy...Yes!.....Why?.....because it too is **“new and different,”** and unfortunately, has the stigma of a **“church activity that has women in body-hugging leotards covered by flowing dresses (sometimes made of the sheerest of material) while they kicked, turned and thrust their hips to and fro.”**

While I try very hard to stay under the radar of controversies (smile), especially church related, I do want to rise up, if only for a moment, to share with you a brief history of the LUBC’s Dance Ministry. About two years ago, Pastor Sessoms asked me to prepare the Dance Ministry to start ministering in dance on 2nd and 5th Sundays. I initially dreaded this responsibility. Up to this point, we were an adhoc dance group with no active continuous role in the church, other than occasional opportunities to minister in dance during special church events. I was very comfortable and content with that pace. But I must be obedient to the Pastor’s request. Therefore, I had to rethink and relook at this new found responsibility from a totally different level of understanding. Establishing a full time Dance Ministry was **“new and different”** for our church, and would require personal and spiritual adjustments for me and those who are, and would soon become, a member of this ministry.

As we move forward as a ministry and continue to seek His guidance, I am reminded that God has been so Good to us....Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow! Yes, we have our challenges but I thank Him for what He has put together, especially for our youth dancers. It is not easy for an average adult to be out front in the public, let alone our young ones. So we thank God for them. As we continue to be led by the Spirit of God, we constantly remind each other in this ministry that we are:

1. **A Ministry:** An activity that is done by members of the church to serve and edify the goals and purposes of the church.
2. **What is Praise Dance:** A liturgical or spiritual dance that incorporates music and movement as a form of worship.
3. **Our Purpose:** We are being used by God as a means to minister to His people through movement to express the word and spirit of God.
4. **What We Are Not:** We are not out there to entertain and perform, but to minister.
5. **Our Scriptures:** **John 15:10-11** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. **Psalms 149:3** Let them praise His name with dancing;

LUBC Dance Ministry.....Moving Forward!

By Sister Stacy Simmons



It's in the Valley I Grow

Submitted by Deaconess Rita Johnson

Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble, and woe
It's then I have to remember
That it's in the valleys I grow.
If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God's love
And would be living in vain.
I have so much to learn
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountaintops,
But it's in the valleys I grow.
I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing.
My Lord will see me through.
My little valleys are nothing
When I picture Christ on the cross
He went through the valley of death;
His victory was Satan's loss.
Forgive me Lord, for complaining
When I'm feeling so very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, Lord
And use my life each day
To share your love with others
And help them find their way.
Thank you for valleys, Lord
For this one thing I know
The mountaintops are glorious
But it's in the valleys I grow!

Author Unknown

Senior Citizen's Ministry

By Deaconess Gloria Thomas



The Senior Citizen's Ministry is excited to announce our Annual Senior Citizen's Banquet to be held April 25, 2020, for seniors 55 and older.

This ministry is truly a labor of love for all who participate. Each year, God's volunteers come together to join in celebrating the seniors in our church, local churches, and seniors in our local communities. Our purpose is to show the love of God, and to let seniors know we admire their contributions to society and to our lives. The smiles as they enter the Fellowship Hall, warms our hearts, and uplifts our spirits. It is a pleasure to welcome the new faces and those that return each year.

This annual event is our ministry's small way of showing the seniors we love, honor and appreciate them. And most of all, we thank them for making this world a better place.

We thank God for the members of LUBC for their kindness, love and all the help you give each year to make this program a success.



The Willing Workers Ministry - Christmas Food and Gift Drive

By Deaconess Gloria Thomas

The Willing Workers Ministry dedicates the annual food and gift drive at Christmas time to the unwavering support, love and volunteer service that was given by one of our beloved members of Little Union Baptist Church, Trustee Ronnie Henderson. Trustee Henderson had a long history with LUBC, and was a faithful member of many auxiliaries. Particularly at Christmas time, Ronnie was known to seek out the neediest families he could find in the local area who needed help during the holidays. He not only obtained their names but also visited and ministered to their needs. The Willing Workers Ministry, over the years, have faithfully continued this tradition of giving and sharing the love of God. The Willing Workers Ministry, assisted by the LUBC family, sponsors gifts for children, donates food items for food baskets, and gives monetary donations toward the purchase of food and/or gifts for a child. This ministry over many years, through their compassion, love of God, and commitment to service, has blessed many lives.



Spotlight Our LUBC Ushers - Thank you for all you do!



A Story of Friendship and Faith - Daniel 3:1-30

Submitted by Deaconess Gloria Thomas

Friendships make life enjoyable and difficult times bearable. They are tested and strengthened by hardships. Such was the relationship between three young Jewish men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were deported to Babylon along with Daniel. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, three familiar names from the Bible, help us think about the real meaning of friendship. As much as these three friends meant to each other, they never allowed their friendship to take the place of God in their lives—not even in the face of death.

Together they silently defied King Nebuchadnezzar's order to bow to and worship the idol he had made of himself. They shared a courageous act, while others, eager to get rid of them, told the King that the three Jews were being disloyal. Nebuchadnezzar could not spare them without shaming himself.

This was the moment of truth. Death was about to end their friendship. A small compromise would have allowed them to go on and enjoy each other, serving God, and serving their people in a foreign land. But they were wise enough to see that compromise would have poisoned the very conviction that bound them so closely—each had a higher allegiance to God. They did not hesitate to place their lives in the hands of God.

We should be faithful to God whether he intervenes on our behalf or not. Our eternal reward is worth any suffering we may have to endure.

Daniel vs:23 "And these three men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace". Daniel vs "24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the King was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the King, True, O King". vs: "25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the fourth is like the Son of God".

It was obvious to those watching that this fourth person was not human. We cannot be certain who the fourth man was. It could have been an angel or a preincarnate appearance of Christ, in either case, God sent a heavenly visitor to accompany these faithful men during their time of great trial.

These three men were completely untouched by the fire and heat. No scorch marks were found on them, only the rope that bound them had been burned. No human can bind us if God wants us to be free.

When we leave God out of our most important relationships, we tend to expect those relationships to meet needs in us that only God can meet. Friends are helpful, but they cannot meet our deepest spiritual needs. Leaving God out of our relationships indicates how unimportant He really is in our own lives. Our relationship with God should be important enough to touch our other relationships—especially our closest friendships.

There is great strength in real friendships and our faith in God, it is important to stand with others with whom we share convictions. God can be trusted even when we can't predict the outcome. God is just as able to deliver us from whatever fire we face, therefore, trust Him, for He is able and willing to help us today, regardless of our struggle.

Congregational Care Team Plan

Submitted by Deacon Milton Hazzard

LITTLE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH PASTORAL, ASSOCIATE MINISTERS, DEACONS, AND DEACONESS CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM (CCT) PLAN

Greetings Little Union Church Family, in the name of our Lord and Savior. In the spirit of advancing Ministry effectiveness, a heightened focus in 2020 on the Congregational Care Team (CCT) Plan was recently proposed.

The Congregational Care Team Plan, envisioned by the Pastor, to include the Associate Ministers, and the Officers of the Deacon and Deaconess Boards. The Pastor has primary responsibility for the care of our congregation; however, the Associate Ministers and the Deacon and Deaconess Boards serve as an extension to ensure care of the congregation.

The Biblical Scripture inspiration for the Congregational Care Team Plan is: “And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.” Jude 23 (KJV)

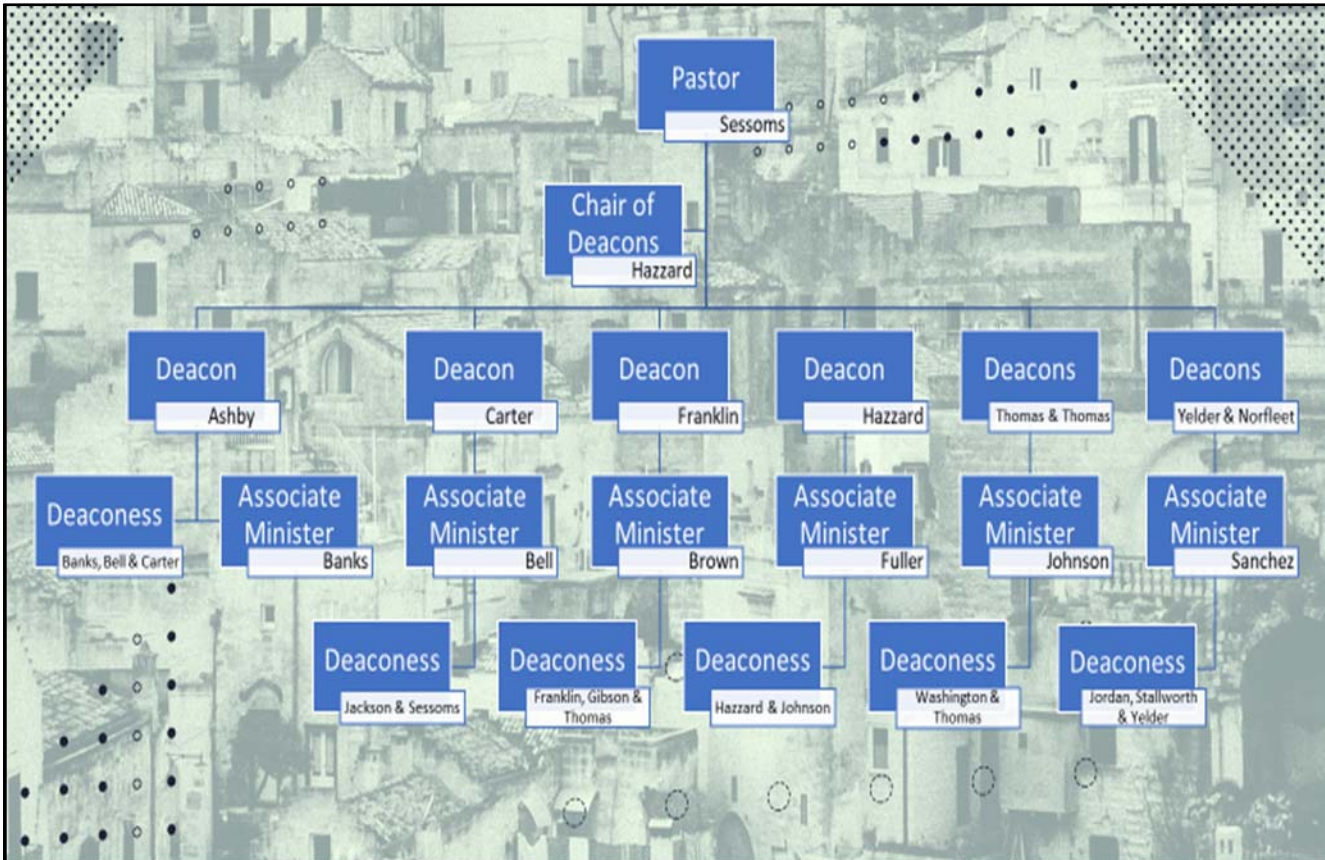
The objective of the LUBC Congregational Care Team is to build and strengthen caring relationships, to nourish spiritual development, and to encourage every member to remain faithful to God and committed to his work of through the Little Union Baptist Church.

The Associate Ministers and Deacon and Deaconess Boards will regularly contact their assigned members in person, and where possible utilize information technology (telephones, mobile devices and computer systems). USPS or Commercial mail contact may also occur. Members are asked to please provide notification of address changes and/or electronic contact information.

The (7) primary objectives of the LUBC (CCT Plan) are:

1. Bring together the Associate Ministers and Deacon and Deaconess Boards as Spiritual Care Teams.
2. Maintain the current membership status of members assigned to each team.
3. Make regular contact with all members assigned to the team.
4. Advise the Pastor regarding members' concerns and viewpoints on a monthly basis.
5. Reassure the members of God's love and his concern for their salvation.
6. Motivate individuals/families to become more committed in the work of the Church.
7. Serve as a physical, emotional, and spiritual addition to the Pastor's goodwill and pastoral care.

LUBC Congregational Care Teams



An engaged congregation sets the stage for active & productive ministries. The Associate Ministers, Deacon Board and the Congregational Care Team looks forward to serving you in 2020. Let's continue to make this a year to build upon as we work together to position Little Union Baptist Church to meet Christ's purpose!

For more information on the Little Union Baptist Church (LUBC) Congregational Care Team Plan, please contact your assigned team member or any Deacon.

Happy Anniversary!

By Brother Samuel Fields



On January 23, 2020, Brother Samuel and Sister Agnes Fields celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary. Brother and Sister Fields met on the campus of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1978. They were married in January 1988. They share three children: Marques, Avery, and Avia. Brother Fields is a retired member of the military and is now a government worker. Sister Fields is an educator in the Prince William County Public Schools System.



Happy Valentines Day!

Dear Claude C. Thomas, Jr.,

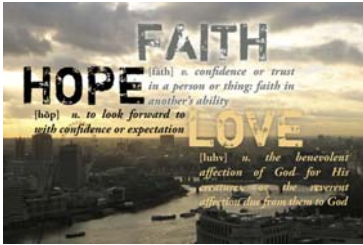
**You're a wonderful
Husband, Father, Grandfather,
And man of God
And I'm so grateful
To have you as my partner,
My friend and the love of my life.**

Your Valentine,

Deaconess Gloria Thomas



Three Gifts



Three gifts I would treasure most
 Are like gems within a crown,
 Known as Faith and Hope and Love,
 Magnetic and profound.
 Having faith is trust in God
 And in our fellowman,
 And in the inherent good
 On earth in every land.
 The second gift I would possess
 Is hope where there is none,
 With courage face the trials and test
 Until the race is done.
 But most of all, I'd want to be
 Worthy of God's love,
 And the ones that I hold dear,
 And in return, be loved

Elsie Natalie Brady

Beams of Sunshine

Do an act of Kindness,
 Gladden someone's day;
 Give a smile to someone,
 Passing by your way.
 Share a thought with someone,
 It could mean so much...
 Little beams of sunshine
 Brightening lives you touch!

Beverly J. Anderson



Happy Birthday Blessings to. . .

January

- 1 Sister Amijah Jordan
- 3 Trustee Alvin Lambert and Deaconess Gwen Washington
- 5 Sister Brenda Brumbrey, Sister Mae Minor, and Brother Humes Gregory
- 8 Sister Thalsidia Garcia and Deaconess Gloria Thomas
- 10 Deaconess Verna Jordan
- 14 Sister Dottie Burton and Brother Malachi David
- 15 Deaconess Evelyn Bell and Brother Aidan Washington
- 21 Sister Patsy Smith
- 24 Brother Lester (Alvin) Johnson
- 30 Sister Kenya Harris-Roa

February

- 3 Deaconess Emeritus Margaret Simmons
- 4 Deacon Howard Franklin, Sister Margaret (Peggy) Kendall, and Sister Shawna Simmons
- 11 Brother Samuel Fields
- 14 Brother Herbert Bates
- 19 Sister Jennifer Newsom
- 20 Brother Ismael Garcia and Brother Victor Garcia, Jr.
- 21 Sister Bettie Ellis
- 27 Sister Allegra Haymon

March

- 5 Trustee Sharon Turner
- 9 Reverend James Fuller
- 11 Deaconess Kathryn Carter
- 13 Trustee Gregory Lambert
- 14 Sister Pricilla Sanchez
- 21 Sister Madison Burton and Brother Joseph Delaware
- 26 Sister Tywana Perry
- 27 Sister Marion Boulden and Sister Linda Moore
- 28 Deacon Elect Wilbert Norfleet and Sister Caylin Clyburn

Happy Birthday Blessings to . . .

April

- 8 Deacon Elect Claude Thomas
- 9 Sister Ruth Harper and Trustee Troy Washington
- 19 Brother Donald (DJ) Jones, Jr. and Sister Kansas Smalley
- 20 Brother Brandon Riley
- 23 Deaconess Demetria Thomas



Happy Anniversary Blessings to . . .

January

- 23 Brother Samuel and Sister Agnes Fields
- 30 Brother Steward and Sister Mary Cole

February

- 6 Pastor Michael and First Lady Pamela Sessoms
- 14 Deacon Milton and Deaconess Carrie Hazzard

April

- 2 Brother Teffron and Trustee Celeste Riley
- 16 Brother Cal and Trustee Sharon Turner
- 18 Trustee Eliza and Deaconess Jacqueline Banks

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office at 703-221-4994 to ensure your information is included in future Church Bulletins and Newsletters.





MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

MISSION

- ▶ To Empower Believers (Matthew 28:18-20)
- ▶ To Evangelize our Community (Acts 1:8) □
- ▶ To Encourage Fellowship (Acts 2:24)
- ▶ To Engage in Outreach (Matthew 25:40)
- ▶ To Exemplify Stewardship (Genesis 2:15)
- ▶ To Express Worship (1 Chronicles 16:23-31)

VISION

We seek to be a family of believers serving and growing together in Christ. Through living, preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, we endeavor to disciple all family members.