



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. You are reading the 2013 Winter Edition of *The Greater First FOCUS*. In this article the emphasis is on Black History. In the United States of America, February has been designated as Black History Month. We often speak of the injustice of how the shortest month of the year was given to celebrate Black History. Why couldn't "they" give us a longer month? "They" only gave us 28 days! First, who are "they?" And second, nobody told us that we can't take the steps to celebrate our own history the way we want to and for long as we want. Well, if the truth were told we could celebrate for 365 days and it wouldn't be long enough to fully capture all of Black History.

Nevertheless, let me give you another way of looking at the 28 days of February. The number "28" is fascinating from a mathematical and biblical numerological perspective. In mathematics, the "lowest common multiple" is the lowest whole number that is divisible without a remainder by all of the members of a set of numbers. We are choosing the third lowest common multiple in recognition of the Trinity of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In this instance, the third lowest whole number after the numbers one (1) and two (2) is the number four (4). For the number "28" the third lowest common multiple that can be divided into 28 is "4." The number to multiply with 4 to get 28 is the number "7." In other words, four times seven equals 28.

But from a biblical numerological perspective, four (4) is an "Earth Related Number." That is shown in:

- a. Four Directions: North, South, East, West
- b. Four Seasons: Summer, Winter, Fall, Spring

(Genesis 8:22)

- c. Four Great Earthly Kingdoms (Daniel 7:3)
- d. Four Kinds of Spiritual Soil (Matthew 13)
- e. Four Horsemen of the Tribulation (Revelation 6)
- f. Fourfold Earthly Ministry of Christ is described by the Gospel of Matthew as a King; Mark as a Servant; Luke as a perfect Man; John as the Mighty God.

The number seven (7) is "The Number of God, or divine perfection." That is shown in the following:

- a. God rested on the Seventh Day (Genesis 2:2);
- b. His word is as silver purified by fire seven times (Psalm 12:6);
- c. Jesus taught Peter to forgive seventy times seven (Matthew 18:22);
- d. There are seven miracles in the Gospel of John;
- e. There are Seven sayings from the Cross;
- f. John wrote to seven churches (Revelation 1:4);
- g. He saw seven golden candlesticks (Revelation 1:12).

Pastor's Focal Point

There are seven stars in Christ's right hand (Revelation 1:16).

So, according to all that has been said, how do we interpret this information to get the correct meaning and significance? Well, if "4" is the earth-related number and "7" is the number of God or divine perfection then...if you put four times seven together it denotes and demonstrates what happens when God **intersects** with, interacts with and inhabits earth! According to The Association for the

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.

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Bonita L. Ridley

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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

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Meet our New Deacons– and Deaconesses-In-Training!

October 2012

Master Paul Smith

November 2012

Master David James
Ms. Patricia Fitchard

January 2013

Ms. LaDawn Burnette
Mr. Michael James

February 2013

Ms. Dorothea Holmes
Ms. Gloria Clark
Mr. Dwight Banks



Reginald Osborn



Lawrence Turner



Eric Washington



Janice Lartman



Minnie Gardner



Delorace Bowman

MINISTRIES

Operational and Support

Ministries
Audio-Visual
Bereavement
Birthday
Flower
Greater First *FOCUS*
Hospitality
Kitchen
Mary E. Peyton Nurses
Pastor's Aide
IMP Ministry
(*Intercessors 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

In Loving Memory of Members Who Passed in 2012

Brother Reginald Payne
Sister Catherine Fludd
Sister Nona Sligh Boozer
Deaconess Thaysta Satterwhite
Sister Cleo H. Coakley
Deaconess Dorothy Chatman
Brother Silas John Thomas
Dr. Roscoe E. DeVeaux
Sister Hattie Thornton
Brother Phillip J. King



Focal Point (continued from page 1)

Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the Theme of Black History Month 2013 is: “At the **Crossroads** of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington.” (A Crossroad is an intersection) This celebrates the Anniversary of two major African American turning points: the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Black History, or for that matter, all History is what happens when God gets involved with earth. To even see the origin of all Human History means we have to go all the way back to the beginning of humanity’s creation. And there we see that God scooped up Black earth (dust of the earth) on the continent of Africa and created man in His Image and Likeness and breathed into him the breath of Life and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). That’s what the 28 days of Black History Month means!

Black History and the Black Church are inextricably joined together. In this article, I share with you a message I preached at the Memorial Service of Professor Naomi Wright Brooks. She is a woman in Black History that actually illustrates what the Historic Black Church has been for us in America! The message is entitled “The Pleasant Pioneer.”

““THE PLEASANT PIONEER”

I suppose that since we are here at the Rankin Chapel on the campus of Howard University for the memorial service of retired Professor Naomi Brooks Wright, it is appropriate in this setting that we remember her life, love and legacy from the perspective of her professional and educational contributions.

Naomi Brooks Wright was born March 24, 1919 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Historically, Fredericksburg’s development and success was based on other significant residents — enslaved Africans with varied skills, who were critical to its growth. According to Ruth Coder Fitzgerald’s book *A Different Story: A Black History of Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Spotsylvania*, “Slaves worked on plantations, on the docks, in iron industries, mining and quarries, mercantile businesses, construction, domestic services, and others were

skilled blacksmiths, coopers, cobblers, and draymen. African Americans were vital in the development of the area.”

During the Civil War, Fredericksburg gained strategic importance due to its location midway between Washington and Richmond, the opposing capitals of the Union and the Confederacy.

“The general conditions of the United States in 1919 is chiefly one of reconstruction accomplished or attempted. The most notable accomplishment is the demobilization of the war army and the navy to a peace basis. Labor was the greatest of the reconstruction problems. Active demand for laborers, high cost of living, radical propaganda, evident sympathy of the president with advanced labor ideals, class disregard of the rights of the general public, belief in profiteering by manufacturers and dealers, unrest in Europe—these influence the demands of labor organizations on their employers, lead to strikes, and also to a radical labor legislative program, including the continuation of war-time government operations of industry and transportation. An aftermath of the war is the alarming decrease in agricultural laborers.”

Why all of the detail to history, you ask? It is these historical soils soaked with the blood, sweat and tears of slaves and soldiers that gave rise to the “Pleasant Pioneer.” Someone who would “Stand in the Gap” for others who would come after her. If you wanted a definition for this phrase “Standing in the Gap” it would be: “Someone who stands in the place between the way things are in the present and the better way things can be in the future.” It is important to note that those who stand in the gap are not standing there for themselves but they are there mainly on behalf of others!

Why the title: “The Pleasant Pioneer”? Well, her first name is **Naomi** and it is from the Hebrew name [נְאוֹמִי](#) (*Na'omiy*) meaning "pleasantness." In the Old Testament this was the name of the mother-in-law of Ruth. After the death of her husband, Naomi took the name Mara (see Ruth 1:20). Though previously common as a Jewish name, *Naomi* was not typically used as an English Christian name until after the Protestant Reformation.

Focal Point (continued from page 5)

Secondly, a **Pioneer** by definition is:

1. Inventor or innovator: a person or group that is the first to do something or that is a forerunner in creating or developing something new;
2. First person to explore territory: somebody who goes into previously uncharted or unclaimed territory with the purpose of exploring it and possibly colonizing or settling it;
3. (*Army*) soldier who builds things; a foot soldier whose duties include going ahead of the main company to pave the way for them by building roads, ditches, bridges, and other constructions;
4. (*Ecology*) first species to grow somewhere; the first species of plant or animal life to begin living in a previously unoccupied site: for example, a moss beginning to grow on otherwise bare rock.

Mrs. Wright graduated from Howard University in 1939. She later obtained degrees from Columbia University and New York University. Mrs. Wright was a 1964 graduate of the Columbia University School of Occupational Therapy. She was one of the first African Americans in the Nation to receive an occupational therapy degree, and the first African American to receive the Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy.

A pioneer in the profession of Occupational Therapy (OT), Mrs. Naomi Wright, was the founder of the Occupational Therapy program at Howard University. Soon after her graduation in 1964, Mrs. Wright established the clinical occupational therapy program at Freedmen's Hospital, now known as Howard University Hospital. The first professional level Bachelor of Science class at the University was accepted in the fall of 1974.

Occupational Therapy is therapy through activity: it is the use of regular periods of suitable productive activity as part of the treatment of illness or medical condition. Because sometime in our lives many of us will face physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges that will prevent us from being as independent and active as we'd like. These challenges can begin at birth, develop gradually later in life, or arise suddenly at any age.

Occupational therapy makes it possible for people facing such challenges to participate more fully in the job of living at home and at school, at work and at play.

As "The Pleasant Pioneer," there were obligations required to prove worthy of being an African American Pioneer in this field. Three Proofs of worthiness are:

FURROWS FOR FURTHERANCE
FOUNDATION FOR PERPETUATIONS
FULFILLMENT FROM FACILITATION

I. FURROWS FOR FURTHERANCE: "Beyond her alone." What she did was designed to cause others to take the field beyond what she alone could do. In forging a pathway for others to follow, her footsteps created the grooves that would grab the feet of her successors and take them at least as far as she has gone. Eventually her successors would come to a place where the furrows end and the followers would come to a place of decision. "Do I stay at the place where "The Pleasant Pioneer" has brought me to or do I go further and make furrows of contribution in taking the OT field forward for progress?"

"Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with
a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed.
We have come over a way that with tears has been
watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood
of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast."

II. FOUNDATION FOR PERPETUATIONS: "Bigger than her alone." What she did had dimensions that were larger than she alone could accomplish. She laid a foundational pattern for successive generations to bring expansion and growth for inclusion of other ethnicities because of a standard of excellence in the field of OT. Thus Howard University was the first OT program established at a Historically Black University and is the single largest supplier of Occupational Therapists to the DC metropolitan

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From the Heart



And they'll know we are Christians by the love we have to one another. Greetings to all in the awesome name of Jesus the Christ, Jeshua Ha Mashiyach (Hebrew), the One who first loved us!

What a wonderfully kind, merciful and loving God we serve! We are one in the Spirit and we are one in the Lord. Jesus tells us in His Word that the world will know that we are His by the love we have to one another. Love is as love does. Love is an action fruit of the Spirit. It is not only possessed but it is acted out. Love does - not just in word but in deed and truth. (I John 3:18) **We see love in action by what we do and do not do.** You might ask what does that mean? I'm truly glad you asked. **We see love in what we do** by doing the following:

- forgiving one another;
- feeding one another Spiritual and physical food;
- edifying (building up) one another;
- empowering one another by speaking life into each others spirit;
- always showing mercy;
- lifting up our brothers and sisters when they are down;
- looking beyond one another's faults and seeing each others need;
- reaching out to touch a life that needs comfort;
- help others to understand someone who has been misunderstood.

The list goes on. **To see love in action by what we do not do** is as follows:

- falsely accuse one another;
- say all manner of evil against one another; gossip;
- disrespect or demean one another;
- ignore one another by not speaking or acknowledging their presence;
- stab one another in the back;
- see that one has a need but we do not extend a helping hand;
- resent one another for succeeding in this life;
- envy one another;
- have jealousy toward one another;
- withhold loving kindness and tender mercies from one another;

- when someone is down and overtaken in a fault we do not expose their fault;
- when someone has fallen in sin we turn our backs on them;
- when someone is trying to help us by giving us wise counsel we put a deaf ear towards them.

Again, the list goes on. We are such a blessed people. The Lord has given us His Word to lead and guide us in exercising the fruit of love towards one another. We must take time to study His Word and see the many times He instructs us to operate in love. The Scriptures say, *"We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*" (I John 4:19-21) When we realize the fact that God so loved us that He in the person of Jesus was made flesh to die on the cross for our sins, we should be compelled to love one another. God forgave us of all our sins, past, present and future. His mercies are new every morning! He looks beyond our faults and sees our needs. He loves us too much not to chastise us and when He does it is done in love. He wants to make us clean inside. In order to receive all of these gifts of grace we must repent from our evil ways. This is more than just saying we are sorry. We must have a change in heart. We must change our minds and our direction. We must confess and believe in the Lord Jesus. (Read Romans 10:9-10) We must then turn towards the Lord and want to be cleansed. *"If we confess our sins, He's faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to (perpetually) cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (I John 1:9 NKJV) After our cleansing we must ask the Lord to fill us with His Holy Spirit for empowerment, restoration and renewing of our mind. (Ephesians 5:18)

As we have entered into this year of 2013, the Lord has given His anointed shepherd, our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Winston Christopher Ridley, Jr., a theme. "GFBC is Clean in 2013" Clean in Heart, Head, Hands, Health, Home". In order to start living according to this theme we must be willing to repent. To become clean we must have a change in heart, and head (mind), so that our hands, health and home can become clean also. After our cleansing we must ask for the filling of His Holy Spirit to inhabit our clean vessels. This is not a one time request. We die daily to self therefore, we must go to the Lord daily for His help. Do not ever feel that because of your past or present sins that you cannot be made clean.

From the Heart

My dear brothers and sisters the Lord Jesus was born of a virgin, lived and died and shed His blood on Calvary's cross to atone for all of our sins past, present and future. It was His passion-driven love that rescued all of mankind. (John 3:16) However, we must follow His directions to reap the benefits and become clean. What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the precious blood of Jesus!

We also have the Christians bar of soap which is found in I John 1:9. We have to **come clean** - be honest about our sins - to **be clean**. When we confess our sins the Lord promised to forgive our sins and to cleanse us (perpetually) from all unrighteousness! Hallelujah! Come on Saints don't wait 'til the battle is over, shout now! We know in the end we're going to win!!! What a mighty, loving, awesome God we serve. What a magnificent love, tender love, nurturing love, genuine love and unconditional love the Lord has for us. O, how wonderful our God is. There is nobody greater and none like Him! "Thank you Lord for the everlasting, rich, pure, measureless, strong and never ending love you give to us your people." Never cease to thank the Lord for His everlasting and never ending love. Let us continually pray and ask the Lord for the filling of His Holy Spirit to keep us clean and to empower us to love one another as He loves us.

*For God so loved the world that He gave
His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believes in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life.*
John 3:16 NKJV

Jesus Loves Even Me

1st Verse

I am so glad that our Father in Heav'n
Tells of His love in the book He has giv'n;
Wonderful things in the Bible I see-
This is the dearest that Jesus loves me.

2nd Verse

Tho I forget Him and wander away,
Still He doth love me wherever I stray;
Back to His dear loving arms would I flee
When I remember that Jesus loves me.

Chorus

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.

Philip P. Bliss

*Lady Boni **ta** L. Ridley*

Women's Retreat

"Lord, Use Us As Your Instruments" - A Women's Retreat

On Friday, November 16 until the afternoon of Saturday, November 17, 2012, the Daughters of Zion -GFBC Women's Ministry held a wonderful retreat at the Bolger Conference Center in Potomac, Maryland.

It's been a long time since I have attended a women's retreat mostly because I feel they are ineffective and a waste of time. On past excursions, I have experienced forced and fake spiritual exercises feebly attempting to lead the attendee to a place of deep introspection and generally falling just short of boring.

However, even before registration, something was different. This time I felt the urging of my spirit to register, making me feel that if I did not attend, I would miss a definite blessing.

Readers, I feel very strongly about saying this retreat was by far the nicest and most spiritually uplifting experience I have had in a long time! WHAT A BLESSING!

Our retreat speaker was Reverend Janet P. Caldwell, Pastor of Congregational Care and Worship of the First Baptist Church of North Brentwood (Maryland). Rev. Caldwell was not only well prepared to facilitate worship and spiritual learning and growth, she was able to bring us to the place where the Holy Spirit could manifest and draw all of us into one accord.

Since our theme was "Lord, Use Us As Your Instruments," Rev. Caldwell began by teaching us more about what it means when we say "Lord." Our Lord is referred in the Old Testament as "adon" or "adnonai" which is the Hebrew word for Lord or ruler (capital L - our Supremely Sovereign Ruler of the Universe). The New Testament word for Lord is "kurios" which is a Greek word also meaning King or Ruler. Dr. Caldwell made it very plain just how reverential these words are in describing our Lord. She further explained that when God created women; it was not an after-thought. Women have a real and

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Daughters of Zion Retreat

undeniable role to fulfill and a purpose to accomplish for God. We explored just how deep this commitment should be when you cry "Lord, use us as your instruments."

We had a very diverse group of attendees, not all from Greater First. There were quite a few attendees from Rev. Caldwell's church. As far as the GFBC members, different facets of our church and all ages from the young to the old were represented. However, as I mentioned before, I felt the group was spiritually on "one accord" for "one purpose." There was plenty of time given for genuine worship which allowed the Holy Spirit to manifest even greater as we spent more time exploring the awesomeness of our God!

The Bolger Conference Center was a perfect choice as the setting for the retreat. The facilities

were amazingly beautiful, the rooms were comfortable and the food was good. It's as if we were wrapped in a spiritual cocoon shielded from the outside world; which is so vital for an effective retreat. You can't worry about what's going on at home if your mind is fixed on God. For 1-1/2 days, I did not hear a cell phone ring or see anyone texting or even checking their phones. We were all "in the moment" with God!

My "hat is off" and my heart is grateful to the retreat planning team for doing such an amazing job! I came home uplifted, renewed and further committed to God's purpose for my life. My only regret was that the retreat had to end. When can I sign up for next year's retreat?

*Respectfully submitted,
Deaconess Charlotte Daniels*



Left: First Lady Bonita Ridley, speaker Rev. Janet Caldwell and Deaconess Gerri Green. Right: (standing) Nia Price Murphy, Marcia Linder, Carmen Peters, Geraldine Johnson, Doris Jackson; (seated) Katrina Johnson and Margaret Rutherford. Bottom: Group picture of attendees.



A Dramatic Portrayal

During the Sunday morning services, on November 18, 2012, following their annual two-day retreat, the Greater First Baptist Church Daughters of Zion Women's Ministry presented a dramatic portrayal entitled "Three Remarkable Women of Great Faith."

Exemplifying their theme, "Lord, Use Us As Your Instruments," were the lives of three lesser known women of the Bible. The first was Hannah, a mother of faith, who realized that only God could answer her questions and that only God could provide the consolation and purpose in life that she so much wanted. Hannah was portrayed by Francine McGill, accompanied by Baby Samuel's nurse, Nia Price Murphy; Elder Priest Eli, Lawrence Turner; and Attending Priest, Barclay Gonzalez.

The second was Lydia, a business woman of faith, whose example was so strong that her entire household followed and was baptized. LaSonya Olden portrayed Lydia and Carmen Peters, a business partner.

The third woman was Priscilla, a scholar and teacher, whose spiritual maturity and understanding of the Faith enabled her to spread the gospel and help build the early church. Cilista Johnson portrayed Priscilla and Lawrence Turner, the student Apollos.

Eloquently weaving Biblical sketches for the dramatic mime throughout the services was the narrator, Rosalyn Gonzalez. Music and sound effects were provided by Marcia Linder and the technical staff. Costumes and props were provided by Carmen Peters, Sarah Graves and Judith Webb, playwright. The dramatic concept was the vision of our First Lady Bonita L. Ridley.



*Submitted by
The Creative Arts Ministry*

2013 Tax changes

Payroll Taxes: In January 2013 Payroll taxes for everyone returned to 6.2% from 4.2% where it had been since 2010---costing the average worker \$1,000 per year.

Income Taxes: If single earning over \$400,000, or \$450,000 on a joint return tax rate will increase from the previous rate of 35% to 39.6%. It extends Clinton-era caps of itemized deductions and phase-out of the personal exemption for individuals making more than \$250,000 and couples earning more than \$300,000.

Capital Gain taxes and taxes on dividend income increased from 15% to 20% for single income exceeding \$400,000 and joint return exceeding \$450,000.

Alternative Minimum Tax is permanently indexed to inflation, so it will now hit 30 million middle-income and upper middle income taxpayers resulting in a higher tax bills averaging almost \$3,000.

Child Tax credit, earned income tax credit and \$2,500 tuition tax credit are extended for five years.

Estate Taxes: Estate taxes would increase from the 35% rate to rate of 40%, with the first \$5 million in value being exempted for individuals and \$10 million for families.

Unemployment Benefits: Unemployment benefits were extended one year.

Medicare reimbursement: A 27% percent cut in pay for doctors treating Medicare patients was averted.

Milk prices: The farm bill is extended for nine months, preventing a change in the price-support system that could have led to a spike in milk prices.

Submitted by Trustee Harry Richards

BLACK HISTORY

Tracking the Trains in the Segregated South

The last time Cordelia Freeman embarked on a train trip she headed straight for the “quiet” car. She did not have to worry about where or in what car she would take her seat. Unfortunately, that has not always been the case. As African Americans, once the train going south crossed into Virginia, you were limited as to where you could sit.

In April 1941, in *Mitchell vs. United States*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that discrimination against a colored man who had paid a first class fare for an interstate journey and was compelled to leave that car and ride in a second class car was essentially unjust and violated the Interstate Commerce Act.

Some time after this decision, the local branch of the NAACP wanted to test the rule. They sent Sister Cordelia Freeman and one other person to North Carolina to see if the trains were complying with the law. Sister Freeman and companion boarded the train at Union Station. Once the train crossed over into Virginia, the conductor asked them to move. A feisty Cordelia Freeman asked “WHY?” She was prepared to tell this big, round, red-faced Caucasian conductor the rules. The conductor did not give a reason but told them that if they moved, they could have a car to themselves. She responded with we have paid for two seats and we like these two. They did not move and the conductor left them alone.

Private accommodations awaited them in North Carolina since hotels were not always available to African Americans at that time.

On the return trip, her companion suggested that they take the segregated car from North Carolina. Sister Freeman reluctantly agreed. When they boarded the train, the segregated car had standing room only. She informed her companion that there was no way she was going to stand from North Carolina to Washington. So they walked to the next car where there was no one standing and

plenty of space. She sat down beside a Caucasian lady and her companion sat behind her beside another person of the Caucasian race. The conductor did not say anything to either of them. They enjoyed the ride back to DC and Sister Freeman filed her report with the NAACP.

Submitted by Deaconess Jean W. Johnson

“Trumpets of the Lord”

If you missed the Music Ministry’s presentation of “Trumpets of the Lord” on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., you missed a treat. Written by Vinnette Carroll and adapted from James Weldon Johnson's verse sermons "God's Trombone" and various gospel hymns, the musical transports the audience to a religious revival meeting.

The program opened with a cast processional to “So Glad I’m Here.” Sister Minnie Gardner gave the introduction followed by an awesome scripture and worship given by Miss Lynaea Stallings. Sister Joybell (Donna Brooks) served as the Worship Leader. The “revival” consisted of seven suites each containing a sermon and a musical selection(s).

The first suite was The Creation Suite. Rev. Hezekiah Jones (Troy Thompson) recited the poem “The Creation” and The Standby Sisters sang “God Leads His Children.” The Prodigal Son Suite was next. Rev. Moses Newberry (Lawrence Turner) gave the sermon and The Manleys and guests sang “Babylon’s Falling” and “I Believe I’ll Go Back Home” led by Andre Colter. The third suite was entitled Noah’s Ark. Evangelist C. Hannah (Cilista Johnson) told us about the sins of Adam and Eve and then Noah. Sister Christine Powell sang “You Better Mind” and The Rain Sisters sang “Didn’t It Rain.”

Rev. Littlejohn (Kendall Brown) preached the eulogy for the deceased member in The Funeral Suite. Lucius Manley gave a hilarious perfor-

BLACK HISTORY

mance as the distraught husband of the deceased. Sister Ever Ready (Nia Price Murphy) sang “Precious Lord.” Rev. King Clark (Leon Clark, Jr.) implored pharaoh to “Let My People Go” in The Freedom Suite. Brother Mac (Ennas McSwain) sang “Go Down Moses” and Sister Liberty Davis (Marian Davis) sang “Oh, Freedom.” Rev. Sister Lula Mae sang her way to the podium before preaching on “The Crucifixion” in The Crucifixion Suite. Sister Peachy Couser

sang “Calvary” and Sister Rosa Lee (First Lady Bonita Ridley) sang “Were You There.” The last suite was The Judgment Suite in which the closing sermon was given by the fiery Rev. Sister Fire Mac (Jacqueline McQuillar). The entire cast sang the closing selection “Getting Up Morning.”

Other members of the cast included members of the Senior Usher Board and the Voices of Praise dancers.



Top left: Sister Patricia Colter; Top right: The Standby Sisters: Robin Yeldell, Linda Watkins, Donna Brooks, Lynne Freeman, Helen Grymes, Jackie Ransom and Blanche Hammond;

Second row left: (seated) Adrian Johnson, Lucius Manley and Doris Pearson; (standing) Patricia Colter, Renee Huggins and nurse Patricia Holmes.

Bottom row: Pallbearers—Andre Colter and Reginald Osborn.

area.

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus
 blood and righteousness
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly
 lean on Jesus name
 On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground
 is sinking sand...”

III. FULFILLMENT FROM FACILITATION: “Brighter than her alone.” The delight of fulfilling her purpose in this field would be brighter because of many others sharing in this field. The formation of a fellowship of fulfillment that lasts forever because of making the light of hope shine in the lives and faces of patients through the discovery of destiny by those whose disability, injury, illness could be overcome through OT and that their conditions don’t have the final word!

This little light of mine I’m gonna let it shine...”

Take time during this year and celebrate Black History!

**A Special Day of Dedication:
 The Restroom Project**

The restroom project has been completed! We now have two new bathrooms located beside the baptismal room. The dedication service was held on Sunday, February 10, 2013 during the morning service.



“Getting Your House In Order”

The Deacons-in-Training presented a bereavement workshop on Saturday, February 23, 2013 in the Rev. Dr. Edward Thomas, Sr. Fellowship Hall. Representatives from area funeral homes and an attorney were present to sit on a panel to provide information and answer questions on various topics such as pre-planning, cremation and memorial services, burial, power-of-attorney authorization and estate planning. Each representative had a table setup and provided material for further review.

Funeral Director Victor March gave away a door prize—a fireproof box. Adrienne Broadnax was the lucky winner.



Lisa Turner (at the microphone) served as the program leader. Seated from left to right are Ms. LaVerne Ross, an advanced planning coordinator from Horton Funeral Home; Dr. Jacqueline Rice, bereavement counselor from Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church; attorney Larry Williams; Mr. Victor March, funeral director and owner of Marshall-March Funeral Home; Mr. Paul Youse, park director at Lincoln Cemetery; and Ms. E’Lois Waller, funeral director at John T. Rhines Funeral Home.

True Love

For God so loved the world,
 That He gave
 His only
 Begotten
 Son
 That whosoever
 Believeth In Him
 Should Not perish,
 But have Everlasting life.

John 3:16