

MESSAGE

from the Mount

Volume 11



Love is at the
Core of Mount



The Pastor's Pen

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Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

My heart is humbled and honored to acknowledge God's grace to live in the second month of a new year. I dare not take for granted the gift of life, health and strength. I praise God that we are still here to live out the purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. To God be the Glory!

January was indeed an event filled month. We launched our 30 Days of Prayer season. It was renewing and refreshing to know we were able to come together to focus our hearts and heads in prayer for the vision of Mount Aery, the disciples of Mount Aery, the resources for Mount Aery's vision, as well as the pastors' and leaders' effectiveness in 2010 and beyond.

Let me thank Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood for the coordination of our 24-hour prayer chain. We are already seeing some of the fruit from our labor in prayer. Let us continue throughout the year to make our prayer time a priority in our lives as well as in the life of this congregation.

January was also a season when God chose to call home, from labor to reward, one of the pillar disciples of Mount Aery, Brother John Hunter. Brother Hunter was a faithful disciple of Mount Aery for more than 7 decades. I am thankful for his service as well as thankful for the Message from the Mount staff for the feature article on Brother Hunter in October 2009. While the scriptures tell us, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord," losing someone of Brother Hunter's stature, integrity and dignity is still challenging to face. I am assured, however, that we shall see him again in that "great getting up morning" when all of God's people shall gather.

February has been known to include Black History Month. Because of this, our MAAFA Ministry will present "From Anonymous to Emerging Voices." I want to thank Rev. Ina "Lisa" Anderson for her leadership in writing and directing this production that raises the voices of men and women whose contribution to American history has made a difference in our lives. We will also be blessed to hear from Dr. Emilie Townes, Associate Dean, at Yale Divinity School. I pray you come and be blessed.

February is also the time we begin our Lenten, Ash Wednesday, season. During this season, we will examine the life and ministry of Jesus through the scriptures and be guided through the book Anonymous, Jesus' hidden years...and yours by Alicia Britt Chole. You really do not want to miss every bible study or lesson during this season. I really believe you will be blessed by learning from, and appreciating, the anonymous seasons of our lives.

I know God will continue to honor His will in our midst. Therefore, it is my prayer that we continue to walk by faith, and not by physical sight alone, into the months that lie ahead trusting that God will provide whatever we need for His glory and honor.

God bless,

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett, D. Min.
Senior Pastor



Editor's Desk

At Message from the Mount, we are embracing change and celebrating each milestone along the way. In December, we promoted Natasha Noel to Managing Editor, where she handles the day to day responsibility of putting together the MFTM. December also marked a transition for MFTM as the team of Monica Dennis and Sharon Smalls stepped away to focus on their families and their businesses, Village Works and Smalls Designs. Monica was the former editor in chief for Message from the Mount and Sharon has previously done the layouts for MFTM. They were two of the first calls I made when we were re-launching MFTM and they couldn't have been more gracious. Their knowledge and experience were invaluable in the re-launch and I will be eternally grateful. For those of you who didn't read the January issue, please pick up a copy and check out the "Entrepreneurs at the Mount" section where we featured Village Works and Smalls Designs.

We continue our series "Entrepreneurs of the Mount," this month we will feature Peter Hurst and the Community's Bank. Peter is the founder and CEO of the Community's Bank, which is the first African American owned in the state of Connecticut. During our "Entrepreneurs of the Mount" series, we will bring to light businesses and their founders who took the initiative to put their creativity and ideas to work for them.

In that same spirit, the staff of Message from the Mount will be producing a church-wide Mount Aery Business Directory in the spring, "Entrepreneurs of the Mount". With over two thousand congregants, this will be a great way to connect your skills with people who are in need of your services. If you are interested in being a part of the Business Directory, please pick up a form from the church office.

The greatest challenge for the church of the living God is to truly represent God in a way that would be pleasing to God. To truly show the love of God in our "walk," and not just our "Sunday talk," we must be a people that the lost can be comfortable reaching out to; by being a people that not only recite the words of Christ, but sincerely do, the works of Christ. So this issue is called the "Love at the Mount".

Finally, in early January, the Mount Aery family lost a giant when Brother John Hunter passed away. A member for over 60 years, Brother Hunter touched and impacted many lives. Here at MFTM we were inspired to feature Brother Hunter on the cover of our October issue on the occasion of his 94th birthday. Our writer Leslie Green had hoped to do an expose on Brother Hunter as he told about his life and times in his own words. Unfortunately, Brother Hunter had been to the dentist that day and wasn't up to a long conversation. Not long after, Brother Hunter took ill and we never completed the story. So we gathered several members who knew Brother Hunter and captured their reflections and tributes. On a personal note, I would only add that Brother Hunter was a lion of the church. A true gentleman who loved his God, loved his family, and loved his church. I would always come up to him and thank him for coming out, to which he would reply, "Reverend, where else would I be?" It's a tribute to that generation and a lesson to ours, that there is, and was, no place they would rather be, than God's house. Brother Hunter, it was great to know you, and trust me, the pleasure was all mine.

Pastor Thomas Williams
Editor-in-Chief

Table Of Contents

Pastor's Pen	2
Editor's Desk	3
Health & Wellness	4
LOVE...It's Good For Your Health	
What's Next	5
40 Days of Anonymous Living	
Go Red Sunday	
Freedom Schools	
Ministry Spotlight	7
Mount Aery Copy Center	
Reflections	8
A Journey of Faith	
Love for Ministry	
What Doesn't Love Have to Do With It?	
Have A little Faith in Me	
Just Talking about Love	
General News	12
Remembering Bro. John O. Hunter	
Entrepreneurs in Church	
My Name is NOT an Abomination	
Transitions - Brown & Bartelle	
Youth Speak	18
My Heart is Beating Way too Fast	
Trip to Ghana	
Bulletin	19
Want Ads	
Doreen's Top 10	
Announcements	
Community News	
Hospitalized/Nursing Home	
Bereavement	
Prayer List	
February Birthdays	
February 2010 Calendar	

LOVE...It's Good For Your Health

by *Veronica Carter, RN, BSN, MBA*

And may the Lord make you to increase and excel and overflow in love for one another and for all people, just as we also do for you. 1Thessalonians 3:12



If you were to poll anyone to ask what they do to maintain their health, you would get such responses as good nutrition, exercise and sometimes, medication. What you may be surprised to hear is how LOVE has a positive effect on your body. That's right! In addition to Love being a commandment from our God, Love is good for your health!

How often do you hug someone? Do you like to sit close and hold each other's hands? Recent research shows it's good for your health. Whether its love between loving partners, between parents and children, or between close friends, physical affection can help the brain, the heart and other body systems you might never have imagined.

In the past several years, scientists have worked with researchers from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to understand the chemistry of love. Our bodies respond to the emotion and act of love and affection by increasing the release of a hormone called **Oxytocin**. Most of our oxytocin is made in the area of the brain called the hypothalamus. Some oxytocin is released into our bloodstream, but much of its effect is thought to reside in the brain.

Oxytocin makes us feel good when we're close to family and other loved ones, including our loving pets. It does so by acting through what scientists call the dopamine reward system. Dopamine is a brain chemical that plays a crucial part in how we perceive pleasure. Many drugs of abuse act through this system. Problems with the dopamine system can even lead to serious depression and other mental illness.

As a result of the increased oxytocin in our system, here is how your body benefits:

- **Lowers the levels of stress hormones in the body**
- **Reduces blood pressure**
- **Improves your mood**
- **Increases your tolerance for pain**
- **Speeds up wound healing**

***SO GO AHEAD...GIVE YOURSELF A DAILY DOSE OF LOVE
IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!!!***



Our bodies respond to the emotion and act of love and affection by increasing the release of a hormone called **Oxytocin**.



Veronica Carter, RN, BSN, MBA



WHAT'S NEXT?

30 Days of Anonymous Living

10% visible + 90% invisible= an indestructible life

— by **Alecia Watson**

What was Jesus doing during the 30 years before his baptism? There are only three known accounts of Jesus' life before he got baptized by John the Baptist. For instance: his birth, being lost in the temple, and then finally being baptized at the age of 30 at the River of Jordan. He spent the next three years after his baptism preaching, teaching, and healing before his ascension to heaven. In the meantime, we are given a deep insight into his revelations, edifications, and persecutions. The question then becomes; what was He doing during the years that were not written?

Alicia Britt Chole in the book Anonymous attempts to answer the question by examining the “unseen” occasions in Jesus' life. She eloquently states that during His time away from the “public eye,” Jesus was spending it reading and understanding the word of God. By anchoring Himself in the Lord's word, He was able to resist the temptations He was faced with. For instance, there are four layers of temptation that the Devil tried to use in order to sway Jesus away from His faith in the Lord. According to Britt Chole:

1. He dangled a lure (offering Jesus something attractive)
2. He exploited a natural longing (by appealing to an innately human desire)
3. He identified the means (by suggesting how Jesus could get what he wanted)
4. He sounded a tempting invitation (by mixing truth with his lies)

In short, the years that Jesus was not in the “public eye” were known as his anonymous years. These years were marked with scorn, ridicule, and isolation. However, these were the formidable years that transformed His existence into his manifestation being. During these 40 days, we will examine the anonymous years in our lives. It is the hope that at the end of this journey, you will start to peel back the layers that brought you closer to God.

To prepare for this journey we encourage you to purchase the book Anonymous by Alicia Brit Chole that is on sale in the bookstore for the cost of \$17.00.

10% + 90% = an indestructible life

WHAT'S NEXT?

GOREDSUNDAY

Each year in the United States, 460,000 women die from heart disease. To raise awareness of the disease, the American Heart Association and faith-based organizations urge women to wear red on Feb. 14, 2010. The "Go Red for Women" movement encourages women to take action by controlling their blood pressure, exercising eating right, and monitoring their diabetes. So wear red on Feb. 14th and help raise awareness about the No. 1 killer of women.

Courtesy of the American Heart Association

FREEDOM SCHOOLS

Mount Aery has been selected as the first Children's Defense Fund Freedom School site in the state of Connecticut. The program begins July 5th and runs through April 13th. Please mark this date as registration will begin on February 16th at 7:00pm All volunteers and interested staff should attend. If you are interested in learning more about Mount Aery's Freedom School or volunteering please contact Minister Odell Cooper at ocooper@mtaerybaptist.org. A brief description of the Freedom School is below.

In partnership with local churches, schools, colleges and universities, and community organizations, the Children's Defense Fund, through the CDF Freedom Schools program, connects the complex needs of children and families to rich community resources. The CDF Freedom Schools model incorporates the totality of CDF's mission to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Ministry Spotlight

MOUNT AERY COPY CENTER

Interview with Min. Mark Q. Murray



What is the Copy Center?

The Mount Aery Copy Center is a dedicated area in Wilson Hall where printing for Message from the Mount, flyers, booklets, copies, and other ministry materials can be printed.

Why is it needed?

The high cost of outsourcing our printing for MFTM and other major ministry events called for a reassessment of our budget, for paying other printing sources versus having our own in-house capability to do professional color printing. Economically, it made sense. The Copy Center will be one of the main components to promote and advertise ministry programs and events.

What are the types of services provided?

We have the capability to do professional quality color printing, photo enlargement, business cards, flyers, posters, programs, booklets and postcards. The expected turnaround time for these services is normally 2-3 days.

How can the Church and community businesses access its services?

To have printing done, you can call the church office and speak to the office administrator, or leave a message and someone will respond within 24 hours, or you can send an email to media_ministry@mtaerybaptist.org.

What are the hours of service?

General hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5p.m.; hours may vary depending upon workload.

Who is the contact person?

Min. Mark Q. Murray

What other information can you provide that would showcase, promote and generate revenue for the Copy Center?

Beginning in 2010, we will be promoting/marketing the printing services to other churches and businesses throughout the Bridgeport community.

Now that the general interview questions have been answered, you will find below the ad donation amounts for the Message from the Mount Newsletter and an outline of the cost of each service provided by the MABC Copy Center:

Message from the Mount Newsletter

Black/White Ads	Color Ads
Business Card \$ 25	Inside Back Cover:
Quarter Page \$ 50	Half Page \$100
Half Page \$ 75	Full Page \$175
Full Page \$100	Outside Back Cover:
	Full Page \$300

Discounts may be available for full page ads, if run more than two times in one calendar year.

Mount Aery Copy Center Copies:

Black & White Copies (B&W) .5 per copy
Color Copies .25 per copy

Photo Enlargements:

5 X 7	\$1.30 per print
8 X 10	\$2.75 per print
11 X 17	\$4.50 per print

Brochures 100 lb text, Full Color 2 Sided 8.5 x 11:

200	\$130.00
500	\$190.00
1000	\$220.00

Flyers Premium paper, Full Color, Single Sided:

500	\$175.00
1000	\$250.00

Business Cards 14pt Cardstock Gloss,

Full Color Front Empty Back:

250	\$20.00
500	\$25.00
1000	\$27.00

Postcards Double sided, Full Color 5.5 x 8.5:

500	\$150.00
1000	\$165.00

Postcards Single sided, Full Color 5.5 x 8.5:

500	\$100.00
1000	\$115.00

All print jobs must be typeset, photo ready.

Reflections

by Deacon Carmen Rivera

A Journey of Faith

On December 12, 2008, I reported to work as I had done for nine years...but on that day nothing was, nor would ever be, the same again. I sat with my manager who called me to his office shortly after I arrived at 8:45 a.m. I was ready to report on the progress of a project that had been in the making for 6 months, but that project was the last thing on his mind. Instead, he looked me in the eyes and with somber hesitation informed me that my position was being eliminated and I was being laid off. It took a few minutes for the information to register, and though it now seems ages ago, I can still recall the horror that ran through me as I sat in disbelief. It was only a few weeks before Christmas.

I had never been laid off nor fired from a job...the difference between the two did not register with me until two months later when I applied for unemployment. I then learned that being laid off qualified me for unemployment benefits while having been fired would not. But, I must admit, that day in my manager's office, when I asked in disbelief..."are you firing me?" the difference between laid off and fired was an issue of semantics. He assured me I had done excellent work and he offered to be a reference for me, but I heard nothing else, except that my assistant, who I loved as a daughter, would remain employed, and I exhaled. In silence, too proud to cry, I gathered my coat and bag, passed my colleagues in the hall on my way out of the building, and returned home; no one was the wiser. In retrospect, it now seems a distant memory, but one that ushered in the beginning of a powerful life changing **journey of faith.**

I returned home, lay in bed and slept for what seemed like days. I awoke to cry and pray...but mostly I cried. Then, one day, when I felt I had no more tears and had reached the end of me, I felt God step in... He visited quietly for weeks, like family that visits in the hospital and just sits with you as you sleep. I was always aware of Him, but was still in too much pain to entertain His prompting. But I remember the comfort I received from knowing that His Spirit dwells in me, and that in our weakness He requires nothing of us but our surrender. I could feel His peace begin to heal my heart, my mind, my spirit and my body. God lifted me from the self-pity and worry and mostly from the paralyzing fear...but he was ever so gentle. His Word became

my medicine and I craved it, I learned to seek the wisdom in His counsel. Jeremiah 29:11 had always been a favorite passage of mine, but now I had the confidence borne of His assurance when He expresses, **"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, and plans to give you hope and a future"**. In my situation, God liberated me from those things I thought were important...a job, a title, a salary. My identity was so intertwined with what I did for a living; I had created a world of idols without so much as realizing what I had become. I learned, as I had so often taught in the New Disciples Orientation, that God does not require our effort, He desires that we surrender our hearts to Him. He wants us fully His, no achievements nor idols in tow.

Through His word, I gained strength in my trust, faith and confidence. I learned that trust is not faith; trust is what you do with your faith. So I purposed in my heart to demonstrate that trust in what God had for me. In His Word I sought His wisdom with greater fervor than I sought employment and somewhere along the way, He loosed the ties of fear that had me bound. He was all I needed. I recognized that God has tested His very best Saints in the desert, that the desert is where He will strengthen you. I learned that the valley is a fertile place and that as in the O.T. book of Joel, He will replace what the locusts have eaten.

During the last 12 months I have been unemployed I have tithed, I've never gone without, never missed one mortgage payment, and was able to be a blessing to others without a salary, nothing But God...nothing else need be said. Through this personal journey of love, faith and trust I realized that God had prepared me for such a time as this. And because we all love a happy ending, on December 7, 2009, almost one year to the day I was laid off, God rewarded me with a new position at Columbia University. I've learned that God rewards us by helping us to bear the tests of life. Do not fear life's hard times and its challenges. **Throughout this past year, I learned that God does His best work for us in our trials... providing a pathway for a higher calling, a higher level of living and greater reward.** I am ever so grateful for the lesson. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank all of you in my Mt. Aery family who prayed and offered comfort and help. I thank God for all of you.

Reflections

by P. Magnolia Barnes

Love for Ministry

Worship is big. Worship is really big! It's what's happening in heaven right now, and it's on the agenda for the rest of eternity. Being a worship leader is a high calling. It's a thrilling opportunity with lots of chances for joy and failure, rewards and difficulties. It is very serious to me. Praise & Worship ministry is important to me -- because God himself is the point and power of worship. As I am worshipping God myself, my words and actions in front of a congregation say, "Follow me: do what I'm doing; come, worship God." I'm a cheerleader for God. I get to declare with my eyes and body, "Isn't it great to worship God together!"

This is the reason why I love my ministry so much. I get to declare God's greatness through music. I am able to sing with the angels and feel God's presence because of the relationship we have together. I have found that no one can love you better than God. God desires us to continually acknowledge and trust him.

I appreciate the day and life that God has given to me and I can boldly make a boast of the Lord, my God. Keeping the lifestyle to live a life where my worship reflects and glorifies God.

Many times in my life, I had the attitude to "settle-for" life rather than living to the full potential the Lord intended for me. The circumstances and experiences I've had with God over the years, has shown me that there is no better place to be than in the will of God. I am compelled by the word of God, not just to live any way but to live the life my heavenly Father intends and desires for me.

As I look back over my life, and some of the horrible situations that I had gotten myself into, I cannot help but to lay face down, prostrate before the Father and cry out "I surrender Lord; What must I do to show someone how much you love them." Because of his saving grace and power, I am able to declare the goodness of the Lord through Praise & Worship to everyone that hears me and or comes into my zone. How He delivered me from a life of disgusting sin, I will forever give Him praise, and will forever worship in a way that someone will be driven to know the Father better and develop a closer relationship with Him. The best part is to be able to lead or usher someone else into the presence of God and see the manifestation power of God in his or her life; to assist others to find a connection, build a closer relationship with

God, and to see others begin to surrender their entire self to such a wonderful part of why I enjoy the ministry of Praise & Worship.

I was created to worship God. It is my honor to glorify God and edify the body of Christ. I have been anointed by God to serve in the Praise & Worship Ministry for the benefit of the church. God's passion for my life is to speak His word through music and psalms. He has commissioned me to go and tell somebody of His greatness and to build the kingdom of God by sharing how wonderful

He has been to me. It is a privilege and an honor to stand in such a place with God.

It is important to me that my

worship reflects and glorifies God.

“I get to declare God’s greatness through music.”

God is my greatest supporter, rescuer, lover, deliverer, father, mother and my all. He has been so merciful and gracious to me that if I had this entire magazine to share my story with you, I still could not

capture all that God has done and been to me in my life. So as I lead worship and stay focused on ushering you into the presence of God, I am hoping that the way I live and treat others tells the story of how much I love the Father and the ministry He has gifted me to be a part of. It is important to me that my worship reflects and glorifies God.

Praise & Worship Ministry is my passion because it is what I could do all day long and all the time without getting tired. It is my heart's desire to reach my full potential for God. I want to ensure I am being, and doing, exactly what the Lord created me to be and do.

I enjoy the wonderful opportunities to help others reach new destinations in their worship of God. I pray that I am leading worship with integrity so that when the call to worship is made to others they are free to follow where I am going. As I worship God I'm helping others to do the same.

Reflections

by Pastor Anthony Bennett, Senior Pastor

What Doesn't Love Have to Do With It?

John 13:38 says 38Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" These words fall from the lips of Jesus as He speaks of His final days on earth with the disciples. His call is for His disciples, those who would follow after Him, to have a distinguishing characteristic. Their distinction would not include material accoutrements, social status or economic accumulation. What would distinguish Jesus' followers from others would be how they demonstrated love for their God, love for each other and love for those outside their fellowship.

This was a tall order for the disciples, then, as well as for those of us now. Love has been such an abused and misused word. Love has been manipulated and misinterpreted and yet in spite of all of that, the love of God still remains. The task of every disciple is to discern how to live out the love of God in their lives. This task seems simple yet the human tendency is to complicate the simple and to over simplify the complicated. The love that God calls us to as believers in Christ includes both an unconditional love and brotherly/sisterly love. We are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. What that means is that we are called to respect one another whether we agree with each other or not. We are called to remember that even the person we may be at odds with was still created in God's image and God's likeness. This love does not

necessarily mean to treat people the way we want be treated because sometimes what we desire for ourselves, others may not. I believe love says love someone for who they are, not what you want them to be. This speaks to the striving for unconditional love which suggests, I am not looking to change you; I am looking to appreciate who you are becoming.

And while this sounds good on paper in the midst of our praise in the sanctuary, I do realize that putting love into action can be easier said than done. Does love mean we continue to suffer abuse, continue to allow someone to disrespect us, tolerate that which is intolerable? To all of those questions, the general answer is no. Although I Corinthians 13 speaks to what love is, love is always balanced by responsibility.

It is my prayer that throughout this year, we will not only experience love in our own lives but we might also be the conduits to give love to our brothers and sisters in the faith, as well as, those outside of our faith community.

Lastly, some may raise the question, "Pastor, what about the love that this month is known for, the Eros love?" When it comes to that type of love, I'm praying for you.

Have A little Faith in Me by Felix Okhiria

Content not with your heart and be not wary of the labor of your sacrifice

Distress not over perilous times for it is only for the night
Take courage in my unflinching care and let not your heart be heavy laden

Trouble not yourself for I am here in your company

Let not your heart distress upon your burden for I am here in your assistance

My dearest, I am certain that you are overwhelmed with your obligations,

but do not despair for I shall be your fortress in times of need and will not suffer you to lamentation

My beloved, have faith in me for I shall uphold you
If your legs weaken, I shall strengthen them,
if you stretch and cannot reach, I shall be an extension to your arm,

if confounded, I will guide you

and if your heart lose faith, I will offer you hope, faith and love
Have a little faith in me, for my care is genuine,

Have a little faith in me, for I will uphold and honor you,

Have a little faith in me, for I will suffer you not to callousness,

Have a little faith in me, for I will not betray your trust, compassion, and love.

by Pastor Thomas Williams

Just Talking about Love

There are various ways to display love. There is love of family, love of friends, the love we have for children and the love we have for our significant others. Because of the limitations of the English language; the word love is often applied in places where it doesn't really belong. The Greek language is more precise and they have three words that mean love:

- **Eros** – is a romantic love. It is the chemical reaction that creates the physical attraction.

*Are the stars out tonight?
I don't know if it's cloudy or bright,
'Cause I only have eyes for you, dear
The moon may be high
But I can't see a thing in the sky
'Cause I only have eyes for you.*

- **Philos** – is a reciprocal love. Because you do such nice things for me, I want to do nice things for you. It is the love of which friendships are made of.
- **Agape** – is Godly love. It is the love our faith is based on, because it challenges us to be kind and caring to others, “just because.” “Just because what you ask? Just because God said so.” It's the type of love we are to show, “in spite of.”” In spite of what you ask?”” In spite of whatever.”

Jesus instructs the crowds in Matthew 5:43-45, “43Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Jesus knew that the brotherly love of Philo would not be enough to deal with the wickedness of this world. He knew that the church was going to have to move out of their comfort zone and not just love their neighbor, but become radically inclusive, to being open to those of goodwill who do not look like us, walk like us, or act like us. He knew the church of the living God would need to embrace an Agape love that would love people just because Jesus said so. That we would love the hell out of some of our enemies so that they could receive the same redemptive love that saved us!

So, later in Matthew 25, when Jesus was teaching the people about the judgment day, (please allow me to paraphrase and I promise not to do violence to the text) Jesus says, “Looka here, looka here! Sheep are going on God's right hand but the goats got to step to the left.” The folk cried out, “How do ya determine who's a sheep and who is a goat?” The King James reads:

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was n hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Beloved do yourself a favor, show somebody some love today!

Remembering Brother

by Pastor Thomas Williams

Thomas Williams: A few months back, we ran a feature on Brother Hunter on the occasion of his 94th birthday and we were excited to have an opportunity to tell this great person's story. Unfortunately, Brother Hunter had just come back from the dentist on the day we were to interview him and wasn't really able to talk. He was such a trooper, he wanted to share, but we felt like we were torturing him, so we said we would stop and come back. Right after that Brother Hunter started to feel ill so we didn't want to inconvenience him. We were just talking at a meeting about how we wanted to pick that back up and then we heard the disappointing news that Brother Hunter had gone to be with the Lord.

I want to thank Sister Ada Allen, Sister Lola Smith, Sister Sandra Dunn and Sister Edith Brown for coming in and sharing some reflections for the Message from the Mount. We will also hear from Deacon Leroy Haggans, Ramona Berry and Dr. Anthony Bennett.

I would like to start with Sister Dunn, do you have some memories that you would love to share about Brother Hunter?

Sister Dunn: Okay, Mr. Hunter was a true trustee. When I joined the Trustee Board Mr. Hunter was one of my favorite mentors. He taught me the policies of the Trustee Board; he taught me how to be a good and faithful trustee. With Mr. Hunter there was no wrong doing, if you didn't do it right he let you know that it was incorrect. There was one way with Mr. Hunter and that was the right way. I loved him; I'll miss him. As a trustee, he was there for me, as a trustee he was there for the full board, as a trustee he was there for the church, as a trustee he was there for God. Mr. Hunter, I loved him. Mr. Hunter, you'll always be on my mind, you'll always be in my prayers. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thomas: Sister Allen would you like to share a few memories?

Sister Allen: I met Brother Hunter when I first came to Bridgeport. I guess I was here a couple of years in the sixties when I met him and his family. Mr. Hunter has been "MR. HUNTER" from day one. Whether you liked him or not he was going to be Mr. Hunter. I enjoyed him when we on the Trustee Board together. I was almost about ready to pull out one time and he got on my case. You would always have to sit and listen to him when he started talking because he was not going to let you get away. I loved him, I still love him and he will always be in my heart cause Mr. Hunter will always be "Mr. Hunter." God bless him.

Thomas: Thank you, Sister Allen. Sister Brown what would you like to share?

Sister Brown: Bill Hunter, I've known for a long time, and went to see him Christmas Eve. He wasn't talking; it wasn't a good day for him. His daughter was trying to get him to take his meds. When I went in he didn't say anything but just moved his hand like have a seat. I told him that I wasn't going to stay, that I just wanted to come to wish him happy holidays and brought him a calendar. He would come into the office in the church and whenever he was there, he would walk in and give me a hug. We talked about his children and his grandchildren. He would often ask if I had heard from any of them. So it was a blessing to know him. I went to see him at the hospital on Wednesday of last week and it was just sad to see him there, but it was a blessing to his family, because he had been a strong person all his life.

Thomas: Thank you. Sister Lola?

Sister Lola: I met Brother Hunter when I became a trustee also, but unbeknownst to me, I had known his grandson for many years. His grandson is my brother's best friend. I realized that my brother loved Brother Hunter like a father. I was like, shocked finding all this out when I met him. He would always ask me about how Stevie was doing. Stevie spent many hours at Brother Hunter's house just hanging out; they were in a band together. They were just really good friends, and as a matter of fact, my brother Stevie was the one that told me last week that Brother Hunter had gone into the hospital. He said to me, "Lola did you hear that Brother Hunter is in the hospital?" I said, "No, I didn't know that." So he has been a friend of a member of my family for many, many, years but getting to know him as a trustee was just amazing. He loved Mr. Aery, he loved this church, and he loved being a trustee. He was such an honest man, he was so honest. He just would not let any little thing go by. We had to spend hours here making sure that that money added up. We would be sometimes be here until three in the afternoon because if it did not come together correctly we were not leaving out of here and Brother Hunter was one of the main people who was there to say, "Oh no, if you're missing a penny it gotta be in there." You were not getting out of this church unless that money just jived correctly. So I really respected him as a man, and as a person, he was truly a man's man and I loved that about him. He was a father figure, he was a protector, he was just such a good person that I really, really loved and my brother really, really loved him. That is another reason I loved him. I love his grandson, who has been around my family for ever and ever. He will be greatly missed.

Thomas: I've also heard that Brother Hunter was quite a singer.



Brother John O. "Bill" Hunter

John O. “Bill” Hunter

All: (Laughter) He was in that Men’s Choir. Brother Hunter would set that choir off, and if you couldn’t feel anything when he was singing you didn’t have the spirit anywhere around you, because he would rock that church. That was Brother Hunter!

Sister Dunn: Especially if he was singing.

All: That’s right, especially if he was singing “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”. He sang that song so well and with such deep meaning, he sang that song at his wife’s funeral.

Thomas: Amen. Are there any other thoughts that anyone would like to share?

Sister Brown: I know one story; I called his house and spoke with one of his daughters. I said to her, I haven’t seen your father in church, is he okay? She said, no he’s not doing that well. We are trying to get him to get a wheelchair. I said it will never happen. (Laughter) He had always said that if I’m going to go to a church I’m gonna walk in; you’ll never roll me in. And I know him well enough to know that that’s exactly what he is going to do. If he comes back to church not living you’re not gonna roll him in a wheelchair. He’s gonna walk up straight and he’s gonna walk in the door, but he never made it back.

Thomas: Amen

Sister Dunn: I do agree with Lola, when I was chair person of the Trustee Board, Mr. Hunter being a member of the board his last statement was “Miss Dunn, are you sure everything balanced? We are not leaving here until everything is balanced.” If you were here until 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m., every penny balanced. The pennies have to be there or the trustees will be there. (Laughter)

Thomas: Well, on that note, I’d like to thank you all for your time, I appreciate it. It’s a great tribute to Brother Hunter. I would like to say to Brother Hunter, that I’ll always remember whenever I walked in, I’d see this tall gentlemen standing up or in his seat in the sanctuary. As I made my way down the center aisle, I would always make sure I swung by and said “Young man how are you doing?” He was always a great nice gentleman and a very encouraging spirit so it gives us a lot of confidence and a great appreciation that a lot of the things that we take for granted now and enjoy were a result of his efforts and we thank you Brother Hunter.

Deacon Lee: How long did you know Brother Hunter?

Deacon Haggans: Over 60 years.

Deacon Lee: How did you meet?

Deacon Haggans: We lived in the same area (Bull Head – The Hollow). But I actually met him in a pool room when young lads were allowed to fraternize in those establishments. Brother Hunter was a very good pool player. Deacon Haggans emphasized, “He

shot a good stick”. He also emphasized that Brother Hunter “was a very good singer”. He was a singer on numerous Mt. Aery choirs. He was a singer on the Men’s Quartet when they produced and cut a 45 record called “It’s Going to Rain” in which he was the lead singer. One of Brother Hunter’s favorite songs that he loved to lead was “I Can Tell the World.” He also sang that song at his wife’s (Carrie) Homegoing.

Deacon Lee: What was your fondest memory of Brother Hunter?

Deacon Haggans: He was a great man who was always there when needed. He was a very compassionate man to his family and Mt. Aery Baptist Church. I will always remember two things that John did, he would always go to the cemetery and pay respects to those who passed away and then he would head right over to check on Mt. Aery Baptist Church. He took me in as a son and showed me how to be a responsible man.

Warren Brewer: Brother Hunter was indeed a mentor and a good friend in both times of training and times of need when I joined the Trustee Board back in 1990. He was a great friend during a couple of illnesses I had experienced; he stayed in constant touch. He will be missed tremendously by the entire Trustee Board and myself.

Ramona Berry: My fondest memory is what I want share. We were in the old church over on Wallace Street. I’m the oldest of four and I had to have been around eleven, so it went from eleven on down. What we used to love is when the men would sing because when the men would sing and Brother Hunter would come in they would sing the song, “Tell the World”, or something like that. He would sing the solo. We would all be so excited and jumping around in the pew, “Oh my God, Brother Hunter is going to sing.” Since then, we’ve always loved Men’s Chorus. That’s my fondest memory. I also worked with him as a trustee. Brother Hunter was very strong and his opinion was what his opinion was and he stayed with it, which is what I love about people in general. In particular, Brother Hunter, he had charisma about him as he did what he did. One thing I know for certain is that he loved this ministry; that much I know. Everything that he did was for Mt. Aery Baptist Church. He would come in to see us every day.

Brother Hunter would come into my office every Sunday to see how my uncle was doing down south. He would say, “How is your Uncle June?” And then he would ask about my sister, how is she doing with that boy? What about his parents, are they doing okay in Alabama? Every week he would come in and ask that question and then if he didn’t see me the next time he would come in the next time and say, “You weren’t here.” Then he would say, “I just want to know, how’s the family?” He made certain to ask me that every time he saw me. When his wife was not well, we would discuss that.

Dr. Anthony Bennett: Brother Hunter was a strong man who loved God, loved his family, and loved the Lord. He was very faithful to Mt. Aery and I think that’s it until the sermon.

Entrepreneurs at the Mount: Pe



Peter Hurst

As we continue our series on entrepreneurs at the Mount, Peter Hurst the founder, owner and CEO of the Community's bank was kind enough to sit down with me for an interview at his Bridgeport office. The entire interview will be available online at www.mtaerybaptist.org. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

Thomas:

Peter for those who don't know about the Community's Bank, please give me a quick description.

Peter:

The Community's Bank was started in 2001, when we bought it for interest from Fleet when they had to divest when they merged with Bank of Boston for anti-trust reasons. We are headquartered in Bridgeport. We have a branch on East Main Street near the Beardsley Zoo. We are the only minority-owned bank in the State of Connecticut. We are the only bank in Connecticut that is certified by the US Treasury Dept. as a community development financial institution which means that our primary mission is community and economic development. In addition to our branch we also have a virtual branch on our website where we can open up deposit accounts, do on-line banking, and bill pay. We have a full gamut of banking products and services but we are primarily on the lending side of commercial lending, so we're the bank for small businesses, we're the bank for real estate investors and I guess what really separates us from the bigger banks is that we make all our credit decisions locally. So it's not like we are sending a credit application down to North Carolina or out to California or somewhere in the mid west, we make the decision right here in our office in Bridgeport.

Thomas:

What inspired you to start the Community's Bank?

Peter:

Well I used to be a bank regulator and I was actually a lawyer in the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C. Then I was on Wall Street and I focused exclusively on banks. I was on the board of a bank in Brooklyn, NY back in 1993 to 1996. I saw that bank branches in places like the Bronx and elsewhere did incredibly well and I just saw it as an incredible opportunity. I actually tried to buy a couple of banks before I started the Community's Bank. In both cases they were in the urban markets, one was in Chicago and one was in New Jersey. I saw it as a tremendous opportunity because urban markets typically have a lot of people and a lot of businesses but they don't have a lot of banks. Banks supply commodity products both deposit side and the loan side, so the only thing you can do to distinguish yourself is to be in a market where you don't have cutthroat competition. You want some competition but just not cutthroat competition.

Thomas:

It been my experience that success doesn't come overnight but rather is the culmination of several attempts or efforts, sometimes we fail forward into our ultimate victory. Where there any previous efforts before you scored with this bank?

Peter:

Oh absolutely, I had two huge failures. One in 1994, we tried to buy Carter Red from the RTC (Resolution Trust Corp.). Worked on it for nine months, spent a whole lot of money, working 18, 19, 20 hours a day and it didn't happen. So I ended up out a whole lot of time and a whole lot of money. Then a year later worked about eight months on trying to buy this bank in Chicago, again a whole lot of time and a whole lot of money and in both cases I had a partner, we were both self employed and I had a family so you know I had to keep my business going to put food on the table but still trying to get this deal done. So it was a tremendous sacrifice and the interesting thing is that my ex-wife didn't really appreciate the entrepreneurial risks you had to take. She was opposite end of the risk rewards spectrum. It definitely had a cost. The road to Community's Bank wasn't a straight one; it had numerous potholes and some huge failures.

Thomas:

What is your definition of success and how will you know when you get there?

Peter:

I guess success to me is about having balance and having peace. I don't know if you ever have the balance you really want in life between work and family and other pursuits. And I don't know if you are ever fully at peace. I don't know if I'll ever get there. But to me success is more than material things, in fact that has nothing to

Peter Hurst - Community's Bank

do with my definition of success. In some respects the mere fact that I got the Community's Bank off the ground and I've kept in going since 2001, is some measure of success, but if it went away tomorrow it wouldn't define anything I've done as a failure because it was a success to get off the ground. The family part is still a work in progress I have two kids and one is in college and one is in Junior high school so I'm not going to know if that turned out well for another couple of years. (Laughter)

Thomas:

What advice would you give to future entrepreneurs?

Peter:

Well three things I'd say. First of all, prepare yourself in terms of academics as well as any job you have. Try to learn as much as you can because all those skills will be put to work in hyper drive when you work for yourself. The second thing is make your friends before you meet them. That is something that I probably I didn't focus on as much as I should have before I became an entrepreneur. What I mean by that is, anytime you interact with someone even if you are not thinking about it consciously at the time they can be someone in the future that can be helpful to you. They can be helpful in terms of advice, they can be helpful in terms of opening doors, and they can be helpful in terms of being an investor. The third thing is you really have to prepare yourself financially to be an entrepreneur. You can't live large and be over extended and operate in an environment where you don't have a steady pay check because a lot of people do very well when they go into business for themselves but a lot of people struggle before they do very well. So you've got to be prepared to stick it out, cause the last thing in the world you want to do is make the investment, set up your infrastructure and just about the point that you are going to have the business turn the corner and start doing well, you have to give it up because your strapped financially. So I have always lived well below my means and even today in ingrained a mindset. I look at it as I'm like a squirrel that has to last through the winter and if I have one acorn I'll make it with one, if I have two I'll make it with two. I won't live like I have four acorns when I don't have any. So it really is a mindset, I've always lived well below my means because that way I can sleep at night.

Thomas:

I heard that President Obama is meeting with the heads of community banks from around the country, if you were in the room what would you tell the President?

Peter:

I was almost in the room.

Thomas:

Okay so this happened already?

Peter:

Yes the Tuesday before Christmas. I had been proposed by a couple of different groups but I didn't make the final cut. But what I would have told him is that community banks across the country, minority banks across the country, banks that are community development financial institutions across the country didn't cause this problem. We didn't make imprudent investments; we don't pay ourselves million dollar bonuses. We don't have private jets; we don't have million dollar offices with decoration budgets. We tend to lend in our communities and we never stopped lending. We didn't cause this problem but we are being hurt by this because the regulators are scared, they are being as harsh as I have ever seen them be. That has a negative impact on banks being able to lend. The second thing I would tell him is that the bank regulators sort of look at a small bank like our operating in a place in Bridgeport the same way they look at bank operating in Greenwich, CT or Darien or New Cannon. It's a totally different reality. I'm reading a book right now "Too Big to Fail", which talks about this. What I don't think is good for the country is to have banks that are too big to fail or to have banks that are too small to survive.

Thomas:

What is the economic outlook for 2010?

Peter:

The one thing that I think we have to do on a personal level spend less and save more. I think that everybody is probably a little over extended on credit. We have to pay down our debt. Our country is deeply indebted. If you think about the eight years the previous administration caused. Its mind boggling and I what scares me is that right now China is buying a lot of our debt. If they decide one morning that they are not going to do that we are going to be in a tough situation.

Thomas:

What is your favorite scripture?

Peter:

23rd Psalms – Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. That's my favorite.

Thomas: Thank you so much for your time.

My Name is NOT an Abomination

by **Michelle Porchia**

During our “40 Days of Health and Healing,” the topic of homosexuality was discussed. Interestingly, the topic was brought up initially by a 17 year old disciple of Mt. Aery based on a TV show, The Tyra Show, she watched where a young man had gone through an exorcism or “casting out of unclean spirits” as the clergy who performed the ritual called it. She, and her father, sat down and watched the Tyra episode. Her father said, “This can’t continue. Our young people can’t feel hopeless and feel that they are an abomination.”

Pastor Bennett and Pastor Williams decided to revisit the topic more in-depth with the disciples at Mt. Aery. Pastor lead two discussions during the Sanctuary Series on the topic of homosexuality. There are not always black and white answers, which is what people are often looking for. The “Word” says...

Pastor Williams mentioned to me one day that he would like to speak with the woman who came to the defense of the young man on the show, Kamora Herrington. Well, I knew Kamora and made a call. She was excited to be invited to speak at a church about young people and their plight with their lives as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender).

Ms. Herrington talked about children feeling hopeless and being told that they are sinners, an abomination, and that they are going to hell. These children feel hurt and worthless. Above all, they feel hopeless. “Why live? What does it matter what I do since I am going to hell anyway? There’s no place for me.” Kamora is the Program Coordinator at True Colors, Inc. True Colors is a non-profit organization that works with other social service agencies, schools, organizations, and within communities to ensure that the needs of sexual and gender minority youth are both recognized and competently met.

She talked about having a place where youth could go and feel accepted and loved and not judged...a place where they could worship and not be told they were going to go to hell. Ms. Herrington asserted, “They don’t choose to be gay, it is who they are.” She mentioned that being gay is hard, and asked why would someone ‘choose’ this life?

Ms. Herrington also addressed the fact that it is not about sex, it is about the person, it is about who they are as people. In fact, she stresses abstinence with the youth she works with. The irony is that many of the youth she works with who have been accused of being sexually active in fact, are virgins. Often though, they act out because they feel worthless and start having sex. Unfortunately, too many times they end up making irresponsible choices that lead to detrimental consequences when it comes to sexual activity.

What it comes down to as Pastor Williams said, “We cannot have another generation growing up feeling hopeless.” We need to give them hope and what does the Bible say? It says that we are to love one another as Christ loved us.

There is no exception to this.



From left to right: Michelle Porchia, Kamora Herrington, Pastor Thomas Williams

Transitions - Celebrating Edith Brown and Vicki Bartelle

by Pastor Thomas Williams

On the first Sunday of January the Mount Aery family took time out to recognize two of it's own for their faithful and diligent service to the cause Christ and the mission of the Mount Aery Baptist Church. The two members who had served their lord and their church with such distinction and honor were Sister Edith Brown and Sister Vicki Bartelle.



Sister Edith Brown has been a member of the Mount Aery family for over fifty years. She has worked in the office for over fifteen. When she first volunteered it was just her answering phones and taking messages for the new pastor Anthony L. Bennett. It all started fifteen years ago when Dr. Bennett came up to her one Sunday after service and said, "I heard you retired. What do you do?" To which she quickly replied, "as little as possible." Dr. Bennett then proceeded to ask if she could help out. Sister Brown did more than help out she became the smiling face of the front office until two years later when Ramona Berry came on full time as Pastor's administrative assistant. When Ramona came on Sis. Brown covered the office phones and helped set up the mid-day Bible study and the senior ministry.

In 2003 Sister Brown took on another assignment by keeping Pastor Thomas Williams calendar, schedule, and calls. Pastor Williams is fond of saying; "it's not official until Sister Brown says it's so." Everybody at the Bob's Stores office, knows to give me a minute when sister Brown calls, says Pastor Williams.

Sister Brown has always been flexible, easy to work with, and goal oriented. She says, "I just tried to treat people the way I want people to treat me." After all I always thought of myself as working for the master (Jesus). Sis. Brown thanks everyone for what they've done throughout the years to make the journey so pleasant and we thank her. Senior Pastor, Dr.

Anthony Bennett said, "Ms. Brown has been a strong pillar of our staff, we will miss her from the staff and look forward to her continued assistance in the future."



Sister Vicki Bartelle joined the mount in 1995 under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Bennett. Eager to see the church succeed and grow Vicki served the church as a trustee from 2000 to 2003. In her final year as a trustee she served as vice-chair to sister Virgy Irbee. When Vicki left the trustee ministry she didn't move far joining the finance ministry and serving as assistant treasurer from 2003 to 2004. In 2005 Vicki stepped up yet again taking over as church treasurer. In 2006 at Dr. Bennett's request Vicki took on a new assignment taking on the recently created staff position of church business manager. Dr. Bennett recalled, "Vicki came on board as business manager at a great point of transition for the ministry. I appreciated her striving to balance the desires of the various ministries with the realities of our church cash flow and she managed the process well." Ever dutiful and ever faithful with the country and the church facing a recession Vicki forfeited her business manger salary for 2009.

Dr. Bennett explained that it is with mixed emotions that we accept Edith Brown and Vicki Bartelle departures from the "active staff" they both made valued contributions to both the staff and Mount Aery ministry at large. The staff of MFTM joins Dr. Bennett and the Mount Aery family in wishing Ms. Brown and Vicki continued success and God's blessings in the future.



My Heart is Beating Way too Fast

by **Alexia Williams**

My heart is beating way too fast, it's not normal. My hands are moist and my mouth is dry. I'm looking right at him, he's looking at me, and our eyes meet. He smiles and waves at me with no effort. I smile and wave back. I pray it was perfect; I hope that I didn't smile too hard or wave like a dork. Oh my God, he's walking toward me! Please say that my hair and makeup is flawless today. I start to panic. What should I say? I should be cool and say 'what up?', no I should just say 'Hello,' No that is way too proper. Ahhh, he's right in front of me. "What's going on, Alexia?" he smoothly says to me. "Hey! How are you?" I reply. Me and my crush engage in a hug. And I swear to you that it's the best hug I have ever received in my life!

Love is such a hard feeling to describe, especially when you are a teenager. There are some things in life that I know I love like Funfetti cake, taking hot showers, singing along with Lady Gaga and The Backstreet Boys, watching the best show ever Glee, and taking photos of the world. Along with that, I know there are things that I detest like going to work, the color yellow, vegetables and spiders. But in life there are things that I've grown to love like school, cheese, and reading. When it comes to people though, it's so much harder to decipher whether or not it's love. Sometimes the people you know you love, you may question because of a situation; for example a fight with a sibling or even God because of a death in the family.

But let's go beyond that, when you're a teenager and you're trying to find love, it seems impossible. How do you know if it's the real thing? Love can often be confused with other emotions like lust, gluttony, and greed. I've confused love for two emotions. Ever since he came on the scene, I swear I was in love with the rapper, The Game. Everything about him was gorgeous but what got me was the sound of his voice and his hazel eyes. I told my parents that I was going to marry him and raise his two sons and we were going to be a happy family. Of course my parents thought I was crazy! But to this day I have pictures of him all over my walls. I know that I am not in love. I confused love for obsession.

Sometimes love may also get mixed up for infatuation. That's the way I felt about this one guy I've had a crush



youth Speak

on since I was a little girl, and I still believe to this day, I have never seen anyone better looking than him. But besides looks, his personality is amazing. He is hilarious and always knows how to make me smile. Whenever I would talk to him, I would be happy for a whole day. I would go home and write his name a thousand times and have his last name as mine. For hours I would daydream about us and our future. Right now, he and I are good friends. I am no longer nervous around him. As a matter of fact, I feel really comfortable around him, I can be myself. I do love him, but as a friend, and though I wish we could be more, our friendship is something that I will cherish for life.

The hardest person who I had to learn to love is myself. I could tell you so many things that I didn't like about myself that I now love. Like being only 4'11" or having such a young looking face. I used to believe that I was so ugly. Boys used to like me and I never understood why so I would push them away, even the good ones. I hated myself; I thought that my personality was disgusting. Every night I would tear myself apart. It became so bad that I started to cut myself. At the time, I felt that the physical pain was better than the emotional pain. Then there was the pressure from my family that I couldn't stand. But what topped everything off was my epilepsy. I thought that God must not love me to curse me with epilepsy. But one day, I realized, I am who I am. There were things I did change physically and other things that I learned to accept. Now I wake up and know that I am beautiful inside and out. I love Alexia Ann Williams.

Love is so hard to know exactly what it is. And it doesn't help when you have raging hormones. One day I will find the love of my life, I am determined to, but I've realized that it doesn't have to be today; I've years to find him. In the meantime, I'm okay with being by myself because I know that I can fulfill all of my needs on my own; I can make myself happy. And I also know that I am not alone and that God loves me regardless of what I look like or whatever condition I may have. Between self love and God's love, it's all I need to keep my heart beating.

Doreen's Top 10 Biblical Questions



by Doreen Cotter

1. True or False:
 - God's act of love was giving of Himself through His Son? _____
 - Love requires us to act in deed and truth; not just in word? _____
 - Love beareth, believeth and hopeth most things? _____
 - God rebukes and chastens those He loves? _____
 - Jesus summarized the Law into two commandments? _____
2. What is the name of Jesus' Father?

Crazy Love:

3. She hired out her husband for fertility herb?
4. He killed his loyal servant to cover his unfaithfulness?
5. He was destined to wed a prostitute?

True Love:

6. He died so that we can live?
7. She puts her reputation on the line to give birth to her Son?
8. What are the names of Jesus' three favorite disciples?
9. Who wrote the Book of 1st Corinthians?
10. What were the names of Naomi's two sons?

-
- TOP TEN ANSWERS:**
1. True (John 3:16)
True (1 John 3:18)
False (1 Cor. 13:4-7)
True (Rev. 3:19)
True (Luke 10:27)
 2. God (John 3:16)
 3. Rachel (Gen. 30:14-16) ("herb-Mandrake")
 4. David (2 Samuel 12:9)
 5. Hosea (Hosea 1:2)
 6. Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:8-9)
 7. Mary, Mother of Jesus (Mat. 18:25)
 8. Peter, James and John
 9. Paul
 10. Mahlon & Chilion (Ruth 1:5)

Announcements

- You may pick up your Request for 2009 Contribution Statements form from the Narthex. The process of receiving your contribution statement is explained on this form. If you have any questions, see someone in the church office.
- Are you, or someone you know, graduating this year? Please submit their name, school information and where they are going next to mftm@mtaerybaptist.org or drop it off in the front office.
- Have an announcement that you would like to see in the Message from the Mount or the weekly updates? Send an email to churchclerk@mtaerybaptist.org or call (203)334-2757 ext. 45 by 2 p.m. on Wednesday of the week.

Community News

A Celebration with a Purpose

Join us for Bridgeport's Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church's 24th Annual Beautillion! Benefiting high school senior males of African-American decent. Designed to inspire dignity and worth in the youth, the Beautillion is also a way to recognize their accomplishments. It has been successful in providing a positive and enriching environment for young African American males by helping to stimulate personal growth and development through constructive educational, cultural, civic, recreational and social programs. The Beautillion culminates in the young men's "Rites of Passage" with a Black Tie affair honoring their achievements. The Beautillion will be held Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn. For more information contact Bethel A.M.E.