



**G**reetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. This is the Final Edition of *The Greater First FOCUS* for 2013. This long awaited and anticipated edition is reminiscent of the scene at a train station where weary and needy travelers are waiting for the arrival of a slow moving mountain train of Hope and Freedom. Upon the train's arrival, we discover that it is packed beyond its normal capacity with precious cargo and people. The Cargo and People on *The Greater First FOCUS Train of Hope and Freedom* are representatives of events, stories, and experiences that serve as a refreshing historical resource of information, inspiration and instruction that will invigorate us for the trip that lies ahead in 2014! During the second half of 2013 these Cargo and People have accumulated as this train of Hope and Freedom has stopped at stations along her climbing travel route. And now, finally, you are holding in your hands the 2013 Final Edition and it is packed with the significant substantive treasure!

At **THE JULY STATION**, we find that this edition's fiber and fabric is made of the energy, effort, blood, sweat, tears and ultimate sacrifices. General George Washington served at the highest rank of General of the Armies. Under his leadership, our country's troops fought in the American Revolutionary War that started on April 19, 1775 and lasted until September 3, 1783. This war was waged to gain independence from Great Britain. By June of 1776 the Americans were in full control of every state, but the British continued to fight. Then on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress signed The Declaration of Independence. July 4, 2013 was the 237<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day celebrating our nation's independence from Great Britain. We commemorated and honored the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice of the Korean War on July 27, 1953.

On July 13, 2013 our congregation's oldest member, Brother Ira Tinsley, turned 101 years old!

Now we're rolling into **THE AUGUST STATION!** In August, it was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights "March on Washington" for Jobs and Freedom that occurred on August 28, 1963. And we also witnessed the August 16, 2013 release of the movie "Lee Daniels' The Butler" which is the story of the late Trustee Eugene Allen. He was an active member at The Greater First Baptist Church for 59 years and served as a Trustee and an usher with our Senior Ushers Ministry. Brother Allen was a butler at The White House during eight presidential administrations. The movie is based on the book by Washington Post writer Will Haygood. It is true that in his life of service Brother Eugene Allen opened doors not just for presidents, potentates and world leaders, but he also opened them for us. Greater First Baptist had our transportation vehicles packed for the occasion.

## *Pastor's Focal Point*

The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention convened in Washington, D.C. on August 12-16, 2013 at the Marriott Hotel. The Lott Carey movement was founded in 1897 by African American Baptists who were committed to a substantial foreign mission thrust—especially on the continent of Africa. The convention bears the name of the Rev. Lott Carey who was one of the first American and Baptist missionaries to West Africa. He was born enslaved in 1780 in Charles City County, Virginia. Lott Carey purchased his own freedom in 1813. He led a pioneering missionary team to Liberia in 1821 that engaged in evangelism, education, and health care. The Greater First Baptist Church was well represented by 14 delegates at

**The Greater First Baptist Church**

Mt. Pleasant Plains  
2701 Thirteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

202-462-6127 (office) ☎ 202-462-8410 (fax)  
greaterfirstbc@verizon.net  
pastor@greaterfirstbaptist.org  
www.greaterfirstbaptist.org



**PASTOR**

Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr.

**FIRST LADY**

Bonita L. Ridley

**ASSOCIATE MINISTERS**

Rev. James McCord

Rev. Robert Hood

**DEACON BOARD**

Gamelia Jackson, Chair

**TRUSTEES**

Norman Stover, Chair

**DEACONESS BOARD**

Margaret Green, President

**Church Treasurer**

Walter Brown

**Church Clerk and Financial Secretary**

Linda Watkins

**WEEKLY & MONTHLY SERVICES**

**Sunday School**

9:15 a.m.

**Praise & Worship**

10:45 a.m.

**Church Worship**

11:00 a.m.

**Communion**

1st Sunday

**Baptismal**

4th Sunday

**Bible Study**

Tuesday

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

11:00 a.m.

**Prayer Meeting**

Tuesday

8:00 p.m.

**Mid-Day**

**Prayer Service**

Wednesday

12 noon

**Men's Ministry**

2nd Saturday

11:00 a.m.

**Daughters of Zion—**

**GFBC Women's Ministry**

Saturday before 3rd Sunday

12:30 p.m.

**Eliza Smallwood**

**Missionary Ministry**

2nd Sunday

**BTU**

4th Saturday

**Greater First FOCUS**

**EXEC. EDITOR**

Dr. W. C. Ridley, Jr., Pastor

**EDITOR**

Denise R. Johnson

**PHOTOS**

Ina McNeil Denise Johnson  
John Richardson Lenita Clark

# Meet our New Members

The following persons have received the Right Hand of Fellowship and become full fledged members of GFBC.

### March

Master Sean Tyler  
 Ms. Delores Grady-Harris  
 Mr. Eric Wallace  
 Ms. Dwight Banks

### April

Miss Nia Grymes  
 Master Donald Lampkins

### May

Ms. Dianne Bigby  
 Miss Courtney Taylor  
 Miss Zahari Sheffield  
 Miss Kalani Sheffield  
 Ms. Alice Best Tolan

### July

Miss Asia Clark  
 Master Jahlil Clark  
 Ms. Lottie Williams  
 Ms. Patricia Tracey

## More New Members

Mr. Vecchio McKethean  
 Mr. Jarvon Crocker  
 Ms. Jessica Gooding  
 Ms. Angel Taylor-Miller  
 Ms. Ladean Holman



New Members' Ministry president Felicia Few, center, with Ms. Jessica Gooding, left and Mr. Jarvon Crocker, right.

## MINISTRIES

### Operational and Support

**Ministries**  
 Audio-Visual  
 Bereavement  
 Birthday  
 Flower  
 Greater First *FOCUS*  
 Hospitality  
 Kitchen  
 Mary E. Peyton Nurses  
 Pastor's Aide  
 IMP Ministry  
 (Intercrossers Praying Mightily)  
 Transportation  
 Usher Board—Junior & Youth  
 Usher Board—Senior

**Educational**  
 Baptist Training Union  
 Computer  
 Creative Arts  
 Daughters of Zion

Men's  
 New Members  
 Scholarship  
 Sunday School  
 Youth & Young Adult

**Missionary Ministries**  
 Eliza Smallwood  
 Outreach  
 Warriors for Christ (Youth)

**Music and Dance Ministries**  
 Fellowship Choir  
 Gospel Chorus  
 Judah Worship & Praise  
 Men's Chorus  
 Senior Choir  
 Voices of Praise Dancers  
 Volunteer Choir  
 Youth & Young Adult Choir



Mr. Dwight Banks, Miss Asia Clark and Master Jahlil Clark .

## Pastor's Focal Point *(continued from page 1)*

116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session. Among them were the leaders of our missionary ministries: Sister Gladys Baskett, President of Eliza Smallwood Missionary Ministry, Deaconess Lisa Felder, President of the Warriors for Christ Junior Missionary Ministry and Deaconess-in-Training Minnie Gardner and Sister Christine Powell, GFBC Sunday School Missionaries.

Customarily our attention and activities go through a shift in the summer. We move from Reading, Writing and Arithmetic to Recreation, Relaxation and Retreating, Playing, vacationing etc. Or some just go to plain ol' loafing. But with everything that has been said above, we must make sure that we make the most of this time. It really represents a period of significance as we go through this transitional period. It is a proven fact that during the summer break from school most students will lose at least a percentage of what they learned during the school year. At the July and August stations we hear this sage advice: **"Don't lose what you learned; Don't give away pearls to swine; Don't waste what was earned by great sacrifice."**

As we travel along the railways, we are transitioning from the days of summer into the fall season. Looking out of the window we can see that God the Heavenly Arborist and the Ultimate Artist in nature is painting the trees with brilliant colors of auburn, brown, yellow and red. The winds are blowing and the leaves are falling. In the air there is a sense that says we are returning from our activities and attention of summer to the business of learning and labor. And here we are... We have arrived at **THE SEPTEMBER STATION!** School is back in session and we have a nice number of young people that are attending college in their very first semester: Asia James and Khadijah McDowell (Pennsylvania State University), Terrence Parks (University of West Virginia), and Dejanae Wright (Morgan State University). Each one of these 4 students was among the total group of all those students receiving scholarships from the GFBC Scholarship Ministry where Trustee Karen Freeman serves as President. Through the generosity of The Greater First Baptist Church and friends, the

total group of students this year received approximately \$13,000 in scholarship support! Praise God and thanks to the givers for the financial support. This is an exciting time and it is full of great expectations!

During the week of Labor Day, September 2-6, 2013, The National Baptist Convention (NBC), USA, Incorporated held its Annual Session in Charlotte, NC. It is the largest predominantly African American Christian denomination in the U.S. and the second largest Baptist denomination in the world. There were well over 14,000 registered delegates there from across the United States. Reverend Dr. Winston C. and First Lady Bonita L. Ridley were there among them. First Lady Ridley serves as the National Coordinator/Chair of the Minister's Wives and Widows of the Woman's Auxiliary of NBC, USA. This year's session was hosted by "The Carolinas" both North and South Carolina. The host church and pastor were The Friendship Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC and the Reverend Dr. Clifford Jones. Our National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. President, Dr. Julius R. Scruggs of Huntsville, Alabama, at his annual presidential address announced that he will not be seeking reelection for a second term. That announcement set in motion a flurry of activity concerning electing a new president for our Convention.

Presently, there are six men seeking to be elected to the office of President NBC, USA at the Annual Session in 2014. They are: Dr. Boise Kimber, Conn., Dr. Alvin Love, Ill., Dr. Clifford Jones, NC, Dr. R. B. Holmes, FL, Dr. Randy Vaughn, TX and Dr. Jerry Young, MS. During the Board of Directors meeting at this Session, it was voted and announced that next year's 2014 Annual Session will be held in New Orleans, LA, September 1-5, 2014. Since Labor Day is Monday, September 1, 2014 that means the 2014 Annual Session will not start the week after the first Sunday of the month of September. Thus, it will convene on the week leading up to the first Sunday. Only those Delegates that were registered in the 2013 Annual Session in Charlotte, NC will be eligible to vote in 2014 NBC, USA, Inc. Presidential election in New Orleans, LA! I hear the Train

## Pastor's Focal Point *(continued from page 4)*

whistle blowing!

**The Greater First FOCUS Train of Hope and Freedom** just pulled into **THE OCTOBER STATION**. Being loaded are treasures of ministry. The ministry schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, October 12, 2013 GFBC Music Workshop 9:30 AM-4:30 PM: Minister William Becton "Be Encouraged," Facilitator and In Concert at 6:00 PM;
- Saturday, October 19, 2013, GFBC Men's Prayer Breakfast at 9:30AM;
- Sunday, October 20, 2013, Word Power Tabernacle Baptist Church, Church and Pastor's Anniversary at 4:00 PM. Dr. Ridley preaching;
- Wednesday, October 23, 2013, Canaan Baptist Church, Revival at 7:00 PM. Dr. Ridley preaching;
- Saturday, October 26, 2013, Annual Health Fair, 12:00-4:00 PM.

Wow what a schedule! This train is really rolling! ALL ABOARD!

The passengers are buzzing with excitement as we can see what is coming up ahead! It appears that **THE NOVEMBER STATION** is brimming with waiting passengers and cargo! This looks like a "Thankful" crowd. We can hear them praising God for the arrival of the Train!

On Sunday, November 10, 2013, the GFBC Senior Ushers celebrated their 134<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. During the service we paused to honor our veterans at GFBC and called the names of those veterans that were in attendance. Monday, November 11, 2013 was Veterans Day, observed on behalf of a grateful nation in recognition of the service and sacrifice of all of the brave men and women of all military branches of the United States of America's Armed Forces.

Of course, we have a lot for which to be thankful! On Thanksgiving Day, we had our Annual Thanksgiving Day Service at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 28, 2013 at The Greater First Baptist Church. God gave me a message

titled "**The Praise That Pays**" from the text found in Psalm 106:1 it says:

***"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."***

He dropped three questions in my spirit:

**Question 1: If your expression of Gratitude were the basis of your riches: How Rich would you be?**

"The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich and addeth no sorrow to it." Proverbs 10:22

**Question 2: If your expression of Thankfulness were the basis of your time on earth: How Long would you Live?"**

**Question 3: If your expression of Appreciation were the basis of your accolades or crowns: How many would God Give to you?**

And with our minds still meditating on those three provocative questions the train is leaving **THE NOVEMBER STATION** and we are headed toward our final station for 2013.

Now here we are at **THE DECEMBER STATION** and we are celebrating not only our arrival at this station but the greatest of all arrivals. It is the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we celebrated on Wednesday, December 25, 2013. This year we had a Christmas Morning Service at 10:00 AM. The Greatest Gift that God ever gave this world had a beginning on that first Christmas. On that day "S.C.L.: Salvation Came Low!" Luke 2:7 says, "***And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.***" The Savior which is C.hrist the L.ord came so low because God became: Human (Born), Helpless (Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes) and Humble (Lying in a Manger) at His birth! He was born of a virgin to die for our salvation at Calvary!

On December 31, 2013 we will "watch" for the

*Continued on page 8*

## From the Heart

### GFBC FOCUS Winter 2013 - From the Heart...

Greetings in the name of the One who is called Jesus the Christ, Immanuel, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting

Father, Prince of Peace, Mary's Baby! It's the most wonderful time of the year!!! It is more than wonderful this time of the year. This is the time the Godhead's (The Father, The Word and The Holy Spirit) decision, before the foundation of the world, to send the Word to earth became manifested and dwelt among us!!!! This is the time that the promise our awesome God made in Genesis 3:15, "her Seed" was made flesh in the person of Jesus that Holy One who was born and also called the Son of God. In Genesis 3:15 we see the first prophecy of the coming of Messiah. We see that Messiah will come through a woman. God gave Mary His Seed. Naturally, the seed is of the man – the male and the egg is of the woman – the female. However, in this case Mary had both! Mary had the egg naturally and God's Seed given of the Holy Spirit supernaturally!!! In bringing Jesus, the Word, into the world, God through a young virgin woman restored the integrity of all women.

The very first human being to literally carry the Word of God was a young virgin named Mary. Then again on Resurrection Day some of the female disciples, Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James), Joanna and certain other women (no doubt Susanna was one of them because she was also a disciple and faithful supporter of Jesus and His ministry) and the rest came to the tomb bringing spices.

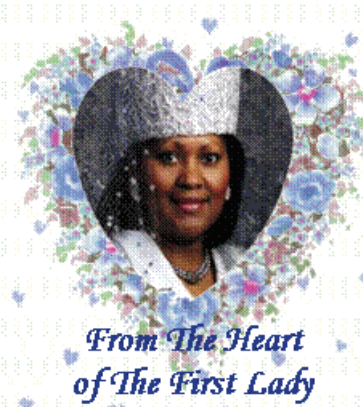
(Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-11) Oh, what an awesome encounter they had! First, the angel, whose countenance was like lightning and his clothing was as white as snow, told the women to **go quickly and tell** His disciples that He is risen. As they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them! Jesus said to them, "Rejoice!" The women were the first to touch and worship

Jesus after He rose from the dead. They held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid, **Go and tell** my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Hallelujah! You see, Jesus taught the women just like He taught the men. Back then the disciples consisted of males and females just like they do today! And thank the Lord for that! It was the women in majority who were unashamed to be with Jesus as He was being crucified on the cross. Because of Jesus, women are no different than men in the Kingdom of God! The Lord restored our integrity and honor. God was using women in ministry as far back as the Old Testament days: Deborah the Judge, Huldah the Prophetess and Esther the Queen, just to name a few.

*"When Christ gave the Great Commission, He did not consider gender; just as when the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts, He gives them to both women and men. God has chosen every believing woman to carry His message to her sphere of influence as she is filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit and anointed and equipped with His power. (Acts 1:8) The single woman, the wife, the mother, the grandmother, the widow are called to "go into all the world." Going does not necessarily mean leaving home and family, but it does mean making yourself totally available to serve wherever, whenever, and however He directs." The Woman's Study Bible by Nelson*

Women were not an afterthought in creation but a most necessary part of creation that makes mankind complete in the image of God. "Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

(Genesis 1:26-27). The Lord God chose the young virgin named Mary and through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and without an earthly father's participation in the conception, she housed Him: the Word, the second person of the Godhead, in her womb for nine months. Well, the Savior was born! They found Him in a man-



## From the Heart

ger in Bethlehem. Because of this being the most wonderful time of the year, we can rejoice and be exceedingly glad!

**My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord**  
Song of Mary aka the “Magnificat”  
“Born To Die” Opus 25  
Christmas Cantata by Glen Burleigh

My soul doth magnify the Lord.  
My spirit has rejoiced in God  
All generations shall call me blessed  
He has done great things for me!

My soul doth magnify the Lord  
My spirit has rejoiced in God  
He has done great things  
He has done great things  
Where of I am glad!

*Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” Luke 1:39 NKJV*

*Lady Boni Ta L. Ridley*

---

## The Lott Carey Convention

The 116<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention was held August 12-16, 2013 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. We were blessed to have fourteen members of the Greater First Baptist Church attending the session representing the Youth, Missionary, Outreach, Hospitality and Sunday School Ministries. The fourteen members were: Gladys Baskett, Delores Couser, Lisa Felder, Patricia Fitchard, Minnie Gardner, Sarah Graves, Gloria James, Jean Johnson, Willie Mae Osborn, Dorothy Pratt, Elizabeth Queen, Marion Washington, Ella Williams, Nicholas Felder and Jasmine McGill.

The theme for the convention was “Places we have to go” taken from John 4:4, which supported the overall mandate of the Convention of helping churches extend their Christian witness to the ends of the earth by sending people into

## Lott Carey

God’s world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to touch lives with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, was founded in 1897 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, DC and named for Rev. Lott Carey (1780-1829), who was born a slave in Charles County, VA and purchased his freedom in 1813. Rev. Carey led a pioneering missionary team from Norfolk, VA to the West Coast of Africa in 1821. The convention partners with all churches, missionary groups and individuals who endorse the purpose of the convention and is financed through donations and memberships. The funds are used to provide financial, technical, educational and health support to indigenous communities around the world.

For some of us, if not all, it was our first time going to the convention and we did not know exactly what to expect, but we were all excited to be there. The number of youth and churches represented from New York to South Carolina was impressive and we were glad to be in the count.

Our first day started out a little confusing. We were going into a class without a text book and we did not know the topic of discussion and due to the number of people registered for the convention, our group of fourteen was separated into a much smaller group.

The topic for all of the classes was contextual Bible Study – Gender Based Violence. The reference for the topic was II Samuel 13:1-22 KJV, “The Rape of Tamar.” This topic was also the springboard for the messages on human trafficking delivered by a number of the women speaking at the worship services. Some of the women were from African countries where they had been victimized by this act. They are now working with the Lott Carey organization in an effort to save other victims. We soon learned that this crime is very much alive in various countries, including the United States.

On Thursday night, we were moved by the message from Pastor Gregory K. Moss, Sr. of St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte NC, who is also the

*Continued on page 17*

arrival of a New Year 2014 on New Year's Eve!  
What a Train Ride this has Been aboard **The Greater First FOCUS Train of Hope and Freedom!!!**

“Life’s Railway to Heaven”  
M. E. Abbey & Charlie D. Tillman

Life is like a mountain railroad,  
With an engineer that’s brave,  
We must make the run successful,  
From the cradle to the grave;  
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels;  
Never falter, never quail;  
Keep your hand upon the throttle,  
And your eye upon the rail.

Blessed Savior, Thou wilt guide us,  
Till we reach that blissful shore  
Where the angels wait to join us  
In thy praise forever more.



Lott Carey continued from page 7

President of the convention along with his all-male chorus. His subject was “Dead People Walking,” taken from John 11:21-26. The message was awesome and the music just gave you “That Old Time Religion” feeling.

Our days and evening were filled with very interesting and eye opening things to ponder. We all left the convention with the question of what do we do now, as a church and as a ministry. It was a feeling that we needed to do more.

It was a pleasure and honor to be at the Convention with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Submitted by Patricia A. Fitchard

## Thanks to the Committee

From the *Golden Nuggets*

Yes, we have come a long way. But we know that God did it all. We have had many experiences that we tell about. We are grateful to you, for some of us never receive encouragement. Our name is never called or asked to do any assignments. So, we say again:

*You tell me I'm getting old, I tell you not so;  
The house I live in is worn out--and, that, of course, I know,  
It's been in use a long, long while, it's weathered many a gale;  
I'm really not surprised you think it's getting somewhat frail.  
The color's changing on the roof, the window's getting dim,  
The wall's a bit transparent, and looking rather trim.  
The fountain's not so steady as once it used to be.  
My house is getting shaky, but my house isn't me!  
My few short years can't make me old--I feel I'm in my youth;  
Eternity lies just ahead, a life of joy and truth,  
I'm going to live forever there; life will go on--it's grand!*

*You tell me I'm getting old? You just don't understand!*

*The dweller in my little house is bright and young and gay--*

*Just starting out on a life to last throughout eternal day.*

*You only see the outside, which is all that most folks see.*

*You tell me I'm getting old? You've mixed my house with me!*

By Dora Johnson

Submitted by Deaconess Willie Mae Osborn





# Protocol

## BASIC PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The use of parliamentary procedure is not just for secular organizations, but should be used by the church as well. Churches, on average, hold several official meetings throughout the year, and ministries hold monthly meetings. These meetings should be conducted in an official manner following a recognized, established procedure. By doing this meetings can be shortened (because everything is done in order) and can be more efficient and effective.

The President or chief officer of an organized society normally presides at its meetings and is then addressed as “Mr. President” or “Madam President”. A person presiding at a meeting who has no regular title or whose position is temporary is addressed as “Mr. or Madam Chairman.” Even in a small meeting, the presiding officer should not be addressed or referred to by name. Unless it is a committee meeting or a small board meeting, a member never speaks while seated, and a member does not speak without first having obtained the floor. The presiding officer speaks of himself or herself only in the third person—the personal pronoun “I” is not used. He or she refers to themselves as “the chair”.

## AGENDA

An agenda is usually prepared by the presiding officer and a copy is given to each member attending the meeting. The agenda states the items to be discussed at the meeting and who will present the information.

## CALL TO ORDER

When the starting time of a meeting has arrived, the presiding officer (PO) calls the meeting to order. The officer waits or signals for quiet, and announces in a clear voice, “The meeting will come to order.” The call to order is followed by opening ceremonies that consist of prayer, scripture, and song.

The first order of business is usually the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

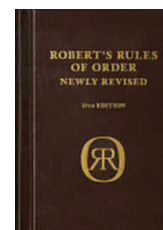
The chair says, “The Secretary will read the minutes.” A formal motion to approve the minutes is not necessary, although such a motion is not out of order. However, it is time consuming. After the minutes have been read, the chair asks, “Are there any corrections to the minutes?” and pauses. If there are no corrections, the chair states “There being no corrections to the minutes, the minutes are approved as read.” If there are corrections, they are usually handled by unanimous consent. After any proposed corrections have been disposed of, the chair asks, “Are there further corrections?” and pauses. The chair then states, “The minutes are approved as corrected.” The approved minutes then become the official proceedings of the Ministry.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

At each meeting, the chair may ask for a “Treasurer’s Report”. This report may consist simply of a statement of the cash balance on hand, or it may include receipts, disbursements and balance on hand. Such a report requires **NO ACTION** by the ministry. The chair may ask if there are any questions. Members may ask questions about the report. The questions are directed to the chair. If the chair cannot or does not wish to answer, the chair will ask the treasurer to respond. In a larger assembly, after the report is given and questions have been answered, the chair simply says “The report will be filed for audit.” It is not adopted by the assembly.

In the next issue, obtaining the floor and the necessary contents of the minutes will be discussed.

**Reference:** Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. This edition has been written with the church in mind, such as having a religious opening as opposed to a patriotic one and using the word “Ministry.”



*Submitted by Deaconess Jean W. Johnson*

## Ministries

### The Greater First Baptist Church Intercessory Prayer Ministry

#### IPM ~Intercessors Praying Mightily

In December of 2012, Sister Lisa Turner met with our pastor, Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr. to discuss a vision the Lord gave her to start a prayer ministry at our church and the benefits that would come from it. Pastor was in agreement with what she shared as it was in line with the overall vision the Lord has given him for our church. As he so often does, the Lord immediately dropped an acronym in the mind of our pastor that would soon be used to describe the mission of this ministry, IPM ~Intercessors Praying Mightily. From that meeting, the Intercessory Prayer Ministry was established in January 2013 consisting of persons who have a passion and a call to the ministry of intercession. Sister Lisa C. Turner was appointed as the Director.

**Our Purpose:** The mission IPM is to provide spiritual support to our church leadership and church family. We stand firm as a team on commitment, accountability, and confidentiality! Our scriptural reference is, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." (1Timothy 2:1)

**Our Vision:** The vision is fulfilled through, but not limited to the following:

- (1) Monday morning prayer calls, open to our church family to pray together. A prayer box is located in the vestibule of the church to communicate prayer request to the ministry, also available through email at [gfbcipm@yahoo.com](mailto:gfbcipm@yahoo.com).
- (2) Personal prayer is offered at the altar following Sunday morning services.
- (3) Seasons of Prayer and Fasting.
- (4) Ministry conference calls, team prays for our Pastor, First Lady, Ministry Leaders, and prayer requests submitted to the ministry.
- (5) Ministry sessions for edification and instruction.

- (6) Cards of encouragement sent to members for spiritual support.

**How do I join?:** If you feel the Lord directing you to the ministry of intercession and you have completed all of your new member classes, we welcome you to become a part of the IPM ministry. Contact us in person or by email to get connected. Our sessions are held on the 4th Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Baptismal area of the church. If you are interested but not sure, come out anyway to observe our session and find more about who we are and what we are doing together to the glory of God!

#### ***WE'RE ON THE MOVE!***

**Prayer Empowerment Session:** On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the IPM ministry held its first Prayer Empowerment Session, our theme, "The Power of a Praying Church". What a power packed time of impartation! God showed up in a mighty way from the beginning in our worship, through every prayer of intercession, scripture reading, and most powerfully through the word of God delivered by our guest speaker, Elder Lisa R. N. Jackson, from the Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church in Wash DC. Elder Jackson left us wanting to watch, fight and pray even mightier! All were blessed, encouraged and enlightened! Prayer and Praise Service: Every Praise is to our God! That was our focus at the Prayer and Praise Service held on Saturday, November 21, 2013. Our guest worship leader was Elder Julius Walker from St. Paul Christian Community Church. He kept the fire burning and the praise flowing! We were blessed to have the Fellowship Choir minister in song, the GFBC-Sacred Dancers, a powerful testimony by our guest, Ms. Kimberly Burke, and ministry in song from Elder Judi Ramsey, Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church. We were richly blessed by the readers of God's word who prepared us for the segments of intercessory prayer following "Every Praise to our God! Stay tuned! There is more to come .....

---

#### ***OUR TESTIMONIES!***

#### ***Intercessory Prayer Ministry (IPM)***

## Ministries

I am so blessed to be apart of this awesome ministry! When you know and understand your purpose as you walk this Christian journey, it is with ease and excitement that you can fulfill the assignment given to you by our Heavenly Father. There is power in prayer! As we pray in the IPM Ministry, we pray the authoritative word of God (His word is His will).

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22

We stand in the gap for others and we are determined to pray and pull down strong holds. We pray for the needs and desire of our Ministry as well as extending our prayers for our Pastor and First Lady, the Body of Christ, salvation of souls, government officials, the world and others in need of prayer.

We know that our prayers are answered because we walk by faith and not by sight. It is truly a blessing to serve in the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. “Pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

~Marvette E. Kinlaw-Stanard

-----  
***Awesome! Inspirational!!***

The ***IPM Prayer Empowerment Session*** was one of the most effective and inspiring prayer sessions that I have attended. The biblical truth shared from our guest speaker, Elder Jackson was a great benefit to my prayer life, she gave us The Mandate, The Marching Orders and The Manifestation, all valuable tools for our daily walk, and great reminders. Sisters, Brothers and myself left wanting more! Prayer WILL change your life!

~Deaconess Sharon Beatty

-----  
Being a part of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry helps me to continue to cultivate and improve on my prayer life. It has brought me into a closer relationship with my God. Whatever I do, I know I have to depend on Him. I can do nothing without God being a part of it.

This ministry, therefore, has helped me to go boldly to God before I make any decisions, and to stop trying to do everything on my own. And, it has truly let me know I need to specifically tell

Him my needs and those of others as I pray for them. God already knows about the situation, but He is just waiting for me to share it with Him. And finally, being a part of the IPM Team lets me know my brothers and sisters always have my best interest in mind. They continually pray for me and my family.

~Deaconess Margaret Green

-----  
As an ordained member of the Deacon Board Ministry of this The Greater First Baptist Church for the past twenty-eight years; I (Deacon James A. Jackson) have always had a passion for prayer, both corporately and privately. I have always felt great about my personal communication with our God. Since becoming a member of the IPM, Intercessors Praying Mightily ministry under the anointed direction of Sister Lisa Turner as guided by the Holy Spirit, what I once considered as great has now become greater! It's amazing when we move to a higher level of our relationship with God, not only are we blessed to a higher degree but our awareness is heighten to want to submit to greater service. Always remember the awesome privilege of prayer brings the power of God into one's life for strength, courage, endurance, spiritual growth, and change.

~Deacon James Jackson

-----  
Are you there Greater First Baptist? It's the IPM

Many may be unaware of the newest ministry at The Greater First Baptist Church, the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. The ministry is under the leadership of Sister Lisa Turner. God birth this ministry of prayer in her and with the blessing of our pastor it hit the ground running. Sister Turner put out the word and others with a call to prayer and a care for God's people answered. There are currently 9 members.

The ministry takes is mission statement seriously; I exhort therefore, that first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men (1 Timothy 2:1). Yet while everyone may not be called to be an intercessor, everyone has been called to pray. So why not join us each Monday morning at 6:00 a.m. while we pray

## Ministries

for The Greater First Baptist Church family? Yes, we pray for the Pastor, the First Lady, leadership and you. We pray for your children, that God's will be performed in their lives. We pray for your relationships and family members. But most importantly we pray that God's mission for this piece of Zion will be fulfilled and that you will come into the full manifestation of God's love for you. It's such a small sacrifice for all the benefits and blessings you'll receive.

Are you there Greater First Baptist? The Intercessory Prayer Ministry is waiting on Monday mornings at 6:00 a.m. to pray and believe God's word with you!

~Sister Michelle Pajibo

---

When I was first approached by Sister Turner about joining the prayer ministry my answer was "no"! At the time I was going through some personal challenges not realizing God was preparing me to become a part of this ministry. Joining the IPM was the one of best steps in my life as a Christian. Through this ministry, my life has changed and my confidence to pray aloud has increased also which was something I had always wanted to do.

I am so thankful to God for directing Lisa Turner into our lives through this prayer team, and I'm so happy to be a part of it! I encourage anyone who would like to join the prayer team to know that it would be one of the best decisions you could make in your life as well.

May God always bless the Intercessory Prayer Ministry and thank God for our director who he has placed for us! Thank you for reading.

~Sister Janice Queen

---

I have been a prayer warrior since I was a child. Through the years, I directed my prayers on behalf of third world countries. The Intercessory Prayer Ministry has encouraged me to pray more for my Church Family. We should be praying for one another and also we should reach out into the community and the world. I feel the

IPM is a new dimension of our Church as we pray and ask God to have us, the leaders and our Church Family, to be on one accord.

~Brother John Routt

---

### ***There's an Army rising up at The Greater First Baptist Church!***

Praise the Lord, GFBC family and friends! What an honor it is to serve the Lord with gladness along with my fellow prayer partners in the ministry of Intercession. I strongly believe that prayer is a ministry and that intercession is a calling from God. I remind the team often that though prayer is a privilege, it is not popular. Why so? Because in our times of trouble, we sometimes tend to look to everyone and everything else accept the hills from whence cometh our help (Psalm 91). When we do look to the Lord for help it sometimes comes as the last result after we've tried to figure it out, tapped into every resource available, and convinced ourselves that we can handle it. Matt. 6:33 says that we should seek God first then, all other things will be added unto us. For the intercessor, (one called by God), as well as those who practice intimacy with God, prayer is the first response not because of any goodness on our part but because of the goodness of God and the anointing and passion purposed in the life of the intercessor, as well as those who thirst for more of him! I'm glad to report GFBC, that the IPM is fully committed to the call of intercession on behalf of our church family, our community and this nation! We are front line responders, standing on the word of God and we believe in the power of prayer! It is our privilege to agree with you in prayer as we agree with the word of God in Jeremiah 29:11 that declares God's plan for our church family are good and not evil! Furthermore, we understand that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (Ephesians 6:12). We intend to break every chain so that our God will arise and every demon is scattered in the name of Jesus! We take pride in our mission and motto of commitment, accountability, and confidentiality!

## Member Spotlight

GFBC we are here to serve you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

Submitted with the Love of Jesus Christ!

~Sister Lisa C. Turner, Director

### *A Budding Star In Our Midst!*

Lynaea Stallings, the daughter of Roshea Moten and the granddaughter of James and Annetta Beatty, started singing publicly at age three at Greater First Baptist Church where she was recognized by Dr. Blanche Hammond. Dr. Hammond introduced her to Ms. Jane Harley, founder of Kamet Pro-



ductions and a star was born! Miss Lynaea began her acting career December of 2012 in the Nutcracker and the Mouse King at Howard University. During this production Ms. Harley immediately noticed Lynaea's talent and invited her to become a member of her *Shining Stars* program. This program enabled Lynaea to participate in a four-day workshop held in New York City where she had interviews with various talent agents, radio personalities, received dance lessons from LUKKY and voice lessons from Leon Clark Jr. She also performed at the world famous Cotton Club.

Lynaea has been asked to sing, pray and quote scriptures at many churches throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. Most recently she informed her family that praying is her specialty.

On November 12, 2013, Lynaea was signed with Shirley Faison of Carson-Alder Agency Inc. of New York, NY.

On December 21, 2013, she appeared in Kemet Productions' "The Nutcracker and The Mouse

King" at Howard University Blackburn Center. Leon Clark, Jr. and Dr. Blanche Hammond were also involved in the project.

***Congratulations, Lynaea! Greater First Baptist is proud of you.***

### *An Angel of Mercy*

Sister Lavondia Lowery has been a member of Greater First Baptist Church for over twenty years. She has been a member of the Senior Usher ministry for almost as long. She currently is *not* a member of the Hospitality Ministry. However, if you have spent any length of time at Washington Hospital Center, chances are you have been warmly greeted by Ms. Lowery with a hug and a smile as sunny as any that you will receive from the Hospitality Ministry! Her reassuring presence helps to make a potentially unpleasant hospital stay more comfortable.

One GFBC member has already informed Ms. Lowery of his upcoming surgery—*in April, no less*—and looks forward to being welcomed by that well known, warm and friendly smile!

Ms. Lowery clearly represents the principles of the Hospitality Ministry in her role as GFBC's unofficial greeter at Washington Hospital Center!



Sister Lavondia Lowery

## Celebrating Our History

### *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

They came by church bus, by Metro and by car! The young and older ones! Among the many Greater First Baptist Church members represented on that day were the Pastor and First Lady, Rev. and Mrs. McCord, ushers, trustees, deacons and deaconesses, the choirs, birthday ministries and the Sunday School. Even some friends came along. They had all gathered on Friday, August 16, 2013 to view the premier opening of the movie *Lee Daniels' The Butler* at the Academy Stadium Theater in Greenbelt, Maryland. They were greeted by sister Judith Webb and a professional stage actress, both attired in vintage 50's dress of the civil rights era.

Even though only a few had not been in a movie theater in more than forty years, all had come as a show of great support for a phenomenal member whose life had inspired a book and a subsequent movie. Knowing that the movie was not based on Brother Eugene Allen's actual life, but instead inspired by his life, several members at the end of the movie applauded the effort to present the civil rights era in a homespun and awesome context to the newest generation of theatergoers.

Special thanks are due Deacon-in-Training Lawrence Turner who diligently coordinated the event by securing advance tickets and helping to arrange transportation for church members. Likewise, kudos to Sister Linda Watkins who assisted the Focus newsletter's efforts by publishing and distributing a special eleven page August handout with reprints of news articles and photo-slide shows by journalists Adelle M. Banks and B. Denise Hawkins.

*Submitted by Sister Judith Webb*



### The Dream Lives on at Greater First Baptist Church

In addition to legendary church usher and trustee Eugene Allen, who inspired the movie *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, the Greater First Baptist Church can count several other members among this country's Civil Rights icons. These bold and courageous members integrated lunch counters and department stores; tested on behalf of the NAACP a desegregation ruling for interstate railroad travel; served as pioneers at major industries and schools; and broke barriers in both the local and federal government. These feats became especially noteworthy during the year 2013 with a groundbreaking reelection and celebrations of several historical landmark anniversaries. With the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington imminent, the FOCUS newsletter and the Creative Arts Ministry seized the opportunity to highlight the remarkable history of its members.

Two youth volunteers, Barclay Gonzalez and Maurice Olden assisted the ministries by interviewing members who were willing to share their story regarding the '63 March.

As the two focused interviewers thoughtfully interacted with the marchers, they were completing an important task—recording history to share with others and include in the church's archives. A brief sampling of these interviews follows:



As the two focused interviewers thoughtfully interacted with the marchers, they were completing an important task—recording history to share with others and include in the church's archives. A brief sampling of these interviews follows:

**Dr. Clivious Johnson**, who had earlier served in a public health tent during the Poor People's March, joined hundreds of his Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers as they marched down Thirteenth Street.

**Sister Janice Queen**, who was in awe of the massive crowd, stated that all of the noise ceased with the exception of birds singing in the trees as Dr. King stepped up to speak.

**Brother James L. Beatty, Sr.**, who felt so proud

## Celebrating Our History

as he marched with several of his coworkers, met up with the Alabama delegation who seemed like family as they shared stories and some of their home cooked food.



**Deacon John Richardson**, who had grown up in the segregated South, said that he had no hesitation about participating in the March.

**Brother Johnny Rutt**, whose mother took him to the March, recalled the feel of unity as all races held hands during King's speech.

**Deacon Eugene Scates**, who was very young and reflective at the time, remarked how he marched in support of the Dream and hope for the future.

**Sister Irma Salley**, who marched with her younger sister, vividly remembered the Tuesday night prayer meeting, the walk to the Reflecting Pool, people of all races and stirring speeches.

**Evelyn Rodgers-Washington**, whose family helped integrate lunch counters and two department stores in Richmond, VA, marched with great conviction fifty years ago.

Brother William Washington, whose family has deep historical roots in the church, spoke of his commitment to the Dream as he marched among the rising generation seeking equality and freedom everywhere.

Trustee Emeritus Grady Humphrey, who was the first to integrate an agricultural and research center in Greenbelt, MD, marched with hope for the future.

Even though most of the interviewees indicated

that instead of publicly marching this year, they would celebrate in more personal ways, one interviewee shared her strong intent to march again. Sister Evelyn Rodgers-Washington marched on both days: Saturday, August 24, 2013 and the following "Let Freedom Ring" Wednesday, August 28, 2013. Afterward, she would have a moving update for the youth interviewees and a great intergenerational exchange with the youth who participated as a group from the church.

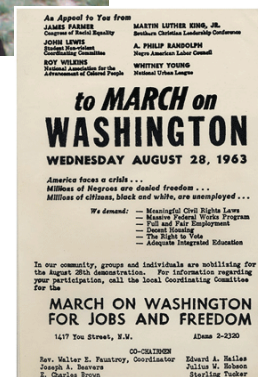
As the year comes to an end, Greater First Baptist Church can reflect upon the remarkable year 2013. In addition to displays featuring "The March" and "Lee Daniels' The Butler," the church has attempted to capture history visually through exhibits of members' personal collections; vintage and new photos and magazine clippings; student reports; and old newspapers, rare books and artifacts.

Undoubtedly, more members of Greater First will step forward and share in the coming year as civil rights and equality become focal themes for 2014.

*Submitted by Sister Judith Webb*



Left: Dr. Judith Webb at the 2013 March on Washington; Below Left: 50th Anniversary ad; Below Right: Copy of 1963 flyer



# Church Cookout

**The Occasion:**  
Church cookout held on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Takoma Recreational Center.

Greater First Baptist Church  
Mount Pleasant Plains  
Men's Ministry  
2701 13th Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20009  
(202) 462-6127  
Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr. - Pastor



There was music.



There was food—good food and plenty of it!



There were men at work!



There won't be any insects near Harvey!



There was fellowship with families and friends....



...and church leadership.



There was the Pastor and First Lady!



But mostly, there were the hats! It was a hot day and Greater First members came prepared.





## Pastor, Church and Member Anniversaries

### "Celebrating Leaders With A Purpose" Pastor's 12th Anniversary

Greater First Baptist Church celebrated the 12th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr. on Sunday, May 19, 2013. The guest speaker was Rev. Larry Owens, Jr., pastor of Canaan Baptist Church.

*"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which he bought with his own blood."*

Acts 20:28 NIV



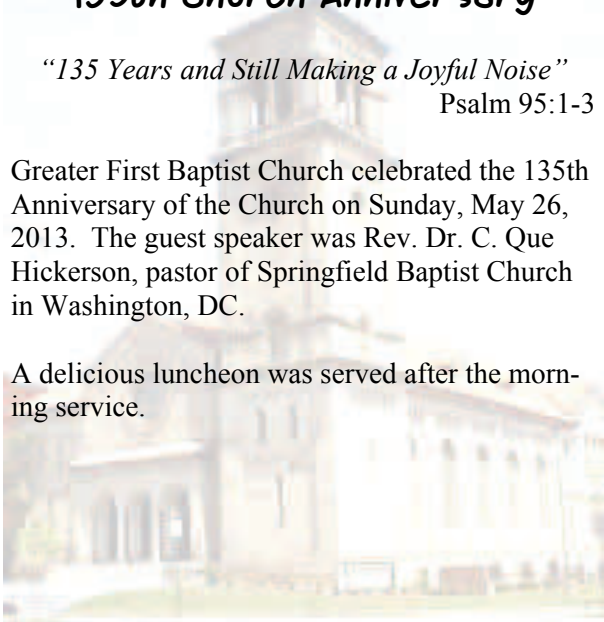
### 135th Church Anniversary

*"135 Years and Still Making a Joyful Noise"*

Psalm 95:1-3

Greater First Baptist Church celebrated the 135th Anniversary of the Church on Sunday, May 26, 2013. The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. C. Que Hickerson, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

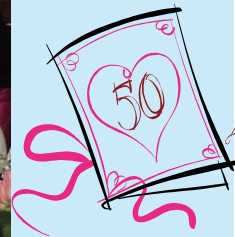
A delicious luncheon was served after the morning service.



### Golden Anniversary

Deacon Samuel and Deaconess Lillian Broadnax invited the church to join them in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 29, 2013 immediately after the morning service in Fellowship Hall. They also wanted to express their gratitude to the church for the support given to them during the illness and recovery of Deacon Broadnax.

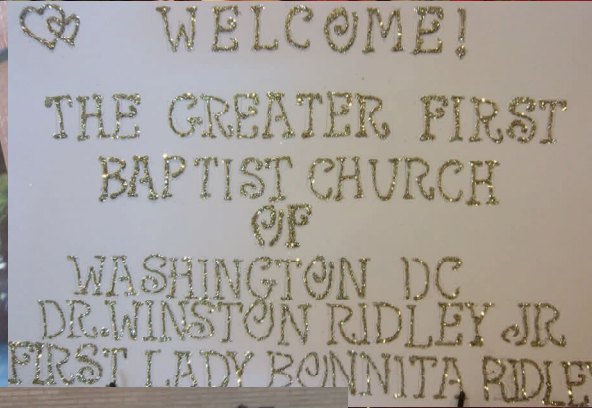
Deaconess Broadnax narrated a slide presentation of their early years. Their daughters, Adrienne and Monica presented them with plaques from the White House and Maryland officials. The dinner and decorations were arranged by Deaconess Magdalene Jackson.



Above: Rev. Ridley holding the plaque from the State of Maryland while Adrienne reads it.  
Right: Monica holding the plaque from the White House.



## A Trip to Cincinnati



Top row (left): Dolorace Couser, Gerri Green, Rev. Frances Williams, Christine Powell, Ina McNeil (seated), Minnie Gardner and Doris Jackson. (right) Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr. and First Lady Bonita L. Ridley.  
 2nd row (left): the entrance to The New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. (middle): the welcome sign. (right): Rev. Dr. Ridley, Jr. in the pulpit.  
 3rd row (left): Dolorace Couser, Blanche Hammond, Rev. Frances Williams, Marian Washington, Doris Jackson and Norma Hood. (right): the interior of the church.  
 Bottom row (left): Della Cobb, Elizabeth Queen, Dolorace Couser and Karen Johnson. (right): First Lady Jones, First Lady Bonita Ridley, Rev. Dr. Ridley, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Donald Jones, Sr.

## A TRIP TO CINCINNATI, OHIO

A group of the Greater First Baptist members boarded a chartered bus at 6:30 AM on Saturday, July 13, 2013 for an overnight trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of the trip was to accompany our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr. and our First Lady Bonita L. Ridley to the Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati. Rev. Ridley was invited to be the guest Preacher at the 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Reverend Dr.

## A Trip to Cincinnati

Donald E. Jones, Sr.

The trip had been well planned by Sister Norma J. Hood and her committee. All of our needs for comfort and pleasure had been taken into consideration by the committee, including food and entertainment. It was evident that much thought and work had gone into making these plans. The trip took approximately 8 hours with stops along the way, as needed. We had lots of fun and great fellowship on the bus playing games and singing.

When we arrived at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, we were met and welcomed by the Greeter's Ministry of The Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. A wonderful lunch had been prepared for us. Our hotel accommodations were impeccable and very comfortable. Everything just fell into place and we felt right at home. In addition to those members travelling with us on the bus, several GFBC members made the trip in their personal automobiles, leaving a day or two earlier and/or staying a day or two later to visit friends and relatives in the area. Some of these friends and relatives joined us for refreshments, fellowship and church services. Two of our former members, Rev. Frances Williams and Sister Lillian Fulp also drove up from Winston Salem, NC to join us in Cincinnati. Among the visitors and friends, was a friend of Deaconess Gerri Green and the brother of Trustee Marian Washington. We all had a joyous time! (And of course the ladies found some time to shop on Saturday after lunch at a nearby mall). Several of us took pictures to document our trip.

On Sunday morning, after a wonderful continental breakfast at the hotel, we boarded our bus bound for The Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. We were again warmly welcomed by the church greeters. We arrived in time for the Praise and Devotion Service which was led by the Deacons of New Hope, the Deacons of Greater First Baptist Church and the Youth Praise Team. The Praise service was highly spirited and well organized.

The Morning Worship Service began with a processional led by Pastor Donald Jones and First Lady Michelle Jones followed by Pastor Win-

ston C. Ridley, Jr. and First Lady Bonita L. Ridley accompanied by their special escorts. The music was provided by the Children and Youth Choir and The Greater New Hope Vocal Chorus. The opening songs were "Holiness, Holiness in Sight" and "Praise Is What I Do".

The Anniversary Theme was: **Building God's Kingdom, Being Transformed by the Word of God from the Man of God.**

The congregational Hymn was "I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord." A warm welcome was extended to the visitors followed by Reflections of Pastor Jones and the First Family. The Pastor's sister, Mary Jones, sang "God Uses Ordinary People". After Rev. Ridley was introduced, Our First Lady was called on to sing and the members of the Fellowship Choir accompanied her. Dr. Blanche Hammond directed us, accompanied by Pianist Janet Johnson. The choir was well represented, even though our participation was impromptu. We sang two songs, "Every Praise" and "Order My Steps". The congregation responded with a standing, clapping ovation.

Pastor Ridley preached the Word of God. His text was from Romans 12:12 and 1 Corinthians 13:13. The title of his message was "**Building God's Kingdom**". The Pastor's sermon was moving and inspirational. He said to build God's Kingdom we must do God's will. The will of God is good and is a calling. We must give God no less than our best. The Pastor's message was well received. At the end of his message, Rev. Ridley invited us to Prayer and Alter Call. An Invitation to Discipleship was extended by Pastor Ridley.

After the morning service, we were treated to a delightful meal in the dining room where we continued in warm fellowship with each other.

It was already time to end our visit and board our bus for the return trip home. Our bus operator, Darlene, was a very efficient driver. She also attended the church service and fellowshiped with us. The trip to Cincinnati and the return trip home was handled with the utmost safety. We

*Continued on page 20*

## A Trip to Cincinnati

*Continued from page 19*

were blessed to have a wonderful operator. God blessed us to return home safely, where we found our cars waiting for us. We give thanks to Deacon Anthony Hood who kept a watchful eye on our cars while we were away.

Deacon Eugene Skates was the only man other than Rev. Ridley on the bus. We thank him for assisting the ladies on and off of the bus and with our bags.

We give all thanks and high praises to our Heavenly Father who travelled with us, and kept us in His loving care.

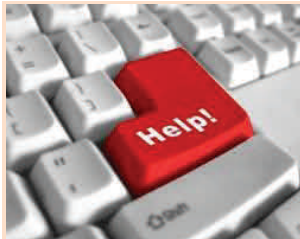
On the way home we were still excited about our trip and already looking forward to another venture. Maybe more of our members will be able to join us on the next trip!

*Submitted by Sister Ina McNeil*

## We Three Kings...



These three kings participated in the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 15, 2013: Deacon Eugene Skates, Deacon-in-Training Eric Washington, and Deacon-in-Training Lawrence Turner.



**B**eware of phone scams from people who claim they are calling on behalf of Microsoft or some other high-profile information technology (IT) company. These companies **charge** customers for information and they **NEVER** voluntarily call the customer, unless they are following up on a call you previously made to them.

How the scam works is they will tell you that there has been some sort of security breach or breakdown and they want to check if your computer has been affected. You will be asked to turn on your computer and they will walk you through the steps to get your IP address.

Every computer that communicates over the Internet is assigned an **IP (Internet Protocol) address** that uniquely identifies the device and distinguishes it from other computers on the Internet. For your home computers, IP addresses are assigned by your ISP (internet service provider), such as Verizon or Comcast.

**NEVER** give this information to someone you do not trust. Once your IP address falls into the hands of unsavory people, they can take over your computer and obtain all of your confidential information stored on it, such as your social security number, banking and credit card information, etc. The goal of these scammers is to access your bank accounts or to steal your identity. When you receive these types of calls, **HANG UP** or report them to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call 1-877-FTC-HELP. You can also contact the Identity Theft Resource Center at 888-400-5530 for assistance if you have been a victim of phone fraud.

*The Computer Ministry*