

First Baptist Church, Lauderdale

682 S. Lauderdale Street

Memphis, TN 38126

Dr. Noel G. L. Hutchinson, Jr., Pastor

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NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2017

MEN'S MONTH

Laymen's Breakfast/Black History Program

Sunday, February 12, 2017

8:00 A.M.

Theme: "A People's Journey, A Nation's Story"

MEN'S DAY

Sunday, February 26, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Theme: "A Man Stands Tallest When He's On His Knees"

(1 Timothy 6:11)

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Earle J. Fisher

Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church

FROM THE SHEPHERD'S PEN

Today begins another celebration of Black History Month. We look over the rich legacy that we as a people have had during four centuries on this continent. Our people have contributed to the economic, social and spiritual well being of this nation from its inception. From the traffic light to the lawnmower, the filament for the light bulb to the oil filter, the refrigerator to the mailbox, the golf tee to "the real McCoy", we have made a lasting contribution.

A key ingredient in the development of our people has been the church. Our church has been a key piece of the development of this community, city and nation through the work of its members. It is up to each of us to continue this legacy. February is a month of reflection on our collective history, but it also serves as a building block for our collective future.

This month also signals the start of the Lenten season, and we now begin our liturgical march toward Calvary. This season is one of introspection, when we take time to investigate and reevaluate the inner spiritual life. It is a time made up of forty days before Easter, developing into the period we know today gradually during the history of the church. For many, it became a period of fasting, which mirrored Jesus' sojourn and fast in the wilderness, culminating with His temptation by the devil. Pondering this should cause us to reflect on the thrust of our Christian witness.

By the end of this month, we begin our Lenten preparation. As a church, we begin our corporate Daniel Fast on Wednesday, March 1, and we have developed a separate manual that includes recipes. Even beyond this, by the end of this month you will see movement toward the goals and objectives out of our Annual Church Meeting.

It will be up to all of us to move forward in what is entrusted to us. Our cloud of witnesses who paved the way are watching us, cheering us on.

Peace & Blessings,

MEN'S DAY ORGANIZATION

General Chairman, Ramon Moses

General Co-Chairman, Alizé Mosley

General Secretary, Paul Mitchum

PROGRAM

Derrick McNeal, Chairman

Benjamin Mitchum

Come and share with the men on Sunday, February 26, beginning with Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Kevin Patterson, Jr., Associate Minister, New Friendship Baptist Church will be the guest Sunday School teacher. Worship service at 11:00 a.m., Rev. Earle J. Fisher, Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church will be the guest speaker. Invite your family and friends to share in great fellowship with the men.

ACTIVITY

Paul Mitchum, Chairman

Jerome Franklin

Isaac White, Jr.

Brian Mitchum

Rev. Eric Richardson, Sr.

This committee is planning a great breakfast and Black history program on Sunday, February 12, at 8:00 a.m. The program theme: "A People's Journey, A Nation's Story". Also the program will highlight *Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present, Educating and Inspiring our Youth*.

EVANGELISTIC

Bobby S. Renfro, Chairman

Anthony Cleveland, Jr.

Jerome Franklin

The committee will sponsor special meditations on the theme during the morning worship service for the month. The committee also encourage members to attend weekly Bible study on Wednesday night.

MUSIC

Anthony Cleveland, Sr., Chairman

Ramon Moses

Bobby S. Renfro

Ontario Mosley

All male voices are needed. Rehearsals have been scheduled giving men the opportunity to participate and exalt their voices.

FINANCE

Rev. Eric Richardson, Sr., Chairman

Brian Mitchum

Desmond Jackson

The finance goal for men's day is \$8,000 through the months of January-March. The pacesetter gift is \$152.00. This goal can be reached with 53 members contributing the pacesetter gift and/or how God has blessed you. *You can't beat God giving.*

USHERS

William Robertson, Jr., Chairman

Romalis Miles, Sr.

Charles Rice

Terry Dukes

Alfred Jackson

Henry Clark

PUBLICITY & DECORATIONS

Romalis Miles, Sr., Chairman

Terry Dukes

Membership Assigned Deacon's List - 2017

Members are asked to be aware of their assigned Deacon to communicate any concerns they may need to address.

Deacon Harry Durham

Kathleen Adams
Elizabeth Carroll
Nathaniel Christian
Deacon Henry Clark
Leonard Draper
Alfred Jackson
Angela Jackson
Desmond Jackson
DeMarcus Herod
Arlene Parr
Ronald Parr
Jeraldine F. Sanderlin
Kelli Still
Brandon Still
Dorothy Tuggle
Jamil Tuggle
Capt. Reginald Tuggle
Benjamin Woodall

Deacon Lucy Stansbury

Beatrice Allen
Robin Collins
Rodrick Cooper
Anne Cowan
Chestine Cowan
Deacon James L. Cowan, Jr.
Dr. James L. Cowan, III
James L. Cowan, IV
Ellawee Jones
Ruby Jones
Ramon Moses
Sheila Moses
Eva Tillman
George Tillman, Jr.

Deacon Henry Clark

Terry Dukes
Michelle Jones
Mamie S. Houston
Kayla Malone
Betty Miles
Deacon Romalis Miles, Sr.
Rev. Ed Phillips
Leonard Small, Sr.

Deacon Anthony Cleveland, Sr.

Estella Crutcher
Cornelia Durham
Deacon Harry Durham
Carolyn Garner
Harriet Gregory
Florence Lynn Hawkins
Dr. Eldridge Johnson
Jennifer Lewis
Terrell Vestal
Christopher Walls
Destinee Walls
Donnette Walls
Brandon Wrushen
David Wrushen, Jr.
Deddrick Wrushen
Joseph Wrushen, Jr.
Michael Wrushen

Deacon James L. Cowan, Jr.

Doris Bridges
James A. Bridges, Sr.
Calvin Lyons
Stephen Means (y)
Gwendolyn Nelson
Kimberly Reese
Pauletta Reese
Victor Shipp
Kevin Tillman
Phyllis Tillman
Dr. Shelley White-Means
Patrick Williams
Vera Williams

Deacon Romalis Miles, Sr.

Angela Beuaregard
Samantha Beuaregard
Gerald Ceasar
Deacon Curtis Green
Garrison Green
Atty. Gerald Green
Francina Hollimon-Mitchum
Lillie Howard
Antionequa Jones
Rodrecus Jones
Benjamin Mitchum
Brian Mitchum
Deacon Paul Mitchum

Deacon Romalis Miles, Sr. contd.

Phyllis Mitchum
Tashia Mitchum
Dorothy Moseley
Alizé Mosley
Ontario Mosley (y)
Jeremy Mosley
Katie Mosley
Charles Rice
Dana Rice
Dr. Vivenna HH Salley

Deacon Paul Mitchum

Delores Butler
Eunice Carruthers
Jamieria Collins
Debra Goodman
Ashundra Hallom
Rashai Holmes
Rayna Holmes
Timothy Jackson (y)
Patrick Jones
Marie S. Jordan
Derrick McNeal
Tiffany McNeal
Jennifer Malone
O'Neil Malone
Felithia Still
Marquette Walker
LaTrossica Wilson
Shon Wilson
Isaac White, Jr.

Deacon Bobby S. Renfro

Dorothy S. Clemons
Gerald Clemons
Anthony Cleveland, Jr.
Carson Cleveland (y)
Deacon Anthony Cleveland, Sr.
Troas Cleveland
Yvonne Cleveland-Holmes
Carmen Cleveland-Marshall
Schyler Cole
Alexis Franklin
D'Andrea Franklin
Jerome Franklin
William Franklin (y)
Atty. Stephanie Green-Cole
Delois Lewis
Denisha Lewis (y)
Deshun Lewis (y)
Alexis Robertson (y)
Isaiah Robertson (y)
Sharon Robertson
Deacon William Robertson, Jr.
Alberta Triplett

Deacon William Robertson, Jr.

Sandra Barnett
Freddie L. Black
Lindsey Brachett
Patricia Hill
Paul Hill
Rev. Noel G.L. Hutchinson, Jr.
Rebecca Matlock Hutchinson
Antwan Jackson
Roberta Jackson
Laurie L. Lockard
Lisa Lockard
Fredia Moore
Leslie Moore
Kennedy Peete (y)
Deacon Bobby S. Renfro
Donna Renfro
Kia Renfro
Colleen Richardson
Rev. Eric Richardson, Sr.
Starquesha Turner

Deacon Isaac White, Jr.

Curtis Bridges
Alice Burgess
Rev. Sandra Burns
Keith Dinkins
Nakita Dixon
Paris Erving
V. Lynn Evans
Barbara Gaither
Cassandra Gaither
Michael Gaither
Kelisha Grant (y)
Keldrick Grant (y)
Gladys McChriston
Ashley Gaither Rogers
Deacon Lucy Stansbury
Dedrick Taylor
Gregory Wells
Jasmine White
Rhonda White
Linda Williams

CLUBS/AUXILIARIES/COMMITTEES REPORT

Deacon's Meeting - Saturday, February 11

Deacons are asked to purge their assigned members list and report update information. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the lower level of the church.

Choir Rehearsal

The young boys will rehearse on Saturday, February 11 & 18 at 11:00 a.m. Parents please have your child present. Yvonne Cleveland-Holmes, Minister of Music

Sr. Ushers Business Meeting

The auxiliary will meet on Sunday, February 12, immediately following the morning worship service in the lower level. Kathleen Adams, Pres.

Women's Day Committee Chair Meeting

All chairwomen are asked to meet on Sunday, February 12, immediately following the morning worship service in the rear of the sanctuary. Sharon Robertson, General Chairwoman

H. Clarke Nabrit Nursing Home Project

Saturday, February 18, 2 p.m. Ashton Healthcare & Rehab. Facility. Also, if you would like to make a monetary contribution to the Mid-South Food Bank, please see William Robertson, Jr., Fredia Moore or Donna Renfro. Thank you for your assistance.

The Memphis Baptist Congress of Christian Education

The meeting will be held Sunday, February 19, 3:00 p.m., at Fellowship United Baptist Church, 3050 E. Holmes Road. Rev. Lawrence Barksdale, Pastor

Adult Bible Study

Join us on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. for an enlighten study of the bible. We are studying from the gospel of John. Come and be blessed.

Girl Scout Cookies

Please see Kennedy Peete to receive your order and/or place an order. Thank you for your support of our youth and this program. Donna Renfro, Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Women of First Baptist Church, Lauderdale



The Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors unanimously elected V. Lynn Evans of Memphis, Tennessee, board chair. Evans is the first African-American to serve as chair in TVA's 83-year history. She is also the first female and first Memphian to chair the board.



Linda Williams (right)

The CEO's from Grace House, Mid-South Food Bank, and RISE finally received their organization's plaque for participation in the Alliance for Nonprofit Excellence PNE program. PNE is a three year program designed to help Nonprofits to improve their organizations and service impact.



Deacon Lucy Stansbury, who is the first female to be unanimously elected as a deacon in the history of First Baptist Church, Lauderdale at our annual church meeting, Sunday, February 5, 2017.



- 3 - Curtis Bridges
- 5 - Ashley Rogers
- 6 - Antwan Jackson
Katie Mosley
- 8 - Dr. Vivenna HH Salley
Sharon Robertson
- 9 - Doris Bridges
- 10 - Linda Williams
- 15 - Leonard Draper, Sr.
- 17 - Cassandra Gaither
- 22 - Nicole Moore-Morse
23 - Lillie Howard
Keldrick Grant
- 24 - Jeremy Mosley
- 26 - Atty. Gerald Green
- 27 - Rhonda Houston
Ashundra Hallom
- 28- Brian Mitchum

Anniversary

Henry & Annie Clark (14)

Sick & Shut-Ins



- Sis. Eva Tillman
- Sis. Cassandra Gaither
- Bro. Curtis Green
- Sis. Freddie L. Black
- Sis. Sandra Barnett
- Bro. Leonard Small, Sr.
- Sis. Eunice Carruthers
- Sis. Beatrice Allen
- Bro. Robin Collins, Sr.
- Sis. Debra Goodman
- Sis. Marie S. Jordan

Other Announcements

Black History Month -- Sunday, February 19

African-American History Emphasis. Let's celebrate and embrace our history. Wear your favorite African attire or accessory.

2017 Church Directory

If there has been a change in telephone numbers, address or email address, please give this information to the church office by February 20. Thank you.

2016 Tax Contributions

Available upon request.

Silver Neighbors Learning Circle

During the Laymen's breakfast in the month of January, Rev. Sandra Burns presented the Silver Neighbors Learning Circle information to the membership regarding the FIVE WISHES Program and The TN Yellow DOT Initiative. This program, provided through the RISE Foundation, Inc. Linda Williams, President & CEO; provides tools to enhance financial literacy for Seniors. Rev. Burns discussed the benefits of designating a Health Care Agent should you become incapacitated and unable to make necessary decisions about your healthcare. The Five Wishes Form is a legal document accepted in 42 States, including TN, AR, and MS. The emphasis was placed on members of our Congregation preparing for unexpected medical issues. Additionally, the Five Wishes Form eliminates the requirements for an attorney or notary when considering your health care choices. That's a welcomed relief for many Seniors.

Youth Corner

Children & Youth Bible Study/Activities



MPD Officers Clayton Turner and Vick Lester spoke with the children & youth bible study group in January regarding bullying, crime, and how to make wise decisions in confrontations. The questions that the children asked indicated that some had or are being bullied and live in a criminal environment. The officers encouraged the children to let someone know (parent, teacher, etc.) if they are being bullied in order that action is taken.



Food Network Star Competitor and Entrepreneur, Chef Aryen Moore-Alston, Owner of Sweet Potato Baby Cafe on Tillman St. engaged the youth in a cooking class. The young people had a great time preparing a dessert (Banana Fosters Pie) from scratch and learning about measuring ingredients. Now remember that name, Sweet Potato Baby Cafe!!!



Thank you note to lifetime, committed financial contributors to First Baptist Church Lauderdale

As we discussed in our annual church meeting on February 5, 2017, we are asking all members of the church to dig deep and tighten up our belts in order to contribute more financially to the church. We know we can reach our goals and are able to fully support our church programs from our current contributions to the current expense fund, if we all work together.

On behalf of the Official Family, we want to offer a special thank you to members of the church who are sick and shut-in or now are no longer able to attend church services, but faithfully through the years have supported the church by mailing in your financial contributions.

We miss your presence at church with us. We just want you to know that we love you, we bless you, we appreciate you, you are wonderful!

Yours in Christ,
Official Family Members

What has First Lauderdale's 501c3, Mustard Seed Inc., been working on lately?

Here's a short update. In January of 2016, we had a mid-year back to school event where we distributed coats and school supplies to children who live in 38126. Working with Urban Strategies, we also were able to identify four families in dire need, to whom we shared coats, school supplies, and food. Every week we offer, and invite members to attend, a senior citizen's computer class. ACT tutoring classes were held for boys who participate in the programs of the Boys and Girls Club. A total of 150 families were blessed in 2016 by receiving Thanksgiving turkeys and fixing last November. Given a new emphasis on domestic violence, Mustard Seed was able to offer a counseling intervention for women who have experienced domestic violence. We supported the children who attend Xtreme Faith Bible Study by giving them Christmas gift bags. In collaboration with a talented member of First Baptist, Mother Jones, we have an on-going fund raiser (Steps of Faith) where we sell beautiful hand-made footie's.

All of this would not be possible without the assistance of the membership of First Baptist Church. We are so thankful for your support and hope to continue to be a blessing for the community surrounding our church.

Shelley White-Means
Mustard Seed Inc., CEO

Inspirational Reading

This Is Your Day

--by Mary L. Kupferle

THIS IS YOUR day, the day God has prepared for you to live, to love, and to enjoy. Say to yourself as you arise, as you dress, as you eat your morning meal, "This is my day!"

If you have been confronted with difficulties and dread to meet another day, do not be anxious or fearful concerning developments and outcomes, but greet the day with the thought, "This is the day of my overcoming and victory. I will be strong and courageous!" The loving Father will be with you through its every moment. His wisdom will abide within you through every hour.

If your heart keeps turning and returning to the past, longing for the good of the past, bring your heart up to date with the affirmation: "This is my day. This is my day of great expectation, my day of joy and blessing!" Through these words you cultivate an expectation of great good now, and you will find that the blessings of the past have been only a foretaste of the infinite good God sets before you today.

If you feel that you cannot see your way, if your problems seem more than you can bear, then declare: "This is the day I give all my burdens and responsibilities over to God. Today I find perfect peace and freedom." Relax, let go, let God. Let God work in and through you.

If your body seems to need greater strength and health affirm: "Today I accept the fullness of God-life. This is the day of my wholeness and strength. This is my day of renewal." Realize that this day is a new beginning, a day to rise and walk in a new consciousness of life.

This is your day. You need not be concerned about tomorrow or next month or next year. Every moment is a new moment. As the moments come accept them as opportunities to take hold of new faith and courage, new wisdom and love, new joy and happiness.

The more fully you accept God's gift of today, the more fully you prepare yourself for a wonderful tomorrow. The courage you take hold of this moment will build within you a tower of strength for every overcoming. The faith you lay hold of right now will widen your horizons.

This is your day! This is your day to praise and to bless, to give and to receive, to love and to be loved, to laugh, to sing, and to rejoice. Live it fully, live it lovingly, live it freely and joyously, for this is your day!

This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it.