

The Shiloh Spirit



*The Reverend Dr. Wallace Charles Smith
Senior Minister*



The Pastor's Pen

On our annual HBCU Sunday, we welcome our guest preacher, the Reverend Gwendolyn E. Boyd, Executive Minister for Church Operations at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. Reverend Boyd is no stranger to Shiloh and we look forward to the message that God has given her to bring to us today. Biographical material may be found on page 2 of the **Shiloh Spirit**.

In 2 Kings 2:1-12 we find the story of the aging Elijah preparing for the end of his earthly life and his ascension into Heaven. He is well aware that his life and his service to God have made an indelible mark on the nation of Israel. He has faced down the priests of Baal and their carnal worship of their god of fertility. He has challenged Ahab and Jezebel in their attempt to make Baal worship as acceptable as the worship of Yahweh. Although at times his knees had knocked and he had been terribly depressed, he had always remained faithful.

Now, however, the time has come to pass the mantle to his successor, the young man Elisha. Elisha knows that the time is at hand for his master's passing. Elijah encouraged the young man not to follow him as he traveled around Israel to say farewell to the companies of prophets at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. Elisha refused to leave his mentor. They traveled from place to place until they arrived at the Jordan River. At the Jordan, Elijah rolled up his mantle, struck the river and it rolled back, reminiscent of the events by which Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land. This time, however, they are not going into the Promised Land but back into the wilderness where Israel's life as a nation began.

In the wilderness, the chariots of fire descend, Elijah is carried up in a whirlwind and his mantle falls back to the earth where it is picked up and worn by Elisha.

On this HBCU Sunday, we commemorate the work of all our Historically Black Colleges and Universities that, like Elijah, paved the way for countless young Elishas. We celebrate their sacrifices, their labors and their witness. We, like Elisha, must pick up the mantle of educational excellence and we must further the work of the administrators, scholars and support staff whose shoulders this present generation stands upon.

Volume XIX, No 9

Sunday, February 20, 2011

Reading Through The Bible

*7th Sunday of the Year – February 20
(Green)*

*Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew
5:38-48*

*8th Sunday of the Year – February 27
(Green)*

*Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131; 1
Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34*

New Members Received by Antioch Circle



Reverend Gwendolyn E. Boyd

Guest Speaker



Gwendolyn Elizabeth Boyd is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. She was educated in the public schools and received a four-year scholarship to attend Alabama State University where she graduated summa cum laude with a B. S. degree in Mathematics with a double minor in Physics and Music. Boyd was awarded a fellowship to pursue graduate work at Yale University, where she was the first African American to earn a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from this Ivy League institution. In 2005 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lincoln University (PA) and that same year was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bennett College for Women. In December 2009, President Obama nominated her to serve as a member, Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation and she received Senate confirmation in March 2010.

Reverend Gwendolyn Boyd is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She serves as the Executive Minister for Church Operations at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. She earned her Master of Divinity degree with Honors from Howard University School of Divinity

Reverend Boyd is an engineer and the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Early in her career at APL she was an analyst in the Strategic Systems Department that provided engineering teams to conduct independent analysis and operational performance evaluation of the Strategic Weapon System (SWS) on Polaris, Poseidon and Trident Submarines prior to deployment, during strategic deterrent patrols, and during operational follow-on operational testing. . Additionally as group software coordinator, she was responsible for analysis software development from concept evaluation to implementation. In addition to her current responsibilities at APL as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff she is also responsible for coordination and development of HBCU initiatives which includes the implementation of the APL Technology Leaders Summer Internship Program identifying students as ATLAS Scholars from HBCU/MIs and HSIs with 3.5 GPA or higher, who aspire to careers in Engineering or Computer Science. Reverend Boyd serves by appointment from the President of Johns Hopkins University as a member of the Johns Hopkins Institutions Diversity Leadership Council since 1996 and as Chair of the Council since 2001. She serves on the Advisory Council for the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Physical Science for Tuskegee University and is member of the Society of Women Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers and the Metropolitan Area Network of Minority Women in Science.

Gwendolyn Boyd leads a very active life in sharing her skills in service to the community. She is an emeritus member of the Board of the Directors for Children's National Medical Center and Children's Research Institute in Washington, D.C. Reverend Boyd is a member of *Leadership Washington* (class of '96) and past member of the Board of Directors. She is also a past President of the Board of Directors of United Way of the National Capital Area. From 2000-2004 Gwendolyn Boyd served as the 22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an international service sorority with over 200,000 members in over 950 chapters throughout the world. A few of her accomplishments during her tenure as the "Technology President" include establishing technology in all facets of sorority activities and administration. She is a member of the Washington, D.C. Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, the Capital City Chapter of The Links, Inc. and serves as National Chair for Education Across the Miles; a Life Member of NAACP; National Council of Negro Women; Alabama State University Alumni Association and the Association of Yale Alumni. Very active in "giving back" and helping promote an agenda for the positive growth and development of our youth, Gwendolyn Boyd uses her many talents and skills in service to the community. She freely shares her time with youth to encourage them to seek success. She also serves as a role model for young people interested in careers in math, science and engineering. She has been acknowledged by many for her service and dedication as a community leader and volunteer. For her contributions to the community, she has received numerous awards and honors. In her spare time she enjoys reading and playing the piano.

This Week at Shiloh

Sunday, February 20, 2011

DCCF Credit Union	LL/FLC
Jonathan Sunday School Class.....	Sanctuary/Balcony
Middle School Class	Gym/FLC
Elementary Class	LL-A/FLC
Upper Elementary Class	LL-Front/FLC
Nursery & Pre-K Classes	LL-B/FLC
Senior High Class	LL-Rear/FLC
Alpha Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Caleb Church School Class	Sanctuary/P Street Side-Rear
E.L. Harrison Church School Class	COH/FLC
Ever Ready Church School Class	Conference Room-Above Library - Gym/FLC
Excelsior Church School Class	Sanctuary/Center
Genesis Church School Class	Library - Gym/FLC
John A. Miles Church School Class	Library - Gym/FLC
Littlejohn Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Silent Mission Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Waldron/Gill Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Walker Memorial Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Young Adult Church School Class	TF/FLC
New Members Workshop (9:30 a.m.).....	Rm. 216/FLC
Guest Hospitality (<i>Antioch Circle</i>)	TF/FLC
Dorcas Circle Meeting	6258 Chillum Place, NE
Grace Circle Meeting.....	Mezzanine Conference Room
Helping Hand Circle Meeting.....	Mezzanine Conference Room
King's Messengers Circle Meeting.....	LL/FLC
Olivet Circle Meeting	Library/FLC
Progressive Circle Meeting.....	Ushers' Room
Sacrifice Circle Meeting	RBC/FLC
Victory Circle Meeting	COH/FLC
Worship Ministry Black History Presentation	HH/FLC
MusicianShip/Howard University Band Concert (4:00 p.m.).....	Sanctuary

Monday, February 21, 2011

Presidents' Day - Administrative Offices & Family Life Center closed

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

10:00 – Deaf & Hard of Hearing Outreach Program	LL/FLC
4:00 – Male Youth Project.....	Gym/FLC
6:00 – Usher Board Executive Board Meeting	Ushers' Room
6:00 – Taekwondo Class.....	RBC/FLC
6:30 – Senior Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:45 – Blessed 7 Investment Club Meeting	TF/FLC
7:00 – Usher Board Meeting.....	Ushers' Room
7:15 –Wallace Charles Smith Young Adult Ensemble Rehearsal.....	Choir Room

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

10:00 – Deaf &Hard of Hearing Outreach Program	LL/FLC
11:45 – Mid Week Bible Study.....	COH/FLC
1:00 – Senior Citizens Club Meeting.....	HH/FLC
4:00 – Male Youth Project.....	Gym/FLC
6:30 – Gospel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
7:00 – Al-Anon Family Matters Meeting	COH/FLC

Thursday, February 24, 2011

10:00 – Deaf & Hard of Hearing Outreach Program	LL/FLC
10:00 – Needle Arts & Knitting	HH/FLC
4:00 – Male Youth Project	Gym/FLC
6:15 – Bible Institute	Sanctuary
7:15 – Prayer & Praise Service	Sanctuary

Friday, February 25, 2011

Administrative Office & Family Life Center Close at 2:00 p.m.

8:30 – Grant Writing Workshop	HH/FLC
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Saturday, February 26, 2011

10:00 – Village Council Meeting	TF/FLC
10:00 – Boy Scout Meeting	Library/FLC
10:00 – Usher Board Bulleting Preparation	Ushers' Room
10:00 – Social Justice Ministry Meeting	LL/FLC
1:00 – Tennis at Shiloh Drill Sessions	Gymnasium

Sunday, February 27, 2011

DCCF Credit Union	LL/FLC
Jonathan Sunday School Class	Sanctuary/Balcony
Middle School Class	Gym/FLC
Elementary Class	LL-A/FLC
Upper Elementary Class	LL-Front/FLC
Nursery & Pre-K Classes	LL-B/FLC
Senior High Class	LL-Rear/FLC
Alpha Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Caleb Church School Class	Sanctuary/P Street Side-Rear
E.L. Harrison Church School Class	COH/FLC
Ever Ready Church School Class	Conference Room-Above Library - Gym/FLC
Excelsior Church School Class	Sanctuary/Center
Genesis Church School Class	Library - Gym/FLC
John A. Miles Church School Class	Library – Gym/FLC
Littlejohn Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Silent Mission Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Waldron/Gill Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Walker Memorial Church School Class	Gym/FLC
Young Adult Church School Class	TF/FLC
New Members Workshop (9:30 a.m.)	Rm. 216/FLC
Guest Hospitality (<i>Berean Circle</i>)	TF/FLC
Excelsior Circle Meeting	HHN/FLC
Friendly Circle Meeting	COH/FLC
Hope Circle Meeting	HHS/FLC
Mt. Sinai Circle Meeting	Mezzanine Conference Room
Omega Circle Meeting	Library/FLC
Torch Bearers Circle Meeting	LL/FLC

Welcome New Members

Marquette Roy – Alpha Circle

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Coleda C. Baird (Grace Circle) and Deacon Jerome Navies (Pilgrim Circle) in the loss of his sister, Karla Smith.

Baptism

Congratulations to the following persons who were baptized on Sunday, February 13, 2011

Henry C. Gregory, V – Sunshine Elementary Circle
Regine Desroches Monde - Progressive Circle
Terrance LeRoy Purnell – Willing Workers Circle

To Pastor Smith, Deacons, Deaconesses, Nurses Unit, Ever Ready Circle and my Shiloh Church family – thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy shown to us during the loss of my grandson, Winston S. Jackson. Words alone cannot express my deepest appreciation. May the Lord add many blessings to you.

Jessie T. Jackson & Family

Dear Shiloh Family - Thank you so much for your support and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my grandmother, Lillian Ferrell. Big Mama (as we knew her) was a dear, sweet lady who loved the Lord. We were blessed to hear so many wonderful things said about her from people outside our family at her funeral. It was a joyous homegoing celebration! Although we miss her, we know that she is in heaven with the Lord. Please keep me and my family in your prayers. To God be the glory for the things He has done!

Stephanie McGencey

Circles Leading Prayer & Praise Service (Thursday Evenings)

Circles Receiving New Members

February 20Antioch Circle
February 27Berean Circle

Circles Serving Breakfast

February 20Queen Esther Circle
February 27Ruth Circle

REQUEST FOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS

If you are an interior designer and would like to assist in the planning of clean up day to be held on May 7, 2011, please contact Greg Prioleau at 202-584-0679 no later than February 14, 2011. We will be targeting specific areas within the church complex and would appreciate any recommendations you may have to beautify the Lord's house.

BIDS FOR THE WALLACE CHARLES SMITH COMMUNITY SERVICE BUILDING

General Contractors interested in submitting proposals to construct the Wallace Charles Smith Community Service Building can pick up bid packages from Lance Bailey and Associates Architects, 7961 Eastern Avenue, Silver Spring MD (301-565-2283), or Muriel Lewis at Shiloh Baptist Church commencing on Tuesday, February 8, 2011. A \$100.00 fee will be charged for the package. All proposals will be due on Friday, March 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

To ensure that your offerings and contributions are accurately recorded and reported on your Offering Statements from the church, it is important that you place your contributions in the "**church-provided envelopes**", which includes your name, address, church membership number and all the categories to allocate your contribution. Should you forget your church-provided envelope, offering envelopes may be found on the back of the pews, or obtained from an Usher. When using an offering envelope obtained from the pews or Usher, please complete the envelope and add your membership number. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated !

The Finance Committee



Church School Lessons At-A-Glance

February 27 – *Coming of the Son of Man* (Mark 13:14-27) On the Mount of Olives, Jesus tells His disciples the future. He warns them of how terrible the end will be and how He will return with great power.

Come – Study With Us

The Shiloh Bible Institute Classes:

Feb. 17th and 24th - *Learn to Sign the Lord's Prayer*

March 3rd and 10th - **No Class**

March 17th, 24th, 31st, April 7th and 14th *More Than the Mardi Gras* – Reverend Dr. Louis Anthony

April 21st and 28th - **No Class**

May 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, June 2nd, 9th - *The Book That Changed the World* – Reverend Jasmy Bowden

Ushers' Corner January/February/March

For Training, call Charlotte Bolton-Hicks
(301) 499-0628

Sunday, Feb. 20 – Unit #5 Serves

Thursday, Feb. 24 – Unit #5 Serves
6:30 p.m. Bible Institute and Prayer & Praise

Sunday, Feb. 27 – Unit #6 Serves
HCBU Sunday

Thursday, March 3 – Unit #6 Serves
6:30 p.m. Bible Institute and Prayer & Praise

Sunday, March 6 – Units #1/3 Serve
10 a.m. Unity Service

Thursday, March 10 – Units #1/3 Serve
6:30 p.m. Bible Institute and Prayer & Praise

Sunday, March 13 – Unit #2 Serves

Thursday, March 17 – Unit #2 Serves
6:30 p.m. Bible Institute and Prayer & Praise

Sunday, March 20 – Unit #4 Serves

Join the Shiloh Gospel Choir in Nassau Bahamas July 21-25, 2011!

There is room still for you! Church members and friends are invited to join the Shiloh Gospel Choir when they travel to Nassau Bahamas on July 21-25, 2011. Relax and enjoy a lovely vacation on the island of Nassau and then join the choir for Sunday worship services at Grant's Town Wesley Methodist Church. The trip package cost starts at \$975 (based on double occupancy) including roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations, meal plan, transfers, tour option, and more. Accommodations will be at the beautiful Wyndham Resort on Cable Beach. Children package rates are also available. A deposit of \$350 is required immediately to hold a reservation. Payment plans are flexible. Contact Otis Harris, Muriel Lewis, Aldith Coleman or Geormine Stanyard-Crawford for more information and payment. You may also mail and make payments to DeGeor Services, PO Box 26462 WDC 20001 and call 202.674.3613 for inquiries. Passports are required for travel.

HBCU Corner

Did You Know that the Christian Denominations were Important HBCU Founders?

.....The Catholic Church's commitment to education in the U.S. can be traced back to 1789 with the founding of Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Some 126 years later, that same commitment would extend to African Americans when Mother Katherine Drexel founded the only Catholic HBCU, Xavier University.

.....The American Missionary Association was founded in 1846 in Albany, NY, with goals of educating the masses, fostering equality of the races, and spreading a liberalized, tolerant form of Christianity. Among the organization's notable contributions is the creation of more than 500 schools and institutions of higher learning for African Americans. HBCU's founded by or assistance from the AMA include: Atlanta University(now Clark Atlanta), Dillard University, Fisk University, Hampton University, Howard University, Huston-Tillotson College, LeMoyné-Owen College, Talladega College and Tougaloo College.

(excerpts from I'll Find A Way or Make One - A Tribute to Historically Black Colleges & Universities, by Juan Williams & Dwayne Ashley)

America I Am: the African American Imprint Exhibit

This exhibit is at the National Geographic Society's building 17th and M Streets, NW in Washington, DC. Please find time in your busy schedules to see this exhibit. It has artifacts from ancient and modern places and people. And Shiloh, our church, is featured in this exhibit, as well. It is educational, informative and enlightening for the young and the old. It is a must see and a once in a lifetime event, so please, take your family, young people, and maybe even some church friends to see the America I Am: The African American Imprint Exhibit at the National Geographic Society. It will be displayed in Washington from February 2-May 1, 2011 before traveling to another city. It costs \$12 for adults (\$10 if you purchase from Walmart) and \$8 for children (\$6 if purchased from Walmart).

Submitted by Judy C. Williams
Church Historian

Women's Day Committee Community Service Project

"Sharing Our Blessing with Our Neighbors" – Please donate new pre-school hard cover children's books for Shiloh's Child Development Center; Ensure and walking canes for the Seniors at Emmaus Center for the Aging. Donations are being collected in the Family Center near the elevator. Please help shower our CDC and neighbor (Emmaus) with love throughout the month.

150 Anniversary Committee Invitation

Current and Past

Church Anniversary chairs/co-chairs, committee members

Circle Leaders, vice leaders

Ministry Leaders, co-leaders All interested members.

YOU

are cordially invited to a VERY BRIEF organizational meeting IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE – FIRST SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011 in the pews behind where the Deacons sit.

JoAnne Beasley, Chair

Founder of Black History Month

Carter Godwin Woodson (December 19, 1875-April 3, 1950) was an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He was one of the first scholars to value and study Black History. He recognized and acted upon the importance of a people having an awareness and knowledge of their contributions to humanity, and left behind an impressive legacy. A founder of *Journal of Negro History*, Dr. Woodson is known as the Father of Black History.

Black History Month

The Black Church in the Civil Rights Movement

The **Black Church** has been the flame bearer of the Civil Rights Movements since its beginning, and Christianity has played a prominent role in establishing a moral conscious for the civil rights of Blacks in America. Many individuals and collective efforts contributed to the freedoms we now enjoy as African Americans, but few institutions provided the united voice echoed by that of the Black Church.

The Black Church, established because of the necessity to create a place of worship separate from whites, became significant as an organized body where opposition concerning the treatment of its congregations could be voiced. It progressed from a place of spiritual healing, to one of social and political awareness, creating a litany of protests advocating rights afforded by the U.S. Constitution.

During the Civil Rights Movement, it was the Black churches that held the leadership role. Black churches played an important role of getting the word out and were the main points of operations in regards to the Movement. Blacks were empowered to act alone and to act together to confront the laws in the South that had oppressed them. There were many Blacks desperate for hope and the Black churches gave them hope for a better future.

Church leadership was one of the few positions of leadership available. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had taken full advantage of his position as minister to help spark the flames of the Civil Rights Movement.

The Civil Rights Movement was a cultural movement, a social movement, and most definitely a political movement. One cannot deny that this movement was highly political. Even today, Black churches play a role in today's politics. Black churches were integral to the campaigns of then Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. This is another strong example on how influential the Black churches were, let alone influential in, the **African-American Civil Rights Movement**. The Black churches were indeed the lifeblood of the Civil Rights Movement.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

Private **HBCUs** trace their history to the years just before and after the Civil War, when they were founded by a variety of Christian denominations. They were some of the few institutions of that era that believed educating slaves, former slaves and other free Blacks was worth the resources that this daunting work required. Between 1861 and 1870, the American Missionary Association (AMA) founded seven Black colleges and 13 normal (teaching) schools. Many of these institutions—along with the private historical Black colleges and universities founded later by the AMA, the Freedmen's Bureau, and Black churches—became the backbone of Black higher education, producing African American leaders for generations to come. In 1867, two years after the Civil War ended, Augusta Institute was established in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church, the oldest independent African-American church in the United States, in Augusta, Georgia. Its purpose was to prepare Black men for the ministry and teaching. Augusta Institute is now known as Morehouse College, a historically Black college in Atlanta, Georgia, and a United Negro College Fund member.

Shiloh Debutante Program Returns

After a one year hiatus, the Shiloh Debutante Program, sponsored by the Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center Foundation (FLCF), is back. Debutante Program Director, Dr. Sharon Parker, has already developed exciting plans for a very successful Debutante Program that will start with workshops in September 2011 and culminate in the Debutante Cotillion Ball on May 20, 2012.

Young ladies, grades 10-12, are invited to participate. Debutantes will not only learn to be a success in personal and professional pursuits, they will also be “presented to society” at a memorable Cotillion. Most importantly, however, each Debutante will have an opportunity to raise scholarship dollars for their own college education as a result of their participation.

Although the Cotillion is over 15 months away, the Debutante Cotillion Committee is seeking adult volunteers to start work *immediately* in the following areas:

1. Identifying young ladies (grades 10-12) to participate as Debs and Junior Debs. The application process starts March 1st and ends on June 15th. Applications can be obtained now and are available at the Events Center. You may also contact Dr. Parker, spflcdeb@gmail.com; Clay Gregory, claygreg38@gmail.com; or Crystal Kuykendall, ckuykendal@aol.com; for additional information.
2. Workshop presenters to do presentations on Self Image, Dining Etiquette, Social Networking, Black Health/Beauty/Nutrition and Political Awareness are also needed now.
3. Participation on the following committees:
 - a. Souvenir Journal
 - b. Logistics
 - c. Decorations
 - d. Community Service/Outreach
 - e. Publicity
 - f. Cotillion Events

If you are able and interested in working with the Cotillion Committee, please contact Dr. Parker as soon as possible. She can be reached at (703) 340-7864. Continue to watch the **SHILOH Spirit** for more exciting details.

Save-the-Date

Much heralded Jazz Pianist Dick Morgan, returns in Concert on Saturday, June 4, 2011. He will be sponsored, once again, by the Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center Foundation . Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Watch the Spirit for more details!

Family Life Center Foundation Plans Seniors Prom

Do you remember your high school prom? Whether you do or not, if you are over 55 years of age, you can have an even better prom experience. The Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center Foundation, is planning a Seniors Prom” to take place in the Fall. This city- wide event will be held in Washington DC and feature music from the 40s, 50s, 60s & 70s. A planning committee is now being formed. If you are interested in being a part of this planning process, please contact Reverend Crystal Kuykendall at 202/ 529-2042, ckuykendal@aol.com or Clay Gregory at 202/ 497-2730, claygreg38@gmail.com

**I rejoice in you, for you have
given me countless blessings.**

*I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt
bountifully with me.*

Psalm 13:6

The Condition of the Heart

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who,
having heard the word with a noble and good heart,
keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15 (NKJV)

At any time, the receptiveness of your heart will determine your response to God's Word (Luke 8:5-18) NKJV

⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear let him hear!" ⁹ Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" ¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand'." ¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. ¹⁶ "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lamp stand, that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. ¹⁸ Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

If your heart is like the trampled ground, hardened by the sin of bitterness and unforgiveness, you will be unable to accept a message from God. Though you hear the words of the message, you will remain unchanged. If your heart is like the shallow soil on top of a rock, you will accept God's word in your mind, but the truth will not penetrate your heart to make a difference in your actions. A heart like thorny soil is a life that is distracted by the cares of the world; the pursuit of earthly pleasures prevents God's Word from taking hold and producing righteousness. The heart that is like good soil receives a word from God, applies it, and brings forth fruit in due time. This is the heart that Jesus desires in us, for the fruit will be a Christlike life.

Any time you hear a word from God, whether through Bible reading, prayer, or worship, the way you respond will depend on how you have cultivated your heart.

¹² Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. (Hosea 10:12) NKJV

How do you develop a heart that is like good soil? Repent of any bitterness, anger, or unforgiveness that is hardening your heart. Meditate on God's Word until it enters deep into your heart and not just your mind. When you read or hear a word from God, apply it to your life and let God bring His word into reality in your life.

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (Galatians 6:9).

Protect your lifestyle. See that you don't devote all your energy to worldly concerns, rather than to pursuing your relationship with God. The condition of your heart will vary, depending on how you cultivate it. If it was receptive to a word from God yesterday, this does not guarantee it is receptive today. *Daily* prepare your heart for the word God has for you!

HBCU Carolyn M. Harris Scholarship Fund Contribution

John O. Harris, Sr., and J. Otis Harris, Jr.
Lovingly Remembers our Beloved Wife and Mother

Carolyn M. Harris



\$400.00

With all our LOVE.

HBCU Carolyn M. Harris Scholarship Fund Contribution

Remembering a Very Special Mother and Dear
Friend

Carolyn M. Harris

\$50.00

With Loving and Fond Memories
Sharon Parker, Ph.D.

HBCU Council Scholarship

In loving memory of

Jessie Wright, Jr.

NC A&T Class of 1952 and
the first black elected Mayor of Whitaker, North Carolina
1999 to 2004

Husband, Father, Grandfather

Sadie Wright
\$50

Claim The Victory Campaign Contribution

In Loving Memory
Of

Helen Sykes

(JoAnne Beasley's mother)

Gospel Choir, Catherine Goodloe, Glenda Whitaker
\$85.00

About Our Members.....

Congratulations to Deaconess Emma Terrie Bevans, who received a letter of congratulations from Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia on her 89th birthday – January 11, 2011.

Our Shiloh Youth (Ghordan Bingham, Julia Dennis, Sydney Porter, Brian and Theodore (Teddy) Smith) will perform with the DC Choral Arts Society and the Men & Women of the Gospel in *Living the Dream....Singing the Dream*, which is a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Kennedy Center this evening at 7:00 p.m. Each are members of the Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS), Children of the Gospel Choir.

Employment Opportunity

Looking for retired teacher or certified educator to work in Robbin's Nest Learning Center as lead teacher. Must have CDA certification. For more information contact Stephanie Lyons (202/388-3462 or 301/782-7782).

