



Vision Statement:

"To Make Disciples who communicate Christ, influence the culture, and impact the community."

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

BRONXBAPTIST.ORG

Like us on facebook @ Bronx Baptist Church and see us on Youtube @ the Bronx Baptist church.

BRONX BAPTIST CHURCH
331 EAST 187TH STREET
BRONX, NY 10458

To ALL the writers, editors, and contributors to this Edition of The Hope Newsletter, **THANK YOU!** Your thoughtful contributions and submissions have made this edition worthwhile reading.

We look forward to your continued support as we seek to produce more informative and meaningful newsletters.

Church Mission Statement

- This church shall exist for the glorifying of God; it shall be accessible to all peoples and shall seek to be efficient in its working. Its purposes shall be to proclaim the total plan of redemption as made manifest in the life and death of Christ for our sins, His burial and glorious resurrection, His ascension to the high priestly office, and the extension of His personality through world missions and final consummation of His church in His glorious return. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Matthew 28:16-20; Hebrews. 9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.)
- This church shall seek to minister to the spiritual and moral needs of all mankind, regardless of race, color, culture, national or social origin, for the church is the bride of Christ. (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- As Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, that He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing - that she might be holy and faultless..."
- It shall also be the aim of this body of believers to minister to the material needs of the indigent to an extent consistent with our potential and in accordance with Christian principles.

THE HOPE

2018 Winter Edition



BRONX BAPTIST CHURCH
331 E. 187th Street | Bronx NY 10458
Tel. 718 933-4095 | Fax: 718 367-3229
Email: bbcofice@aol.com | www.bronxbaptist.org

Rev. Frank I Williams, Lead Pastor
Rev. Pauline Heslop, MD, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Pedro Graham-Brown, Associate Pastor



Dear Church Family,

Christmas greetings to you and your loved ones!

The longer I serve in pastoral ministry the deeper my appreciation grows for God's grace. God's grace is truly remarkable, and His love equally so. They are unmatched by any other experience.

Luke writes in chapter 2:10, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people." Isaiah prophesied about this good news some five centuries earlier declaring, "for unto us a Child a born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." In Jesus Christ God presented Himself as our Redeemer, our Healer, our Hope, and our Peace.

In your moments of despair, look to God and be reminded of this "good

news of great joy." May His love lift your spirit and fill you with great joy. I also encourage you to share this good news with others and to give your neighbors the gift of doing good deeds. Perhaps there is an old friend or relative with whom you had a falling out over a forgivable offense or a misunderstanding of some kind; pray and reach out in the spirit of grace. It may just free your heart as you experience Jesus as your Counselor and Prince of Peace.

It is my prayer that your mind will be renewed in the true cause for celebration this Christmas Season – the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Because of His Grace and For His Glory.

Your Pastor and Family

Inside:

- Think on These Things2
- Double Street Naming..... 4
- Can Food Really 6
- If Jesus Christ7
- Appreciating Pastors..... 8
- A Welcoming Church10
- Poetry..... 11
- Bible Trivia 14
- Love Withstands16
- The Cell Ministry18
- Men Don't Go to Church.....22
- Trivia Answers..... 24

Think on These Things

Rev. Frank I Williams

Reverend Frank I. Williams

"Are you ready for the Word!"

"Now this is the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ"... He said: "I am, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said." John 1:19-20, 23

One of the most profound questions one must answer at some point in his or her life is, "who am I?" This question is not one of occupation or even national origin. While those realities play a part in the equation I submit to you that neither occupation nor national origin fully define who you are. Our text deals with the life of John the Baptist. He grew up as an only child with older parents who were the age of grandparents. In addition to this, His name was uniquely given in a manner that broke the traditional methods of determining a child's name. The angel Gabriel declared in Luke 1:13 that, "you shall call his name John."

When John became an adult, he began a public speaking ministry. We are told in Matthew 3:1-2, that he came preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying, "repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" His contemporaries did not know what to make of John. Finally, they confronted him with a series of questions, seeking his identity. "Who are you?" They asked. He clearly confessed, "I am not the Christ." They asked several other identity related questions to no avail, only to conclude with, "What do you say about yourself?"

John's confession about himself began by communicating who he was not. This teaches us a lesson, that is, sometimes we find our identity by first being clear about who we are not. Some people spend their lifetime trying to be someone else, sound like someone else, and act like someone else. But you are not someone else. On the other hand, some people would simply not like you because you do not fit into the sociological context in which you find yourself. They are less concerned about who you really are and more concerned about you being what they expect you to be. The people knew that there was something different about John. John was who he was designed to be; he was not someone else.

What a liberating thought. I am not who you say I am, I am who God says I am. Our life's goal ought to be to become the person God has designed and determined for us to become. I believe we have been experiencing a crisis of identity in our culture for many decades now. When young urban minds are exposed to a life that glamorizes illegal activities, promiscuous adventures, and irresponsible decision-making, it creates in them an identity crisis. They lack the knowledge of their full potential and have settled for a life that is designed to distract, and in some cases destroy, their future. It is not by accident that so many young men have drunk from the poisonous waters of futility. They do make a choice, but it is no accident that the options readily available to them skew the facts and misrepresent their potential – a potential that has been designed by God and infused with divine purpose.



On the other hand, some people would simply not like you because you do not fit into the sociological context in which you find yourself.

Tiffany Williams

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks. Some have nothing to be thankful for. But they do. I am thankful for food and shelter, friends and family.



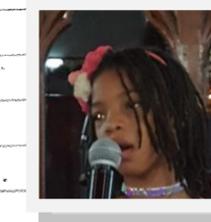
Dawn Robinson

Thanksgiving is the day that we thank God and the pilgrims for all they've given to us. They've given us food like turkey and potatoes and sweet potato pie and all kinds of soup.



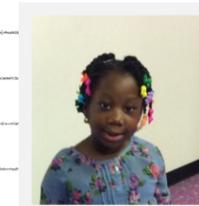
Zola Graham-Brown

When it's November you think of Thanksgiving. All the food in the world, mac and cheese, turkey, pumpkin pie, all things you can eat. It's in the season of fall all the leaves fall on the ground. The good eats is all ways on turkey. There is also mash potatoes.



I am thankful for my family. I love them very much. They take me to many places. They take me to my favorite store. I love them and they love me too. They also take me to my favorite food place.

Love
Ashlynn



Out of the Mouths of Babes

Mia Smith

★ Thanksgiving ★

One thing I am thankful for is my parents feeding me so my belly is full and I don't go to be hungry. I went to my Uncle's house for Thanksgiving. My Mom made Oxtail and everyone loved it that it was done in five minutes. I had 2 big pieces of Oxtail. Some of the food I ate on Thanksgiving are Mac and Cheese, Sweet potatoes with marshmallows, and so many more. I had ~~a~~ fun time with my cousins.



Because of this it is essential that we understand the revelation of true personhood. “We regard no one according to the flesh... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:16,17). People are God’s creation, made in His image. Therefore, my self-understanding of who I am must first be rooted in the fact that I originated from the mind of God. “I was fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14a). “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). So, while we are shaped by our culture and our nationality, our “organic” identity is in God. Is there any wonder that once enslaved persons began to see themselves as God created them to be, they were empowered with the guts to resist, rebel, and revolt against the oppressive injustice of slavery and discrimination. Where did their courage come from? It came from the revelation of personhood – understanding that God created them as equals to their oppressors, and anything less than that was a manmade system that must be overthrown.

John said, “I am a voice crying in the wilderness.” John identifies his primary sense of purpose as a voice not a position. He didn’t identify himself as a preacher, others did. He didn’t identify himself as a prophet, others did. He said of himself, “I am a voice.” His gift was preaching, but his purpose was not just public speaking, his purpose was attached to content. It was not the act of speaking, it was what he said when he spoke. He raised the consciousness of the people, helping them see themselves differently. He said to the materialistic person, share your goods with those who have none. He said to the tax collector, stop padding your pockets with the people’s money.

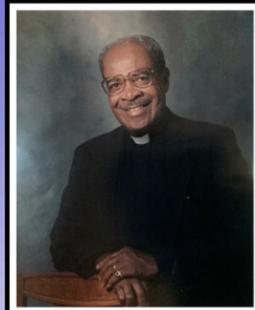
He said to the self-righteous religious leaders, you are a “brood of vipers,” full of venom (Matthew 3:7). He said to the law enforcement community (the soldiers), “do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages” (Luke 3:14). In other words, don’t take bribes and wink at the purveyors of evil in certain neighborhoods – don’t let them buy your badge.

John was a voice in the wilderness making straight the crooked places. So too, you and I, are more than a title. We are voices of truth in the wilderness of this world who are “communicating the changeless Christ in a changing world.” Proclaiming a truth that liberates people to find who they really are – who they were born to become. Be a “John.” For when “John” speaks it paves the way for Christ to enter. Until next time, walk good my friends, and think on these things.



The "Bishop of the Bronx" Receives a Double Honor

By Rev. Frank Williams



On July 2, 2018 a double street naming ceremony was held for the Late Reverend Dr. Samuel G. Simpson. Between his church planting efforts and his community development work, Dr. Simpson became known as the "Bishop of the Bronx." It was only fitting that a street should be named after this shepherd of the community.

A pre-street naming service was held on Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 4:30pm at the Wake-Eden Community Baptist founded by Dr. Simpson in 1972 and



where Dr. Simpson served as pastor for 39 years before his retirement in 2011. This service of thanksgiving opened with a welcome by Rev. Norman McCulloch, Sr., Accomplished musician and conductor, Minister Roy Jennings as well as Cecilia Broomfield provided all music for the occasion. There were reflections from his long-time friends and colleagues, Mr. Samuel Granby, Mr. Ted Jefferson, ; and Reverend Dr. John Scott, co-founder of the Clergy Coalition of the 47th Precinct. Denominational representatives also offered reflections. Both the Reverend Steve Sallis, of the Baptist Convention of New York, and the Reverend George Russ, of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, spoke of their long and fruitful history with Dr. Simpson. George Russ spoke of how appropriate it was for the naming to be called "Reverend Dr. Samuel G. Simpson Way", and not road, or street. He explained that the term "way" speaks to how Dr. Simpson did ministry. His "way" with people. His "way" of lovingly, yet honestly speaking truth to power. His "way" of seamlessly connecting the social with the spiritual. The Dr. Simpson "way" of ministry always included the total person.

The Honorable Vivienne Uruakpa, a long-time member of the Bronx Baptist Church –reflected on how important educating the next generation was to Dr. Simpson and how this led to the establishing of the Bronx Baptist Day Care and Learning Center. Mrs. Pansy Skyers, long-time member of Wake-Eden Community Baptist Church, echoed the same as she spoke about the establishing of the Wake-Eden Christian Academy in 1976. Both communicated the visionary prowess of Dr. Simpson, who made it a ministry priority to address dropout rates among blacks and Hispanics by providing a solid, academically strong early childhood education in two Bronx communities where such programs were either non-existent or scarce at that time. Both institutions continue to thrive to this day.

The following morning (July 2, 2018) nearly 200 people gathered across the two locations – 187th Street and Tiebout in front of Bronx Baptist Church and at Strang Ave and Murdock Ave in front of Wake-Eden Community Baptist Church – to participate in the Street Naming Ceremonies led by Council Member Andy King and Reverend Frank Williams, Councilman King spoke highly of Dr. Simpson and emphasized his commitment to quality of life issues in the Bronx. Congressman Eliot Engel and State Speaker Carl Heastie spoke respectively of how they came to know Dr. Simpson as a community minded pastor and eventually as a friend. Speaker Heastie spoke movingly as he reminisced about Dr. Simpson as his neighbor on Hill Avenue in the Bronx, where they lived across from each other. State Senator Jamaal Bailey and the Reverend Lamont Granby also shared their thoughts and words of appreciation for the life of Dr. Simpson with all who gathered for this auspicious occasion.

The children from both church schools sang at their respective locations. All three of Dr. Simpson's children participated in the double naming ceremony, with Stephen Simpson (at the Bronx Baptist location) and Kim Simpson-Turnbull (at the Wake-Eden location) speaking passionately about their father's legacy. Erica Simpson sang her heart out and raised an atmosphere of worship as she led the hymn, "My Tribute" (To God be the Glory). The occasion was further blessed by the music ministry of gospel artist Minister Patrick Tyson, and singer and Bronx Baptist member, Sasha Thompson.

Lady Lola Simpson, Dr. Simpson's wife of nearly 52 years, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the family for the honor of the naming of two streets after her late husband. Lady Simpson spoke of the relationships that have been built over the years as represented by those present and emphasized Dr. Simpson as a pastor with a heart for people. She also affirmed the words of her son Stephen, who spoke earlier in the day, about the dream Dr. Simpson had to establish an active bible study and prayer ministry in every zip code of the borough. A dream that is yet to be fulfilled. She then challenged the churches and leadership to make this dream a vision for the ministry.

After the proclamation from the City Council was read and presented to the family by Councilman Andy King, the entire Simpson family and extended family that were present gathered around as his wife and children uncovered the newly erected sign – "Reverend Dr Samuel G Simpson Way." To God be the glory.

Tis the Season

Don't let colds and the flu get you down. Follow these tips

1. ACT FAST

Take antiviral flu medication within 48 hours of symptoms for the best results.

2. STAY HEALTHY

Reduce stress and get plenty of sleep to keep your immune system strong.

3. DRINK UP

Loosen congestion and avoid dehydration with lots of water—but skip alcohol and caffeine.

4. DON'T WAIT

If you or someone you're caring for have trouble breathing, get help immediately.

5. KEEP IT CLEAN

To kill cold and flu viruses, disinfect surfaces you often touch.

6. PROTECT OTHERS

Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands.

7. AVOID ANTIBIOTICS

Remember that antibiotics don't help colds and flu.

8. PROTECT OTHERS

HAVE A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT? WEAR A MASK IN THE WAITING ROOM.

MOST IMPORTANTLY ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS.

Toe Nail Soak (No Water)

Tired of those pesky nail fungi? Then here's how to put your best foot forward. If you start now, then come summertime your feet will be sandal ready.

Try the following:

- 2 Cups Rubbing Alcohol
- 2 Cups Hydrogen Peroxide
- 2 Cups White Vinegar.

Instructions

Mix all three solutions together.

Use a rectangular Tupperware with a lid.

Fill enough to cover toes completely.

Let soak for 10 minutes.

Put lid on Tupperware and keep fluid for two weeks and then change.

Do this daily for three months and watch the results.

Remember to change your stockings and socks daily



Dirty Secret

Don't Rush

"Brushing for two minutes is an adequate amount of time to reach and thoroughly clean all the areas of the mouth. The less time you brush, however, the more likely you are to develop cavities and gingivitis, which in turn could turn into periodontal disease."



Quality Counts

"Focus on technique if you can't commit to two minutes. The single most important factor with teeth cleaning is the angle the bristles at the junction where the gums meet the teeth. This stimulates blood flow to help prevent recession and gum disease."

As long as you're brushing and flossing, you likely won't have a problem. But the longer you brush, more of your mouth is covered, so you'll stay healthier. Consider investing in an electric brush



Answers to Bible Trivia

1. Psalm 117
2. Psalm 118: 8
3. Judges 16:31 Samson – 20 Years
4. Acts 7:56 Stephen
5. Judges 4: 6-9 Deborah
6. Exodus 2:10 Pharaoh's Daughter
7. II Kings 2:23-24 They were killed by bears
8. Mark 7:28 The dogs under the table ate the crumbs
9. Genesis 9:12-13 A Rainbow
10. Exodus 28:3 Aaron
11. I Samuel 21: 13 David
12. II Kings 2:8 Elijah
13. Genesis 41:46 30 Years
14. Esther 8: 9
15. Mark 6: 3
16. Acts 21: 8-9 Philip
17. Luke 10: 18 I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven
18. Matthew 1 - Matthew
19. Matthew 18-20 Where two or three are gathered together in my name. I'm in the midst of them.
20. 20. Isaiah 9: 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and His name shall be called Wonder-ful,
Councillor, the Everlasting Father, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace
21. Revelation 22:21 AMEN!



CAN FOOD REALLY BE MEDICINE?

How healthy eating can improve your life.



It is now becoming more evident that certain foods are beneficial in addressing several chronic diseases than was previously thought possible. An improvement in one's nutrition can greatly improve their quality of life while reducing health risks associated with diseases such as diabetes, heart problems, cancer, arthritis, high blood pressure, and Alzheimer's to name a few. Even our mental health is believed to be positively impacted if one transitions to clean eating while battling depression, PTSD and other mental issues. Choosing to live a healthier lifestyle can be difficult but the following foods can help with the transition:

IT'S OFTEN ABOUT THE GREENS: Green leafy vegetables, which are usually low in calories, can be helpful for weight-loss. Some great options are Spinach, Kale, Callaloo, Collard Greens, Swiss Chard and Bok Choi.

THE FRUIT DISGUISED AS A VEGETABLE: Tomatoes have lycopene which is believed to prevent Breast and Prostate Cancers.

BENEFICIAL OILS: Olive, coconut and avocado oils are known to carry many vitamins and minerals that are vital to the body. They also aid in keeping skin moisturized and can reduce blemishes.

NUTS ABOUT NUTS: Almonds, walnuts, cashews, pistachios and macadamia nuts are a great calorie dense snack to have between meals. This should only be practiced a few days of the week, because they are fattening and can cause weight gain. Studies have shown nuts to be helpful in reducing the risk of heart disease. Butters from these nuts also provide the same benefits as the oils mentioned above.

FACTS ABOUT FISH: Wild caught fatty fish such as Sardines, Mackerel, Trout and Salmon are known to be good sources of Omega-3 Fatty Acids and provide a multitude of benefits including vision and brain health.

BERRY BINGE: Berries are known to be low in calories and a great snack for weight control and memory. Recently they have been categorized as a Superfood known to prevent a wide range of illnesses and chronic diseases. Strawberries, raspberries and blueberries are examples of healthy berries.

A good nutrition plan is a combination of increasing healthy options while reducing the intake of foods that are highly processed. Studies have shown that highly processed foods can increase the chance of chronic illness. Reducing ones intake of the following foods may prevent inflammation:

- Refined carbohydrates such as white bread, cookies, and cake
- French fries and other fried foods
- Soda and other sugary drinks

Red meat (i.e. burgers and steak) along with processed meats such as hot dogs.

A Note about the Oats

Many people believe that oatmeal is a healthy breakfast food which may be true when compared to surgery cereals. However, studies have shown that individuals who ate oatmeal for breakfast had higher levels of insulin, glucose (sugar), adrenaline and cortisol suggesting that the body perceives oatmeal as a stressor. According to the book, *FOOD: What the Heck Should I Eat?*, Mark Hyman, MD mentions that "Oatmeal is not a healthy food." He suggests that oatmeal spikes blood sugar making one hungrier throughout the day. As a result they tend to overeat and so increase their potential for unwanted weight gain.

Also, although pure oatmeal does not contain gluten, most brands of oats currently on the market have been unintentionally cross-contaminated with small amounts of gluten containing grains such as wheat, barley and/or rye. Cross contamination starts in the fields in which the oats are grown and continues through processing. Individuals with celiac disease or non-celiac sensitivity should purchase oatmeal brands that are labeled, "gluten free."

This Year We Welcomed and Dedicated:



Abriella



Kenadi



Theodore

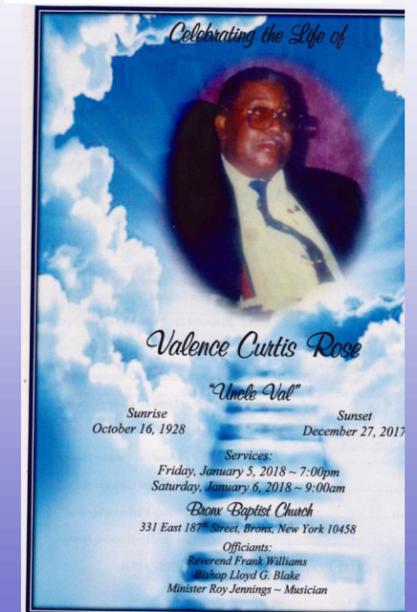
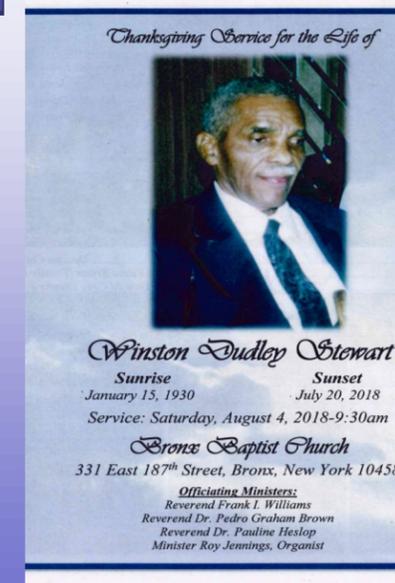
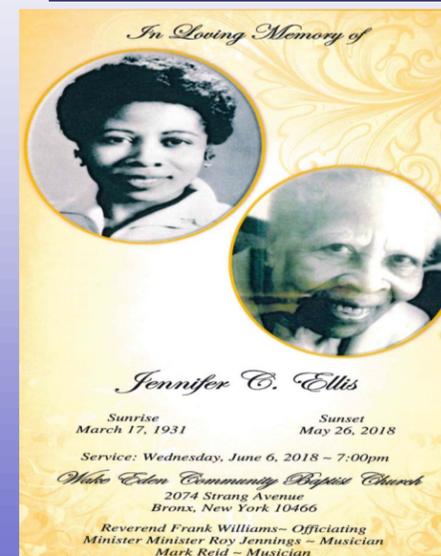
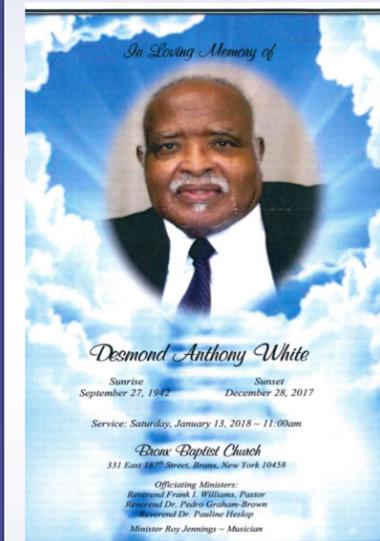


Zaryn



Zara

This Year
We Said
Good-bye
To:



Reasons Men do not Go to Church

Sharon Evans-Gordon

In a message delivered by Rev. Pedroto Graham Brown recently, he outlined several reasons why some men refuse to go to church:

Reason number One: The preachers tend to talk down on men.

Reason number Two: The feminization of the church.

Reason number Three: Men feel uncomfortable sharing their personal problems.

Reason number Four: Some men had bad experiences in church.

Reason number Five: Lack of parental example, especially fathers, not attending church.

Reason number Six: Some churches do not have a healthy men ministry.

Reason number Seven: The pastors ask for too many collections.

Reason number Eight: They have lost their faith in God or they just don't believe in God.

Reason number Nine: The church is too hypocritical.

Reason number Ten: Some men said that church services are too long and "inflexible."



If Jesus Christ Visited Bronx Baptist Church



Each Sunday morning we enter the building located at 331 East 187th Street dressed in our finest and ready to engage in a transformative worship experience. We sometimes bring our friends, families and people we meet in our daily commute. We do this because we are excited about the Word of God. Each time we engage the community we want them to know that we are a Christ centered church as well as a Welcoming Church. But should Jesus Christ walk into our midst, what would he find?

Would He find the same critiques we inflict on each other? Would He have the same intolerance that we display? Would He think that the pastor's message was too long? Would He ask the Praise Team to sing more hymns and less praise songs, or the choir to sing more praise songs and less contemporary songs?

Would He tell the ladies that they should not wear pants in the sanctuary or that their clothes are a distraction to the men? Would He tell the men that they should wear a button down shirt with a tie? Would He say, this is my seat so move over?

Do you think He would say to us, "Are you contributing enough to the building of the ministries of the church?" or would He say, "You have given enough so there is no need to make any more contributions?" Would He be upset if someone had nothing to give?

Do you think you would overhear Jesus discussing the pastors and the deacons, how they are not doing a good job? Or would he tell them, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." Would He say, "Women are not allowed to hold positions of leadership in the church."

Perhaps he would chuckle at the person who is complaining that the prayers are too long, or shake his head in despair when we gossip about each other's pain or private affairs?

I ask these questions because they seem to be the common ways in which we discuss each other. We tend in general to complain over trivial things and oftentimes our critiques spill over in the worship that we miss the message or its importance.

It is always easy to let things that bother us distract us. We however, have an obligation to worship God, and not let trivial things prevent us from enjoying the total worship experience.

What do you think Jesus would say?

Sharon Evans-Gordon



We Have a Project for You:

If you would like to participate in **Coats for the City** for 2019, it's not too early to sign up now. MNYBA is looking for churches to be host sites, churches to collect new and gently used winter coats, and churches to volunteer at the host sites. We expect 2019 the drive to be bigger than 2018 so we encourage you to register soon on the MNYBA website at www.mnyba.org or email info@mnyba.org.



Appreciating Our Pastors



On Sunday, November 25, 2018 the Pastor Appreciation Care Team (PACT) of the church surprised our three pastors: Reverend Frank Williams, Reverend Dr. Pedroto Graham Brown and Reverend Pauline Heslop MD. by presenting them with gifts donated by the congregation and showering them with words of encouragement from Minister Sharpe and a powerful prayer delivered to each of them by Deacon Chibuzo Uruakpa.

It is always a good thing when we can honor our pastors by showing our appreciation and following the godly example they set and the heartfelt messages they deliver to us each week.

Paul said in Philippians 2:2-3, "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." In other words, nothing will refresh our pastor like a humble, loving, Christ-like congregation. Paul said to the Roman church, "I long to see you ... that we may be mutually encouraged by each other"

With this message from Paul it is up to the church as a body to support the ones who have been put in charge to shepherd us into Christianity. Without the support of the congregants it would be a difficult task to pastor a church. We need to give them reasons to do the work they have been called to do joyfully and with our full support.

Dr. James Emery White gave the following examples of how to show appreciation to our pastors:

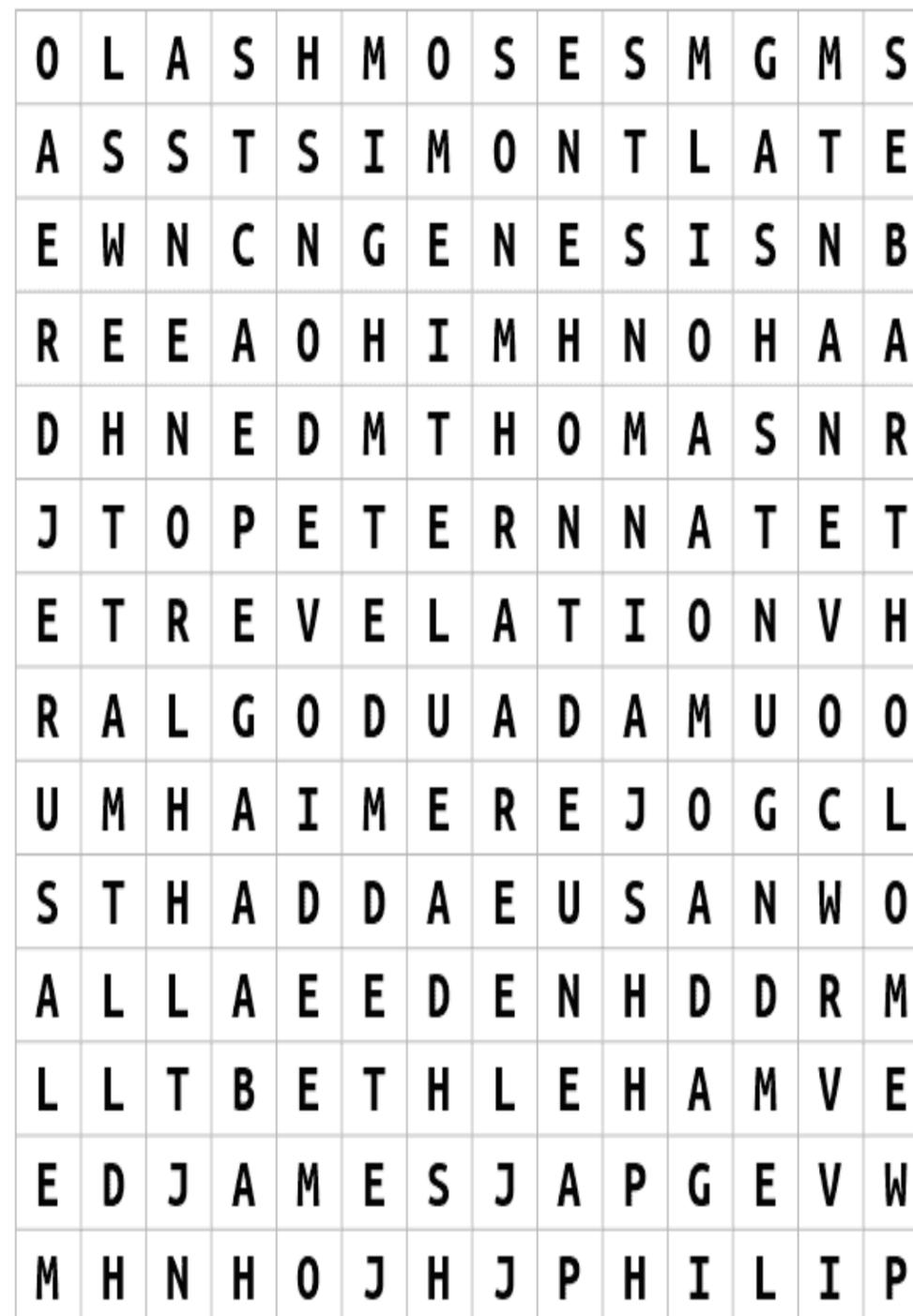
- ◆ Don't put them on a pedestal. They are real people like the rest of us with real life issues and challenges, they desire to be honored and respected.
- ◆ The same goes for spiritual gifts. Remember your pastor does not have all spiritual gifts..
- ◆ Try not to invade their personal life, space or world.
- ◆ Send notes or emails of encouragement.
- ◆ Don't ask the pastor's spouse to be anything but the pastor's spouse
- ◆ Pray for your pastor and their families.
- ◆ Give your pastor appropriate vacation time and study breaks/sabbaticals
- ◆ Give your pastor the tools they need to do the job
- ◆ Your pastor's job is not to be your private chaplain. Their primary job is to equip the saints for ministry (Ephesians 4).
- ◆ Make their day and step out for training.

In short, when we show appreciation to our pastors we can hope for a refreshed, hopeful, invigorated pastor. Thus our ministry to him will come back to us like a boomerang and will create a refreshed, hopeful, and invigorated people. Through this, the world will know that Christ is real and is at work among us.

Sharon Evans-Gordon

Bible

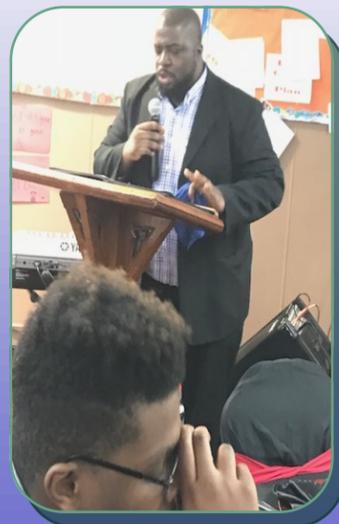
Can you find these words from the Bible.
Look for the words in any direction.



COVENANT
SIMON
PHILIP
REVELATION
GOD
JAMES
JERUSALEM
GENESIS
ACTS
THADDAEUS
BETHLEHAM
PETER
BARTHOLOMEW
THOMAS
JOHN
MATTHEW
EDEN
ADAM
MOSES
JEREMIAH

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/662/>

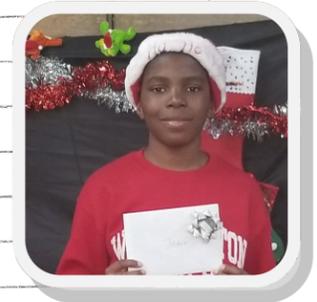
LOVE FEST 2018



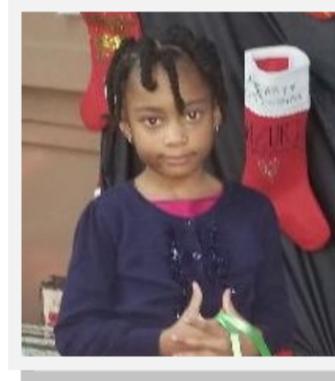
Out of the Mouths of Babes

Juan Filand

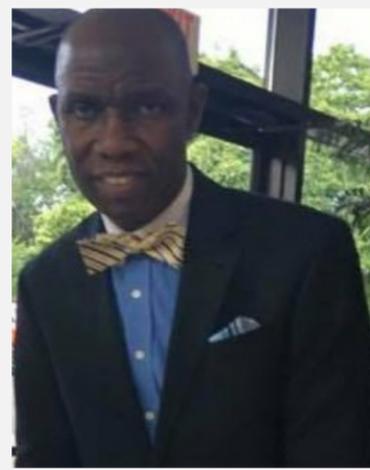
What is thanksgiving?
Thanks giving is about the pilgrims coming to ~~the~~ America. They were poor and people died each day just when everything seemed bad, a Native American came and invited the pilgrims to a big feast. The pilgrims were full of joy! You can celebrate thanksgiving with your family and friends, by eating a big feast together! Always remember to be thankful for something.



I love my family and I am thankful.
I am thankful for them because they care for me. I love them and they love me.
Trinity



Becoming a Welcoming Church



A study based on the book, *Becoming a Welcoming Church*, written by Thom S. Rainer was studied during the last quarter of Family Bible study. Upon completion of the study, listening sessions were held by our lead pastor Rev. Frank Williams. The session gave members the opportunity to be open and transparent regarding matters affecting the church.

The focus of these sessions was not to increase numerical growth but to take a closer step towards spiritual growth and effective outreach.

The frame work of becoming a welcoming church is the very essence of our church covenant that we repeat each first Sunday. It clearly speaks of: "walking together in Christian love, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagement and exemplary in our department." All of these factors must be guided by the aid of the Holy Spirit.

We must know who we are and whom we represent. This is an important facet of the Christian life so that others will know that we are a Christian by our

love. Love is one of the key factors to becoming a welcoming church. A church grounded in truth, love, and the ability to trust our fellowmen will be authentic. This will only be possible when we present our bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service.

By seeking to maintain these principles, holiness will permeate our worship experience and it will be evident that Jesus Christ is the center of our joy, then there will be a readiness to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. We are constantly reminded by our pastor that we are not a perfect church. Even though we are complex in nature, we desperately seek to attain higher heights and deeper depths, through prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

How do we feel when we greet each other? Is it just a mere formality or is it because the music is playing? Are we just a bunch of great pretenders? If so, sadly we are lost in in the church. Until we can truly express the words of the Hymn, "We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear" taken from the Baptist Hymnal written by John Fawcett, (Blest Be the Tie That Binds,) then we will never know or experience the true meaning of one accord. This my friend is the key essence of church growth as stated in the Book of Acts where on the day of Pentecost souls were added to the church because they were of one accord.

Even though we are a small church, we have many opportunities to be a part of the family of God. Therefore, let us strive to build up one another and not tear down, let us love with a clear and pure conscience, let us be slow to take offense but always be ready for reconciliation. Let us live daily so that others may see Christ living in us, let us take time to reach out to the broken hearted, those that are bruised, those that are sad, those that have lost the love they had. By doing this, Bronx Baptist will be the church where a warm welcome await all visitors.

Charles Copeland



**Cell Groups
Fun & Fellowship**



The Cell Ministry

Deacon Jeremiah Simpson one of the stalwarts at the Church as well as one of the senior deacons in conjunction with the other deacons organized an evening of fellowship with all the Cell groups of the church on Saturday, December 8. Despite the cold weather our faithful members and pastors came out to have fun with each other.

To start the evening's celebration Deacon Simpson explained the purpose of the cell. We listened intently as he reminded us of our responsibilities as members of our various groups. He said that we should:

1. Avoid being negative and critical of your leadership. Be positive and always check your attitude with the word of God.
2. Always make the Word your yardstick and the Holy Spirit your guide.
3. The group is not to be used by any leader as a "Power Base" for division and the devil has subtle ways of doing this under the guise of man-made philosophy and cunning wisdom.
4. Don't be too quick to shoot the wounded. Try the process of healing and always remember your way is not the only way.
5. Your leader may be dead wrong, as you see it, but remember he is the leader by the choice of the larger group.
 - a. Respect him
 - b. Love him
 - c. Support him
 - d. Affirm him
 - e. Don't insult him
 - f. Pray for him constantly and consistently.
6. Find a way to approach him.
7. The strength of the group, the effectiveness of the group is dependent on "ME"
8. Your group is not a church, it is a part of the larger community (body). You don't need constitutions and by-laws. The church already has one

9. The groups are not in competition with each other but in cooperation.

10. Watch the Corinthian Syndrome, "I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Cephas...."

Overall this was an exciting and eventful evening. We had lots of food, drink and fun. With such an exciting start to the church year, it is our prayer that all our members support the Cell Ministry by attending meetings, activities and reaching out to the deacons.

Sharon Evans-Gordon



By
Gloria Taylor

Hurricane Peril

The nation wails of peril and woe
Just when night approaches or they don't know
Everyone who ever gets the notion
That hurricane causes great emotion

Oh, what preparation throughout the day
For food that will last until the peril is past
Store of batteries, flashlights, lamps on a stand
The moment light goes they're all at hand

The darkened sky depicts the gloom
Of monstrous lightning wind and rain
They came with onslaught one by one
While people cringe and pray and wait their fate

Roads and highways are impassable channels of water
Feeding streams and rivers which are in spate
Furiously transporting whatever lies in their path
Without fear of objects whether great or small

Yes, the hurricane comes and departs with a rage
Leaving such destruction no war would stage
Farms and houses, animals and man
Need right now a recovery plan

A Foresight of Winter

From north to south you'll soon see
The verdant green and flowering trees
Turn color purple yellow and red
And very soon will seem as dead

And amid the slender branches bare
Green and ripe fruits disappear
While squirrels leap from tree to tree
Chasing one another in a glee

So get your coats and sweaters ready
Boots and hats and mittens too
For winter cold seems in a hurry
To pierce with onslaught through and through

Our Love Lingers

I mourn the absence of John, my friend
With whom all my years were spent
He's gone to serve in that cruel war
In a hostile country that's very far

Tender tears swelled in my eyes
Cause I could not survive if he dies
My life has changed so drastically
To loneliness, no more hospitality

I know not if we'll ever meet again
To honor the pact we made back then
This sofa's arm, a substitute I conjure
Reminds me of arms that made me secure
Our love will linger as for the years pass
And last forever in our thoughts.

Bible Trivia

1. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
2. What is the Middle book and verse of the Bible?
3. Who was the last judge of Israel and how long did he reign?
4. Who said, "Look I see heaven open and I see the son of man standing at God's right side?"
5. What woman led an army into battle?
6. Who named Moses?
7. What happened to the children that made fun of Elisha's bald head?
8. Where in the Bible is reference made to the House of Dogs?
9. What was the sign of the promise between God and Noah?
10. Who was the first priest of Israel?
11. Who behaved like a mad man to escape his enemies?
12. Who divided the Jordan River with his cloak?
13. How old was Joseph when he stood before Pharaoh?
14. What is the longest verse in the Bible?
15. How many brothers did Jesus have?
16. What Evangelist had four daughters who prophesied?
17. What did Christ say when the Apostles returned from a successful Evangelistic tour?
18. Which Gospel writer recorded Jesus' genealogy?
19. What is Christ's message for Prayer Meeting?
20. Who prophesied—The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light?
21. What is the last word in the Bible?

Submitted by Yvonne Castello

Out of the Mouths of Babes



Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. It is a time for family, sharing kindness, fun and thanks. Thanksgiving started because of the Pilgrims. They decided to have a special day in November and they called it Thanksgiving.

On Thanksgiving I had turkey, stuffing, ham and cranberry sauce.

Thanksgiving is all about Thanksgiving God for letting Jesus his only son to die on the cross to save us from sin.

Timothy W.

Thanksgiving was nice. I ate and watched Black Panther. I also played Board Games with Alicia and Ashlynn. I ate ham, jerk turkey, fried chicken, and mac & cheese. I also played with my cousins Kaylunn & Venadi.

Love Withstands the Storm



Gloria Taylor

John Jones and May Cole met incidentally in the elevator at Lehman College. They were both in the senior year. They began to converse about their desired goals and instantly found each other quite interesting to talk with. May was genteel and knew how to be sociable, while John's compassionate and humble demeanor blended their personalities.

Coincidentally, they were both out of state students who had been having similar challenges with accommodations, a problem which had been impeding their studies. They decided to meet after classes on Thursdays and Fridays to do intensive studies, so as to improve their grades. The study drive was very rewarding as marked improvements were evident in the subjects that needed much concentration.

By the end of the semester, they developed a romantic relationship which gradually grew into a love affair that spiraled. Not long after graduation a splendid matrimony ensued. They both found employment with two large firms in New York City and set up residence there. A year later little Johnny Jones arrived on the scene. The joy that overcame them was beyond human comprehension. John would call May at various times each day to chit-chat, discuss family concerns and just to let her know how much he loved her and that she was not really alone.

John's job soon became very strenuous. Many evenings he had to work extra hours to complete each day's task. To make matters worse, May had difficulty reaching him by phone after regular working hours. She did not mistrust him, but she needed his helping hands to do the house chores and share quality time with her and Johnny, who sometimes suffered from asthma attacks.

On this particular day, Johnny who was now three years of age started having bouts of coughing. May called on every phase of her nursing skill and the usual remedies she always used, but to no avail. Johnny's asthma attacks grew worse. Try as she could, John could not be reached. May called a cab, bundled little Johnny in a blanket and rushed him off to the emergency room. Using the few minutes to wait for the cab, she scribbled a note and left it by the door knob.

When John arrived home and saw the note he was petrified at the thought of losing his son. He rushed to the hospital. May could not help but remonstrate right there. "John, it is very frustrating that I can never reach you, even in cases of emergency such as this. You often come home late and you do not keep in touch with me to see how little Johnny and I are doing." John responded, "This is really a paralyzing moment for me, May. How is little Johnny doing?" May replied tersely, "Thy don't want me in there. Your guess is as good as mine. All I know is he is in the Intensive Care Unit."

People were milling around the hospital room but to May it was as if dead silence reigned. She sat poised with her arms folded. John sat in deep thought, his eyes steadfast awaiting an open door and to be ushered in to see his son.

At last the door sprang open. "That is Dr. Matthews who is caring for Johnny." May said giving John a nudge in his side. They stood up as Dr Matthews approached them with a big smile and said, "Sorry it took so long to come out to you. Johnny had a severe asthma attack, as well as convulsions, but he has made a remarkable change. He is very drowsy but you can come in with me to see him." A repeated, "Thank you Dr. Matthews" was lauded from both of them.

As they stood there looking at Johnny's frail body propped up in a mound of white sheets, John took May's hands in his, kissed her on the forehead and said lovingly, "Thank you May for always being so thoughtful and understanding, and even for chiding me. Thank you for doing such a terrific job by taking care of our little Johnny. I will make it my duty to keep in touch when I am away from home. I love you Honey, and I always will."



Day Care Christmas Pageant

On December 8, 2018 the children of the Bronx Baptist Day Care & Learning Center put on a delightful display of talent for family, friends and a host of Bronx Baptist Church members.

The performance began with a mix of Christmas praise songs and carols and finger plays. A video highlighting the children's learning activities was followed by a jazz/ballet medley choreographed by the Day Care's winter youth workers.

The performance ended with an inspiring praise dance that lifted the audience to their feet.



Sunday School Christmas Party 2018

