

The Shiloh Spirit



The Reverend Dr. Wallace Charles Smith
Senior Minister



The Pastor's Pen

What is it that makes for a righteous and moral life?

Scholars and philosophers have debated this point from the dawning of time. For Buddhists, the goal of a moral life is to meditate and find the universal mind as a way to extricate oneself from the wheel of souls. Ultimately for them, this is the pathway to Nirvana. All of the great world religions have sought a way to discover a clear pathway to God. All the major religions look for the ability to live life fully and consistently with God's teachings.

The lectionary readings for the fourth Sunday of Epiphany focus on the Judeo-Christian quest for a good life. The text in Micah raises the question directly. "*What does the Lord require of thee*"? Psalm 15 says "*Who may abide in your tent*"? For centuries, the rabbis had provided interpretations of the laws of Moses to the utmost degree. The precepts in Exodus, Deuteronomy and Numbers had been expanded considerably, so that Commandments, such as "*Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy*" had been expanded to absurd lengths. How far one could journey on the Sabbath, how much one could attend to medical problems and even how much one could care for livestock were all subject to endless interpretation.

The Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew offer Jesus' own insights into what constitutes a moral and spiritual life. Jesus says that one is blessed when one sees the poor in spirit, not the powerful, as favored by the Lord; those that celebrate the grief stricken, not the self satisfied, as men and women in God's heart, that understand the meek, not the arrogant, as close to the heart and mind of God.

In First Corinthians, Paul would help us to see that the Kingdom ethics of Jesus were so foreign to normal human behavior that the preaching of the Cross would be foolishness to those who are perishing, but to the saved it would be the power of God unto salvation.

When it comes to the requirements of the moral and spiritual life we need look no further than the teachings of the Master. *What does the Lord require of us?* God requires that we align our behaviors with the teachings of his Son as found in the book of Matthew, chapters five through seven. This is the key to a moral and spiritual life.

Volume XIX, No 5

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Reading Through The Bible

*4th Sunday of the Year – January 30
(Green)
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians
1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12*

*5th Sunday of the Year – February 6
(Green)
Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10;
1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20*

New Members Received by Willing Workers Circle



This Week at Shiloh

Sunday, January 30, 2011

DCCF Credit Union	LL/FLC
African American Heritage Program (ASALH) – 9:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Youth Church - 11:00 a.m.	COH/FLC
Guest Hospitality (<i>Willing Workers Circle</i>).....	TF/FLC
Book Club Meeting.....	LL/FLC

Monday, January 31, 2011

Administrative Offices & Family Life Center closes at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

10:00 – Deaf & Hard of Hearing Outreach Program	LL/FLC
4:00 – Male Youth Project.....	Gym/FLC
6:00 – Taekwondo Class.....	RBC/FLC
6:30 – Senior Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 – Circle Leaders Council Meeting	HH/FLC
7:15 – Wallace Charles Smith Young Adult Ensemble Rehearsal.....	Choir Room

Wednesday, February 2, 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, January 3, 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 – <i>“Have You Considered My Servant Job? – Part 2”</i>	Sanctuary
7:15 – Prayer & Praise Service	Sanctuary

Friday, February 4, 2011
Administrative Office & Family Life Center Close at 2:00 p.m.

6:00 – Children/Youth Bible Study..... Heritage Hall

Saturday, February 5, 2011

9:00 – Mid-Winter Leadership Conference Various Locations
 9:00 – **100 Black Men Saturday Leadership Academy** Gym/FLC
 2:00 – New Generation of Praise Dancers Gym/FLC

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Unity Service – 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion



DCCF Credit Union LL/FLC
 Combined Adult Church School Classes (9:00 a.m.).....Sanctuary
 Combined Middle School & Senior High Church School Classes (9:00 a.m.).....TF/FLC
 Combined Children’s Church School Classes LL/FLC
 Youth Church (10:00 a.m.)COH/FLC
 Guest Hospitality (*Adah Circle*)TF/FLC
 HBCU Council Meeting Library/FLC
 Nurses Unit Meeting..... LL/FLC

Reserve the Date

The Mid-Winter Leadership Conference

Saturday, February 5, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(Location: Shiloh Baptist Church)
 Additional information forthcoming.

Discipleship News

Welcome New Member

Henry Chase Gregory – Sunshine Elementary Circle

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Doreen Upshur Adair (Grace Circle) in the loss of her mother, Burnette Shields Upshur; the family of Wilber Childs (Adah Circle) and Muriel Lewis (Naomi Circle) in the loss of her father.

Thank You Note

To the Ministry of Deacons - thank you so much for my VISA gift card and your support for me at Lincoln University during my freshman year. I appreciate the love and I will work and strive harder. Thank you all so much. Happy New Year.

Gernae Bingham

Calling All Members of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. of the Shiloh Baptist Church

In preparation for Shiloh's HBCU Sunday (February 20th) we are planning to gather together in unison. In that effort, please stop by the event booth in the Family Life Center to receive additional information or contact Deaconess Carolyn Haynesworth-Murrell, 202/445-7100 (cell); 202/326-2887 (office) to provide your email address and phone number to begin our list serve for Deltas at Shiloh. May God continue to bless you, your family and friends as we move forward in this year!

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Applications for scholarships offered through the church Scholarship Committee are available at the front desk of the Family Life Center and will soon be available on the church website. **Deadline for submitting completed applications: Sunday, February 20, 2011.**

Women of God: Celebrating Spirituality

Calling All Women Thespians of Shiloh!

If you would like to participate in a dynamic scriptural portrayal of Women in the Bible on March 10th, at the Thursday night worship service, please contact Willa Hall Smith at whsa@rcn.com, tufon@rcn.com or 703-625-7443 or Cindy Davis Smith at cindy.smith@starpower.net or 202-526-7348 by January 31, 2011.

Circles Leading Prayer & Praise Service (Thursday Evenings)

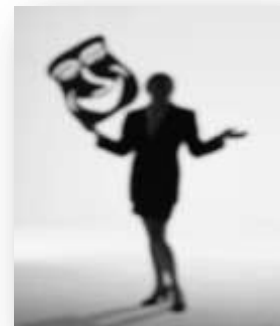
February 3Antioch & Berean Circles
February 10 Bethel & Calvary Circles
February 17.....Dorcas & Eula Mae Harrison Circles
March 3Faith & Fellowship Circles

Circles Receiving New Members

January 30..... Willing Workers Circle
February 6..... Adah Circle
February 13Alpha Circle
February 20Antioch Circle
February 27Berean Circle

Circles Serving Breakfast

January 30.....Phoebe Circle
February 6 Pilgrim Circle
February 13Progressive Circle
February 20Queen Esther Circle
February 27Ruth Circle





Church School Lessons At-A-Glance

A Future for God's People

January 30 – *Healed by His Bruises* (Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12)
The Servant (Jesus Christ) will sacrifice Himself for the sake of Israel. His suffering will be exchanged for their salvation.

The Promised Servant Leader

February 6 – *Jesus Is the Messiah* (Mark 8:27-9:1) Jesus asks His disciples about what His reputation was publicly and who He was to them personally. After, He foretells of His death. Peter tries to correct Jesus, but Jesus rebukes Satan. Jesus then tells of the requirements expected of those who will follow Him.

February 13 – *This Is My Beloved* (Mark 9:2-13) Jesus takes Peter, James and John to the top of a mountain and is transfigured (changed to another form) before them. Moses and Elijah appear, and God's voice from heaven proclaims Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus warns the disciples not to tell others about their experience until His resurrection, but they are confused.

February 20 – *Jesus Came to Serve* (Mark 10:35-45) The Sons of Zebedee wanted seats of honor in the new Kingdom (where Christ would reign forever and ever), but Jesus pointed out their ignorance. He teaches His disciples that service is the requirement for greatness.

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.

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.

Male Youth Project College & Career Fair

The Male Youth Project is currently planning for the 2011 College & Career Fair, which will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with the planning and help on the day of the fair. If you are interested in this important effort, please contact Gerard Bingham at 202/280-0101 or gobingham@verizon.net.

Housing Available

Available for lease immediately, large one bedroom apartment located on 2nd floor in a vintage four-unit building on 14th Street NW in Washington, DC that offers all the benefits of living in the city with none of the hassles. First three months – pay half (50%) rental fee as “move in incentive”. Apartment is located in the safe, well established Brightwood section. The two story/four unit building is a post-war classic that boasts hardwood floors throughout, built-in bookcase and walnut molding; it has an updated kitchen that features hardwood cabinets, a ceramic tile floor and updated kitchen appliances; it also has the original black & white bathroom tiling and a “room sized” screen enclosed private rear porch. Conveniences also include a “state of the art” LG compact “Euro Style” electronic combination washer/dryer, window air conditioning and ceiling fans. Proof of employment and/or school enrollment, proof of income (stipend and/or salary), a credit report and proof of identity is required to complete the Application process. Reply to DrChaunceyFortt@aol.com

Beatitudes--Their Significance and Meaning (Part 1)

The beatitudes are eight statements taught by Jesus. They are concerned with virtue and how a believer in Christ can achieve that virtue. The Beatitudes are a map of life, a series of directives helping us on our journey to be with God. They have been referred to as the "Magna Carta of the Christian Church".

They are simply stated, but profound in meaning. They guide and teach and they show us the values that Christ cares about. These values, if followed, bring a believer into a state of peace and happiness, and also into the Kingdom of God when our journey on this earth is ended. The Latin word for blessed is beatus, from which we get the word beatitude. The beatitudes are found at **Matthew 5: 3-12**.

The First Beatitude

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

So what does it mean to be poor in spirit? It means that the poor are those who realize that they can never achieve salvation on their own and instead put their complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ. The poor in spirit are those who are not absorbed in self: self-assertive, self-reliant, self-confident, self-centered, or self-sufficient, but those who realize that they are totally dependent on God's grace and mercy. The poor in spirit are not baptized in the waters of self-esteem. They do not boast in their God given characteristics such as their birth, family, nationality, education, physical looks, race, wealth, or their culture. None of that matters. The poor in spirit are those who are conscious of their sins and know in their hearts that they are completely unworthy of the grace that a most holy and loving God pours down upon them. They realize that all their righteousness is, as Isaiah said, like filthy rags before a holy God. So poor in spirit means that we come to God, conscious of our sins and our utter lack of righteousness. It means that we have absolutely no hope of salvation without Christ. It means to realize that we are full of sin and in desperate need of God's grace and righteousness. The poor in spirit realize that these can only be obtained by faith in Jesus Christ.

The Second Beatitude

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

The person that mourns is the one who recognizes that he is a sinner before God. Such a person mourns over his various sins because he recognizes that not only does his sin greatly hurt our heavenly Father, he also realizes that he is empty of righteousness. He does not even begin to deserve salvation and the joys of heaven. This miserable, but repentant sinner realizes that only through the grace of God does he have forgiveness and salvation. Jesus says such a person is blessed, and there is no greater blessing than to receive such divine approval. Those who are blessed in this way by God will see God and dwell with him forever. Thus, the mourning of Christians referred to in this beatitude is not because of financial loss, terminal sickness, the death of loved ones, loneliness, a divorce, or some rejection being experienced. Christians mourn because they realize that they have sinned against God and have brought dishonor to his name. The true believer mourns when he sins because he knows that the sin just committed brings great pain and sorrow to God.

What is the promise to those who mourn? They will be comforted. Who will be comforted? Only those who mourn, meaning only those who repent. Only those who grieve over their sins under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and cry out to God, saying, "I am a sinner. I am unclean. I have sinned against heaven and against you". They will be the ones who will be comforted. Why will only such people be comforted? Because they alone know that Jesus Christ came to seek and save that which is lost. They alone look to the cross of Jesus Christ and realize that Christ died for their sins.

The Third Beatitude

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

The word meek used in Matthew 5:5 refers to a strong person who is under control--a God controlled person. A meek person is a man or woman of God whose strength is controlled by God. He or she is controlled by God in thought, word, will, emotion, and action. The meek man or woman is one who submits, not to his own will or to the will of the world, but to the great and gracious will of God.

What makes a person meek? They see God in everything. No one becomes meek unless they can see this infinite, personal, almighty, all-wise, all-holy God, and when they see God they are immediately humbled. When we are able to see God by faith, then that is the time when the Holy Spirit allows us to become meek. Thus the meek person does not rely on himself, saying, I can do all things. I have confidence in myself. After all, I am strong and able. No, the meek person says, I see God, and he is willing and able to help me. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. A meek person is the one who, by faith, sees God as great and himself as nothing. Therefore, he submits to the righteous will of this great God. A meek person is the one who proclaims, "Not my will but Thine be done."

A meek person is patient. He has a long view of life, knowing in the end it is not the wicked who win, but the meek. God himself tells us that the meek, not the wicked, will inherit the earth. The wicked may indeed possess the earth for a short time today, but the Lord tells us that when he comes back, the meek shall possess this earth.

The Fourth Beatitude

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for Righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Righteousness refers to those things that are upright, virtuous, noble, morally right, and ethical. Righteousness is a life style that is in complete conformity with the will of God. It is a lifestyle that Jesus not only finds pleasing, but one of which he approves.

Jesus makes the decisions that the righteous person will follow. For the righteous believer, all his daily actions, everything that he thinks about, every decision that he makes, everything that he reads and looks at, will be done the same way that Our Lord would have done them. The true believer will know immediately whether something is right or wrong, just or unjust, godly or ungodly because Jesus is living within him.

Jesus dwells within the righteous person communicating constantly with the person's heart, conscience, soul, and spirit. Jesus will be talking to the believer long before the sin is even thought about. At the same time the Holy Spirit will be hard at work doing his guiding and his warning. This is why, it is extremely painful when a righteous believer sins, usually leaving the sinner with great sorrow.

Hunger and thirst are appetites that return frequently and they require that they be met often during the day. Similarly the true believer calls for constant meals of righteousness to do his daily Godly work, just as the living body calls for its daily food. When a believer hungers and thirsts after righteousness he becomes a new person and this new person now bears the image of God.

The Fifth Beatitude

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Mercy is love toward those who are miserable or wretched or who need some type of help or assistance. The merciful are those that are tender hearted and who truly feel the pain and the suffering of those who need mercy. But most importantly is the fact that the merciful are those special individuals who go out of their way and make the effort to help. Having compassion on those that are in any way hurting is only the first part of having mercy. Doing something about it, is the all important second part. We as believers must show mercy to all men and we are to do this by both sympathizing with them and by taking care and tending to their needs. We must do this with readiness and gladness, with affection and tenderness, always ready to give and to forgive. Our Lord instructs us to show the same type of mercy to others that he shows to each of us. He talked much about showing mercy and a good example is found at 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Therefore, to be merciful as a Christian does not mean to perform isolated, occasional acts of charity. A Christian is to be habitually merciful, and all acts of mercy should be done in a thankful and cheerful manner. The merciful are indeed those special people who love all men as themselves: The merciful truly believe that whatever mercy they desire from God, they in turn will show to all men everywhere. The merciful are the ones who realize that: 1) our Heavenly Father demands that we be merciful, and 2) our acts of mercy will be repaid a thousand fold.

This beatitude is also very concerned with mercy through the act of daily forgiveness. When offenses have been inflicted upon you, you show mercy towards those who wrong you, regardless of the reasons and regardless of the circumstances. Our Lord demands that we forgive one another just as he is constantly forgiving us. **Matthew 6: 14-15** points this out so very clearly. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses".

Black History Month

African-Americans traditionally celebrate Black History Month by recognizing and honoring the contributions and achievements of heroes and sheroes on whose shoulders we stand and who laid the foundation for our very existence. During this observance of Black History

Month, we will commemorate the *Evolution of the Black Church*. The Black Church has historically been a source of hope and strength and a place of solace for the African-American community; it has remained our bedrock of spiritual and emotional stability since slavery.

While there are several ways to celebrate the Black church's progression, we will raise our voices and honor this great heritage through the rendering of spirituals, lined and metered hymns and traditional and contemporary gospel. Our worship services will also be augmented with pictorial collages, dance and dramatic reenactments to help illustrate and 'retell the story.'

Over the course of the month, each worship service will feature a sub-theme that depicts the progression of the Black church:

- First Sunday – The Invisible Church: slave quarters and secret places where slaves gathered to worship through codes
- Second Sunday – The Institutional Church: the first churches found by Black people
- Third Sunday – The Role of the Black Church in the Civil Rights Movement
- The Fourth Sunday – The Emerging Church, the Contemporary Church, the Megachurch and the Surviving Inner City Church

On the third Sunday (February 20), we will also celebrate the critical role the Black church played in the successes of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU):

- Our HBCU Council will host the Lincoln University Concert Choir at the 7:45 and 10:55 a.m. worship services; dinner will be served after the 10:55 a.m. service
- In the afternoon, there will be an audience-participated theatrical presentation of several major events that occurred during the Civil Rights Movement (Family Life Center's Gymnasium)
- At 4:00 p.m., the Worship and Music Ministry will present the Howard University Concert Band, along with the Choirs of Shiloh, in a Musical Revue commemorating the role of music during the Civil Rights Movement; a reception will follow.

Join us during this time of cultural reflection, homage and celebration!

Family Life Center Foundation Seeks Staff and Volunteers

The Henry C. Gregory III Family Life Center Foundation is seeking the services of the following:

Director, Shiloh Child Development Center, who can start working by February 14, 2011. The job description calls for an experienced early childhood educator. Candidate should know all regulations and requirements of the DC Government for childcare providers, requisite curriculum for young children, an understanding of how to teach young children and how to work effectively with parents. Candidate should be creative and innovative in ideas for program empowerment and marketing. Deadline for submission of Letter of Interest and Resume is February 1, 2011.

Exercise Instructor for the Senior Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: This person should be able to facilitate an exercise program to benefit this target group. The ability to “sign” is not necessary. A sign language translator will be present during the weekly, one hour exercise sessions. A stipend will be provided.

Volunteer Mentors for the Male Youth Program: Persons should be available to work with boys and teens, ages 8-21, 3 nights a week, to foster character and academic development.

If interested in any of these positions, please send resumes to Clay Gregory at claygreg38@gmail.com. For additional information, you can also contact Clay Gregory at (202) 232-4201 or Reverend Crystal Kuykendall at (202) 529-2042.

Claim The Victory Campaign Contribution

In Loving Memory of Our Family Members who
Departed this Life in January

Husband and Father

Deacon Nehemiah H. Hankins – January 15, 1988

Daughter and Sister

Harriette Elaine Hankins Phipps- January 15, 1999

Son and Brother

Deacon David W. Hankins, Jr. – January 23, 2010

(We can't believe you have been gone a year)

We miss you and love you always

Deaconess Ostein W. Hankins – Wife/Mother

Joseph M. Hankins – Son/Brother

Eppie O. Hankins- Daughter/Sister

\$300.00

Ushers' Corner January/February/March

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

Sunday, Jan. 30 – Units #1/3 Serve

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

Sunday, Feb. 6 – Unit #2 Serves
10 a.m. Unity Service

Thursday, Feb. 10 – Unit #2 Serves
6:30 p.m. Bible Institute and Prayer & Praise

Sunday, Feb. 13 – Unit #4 Serves

Thursday, Feb. 17 – Unit #4 Serves
6:30 p.m. Bible Institute and Prayer & Praise

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 24 – Unit #4 Serves

