

THE BEACON

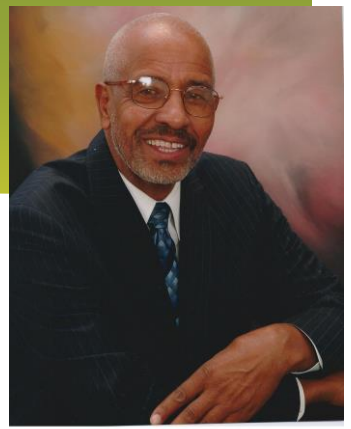
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER | WINTER EDITION MARCH 2020

“LORD SHOW ME THE WAY”



Psalm 25:2-4

From the Desk of Pastor Robert E. Slade



We started the New Year off with a sermon entitled, “Lord Show Me the Way!” I was appreciative for the good turnout at both of our worship services on New Year’s Eve. The scripture that accompanied the message was Psalm 25:4-5 which reads as follows: “Show me the right path, O Lord, point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truths and teach me, for you are the God that saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.”

In this season of uncertainty regarding the Covid-19, this is a time to ask God to show us the way. There are so many challenges in life that there are times that we must call on God because we do not have the wisdom to figure out how we would resolve a situation. It is a time to allow our faith in God to dictate to us the actions and decisions we should make. As we listen to our national leaders, some who pontificate and mislead us, we have no choice but to ask God to show us the way.

Asking God to show me the way simply means that I am going to depend and rely on God to give direction and guidance on how we move forward in simple and complicated matters. You know how it is when there are matters facing us and we do not wish to have that conversation with anyone other than God. Why? Because we know that it is between God and us, and we know that He is not going to misdirect us.

Doesn’t the word of God say that Jesus is the way, the truth and life? If we believe in God’s Word and we know His word does not lie, then why not allow Him to show all of us the way each and every day. I must confess that since I have been relying on this passage of scripture, God has revealed and shown the light in many instances. I am a believer that God is not one who wants us to make unnecessary mistakes, nor does He wish for us to fall into the trappings and tricks of the devil. As we reference many of the Biblical characters, we observe how God orchestrated and showed them the way. If he did it for them, He will surely do it for us also. Sometimes it may not

make sense, but if God is in it, He will reveal himself to us in some way as we pray to Him. I again admonish you as we journey through this year to seek his face, humble yourselves, pray and ask for God's forgiveness. Now watch your blessings begin to flow.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every year, we take time to celebrate Black History Month during February. Each Sunday, we establish a theme and structure or attempt to structure the worship service around that theme. You will be reading about those Sundays in articles that will follow.

However, since there is nothing stated about fourth Sunday, I share these comments. On the fourth Sunday in February we celebrated Western/Cowboy/Cowgirl Sunday. It provided an opportunity for us to reflect on the 15 years of the Summer Equestrian Camp. I am grateful to those who assisted in putting the video together showing highlights of the equestrian camp through the years. I wish to at this time once again express appreciation to all the volunteers who served so diligently over the years. I believe the camp has touched the lives of not only our youth, but adults as well. I believe we are all better for it.

I wish to also thank the Tribe of Simeon for a wonderful fellowship hour after the worship service. They went all out to decorate the fellowship hall and prepare a wonderful meal. It has been a blessing to feast and fellowship with members each fourth Sunday. The intent has been for us to get to know each other a little better, and in many cases it has worked. There are testimonies from persons who indicate that they have gotten to know members because of the fellowship hour.

NEW OFFICERS

I am grateful to all officers of the church who have served over the years in different positions. Your commitment and dedication have been a blessing to the entire congregation. Sometime we don't realize the significance of the good work that so many of our members do. I am also grateful to those who have stepped up to the plate to ensure that we might continue to conduct business in a godly and orderly manner. Again, I thank you for your services rendered and the services now being provided by our new leaders.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome all of our new members to Grace United Methodist Church. It is my hope that you have become comfortable in your new home, and we pray that you will continue to grow in God's grace. It is my hope that you will become involved in a ministry within the church. Please put forth a concerted effort also to make some new acquaintances. For our theme has been, "Learning to Love is the Joy of Life."

BIRTHDAY

I am deeply appreciative to all for your acts of love and kindness on my birthday, April 2, 2020. I am grateful for your calls, cards, emails, text messages, gifts, etc. The day was filled with so many blessings. Even though we adhered to the "Stay at Home" mandate, it still was an awesome day. I am always touched by so much love from family, church, friends and associates. You have blessed my soul over the years in ways unimaginable.

GRACE/MANSFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

We are once again grateful to the Mansfield Scholarship Ministry for its good work in providing funds to our college students. As you know, a large chunk of the funds provided to our college students is generated by the giving to the fund by members, family and friends of Grace UMC. This semester, we were able to distribute \$726.05 to each of our college students. This distribution was the second semester payment to each student. This year, we anticipate that three of our college students will graduate from college: Jayvious Williams, Jovon Jackson and Chloe Colbert. We also celebrate the graduation of Colton Campbell (University of Maryland) and Danielle Baker (Bowie State University) this past December. Other students who continue to matriculate include James Watkins, Gwendolyn Ford, Jessica Spencer, Ezekiel Robinson, Brianna Boston, Ebony Coby, Dejah Essex and Gwendolyn Ford. May we keep them in prayer as they pursue careers or continue to further their education? I thank all of the members of the ministry and give extra thanks to Sisters Judy Estep and Jacqueline Fultz for their leadership.

GRIEF SHARE MINISTRY

At our last Grief Share gathering with persons who have lost a spouse to death, we were able to discern that most of the members of the Grief Share Ministry have been able to cope with the void in their lives. This does not mean that they have totally overcome their grief, but it does mean that they have made progress. It is wonderful to see them laugh, share their feelings openly, plan for the future, make new acquaintances, and continue to heal. We believe this ministry has helped those who grieve become stronger. We are grateful to Sister Carmelita Walker for her involvement in the ministry. We always have a meal, and we are grateful to her for it.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

We are not always able to get our senior living members to church every Sunday, but a concerted effort is made to bring them to church for special Sundays and special events. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of Sister Eloise Colbert and Brother Ernest Dorsey for sacrificing and getting our elderly members to Grace on the church bus. A special thanks to Sister Wilma Cartwright for making the contacts and organizing the trips.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

We are so pleased to be able to continue with our Alzheimer's Support Group that meets on every third Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. We have received numerous testimonies from members of the group regarding how the support group has assisted them in coping with the challenges they face with family members and friends who suffer from this disease. Please know that the invitation is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The meetings provide an opportunity for persons to share their experiences and to receive printed information that may be of use to them. We thank Sisters Barbara Stevenson and Gabrielle Peace for all they continue to do in this ministry.

TRIBAL LEADER MINISTRY

The Tribal Leader Ministry has been a true blessing. I am grateful to the tribal leaders for all that you do in keeping in touch with members of your tribe. There are times that I am not aware of difficulties that members of the church may be experiencing, but you usually come through in keeping me informed.

RETIREMENT

As you know, I will be retiring in July of this year. However, I will write an article for the last newsletter that will be sent to you in June. I am grateful to God for allowing me to live out my calling at two wonderful churches. I look forward to serving you through June.

COVID-19

Who would have thought we would be living in a time of restrictions as we are today? We are required to keep our distance from one another, stay home, wear a mask and gloves. These are troubling times, but we know from where our help comes. I admonish all of our members to please adhere to our government agencies that are trying to keep us safe. More information regarding this subject will be in the next newsletter.

Until next time, God loves you, and so do I!

Black History Month



CELEBRATING AT GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH BEGINS WITH GRANDPARENTS

During the month of February, Grace celebrated special worship services highlighting the contributions of our ancestors.

On February 2nd, we started our celebration with **Honoring Grandparents Sunday**. Both of our services were dedicated to our grandparents. Our heritage begins with our grandparents' having a tremendous impact in our lives! They shared their wisdom, sacrificed and made provisions for us, gave us protection, and took us to church to learn about God. In all these actions, they also gave us their unconditional love! A special presentation on "What Does It Means to Be a Grandparent" was given by Sister Beverly Meeks at 8 a.m. and Sister Willette Warner at 10:45 a.m. The liturgical dancers, Diamonds in the Rough, ministered at both services. Thanks to the special donations that made it possible for us to bless the grandparents with gifts for the following categories. Gifts were given to the oldest grandparents in attendance; Allen Colbert, Bill Watkins, Willette Warner and Ernestine Johnson. The grandparents with the most grandchildren were Sherrie Walker and Cherrell Hinnant. This special service was followed with

refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall by the Grandparents Committee (Willie Borden, Deedra Jones, Liz Colbert and Wanda Wheeler).

On **Sunday, February 9, 2019**, we recognized some of our **Hidden Figures** and celebrated their accomplishments. The Hidden Figure Committee (Ron Clarke, Cynthia Holtz, Renee Holtz, Prethicia Williams and Rita Winters) collected the information for the bio's presented during the worship service.

The Hidden Figure honorees were Amos Byrd, Michele Cober, Allen Colbert, Jesse Colbert, Clarice Crudup, James Curtis, Dr. Caleb Davis, Rita Hollingsworth, Novella Jackson, Ernestine Johnson, Jewel Meeks, Lucille Pitt, Frances Robinson, Everett W. Stevenson, Jr., Fitzgerald Walker, Lindsey Williams, and Dejah Essex.

This selection of honorees had years of experience and many accomplishments – all of which could not have been presented to the congregation during the service.

Continuing the Black History celebrations, on February 16th, the Youth and Young Adults and the Adult Sunday School presented the accomplishments and achievements of our ancestors (see article).

Closing out the month, on February 23rd, it was Western Cowboy and Cowgirl Sunday (see Pastor Slade's article).

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

By Frances P. Robinson
Photos by Allen Colbert

On third Sunday, October 16, 2020, African American accomplishments and achievements were lifted and recognized. Carter G. Woodson is the initiator of Black History celebrations, which began as Black History Week and has now become Black History Month.

It started with the 8:00 am service when the Adult Sunday School, facilitated by Rhoda Slade, moderated and portrayed some of our well-known African Americans and their contributions.



Pastor Slade and liturgist, Tiana Jackson

Then, at the 10:45 am Youth/Young Adult service, Tiana Jackson, liturgist, called the church to worship, and the Grace Instrumental Group—Anayah and Kyah West, Prynness Gray, Janiaya Simms, Kaliyah Fletcher, Destiny Deshield, Sanaa Hinton—played as the congregation sang, “Jesus Is All I Need.” Alicia Williams prayed and the Grace Notes (youth) sang, “Tramping.” Kaliyah Fletcher welcomed guests and introduced the “Pointer Sisters.” Two guest teenaged instrumentalists, Talenda Chundu and Caleb, played the violin and cello professionally.



Guests, Talenda Chundu, violin, and Caleb, cello

The **youth Sunday School** shared spotlights of African Americans in a “Who Am I” segment. The children represented Marian Anderson, Jackie Robinson, Shirley Chislm, Harriet Tubman, Matthew Henson, to name a few. Then, **Teens for Christ** performed a skit that

featured Black History moments. One example was when Winnie Mandela discussed her husband's imprisonment and met Madame C. J. Walker and asked her for a hair appointment. Another encounter had Maya Angelou passing on advice that people will remember not what you did or said, but how someone made them feel. It was spirited, fun-filled, and informative.

Other Black luminaries included the Pointer Sisters (Charlene Skinner, Anayah and Kyah West) singing a gospel number; Sanaa Gibson sang, "Motherless Child" in the aria style of Grace Bumbry. During the Children's Moment, Frances Robinson spotlighted Martin Luther King, Jr. and Kobi Bryant as youth; Cori "Coco" Gauff, 16-year old tennis star; and Tyler Butler Figueroa, 12-year old violin virtuoso, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 4.

Min. Damali Rector read a profound poem, "Phenomenal...Comes to Mind," written by Horace Buggs as a tribute to retiring musical director, Phyllis Harris Bronson.



SPRC Susie Moore (r) and Barry Thompson (l) present gifts to Phyllis Harris Bronson on behalf of the church

The Staff Parish Relations Committee presented her with gifts (silver engraved piano music box, money, and flowers) on behalf of the church, and Pastor Slade gave remarks about her work and servanthood at Grace. To a standing ovation from the congregation, Sis. Phyllis, with tears streaming down her face, thanked Grace and wished them the best in their endeavors and missions. Pastor Slade concluded with remarks and benediction to what had been a memorable day in celebrating African Americans.

CELEBRATING PHYLLIS HARRIS BRONSON'S RETIREMENT



On Sunday, February 16th, following the worship service, family and friends celebrated Phyllis Harris Bronson's retirement in the Fellowship Hall with slides, a collage, plaques, tributes, music, poetry, and other presentations. Mattie Cox Greene presided and opened with prayer, and Frances Robinson shared the occasion. In a room beautifully set up and decorated by Carmelita Walker, Rosetta Daniels, Willette Warner, and Mattie Greene, the Grace UMC family filled the room with cheer and well wishes. A delicious lunch of fried and baked chicken, ham, meatballs, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, string beans, rolls, desserts and beverages were served.



***Hospitality, Cordelia Dorsey (second from r), with Retirement servers (l)
Well-wishers pack the Fellowship Hall for Phyllis' Retirement Celebration (r)***

Special thanks go to Cordelia Dorsey, hospitality chair. Wanda Wheeler, church administrative assistant, prepared beautiful programs for the attendees. In closing, the honoree once again thanked Grace for their outpouring love. She has served Grace for 20+ years as musical director of the Grace Notes, Teens/Tweens, Instrumental Group, Young Adult Ensemble, Men of Grace, Chancel and Voices Choirs. Moreover, she sings with Praise and Worship, gives services to Grace Angel Care (GAC), and plays for the Bereavement Choir. Pastor Slade closed the celebration by once again thanking Phyllis for her services.

PHOTOS BY ALLEN COLBERT

CELEBRATING BRONSON'S RETIREMENT IN PICTURES



**Deedra Jones, Tanika & Brian Hyman
Teens for Christ**



**Alicia Williams, Imari Conway &
Renee Sharp—Young Adults Ensemble**



**Pat Fletcher represents parents
of youth, teens & tweens**



**Janiaya, Kyah, Pryncess, Anayah & Kaliyah
Teens and Tweens Choir**



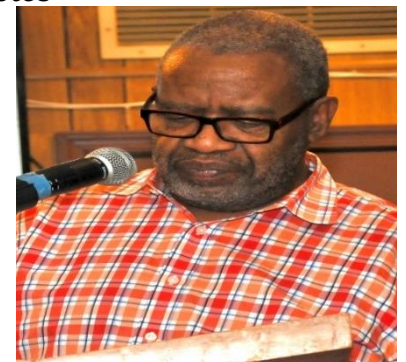
**Warren Sharp, Jr. and Micah Williams
of Grace Notes**



**Sam Carter & Barbara Stevenson
from GAC**



**Wilma Cartwright of former
Chancel Choir**



**Aldo Brown with Men of
Grace Choir**



Cheryl and Purcell Conway sing tribute from the Praise and Worship team

The Busy Bees Senior Ministry

Year 2019 was an amazing year for members of The Busy Bees Senior Ministry. We completed our objectives as written in the mission statement. During our recess and throughout, we spent quality time with our relatives and friends and kept in touch with our sick and shut-in members.

We attended the theater to see two movies: “The Overcomer” and “Harriet.” “The Overcomer” is an inspirational movie written, directed, and produced by the filmmaking Kendrick Brothers who also released “War Room” in 2015. This movie impacts spiritual lives and strengthens families and personal relationships. “Harriet” is a fictional adaptation based on the thinking and inspiration life of an iconic American freedom fighter, Harriet Tubman. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

In October, the Busy Bees celebrated Sister Rosella Martin’s 80th birthday with her family and friends. The Fellowship Hall was decorated elegantly, and the food was scrumptious, all provided by her family. In December, we had our Christmas party, exchanged gifts, got stumped with the brain puzzles, and mingled with our invited guests. Also, in December, Sister Erma Morgan, a close friend of Sister Barbara Skinner-Barnes, used her creativity and talent to make unique bows for the Christmas wreaths mounted on the outside of Grace Church. A special thanks go to her.

We are thankful for so many blessings. We welcomed three new members, Sisters Prethicia Williams, Patricia Hairston, and Cynthia Holtz. Sister Ray Stein, who volunteered to be our secretary, produces and distributes precise meeting minutes. Brother Ernest Dorsey, a member of the Transportation Ministry, chauffeurs us and other members of Grace to pre-authorized designations.

In early February, The Busy Bees participated in a mission project, sewing dresses for the Willington River Orphanage and School in Uganda under the sponsorship of Sister Phyllis Harris Bronson. She and several seniors provided T-shirts and fabric. We are grateful to others (Sister Trina Philyaw – sewing skills, Sister Deedra Jones – T-shirts donation, and Sister Marguerite Simpson – fabric and sewing notions) who assisted us.

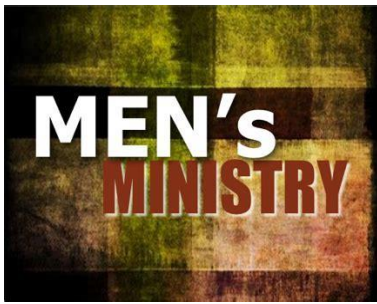




We give God all the glory and praise for the loving and caring people He has put in our path.

As we leave one year behind and roll into the next one, let us remember 365 new days amount to 365 chances to be a little gentler with each other, a little more loving, have a little more empathy and be there for one another. We cannot go back in life to make a new start; however, with God, we can make a brand-new ending.

Anchored in Christ,
Willette Warner, Facilitator



Grace United Methodist Men

Grace United Methodist Men Stay Committed

“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well (Romans 12:6 (NLT))

Grace United Methodist Men Vision Statement

Be the leaders God called us to be in the home, church, and community.

Mission Statement:

Grace United Methodist Men are dedicated in the promotion of spiritual growth and unity to empower men to be the leaders that God called us to be. We are committed to Serving God and building Godly men in the church and community. We are striving to enhance the participation of men in the body of Christ according to II Timothy 3:17

“So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

United Methodist Men's Day Celebrations

Sunday, September 22, 2019 was the Men's Day celebration for two spirit-filled services at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. Rev. Dr. John J. Cox, pastor of the historic Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, DC was the guest preacher for 8:00 AM, and Rev. R. Kevin Matthews, pastor, Shephard's House International Christian Church, Upper Marlboro, MD, was our guest preacher for our 10:45 AM Service. Both pastors delivered powerful messages from our theme “Using Your Gifts to Serve God in Excellence” (Romans 12:6-8) (NLT). We give God all the Praise and Honor for another successful Men's Day Celebration.

The men are involved and provide support for many of the ministries in the church through sponsorship, donations, participation in special programs, and numerous other activities. We also want to thank our Grace Church family for their prayers and support throughout the year. We love you and could not have had the great success without you. May God continue to pour out his richest blessings on each of you!

The ministry meets on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and all men are welcome!

Lee Utsey, Chairperson

GRACE



CARE MINISTRY

As always, we greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ from the Grace Angel Care Ministry (GAC). We also must thank the Lord for blessing this ministry with great leadership from Pastor Slade to all the faithful volunteers. Christ has provided committed and loving saints who continue to contribute to the success of this ministry. Join us on the second Tuesday of every month in LaPlata, Maryland and the fifth Sunday in Clinton, Maryland. Come and see God's hand at work. It is an hour praising the Lord through the Word, singing, sharing, and thanking God for the blessings present in our lives. You will be filled with thanksgiving and gratitude after experiencing this great time for the nourishment of your soul. We were created to glorify God who is the giver of all good things. What better way to praise Him than to serve Him. *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 (NRSV)* Dear Lord fill us with the fruit of Your Spirit.

It is truly a blessing to see and feel the impact that the word of God, a church visit, and fellowshiping with the residents can be such a joy. It is such a wonderful and encouraging moment in all our lives. *If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability take the responsibility seriously. And*

if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly Romans 12:7 (NLT). Come out and join us, as we are an inclusive ministry that welcomes all who wish to serve the Lord and share your God-given gifts with your brothers and sisters in Christ. It's all about the love for God and each other. You will be an encouragement and inspiration to the residents and this ministry. If you wish to learn more about the GAC Ministry, please see me.

Thanks again to you, Pastor Slade, and all the volunteers and supporters. I would like to say a special thank you to Phyllis Harris Bronson, our committed musician for GAC. She has graced us with her talent since the very beginning in 2013. February 11, 2020 was her last day of service as our GAC musician. She has been such a blessing, providing the songs, playing the piano, the sacrifice she made in traveling distances, and just simply being there for us. God bless you! Farewell to our sister in faith. Lots of love from the GAC ministry. We will truly miss you and we wish you well wherever God leads you.

Peace and Grace,
Brother Samuel F. Carter, Coordinator

PARTNERING WITH HAITI

We are grateful to be in partnership with Brother Vernon Hammett, a missionary to Haiti. Brother Hammett is now in Haiti and will be there for several weeks. We share this message with you in which he expresses his gratitude, along with the people of Haiti.



cared for the sick in the Village of Carries where I serve.”

“How it all got started with Grace United Methodist Church. My friend Iris Rogers, member of Grace UMC, suggested I bring my mother to their weekly senior’s ministry called the Busy Bees. Well, the Busy Bees

embraced Mom and I as if we had known each other for a lifetime. When they found out I was going to Haiti as a missionary, they got the entire church involved and loaded up my truck with all sorts of donations. We are grateful that Grace UMC has been consistent with their contributions since 2016. Members of the church have even given me monetary donations and sponsored some of the children at the school. This year Mrs. Rhoda Ray Slade, the pastor’s wife, gave me a rather large donation for the mission. It is my understanding that the Slade family forgoes exchanging Christmas gifts in 2019 and contributing their Christmas exchange monies to the mission. We were all overjoyed to receive such a love offering. We are so grateful because the mission is still struggling to get back on its feet. We thank you Grace UMC for all you do for the kingdom through this humble servant and missionary.”

“I thank God often for the blessing which is uniquely Grace United Methodist Church (GUMC). Since you have begun partnering with me as I serve as a missionary in Haiti, your presence has been felt. Each of the past three years, Grace UMC has literally donated car loads of items which we have packed into 55-gallon drums to ship to Haiti. And the impact has been tremendous. The founder of the Mission of Grace, Haiti (MoG) where I have the pleasure of serving, often talks of the benefits of these items we ship to them. Things like baby formula, over-the-counter medicines, adult and infant diapers, school supplies, and other items which you abundantly send to Haiti are well received. And the new and gently used clothing to wear. Additionally, Grace UMC has been extremely generous with financial donations which we pour directly into the MoG assuring its continued viability. As a matter of fact, because of these donations, MoG can focus its meager financial resources on feeding and caring for the other needs of the community. In the latter verses of the twenty-fifth chapter of the book of Matthew, Jesus says that God will judge those who are worthy to receive eternal life by the way they treat the strangers they encounter. My friends and family at Grace UMC have certainly clothed the naked, fed the hungry and



Submitted by Iris Rogers, Haiti Coordinator

Appointed by You Liturgical Ministers in Dance



Appointed by You Liturgical Dance Ministry Mission is to create a cohesive dynamic spirit-filled ministry, that will inspire others to give their lives to Christ.

Appointed by You Liturgical Dance Ministry provides an opportunity for liturgical dancers to praise and worship God with their gifts of dance.

On October 13, 2019, Mature by Grace ministered a dance to “You’ll Never Thirst” by Anointed.



On October 20, 2019, Laity Sunday, Diamonds in the Rough ministered a dance at the 8 a.m. worship service. Unique Unity also ministered a dance at the 10:45 am. worship service to, “He wants it All” by Forever Jones. On October 27, 2019, Vessels ministered a dance to “Endow Me” by Coko, Fantasia, Keira Sheard, LiL Mo and Faith Evans. Then, on November 10, 2019, Mature by Grace ministered in dance to “Healing” by Richard Smallwood. On November 24, 2019, which was Homecoming Sunday, Appointed by You danced to “Joy” by Kirk Franklin.

On December 1, 2019, Vessels ministered a group dance to “Grace Is Your Mercy” by Donnie McClurkin. On December 21, 2019, all Appointed by You ministered two dances at the Christmas play to “Go Tell It on the Mountain” by the Peoples Choir, “Joyful! Joyful!” from “Sister Act 2.”



On January 12, 2020, Mature by Grace danced so gracefully, as they ministered a dance to “Now Behold the Lamb” by Kirk Franklin. On January 26, 2020, the Vessels came out with a bang, as they ministered in a dance to “He Brought Me” by Dorinda-Clark-Cole.



We would like to welcome the following new members to Appointed by You dance ministry: Alaia Hammonds joined Unique Unity; Joy Goodheart joined Mature by Grace; and Monique Smith and Tiara King-Phillips joined The Vessels.

During this dance season, God has continued to uplift us in a mighty way, and Appointed by You looks forward to continuing to minister and worship through dance. “Let them Praise His Name” with dancing: Let them sing Praises to Him with timbre and lyre.” Psalm 149:3

Submitted by, Monique Jackson

TEENS FOR CHRIST SERVE

2019-2020



THEME: Spiritual Maturity

OUR PURPOSE:

Growing in Grace, Faith, Spirit and Love

TFC MINISTRY GOALS:

- Teach teens how to apply **GODLY** principles to everyday life
- Develop teens that demonstrate active, disciplined, spiritual and social maturity.

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS SEASON:

Psalms 51:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take you Holy Spirit from me.

This 2019-2020 season has been an uplifting and enlightening season thus far.

Teens for Christ (TFC) members continue to play a major role in Grace's 3rd Sunday worship services by singing in the choir, ministering through dance, ushering, welcoming our guests, and leading the worship service as liturgists to name a few.

TFC meets on the 1st & 4th Mondays of the month. We started this season off with getting a better understanding of things like: *The Fruits of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23), *Being Thankful* (Psalm 100:4-5), *Sharing Personal Challenges* we need God to get us through and reminders of various bible characters that overcame challenges by trusting and having faith in God. Through these discussions and our "Mr. Brian" moments focused on each topic, the teens are building stronger relationships with family members, a deeper relationship with God and having more love for each other, their neighbors and friends.

In November 2019, the teens served as ushers, hosts and helpers for Grace's Veteran's Banquet held at the

Jaycees in Waldorf, MD, and they were commended by the Veteran's ministry for a job well done.

In December 2019, we held our 1st College & Career panel where previous TFC members came back to Grace to share their experiences & suggestions during life after high school. We even got to hear first-hand from our very own Private Davonte Hinton about the blessings and challenges he has faced in boot camp. We wish them all the very best and can't wait to see what the Lord has planned for them. (*other panelists included: Javious Williams, Ebony Coby, Gwendolyn Ford & Briana Boston*). We thank ALL parents, original TFC members and Min. Nona Colbert for coming out and being engaged. By popular demand, we will do a 2nd session soon.

TFC decided to forgo the ROCK Youth Retreat this year to raise funds for the **NEW** Building. We have committed ourselves to raising **\$1,500** towards the building of the new church through fundraisers and many prayers.

The 1st fundraiser was our **Family & Friends Skate Night** @ Temple Hills Skate Palace in December. Keep your eyes on the bulletin for upcoming exciting fundraisers in the works.

We were also excited about participating in the Black History Moment in February and look forward to the missionary work planned for this year. In addition to TFC's support and help with collecting and bagging goods for the **Hurricane Dorian Relief Drive** in October, we are looking forward to our **2nd Annual Bless the Homeless Community Outreach Effort** targeted for April, and possibly volunteering at the **Oxon Hill Food Pantry** in May. The teens thoroughly enjoy interacting with and serving others as the Lord requires us to do.

TFC loves the times our ministers and worship leaders have shared with us in the past and welcomes all Grace members to come share their knowledge/special talents/skills and gifts with us during our Monday evening TFC sessions. For example, Bro. Lindsey Williams dropped by and shared with the teens his duties as the Surge Capacity Force Section Chief/Supervisor Program Analyst as a FEMA employee. He described how FEMA operates during

national disasters and answered questions from the teens who all appeared to be very interested and impressed with the work he does. The teens thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated Bro. Lindsey for spending this time with them and look forward to others. Thank you, Bro. Lindsey.

We thank GOD for our Pastor, and we thank GOD for YOU, for your continuous love and support season after season. We are truly grateful for you unending prayers and dedication to the youth of this congregation and community. Be blessed!

--Teens for Christ Coordinators



College & Career Panel - Dec.

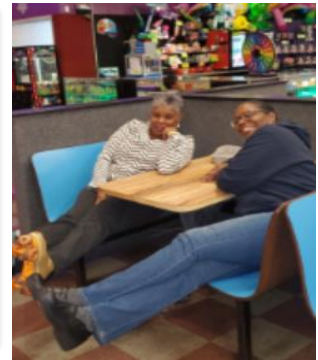
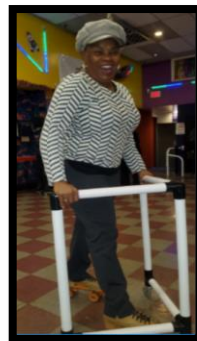
***JUST A FEW MEMORIES OF THIS SEASON
THUS FAR!!***



Hurricane Dorian Relief Drive - Oct.



Veteran's Day Celebration - Nov. 2019



TFC Family & Friends Skate Night - Dec.

Worshipping at the Farm for Last Time

By Frances P. Robinson

Photos by Allen Colbert



Praise and Worship gives mini concert on the farm

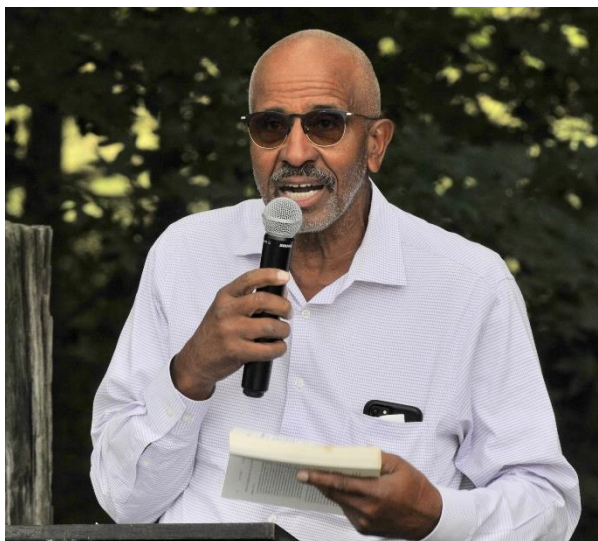
Almost 500 worshippers gathered at the RRB BB (**R**obert**R**hoda**B**randi**B**riana**B**rittany) Farm on Sunday, August 25, 2019 for worship, food, fellowship and fun. The day began wonderfully with great sunny weather—but not too hot! The tents, chairs, and pulpit were set up backdropped against the nature of God—trees and green grass. Cars were being parked in open grassy spaces near the road. People traipsed in with lawn chairs and blankets.



Willie Borden, worship chairperson, opened the service with the Call to Worship followed by Praise and Worship which gave a mini concert of the most beautiful and spirit filled music that floated among the trees. Mattie Cox Greene prayed the Lord's blessings, and young adult Brittany Boston welcomed the guests. There were several first-time attendees, as well as several who had attended all four farm services.

Since Grace is in the middle of a new building initiative, Lee Utsey and Frances Robinson explained the upcoming building fast to pay off the new mortgage within 5 years. They also gave breaking news that Grace has received its Grading Permit, which will allow us to start the building process. The news was received with shouts and claps of approval.

There were testimonies shared by Robert Ellis, Madge Miles, Wilma Cartwright, Min. Laverne West, Joy Goodheart, Min. Damali Rector, and Alicia Williams. Pastor Slade introduced guest speakers, Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman and the Hon. Aisha Braveboy



Pastor Slade introduces Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, DS, and the Hon. Aisha Braveboy, State Attorney

Following the scripture by Yvonne Willis, Pastor Robert Slade preached on Jesus' being a farmer. Last year's sermon was "Jesus Was A Country Boy." The farm was the perfect place to backdrop this focus on Jesus' life.

After the benediction, it was time for fellowship, food and fun. Various games, coordinated by Marc Green, provided entertainment for the children. Long lines also formed for popcorn and red and blue snow cones. Delicious food was cooked and prepared by Willie and Vivian Borden, as well as James Curtis and Michael Tucker. The Tribe of Zebulun, chaired by Carmelita Walker, provided desserts, and the display set up had people thinking they were in a bakery.

A highlight of the Farm service is always the hayride, and this year was no different. As a tractor, piled high with hay, pulled out of the yard--driven by Pastor Slade--youth, seniors, and in-betweeners were climbing on ready to ride and tour. Even the district superintendent got in on the fun. Rev. Cogman rode a horse and went on the hayride.



Dr. Cogman rides horse



Grace enjoys the hayride around the farm

When the day ended, the men pitched in to gather trash in bags, take down tents, chairs, and pulpit. Purcell Conway, who set up the sound systems, and used his truck to bring and take large items was a saint. The ushers were outstanding; the trustees were fantastic; and the attendees did their part to help. Rhoda Slade, co-hostess, stated that after everyone left, it was hard to tell by their cleaning up that anyone had ever been to the farm. Kudos to all!

We give special thanks to the Slades for sharing their farm and their home for our worship services during his pastordship. The four services on his farm have been unique experiences and unforgettable. Special recognition goes to the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) for coordinating this worship experience along with many assistants. Thanks also go to Purcell and the Praise and Worship team for the music, and to all the men and women who pitched in to give extra help.

MORE FARM PICTURES



Sis. Bertha Williams



Through the eyes of babes



Sis. Aletha Lewis



Giddy Up! What Fun to Ride!

DR. LONISE BIAS DELIVERS LAITY MESSAGE

By Frances P. Robinson, Lay Leader
Photos by Allen Colbert



Dr. Lonise Bias, President, BSpeaks LLC Grace once again celebrated Laity Sunday on October 20, 2019. The laity theme encouraged laity and clergy to “Therefore, Go! With Hope Through Purpose.” The 8:00 am service started with the uplifting music by the Praise and Worship team led by Purcell Conway and Dr. Ulysses Moyé. The liturgist, Rev. Ralph Shorter, opened the worship with exhortations and prayer.

Anayah and Kyah West welcomed guests, and the liturgical dancers, Diamonds in the Rough, danced creatively and spiritually. Staci Jones read the purpose of Laity Sunday. A moving testimony was shared by Deedra Jones, certified lay servant, about overcoming illness and the loss of her son. Certified lay servant Joyce Slade introduced the speaker, Dr. Bias. Susie R. Moore, certified lay servant, read Scripture emphasizing that “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.



Liturgical Dancers—Diamond in the Rough and Unique Unity

Following Praise and Worship’s selection, “The Days of Elijah,” the congregation was blessed with a message from Dr. Lonise Bias, a national and international motivational speaker. She is also a trainer, consultant, and a certified teen and family life coach. Dr. Bias has delivered powerful keynote addresses, facilitated and developed workshops for faith-based, public and private sectors for over 28 years. She was the perfect speaker for Laity Sunday because she demonstrates a purpose-filled life saturated with hope.



Dr. Bias shared a powerful message emoting despair, grief, hope, and God’s restoring purpose in her life. Her journey was navigated as a public speaker after the death of her oldest son, Len Bias, a University of MD basketball player, who died of cocaine intoxication in June of 1986—just two days after being drafted by the NBA Boston Celtics. Then, on December 1990, the Bias family experienced the death of their second son, Jay, the victim of a drive-by shooting. She spoke of standing on one son’s grave while burying another son. Her devastation and despair were deep, and she lost her focus on God. However, he would not let her languish overly long. He shook her and told her she had work to do. God forged within her a commitment to reclaim the communities through her motivational messages. She is now the president of BSpeaks, LLC, a life investment company, that brings new solutions to old problems. She encourages and empowers women, teenaged boys, and parents.

After a standing ovation for Dr. Bias, Rhoda Slade, certified lay servant, opened the doors of the church, and certified lay servant Keitha Williams extended the benediction.

The 10:45 am service began on an equally high note. Musicians Phyllis Harris Bronson, Barry Thompson, and Denise Deshield provided inspirational music. Liturgist Novella Jackson, certified lay servant, opened with altar prayer after the opening hymn, “Hold on to God’s Unchanging Hand.” Kaliyah Fletcher welcomed all guests, and Jeanette Brannon read the purpose of laity Sunday.

The youth sang, “It’s Bubbling.” Later, Unique Unity, the youth liturgical dancers, performed an exceptional dance. Lee Utsey and Frances Robinson, public relations for the building committee, shared a 5-year plan of paying off our upcoming mortgage through a building fast. Carmelita Walker introduced the guest speaker, and Min. DaMali Rector read the Scripture.



Youth singers, Grace Notes, sing “It’s Bubbling”

Following the Worship Through Music selection, “Yesterday” by the Young Adult Ensemble, were once again treated to an outstanding message by Dr. Bias.



Young Adult Ensemble (above) sings “Yesterday” and Praise and Worship sings “Days of Elijah”

Her closing comments were that hope is not extinct, and the best is yet to come. She also believes we can turn lemons into lemonade within the family, youth, community, schools, colleges, and workplaces.

Following the invitation to discipleship by Min. Laverne West, Frances Robinson, lay leader, presented for the first time **Parent Commitment Awards** to two parents who assure that their children are involved in multiple church activities. The two parents receiving awards were Charlene Skinner and Gloria Simms.



*Charlene Skinner (l) and Gloria Simms (Liz Colbert pictured) receive Parents Commitment Award
held by Carmelita Walker (r)*

Next, SPRC leaders, Marc Greene and Debbie Boston, presented Pastor Appreciation Month gifts to Pastor Slade and encouraged the congregation to continue for the month of October to show their love and appreciation. The SPRC also bestowed flowers to Frances P. Robinson for her laity leadership. Then, Yvonne Willis, certified lay servant, extended the benediction.



Pastor receives Appreciation

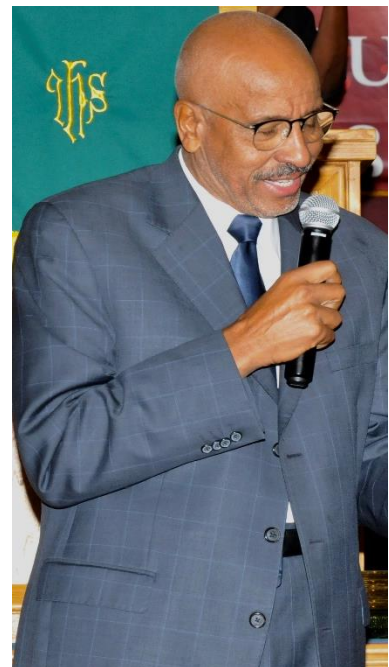
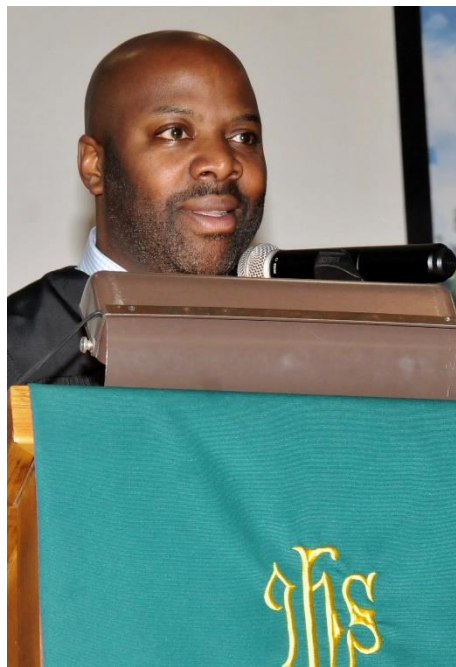


Rhoda Slade opens doors



Deedra Jones shares testimony

Pastor Slade expressed his appreciation for Dr. Bias' joining us and bringing forth a magnificent message. He also thanked the laity committee and congregation for this celebration and gifts for him throughout the month. Following the benediction, the church enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Fellowship Hall coordinated by the Hospitality Committee led by Cordelia Dorsey. Many thanks go to all who helped to make Laity Sunday a success. We achieve much when laity and clergy join together to build the Kingdom of Christ.



Novella Jackson (l) and Rev. Ralph Shorter served as liturgists and Pastor Slade (r) thanked Laity

YOUNG ADULTS CONDUCT WORSHIP SERVICE

Briana Slade, Guest Speaker



The Young Adult Ensemble sings every third Sunday at 10:45 am; however, on November 17, 2019, young adults took charge of the entire worship service. It began with Coire Kyle, who read the announcements. Then, liturgist Tiana Jackson led the call to worship, followed by the opening hymn, “In the Beauty of Holiness.” Next, Alicia Williams, who prays the most heartfelt prayers, opened the altar for prayer. The Young Adult Ensemble, directed by Phyllis Harris Bronson, provided worship through music with selections, “Grateful,” “Easy to Love,” “I’m Blessed,” and “Thank You Lord for What You’ve Done for Me.” Yolanda Colbert welcomed guests who had come for the first or second time. After a spotlight moment by the committee chair, Purcell Conway (not a young adult) shared

ground-breaking news about the building project.

Because November was Native American Heritage Month and with Thanksgiving upcoming, the young adults celebrated these two occasions. Tiffany Jones, Renee Holtz, and Imari Conway highlighted the first Thanksgiving among the pilgrims and the Native Americans, who came together in brotherhood to share the bounty of the land and sea and give thanks to their Creator. Janice Colbert Ellis choreographed and performed a Native American dance, demonstrating the grace and rhythm of the tribes.

Following the offering, Zakiyyah Shaw introduced the guest speaker for the morning, Sis. Briana Slade. Dominique Thornton-Campbell read the Scripture, and after a musical selection, the congregation heard the messenger for the service.

Sister Briana Slade is the twin daughter of Pastor Robert and Sis. Rhoda Slade. Her message was particularly relevant in today’s world of ups and downs. She spoke about having hope in the midst of pain, explaining that to have both is not an impossibility. She also spoke about the need for an inquiring spirit. Slade is a profound and captivating speaker, who held the attention of the young adults as well as the youth and more mature adults. She concluded to a resounding round of applause and standing ovation.

Briana is a social worker for the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services and a practicing clinician with Safe Harbor Christian Counseling. She holds a Bachelors in Family Science from The University of Maryland, College Park, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She has a heart for discipleship, apologetics, social justice, and missions, both domestic and international, and she readily travels when and wherever needed to fulfill God’s calling. Sis. Slade believes every individual is the *imago dei* (image of God), and is within reach of gospel truth, no matter his or her station, socioeconomic status, or life story.

Brian Hyman extended the invitation to discipleship, and an emotionally touched pastor gave remarks after hearing an outstanding message from his daughter. This Young Adult Sunday was a true success, and we look forward to the next one.

VETERANS MINISTRY CLOSSES YEAR WITH CELEBRATIONS



The Veterans ministry closed out 2019 by hosting two events. The first was our annual Veteran's Celebration Banquet held November 9, 2019 at the Jaycees in Waldorf, MD; and the second one was the annual Christmas Breakfast held December 15, 2019 in the fellowship hall at Grace United Methodist Church.

At the November Veterans Celebration, over 220 individuals from Grace and their guests came together to honor our veterans on this special occasion. Following a delicious lunch, the highlight of the banquet was veterans' performing in a dramatic production entitled, ***"I Served: I Am More Than the Uniform,"*** written and directed by Frances P. Robinson. Veterans, male and female, told stories of why they joined their specific branch of service, what they learned, what they endured, the impact their time in the military had on them and their family, and how they now thank Uncle Sam for their time in service. The production was informative, as well as entertaining, especially when veterans executed a military drill led by Robert Ellis.

Some of the veterans shared stories with the audience that had never been revealed with anyone else. The surprise for those in

attendance, was when each veteran answered that all important question: **WOULD YOU SERVE AGAIN?** You would have had to be in attendance to appreciate the responses. Performing were veterans Ernest Dorsey, Denise Partee, Rickey Lawrence, Aldo Brown, Robert Ellis, William Brown, Jewel Meeks, Cordelia Dorsey, Deon Thompson, James Baker, Nathaniel Wood, Lee Utsey, Michael Tucker, and Lindsey Williams. Military wives participating were Mattie Cox Greene (Henry), Joyce Slade (Earl), and Patricia Brown (William). Additional participants were Sam Carter, Iris Rogers, and Colton Campbell as narrators.

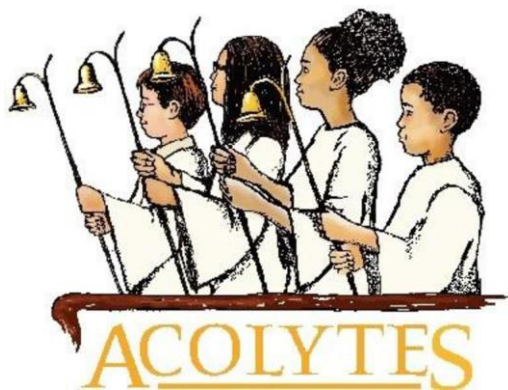
Other performers included Phyllis Harris Bronson with the Men of Grace leading in songs and military medley; Horace Buggs on trumpet and Natalie Zajak on drums; Jonay Aiken dancing spectacularly to Ray Charles', "America, the Beautiful;" James Wilson and Alicia Williams opening with patriotic songs following all veterans who were in attendance marching in behind the Andrews Air Force Color Guard; as well as Denise Deshield and Charles Simien singing, "Uncle Sam Says." Special thanks and kudos go to Carmelita Walker, Willette Warner, Purcell Conway, the Jaycees of Waldorf, and Pastor Robert E. Slade for making this special affair extra special.

The second event was our annual Christmas breakfast. We not only came together to fellowship with each other, but we prepared gift baskets for our sick and shut-in veterans. We prepared 10 Christmas baskets, filled with special gifts donated by the members. The baskets were delivered to each veteran along with a Christmas card signed by the membership wishing them a Merry Christmas.

Submitted by,

Lindsey Williams, Veterans Chairperson

Acolytes Worshiping God



An important part of your job as an Acolyte is to light and extinguish (put out) the candles on or near the special table, or altar. We call it the Lord's table because it is The Lord Jesus Christ's Table. When people look at the lighted candles, they more easily think about God and feel God's presence.

Submitted by Mattie Cox Greene

Children's Ministry

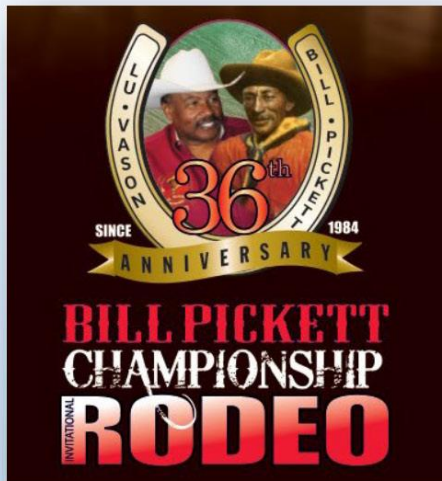
The mission of the Children's ministry is to guide children to learn believe, accept and share God's word. On October 26, 2019, the Children's ministry hosted their annual Hollow-Be-Thy-Name event. There were Christian arts & crafts, face painting, games, food and fun. There were over 40 people who attended this event.

Special thanks go to Mr. James Curtis and our Grace family who donated to this event. Also special thanks to Renee Ford who did special activities with the children.

Our Children's ministry will continue to learn about God through Biblical lessons, Christian arts and crafts, games and cooking activities. We also will continue to make cards for the sick and shut ins.

Submitted by, Noreen Swann & Monique Jackson





Grace United Methodist Church

Ft. Washington, MD— Pastor, Robert E. Slade

Your continued support of the Bill Pickett Rodeo allows us to continue our legacy of introducing our unique heritage of the “African American West”, and it’s culture, to so many families of all ethnicities and demographics. Because of you, we are able to learn & grow together, increase our rodeo attendance and continue our Bill Pickett Memorial Scholarship Fund (BPMSF). We just wanted to acknowledge and say thanks Grace United Methodist Church for your continued commitment to educating our youth and fellow Christians about the many contributions that all African Americans have made to America.

Valeria Howard, Owner- Producer BPIR



Deja Essex

Recipient 2019

“Our Guiding Principles will affirm our professionalism, determine and govern our actions.”

Our actions & services support the sport of rodeo to African Americans and teach the importance of sportsmanship and expose the **positive image of Blacks in the West** to the general public. We enhance the African American experience through our family friendly cultural events and activities, such as Black Rodeos, kids’ events and concerts. We partner to preserve the Heritage of Bill Pickett and Blacks in the West throughout the world. **We strive to teach the youth many valuable lessons such as the value of hard work, character development, responsibility, respect, and pride in their achievements.** We provide funding support for athletes to compete professionally in the Rodeo Industry. In addition, we provide funding to youth wanting to learn to ride horses. We produce educational content that promotes positive images of African Americans and their role in history and the west.

H+OMECOMING

Reclamation Ministry Hosts “A Joyous Reunion”

Family and Friends Day Homecoming Celebration



Rev. Dr. Jerome Tarver



Rev. Dr. Nicole Massie Martin

Psalm 100:1-5 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name

November 24, 2019 marked an amazing and joyous moment in history at Grace United Methodist Church, “Family and Friends Day Homecoming Celebration”, as the new building committee also celebrated Groundbreaking for our future new church immediately after the 10:45am worship service.

This was truly a day of celebration as we prepared for the church homecoming season to welcome back and reconnect with those who have moved to other areas or who have united with other church fellowship and want to come back for the celebration, see old friends, family members, and to meet new people who have moved to the area. It is also a time of great joy and celebration, with persons who have strayed away from the church who return to restore their fellowship with the Lord!

The Spirit was indeed high, and God was glorified as we celebrated our theme “A Joyous Reunion” (Psalm 100:1-5 (NIV), which captured the excitement of the ways God’s Spirit is leading us into a bright future. Reverend Dr. Jerome Tarver, Pastor of Maple Springs Baptist Church, Capitol Heights, Maryland was the guest preacher for our 8:00 a.m. worship service, his sermon was titled “The Joy of if not Faith” (Daniel 3:16). Reverend Dr. Nicole Massie Martin, Kingdom Fellowship AME Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, was guest preacher for our 10:45 a.m. worship service, her sermon was titled “It’s Time for a Breakthrough” 1 Cor 14:8. Oh what powerful and uplifting messages that was so fitting for the theme “A Joyous Reunion”! It was uplifting to see so many family and friends come together and celebrate all that makes us unique and to welcome family, guest and visitors into our Grace family.

Following the inspiring morning services and groundbreaking ceremony, we celebrated with a delicious dinner in the fellowship hall. It was an awesome day in the Lord to worship with many visitors and former members who returned to their home church.

Peace and Blessings! Elizabeth L. Colbert, Reclamation Ministry





Trustees Express Thanks

We, the Trustees Board, would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Melvin Coles, Jr., for the superb job completed as President. He was led by the Lord and it showed in every thought, decision and move taken while working in the position as president of the trustee board. May the Blessings of the Lord be showered upon you.

We, the members of the Trustee Board and the Grace UMC congregation, welcome Sister Eloise Colbert as the newly elected President. May God order her steps throughout her tenure. We are also grateful for our new members. We appreciate all our Trustees and our supporting helpers.

As we prepare and plan for our new building, we seek hard working, dedicated and committed assistance. (Youthfulness is always a plus, but not a requirement). So, if you or anyone you know would like to become a Trustee, please contact our new president, Eloise Colbert, or any member of the Trustee Board.

Just know that we are soldiers working on the battlefield for our Lord. Please, keep us all in prayer.

Our president, Eloise Colbert, and all the members of the Trustee Board would like to thank the Grace United Methodist Church congregation for all their support and assistance as we press towards the mark. Again, thank you all!

All glory, honor and praise to our Lord for all the things HE has done!

Submitted by Trustees

Communications Reaches Out

We bring you greetings from the Communications team. We continue to work towards perfection in all we do to ensure that God is glorified.

We have been working tirelessly to update and maintain our equipment, fulfilling requests while sometimes working understaffed. We reach out to the congregation for your support while diligently adhering to our timeline requests. Although extenuating circumstances occur from time to time, if we all work together, we can achieve great things.

CD's and DVD's of all services are also available for purchase (\$5 & \$7, respectively). However, only CD's are available for the 8:00 am service. Both CD's and DVD's are available for the 10:45 am and special services.

Communications is always looking for anyone that may have an interest in working with our group. Some knowledge is a plus, but not a requirement. If this is you, please contact Leonard Philyaw, Shenelle Colbert or any member of our team for further information.

The Communications Team is grateful to our college students, Chloe Colbert and Jayvious Williams. Their growth in God leads them back to work whenever they are home from school. This action shows their level of commitment and dedication to God and their chosen ministry.

As we march closer towards our new church growing stronger in our Lord and Savior, please pray for our strength in the Lord.

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12 NLT

Submitted by Leonard Philyaw, Chair

Married/Couples' Ministry Lifts Up February Happenings...2020!

Hebrews 10:24-25 - [And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.](#)

Saturday, February 15, 2020 - Sweet Fellowship in Celebration of Valentine's Day and in Honor of "One Another" - Members of the Married/Couples' Ministry enjoyed a wonderful Saturday evening at the Thompson's for fellowship, food and impromptu conversations, including one with our very own Pastor Slade!

Saturday, February 29, 2020 - "#SpreadingTheLove" - Wow, 206 sandwiches, later! We did it! Members of the Married/Couples' Ministry, along with Ms. Willette ("again, thank you"), prepared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Martha's Table. Many thanks to Sister Barbara Stevenson for donating to the "cause!" Some "meticulously" made sandwiches. Some gained a "new skill set!" While others counted sandwiches, and others gave instructions. Lots of fun, in the midst of "spreading love." Martha's Table feeds the homeless 365 days a year and depend on the community to help accomplish such a mission! Matthew 25:35 declares, For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.... Thanks, Team MCM for "helping to make a difference!" We are sure to look forward to our next mission! To God Be the Glory!

God's Grace Is Sufficient in Life! Submitted by Min. Laverne West



CHRISTMAS AT GRACE PRODUCTION

“The Shepherd’s Story”



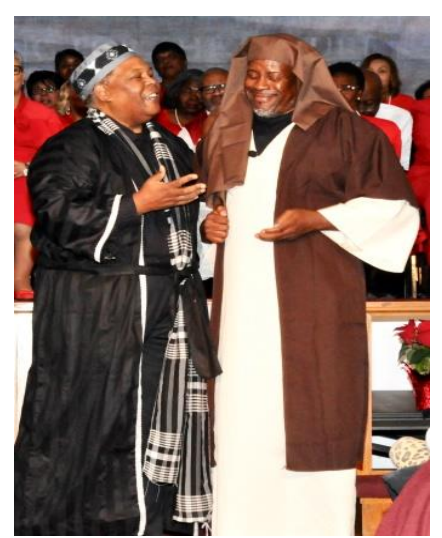
On Saturday, December 21st, close to 700 patrons were on hand to witness the scriptures come alive through music and drama in our annual Christmas at Grace production. An all-inclusive cast and choir provided the catalyst for a worship experience that touched the hearts, minds, and spirits of all who attended. This year’s theme was “The Shepherd’s Story.” Beginning with seasonal instrumental selections by our young pianists, the magnificent Voices of Grace/Koinonia Voices choir mastered an anointed selection of choral arrangements of familiar Christmas music such as, “Oh Holy Night,” “Jubilate Deo,” and the all-time favorite “The Angels Sang.” Under the leadership of Dr. Ulysses Moyé, the featured soloists, choir and musicians orchestrated an atmosphere that set the tone for, not only our theme, The Shepherd’s Story, but for the Christmas Season.

Woven between the musical arrangements was the dramatization of the scriptural references to the life of the shepherd. As illustrated by writers and directors Purcell and Cheryl Conway, the shepherd was one of the lowest of all characters in the history of the Bible, and yet, God called upon such shepherds as David, time and time again to play a pivotal role in the advancement of His Kingdom. In this instance, The Lord chose the lowly shepherds as the ones to whom the angels first announced the birth of His only begotten Son. Accented by a poignant original acapella Christmas medley produced by one of our young adult musicians, our characters, both youth and adults, used stage and costume, in an awesome theatrical delivery, to serve as an example of how God can use any and all of us for His purpose, whatever our circumstance.



Grace's Appointed by You Liturgical Dance Ministry contributed with their visually dazzling dance ministry to "Go Tell It On The Mountain" and further reminded us of the joyousness of the occasion with a repeat of its all-ministry collaboration to "Joyful, Joyful!" This awesome rendition brought home the whole point of the worship experience, to worship and adore Him! And of course, to the delight of all, our little drummer boys graced the stage with their own blend of "Little Drummer Boy" The choir completed the evening with a powerful rendition of "Jehovah Sabaoth" which brought the audience to their feet in praise and exultation! It was an evening of passion, laughter, joy, celebration and in some cases healing. All Glory Be To God!





Groundbreaking Ceremony and the Progress of Our New Church

Grace United Methodist Church
Ground Breaking Ceremony
November 24, 2019- 1:30 pm



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

It was in the summer of 2014 that a group of curious parishioners from Grace United Methodist church boarded a bus in search of the perfect new church building that would grace the undeveloped lots at the rear of the present edifice at 11700 Old Fort Road. After months of meeting with builders and contractors who presented their best options for the new church, nothing appealed to the committee. But one day, on his way to one of his visits to his hometown of Potecasi, North Carolina, Pastor Robert E. Slade took a detour and discovered the plan that God had for us all along. There it sat, in a small community in

Southern Virginia, Courtland Baptist Church, the perfect footprint for our future beloved Grace United Methodist Church.

So off we went to Courtland, Virginia on a Keller Bus, to “kick the tires,” walk the hallways, flush the toilets, view the fellowship hall and kitchen, see the administrative offices and HVAC systems, and to sit in the expansive Narthex. Then we all settled into the sanctuary, where we observed a pulpit with a baptismal and a stage large enough for a very large choir, musicians, and dancers. At that moment, Pastor Slade took to the podium with ease and grace and led us into prayer and praise. We had found the perfect model for our new home. With much praise and excitement, we returned home to share our findings with our fellow parishioners at a church-wide meeting. A church-wide study was completed, and we met with and received the blessings of the district board of church location and building. Our journey had begun.

Soon a feasibility study was successfully completed, and a task force of civil engineers, architects, geotechnical, surveyors, archeologists, and traffic consultants were selected to work with the new building committee to formulate designs and plans for submittal to Prince Georges County for approval. A bank was selected. However, no one was prepared for the delays that occurred in our efforts to comply with the county. One of our first hurdles that we had to address was a means of egress to the property--“a real showstopper.” Thanks to a land swap agreement with the Chapel Hill Citizens Association, we achieved a right of way from Indian Highway. Next, the discovery of a massive historic grave site adjacent to our building site was of serious concern to the county, and nothing would be approved until the historic division of Parks and Planning was satisfied that our new building would not encroach on unidentified burial plots. This obstacle would prove to delay the project for many months.

While teams of soil consultants and archeologists continued to scour the property, members of Grace and the Chapel Hill Citizens Association gathered to clear the entrance way of debris and to cut a pathway around the undeveloped property. Pastor Slade was led to lead congregants

around the property in a prayer vigil to combat the enemy's efforts to derail the vision that God had for Grace. The same group gathered months later to clear away fallen trees, and debris surrounding the now famous overgrown historic grave site.

While waiting for the county's response to several permit reviews, such as water and sewage category upgrade, storm water management, and forest and sediment control, Grace embarked upon a vigorous incentive fund raising campaign. To date, contributions by Grace members for incentive items such as pews, windows, kitchen, baptismal, library/archives, classrooms, prayer garden, communications booth, choir chairs, elevator, and the fellowship hall, total close to \$700,000. Total giving through the fundraising campaign is over \$3,000,000. Yes, we have a way to go, but a local bank was so impressed with our giving history that we have received a letter of intent to fund any amount that is not covered by our giving.

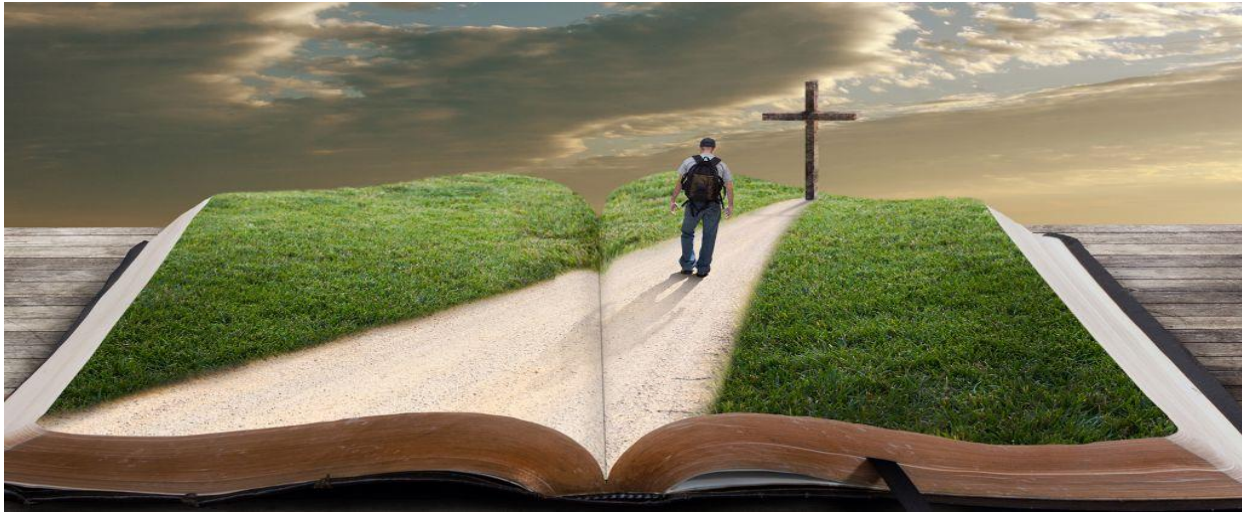


Through all the trials and tribulations associated with this journey, God has granted us victory after victory after victory. On November 24th Pastor Slade, along with the District Superintendent, Dr. Johnsie Cogman and county officials, led us in a march from our existing church to the new site for a historic groundbreaking ceremony. The following week heavy equipment began off-loading, and clearing of the site began. At the time of this publication, every tree has been knocked down, grading has commenced, and the installation of the storm water management system is taking place. The final permit (building permit) is under review by the county, and according to our current construction timeline, **in early spring of 2021**, we will once again march from our existing edifice to the new Grace United Methodist Church. To God be the glory!!

Submitted by Purcell Conway, Chairman, New Building Committee



PROVIDING A SAFER “CROSSWALK”



As I reflect on our four years of providing a safer “**Crosswalk**” for our Grace United Methodist Church pedestrians, I am reminded of our daily “**CROSSWALK**” of life. We attend church for various reasons, but there is no greater expectation of us than to learn and understand why Jesus died on the cross for us. The cornerstone of our foundation is to walk in the ways that Jesus instructed us to walk. Once we start to stray outside of the “**Crosswalk**,” in our daily lives, we are subjected to unforeseen dangers.

Here is some information that I would like to share:

- In **Prince George's** County, there were 15 **pedestrian deaths** in 2019 according to data from the **Prince George's County** Police department.
- Please make sure you stay focused and alert while crossing Old Fort Road.
- Stay within the **CROSSWALK**, not outside of it.
- Do not look at or talk on your cell phone.
- By law, these acts are considered "pedestrian negligence" in case of an accident.
- Try not to approach the crosswalk until you are ready to cross, this causes confusion for me and frustration for drivers that respectfully stop for you.

This year, I have added miniature cones in the street marked with “Kids” to our safety program to bring greater attention to drivers. May we also be mindful of our limited Handicap spaces. I have noticed that some of our more severe elderly/handicap drivers are forced to park a distance from the sanctuary because of violators. If you are the driver for the handicapped person, please drop off the passenger and then utilize a regular space. Even though you may own a handicap disability/tag, it may be wise for you to park in a regular space if you have no issues walking a short distance.

A sincere thank you to all and remember to stay focused on your “crosswalk!” May the Lord bless you and keep you, and his Face shine upon you!

Submitted by, Brother Vaughn West



April

- 1 Kirk Colbert
- 2 Pastor Robert E. Slade
- 3 Barbara Dyson
- 4 Everett Stevenson, Jr., Mary Lawrence
- 5 Delitha Campbell, Sr., Raphael Plummer
- 6 Dr. Ulysses Moyé, II
- 7 Kiara Dorsey
- 9 Tolaundo King, Jr.
- 12 Frannie Mitchell
- 13 Anthony Lowery, Andre' Swann
- 15 Charlene Skinner, Mary Johnson
- 16 Brandie Slade
- 17 Sandra Adams-Hines
- 18 Cherrell Hinnant
- 19 Ezekiel Robinson
- 21 Diven Blake, Linda Johnson
- 22 Kishma Williams
- 23 Samuel Penny, Maelena Ingram-Williams
- 24 Quanisha DeBoise
- 25 Mary Chapman, Mattie Cox-Greene
- 26 Keitha Williams, Linda Bailey, Cecil N. Knight
- 28 Robert Ellis
- 30 Lavonne Deshield, Margaret Swinton

May

- 1 Barbara Hayman, Norma Carter
- 2 Kenneth Thomas
- 4 LaShaun Shorter
- 7 Rickey Lawrence
- 9 Maya Thorpe
- 10 Jovon Jackson
- 12 Gabrielle Peace, Trina Philyaw
- 14 William Brown, Jr.
- 15 Dana Estep, Charles Simien, Macon Sims
- 16 Raina Frye, Joni Campbell, Ta'nyiah Lewis
- 17 Sabrie Colbert, Walter Lee, Staci Jones
- 18 Terry Sweat
- 19 Martha Hayes, Trenesha Mimms, Charlotte Smith
- 21 Devontae Hinton
- 23 Leonard Philyaw
- 24 Michelle Greene
- 28 Phyllis Hinton

Members, if your name is not listed or appears on the wrong date, please call the church office at 301.292.7828 and give the correct information, so that we can update our records. Thank you.



Robert E. Slade, Pastor

11700 Old Fort Road ▪ Fort Washington, MD 20744

Church Office: 301-292-7828 | Fax: 301-292-4834 | Parsonage: 301-292-0160
Email: gumcsecy@verizon.net | Website: <http://www.gracefortwashington.org>

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is available across the street, 11701 Old Fort Road for ages 3 to 12, on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays. Please see an Usher.

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services

PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday - 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Wednesday - 7 p.m. or Thursday - 11 a.m.
Busy Bees (Senior Bible Study), Wednesday - 10:30 a.m.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 24/7 HELPLINE 1-800-272-3900

TRANSPORTATION

If you need transportation to our Sunday Worship services, please contact the church office or Eloise Colbert at 301-292-3055.

MEDIA CENTER

CDs of Sunday Services
are available in the Narthex at a cost of \$5 each.

DVD COPIES

Sunday services are also available at \$7 each in advance.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have moved, changed your phone number, name or want to schedule a baptism, please contact, Shenelle Colbert at 240-501-1981 or the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Office Assistant: Wanda R. Wheeler

ROBERT E. SLADE, PASTOR

Contact Information: Cell: 240-416-8541 † Email: r3slade3@gmail.com