



MESSAGE

from the Mount



Volume 46



Commemoration: MAAFA Influence Production 2012



Re-Membering Our Communities . . . Shifting the Atmosphere

HEALING THE LAND





The Pastor's Pen

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Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I wish to say "Happy New Year" to each and every one of you. It is indeed a blessing to see a new year. It's even more so a blessing to have made it through the year 2012. For all accounts, 2012 was a year of transition and transformation, both individually and collectively, we experienced our share of losses and adjustments. As a congregation, we had to say goodbye to some of our most faithful leaders of this ministry. While we will miss them, we know they would want us to carry on with the same kind of determination with which they lived their lives.

The year 2012 was also a year of both natural and manmade tragedies. All of us were impacted in some degree by Hurricane Sandy as well as the massacre in Newtown. In each of these events, our faith was challenged to see God in the midst of it all. In one of the enduring demonstrations of our faith, we understand how to trust God even when we do not understand what we go through.

As we enter into the first Sunday of the year 2013, we look forward to celebrating all year long our 90th church anniversary. The theme selected by leaders is "90 Years and Beyond". Our theme scripture is Haggai 2. Stay tuned for announcements, updates and details. The month of January also begins our 30 Days of Prayer and consecration of our servant leaders so that we may be sensitive and strengthened for the move of God within and without this congregation.

I look forward to great things that God will do in our midst in this coming year.

God bless,

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett, D. Min.

Senior Pastor



Editor's Desk

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Namaste Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to 2013!! God has blessed us to see another year and I am grateful. Last year was a very difficult year with all the death and tragedy that we had to endure; but all praises go to God Almighty for showing us his grace and seeing us thru.

This year at Message from the Mount we will be introducing some changes. The first of our changes will be the introduction of "Men to Action," our new men's section by Kenny Jackson appearing in this issue. I would like to send a special thank you to Kenny for coming up with this idea and volunteering to join the MFTM team to support the production of this new section.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone at Mount Aery for being supportive of the MFTM by assisting with writing, proofing and suggestions for articles or features. I pray that more people will step up this year to help us keep the vision of MFTM alive. We are always looking for help so if you are interested please contact either myself or Henry Smalls at mftm@mtaerybaptist.org.

God Bless,

Tonya N. Johnson
Editor In Chief
MFTM Publication

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Important Dates

During this season of prayer, we will all be listening to the recorded prayer of the day. Call in to the prayer line at 7:00a daily at 610-214-0000. The participant access code is 111933#. Please note that long distance charges may apply.

30 Days of Prayer will commence on January 1st at 7 am daily. Please use the prayer line information above.

Black Pride MLK Service is being held on Monday, January 21st at 8:30 am. For more information please contact the church office.

Leadership Institute/Holy Spirit Discernment Session Update will take place Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 10am to 1pm. This is a very important meeting. Though all leaders are expected to attend, every disciple of Mount Aery is welcome. If you want to be a leader in 2013, start attending Leadership and Bible Study now.

Consecration of Servant Leaders will take place on Sunday, January 27th during both Worship Services.

Save the Dates

- **Block Party** – June 29th
- **Annual Prayer Breakfast** – July 20th
- **Holiday Hills** – July 27th
- **Annual Missionary Cruise** – August 10th, going to Philadelphia, PA
- **90th Anniversary Banquet** – November 23rd

More information is forthcoming on all of these events.

Announcements

- **Chosen Generation** is inviting everyone from the ages of 12-21 to join this youth and young adult choir. Please see Brother D'Andre Haynes, Sister Jazmin JeanBaptiste or Min. Nakia Marsh with your interest.
- **All Leaders:** The Five Star book is available in the church office. The donation is \$10.
- Please be advised that the **Deacons on Call** for the month of January are Deacons Baldwin and Blackwell.
- **Submissions of announcements and due dates:**
 - o **Message From The Mount**
 - Send information to mftm@mtaerybaptist.org by Wednesday after the first Sunday
 - o **Monitors in the Sanctuary**
 - Send information to media_ministry@mtaerybaptist.org by Wednesday before the Sunday you want the announcement

If announcements are not received by the due dates they may be omitted or placed in the next edition.

- **No Pork on Church Property**
 - o **For health, healing and sensitivity for those with health conditions,** no pork is to be brought on church premises (i.e. ministry affairs and/or catering). For further information, contact Dr. Jeanne Fuqua at 203-500-4100. Office hours are by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4p to 8p and Saturdays, 2p to 6p.
- **NO Food or Beverage in the Sanctuary**
 - o Please, please, please, do not bring food or beverages into the sanctuary. Parents, please feed infants and toddlers in the Wilson Hall or the Bass Hall. It is everyone's responsibility to be good stewards of the building that God has blessed us with. If you see anyone not being responsible, please get an Usher or a Deacon to handle the situation. Thank you.
- **Parents,** while you are in worship, your children should be in worship next to you, unless Youth Church is in session. Teenagers have been wandering around the church and the younger children have been playing in the Quiet Room. **The Quiet Room is for parents with infants only. Please keep your children with you at all times.**

Recognitions

- Maurice Colbert received an A+ and 2 A's for the first quarter marking period at Central High School

OUR VISION STATEMENT

To equip the disciples of Mount Aery Baptist Church with the biblical and relational wisdom for the spiritual, educational and social work of ministry beginning in the Hollow Section of Bridgeport, then spreading throughout the Greater Bridgeport Area.

Ephesians 4:11-12 and Acts 2:44-4-7

Hospitalization & Nursing Home

Please be aware that there are strict legal and ethical guidelines regarding giving out patient information. Therefore, if you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family member must notify the church office in advance, if possible. When you are admitted, state your denomination and place of worship.

Please address all correspondences for the above disciples to the church and the administrative office will forward all mail. Thank you for your cooperation.

Susan Holmes

Arden House Care and Rehabilitation Center, 580 Mix Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514

Deaconess Queen Boone, Arthur Ragsdale

Bridgeport Manor, 540 Bond Street, Bridgeport, CT 06610

Clyde McLaughlin

The Carolton Chronic & Convalescent Hospital, 400 Mill Plain Rd, Fairfield, CT 06824

Emmanuel Burton

Connecticut State Veteran's Home, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Lester Dennis

Ludlow Center for Health & Rehabilitation, 118 Jefferson Street, Fairfield, CT 06825

Bernice Adams, West Barnes, Leroy Wilson

Maefair Health Care Center, Maefair Court, Trumbull, CT 06611

Mary Ryan

Northbridge Health Care Center, 2875 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Deaconess Okakue Brown, Bernice Geter

St. Joseph's Manor, 6448 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Please Pray for Our Prayer List

Maxine Boykin
Isaiah Brown
Delores Cox
Ruth Hasty-Dove
Harold Farrar
Lois Farrar
Sally Gordon
Deacon Jeffrey Hill
Brenda Johnson
Unice Jones
Deacon Melvin Lowe, Sr.
Regina Manns
Deacon Benjamin Maxwell
Autumn Mitton
Caleb Mitton
Spring Mitton
Rose Newport
Eulalia Pettway
Terrance Quiller
Jim Ragsdale
Lillian Ragsdale
Waverly Ragsdale
Esther Ryan
Juanita Sims
Mary Thigpen
Deaconess Anna Watkins
Barbara Wilson

Bereavement

- **Warren Blunt** in the loss of his sister
- **Daniel Colter** in the loss of his daughter
- **Patricia Carter** in the loss of her son, Daniel Upchurch
- **Wes Barnes** in the loss of his brother in North Carolina
- **Myrtle Coslow** in the loss of her sister, Hazel Alexander, in New Rochelle, NY
- **Maria Knight and family** in the loss of her husband, Ken Knight



How to Move On After the Holidays

by Michelle Porchia

Now that the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping, visiting, stressing, over-eating is over --what do you do with yourself?

Are you a person who makes New Year's resolutions that rarely get fulfilled? Do you have angst over the fact that you over-spent for the holidays and now you are facing the bills from all the gifts you bought? Are you already thinking about next Christmas (you know who you are). Do you have high hopes for a better 2013?

Before we address some specific issues, let's look at some overall skills that will help you with entering 2013 in a good space. First, INHALE/EXHALE. Secondly, be still. Third, reflect.

It is important that you **breathe**. Inhale peace and exhale stress. We tend to breathe shallow and breathing is life to our body. So take time to breathe fully and completely. You breathe from your diaphragm not your chest. Let it in slowly. Let it out slowly. You need to be intentional about taking time to breathe daily. Really! You want to know how important breathing is, ask someone who is asthmatic or has breathing issues what it feels like not to be able to take a full breath.

We are told to **"be still."** You've heard me say this before. We've become human doers and we were created as human beings. We need to learn to simply BE. The Bible tells us on many occasions to be still. Yet we feel living is about being in constant motion. Not so. Try this exercise: turn out the lights, light a candle or use a battery-operated candle and just be still. Focus on the flame. Listen to your inner voice – your God voice. Try this for at least 5 minutes.

Reflect. Try journaling your thoughts. How was 2012 for you? What went well and would you have liked to have done differently? Did you spend time with the people who are important to you – including YOU? Did you spend your time when and where you wanted? This is also where you can address the questions above. Don't beat up on yourself. Simply listen as you reflect, access and then decide "now what"?

My suggestions for 2013:

- Set up a budget. You want to plan your finances. Spend less than you make. Meet with a financial planner if necessary. Can you get a better checking account that has no/low fees? Set up a Christmas club account to help you stay on target next year.
- Set SMART goals. (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic and Timed). Goals are usually personal, professional, spiritual, etc. Whatever is important to you and usually not all in one area. Write them down. Break the goals down into small pieces and then make them part of your daily action list. Example: Rather than saying, "I want to lose weight". A more realistic goal is I want to live healthy. I will: work out 3-5 days a week. I will drink at least 6 glasses of water a day. I will eat 2-3 vegetables a day (corn is not a vegetable). I will eat 1-2 fruits a day. I will go to bed at a reasonable time (set the time and your alarm – yes to go to bed). I will spend at least 15 minutes a day being still.

Clear out clutter. Mental clutter. Physical clutter. Emotional clutter. Get help. It's hard to receive if you are full. The season may be up for some relationships, for some of our "stuff". During these times, people could use that coat, suit, coffee maker that you haven't used in years. Donate them to the church store or other organizations. Do a swap.

Mt. Aery has many resources that can help you with these suggestions. Search folks out.

Here's to a happy, healthy and peaceful 2013.

Poets' Corner



Wishing Well

– Written by Andre Turner, Jr.

Sisters meet at the well to raise wishes of buckets
With dreams of political amenity like when men eat food from their oven
On top of the wish list is an equal voice to vote for equality
Vote for the ability to voice their opinions on issues plaguing there society
Like inner city violence or political negligence from city and state officers
These wonderful women are backbone of families whether they're surrogate or foster
Strong women with physical attributes that can lead a nation
Underground Railroad conductors such as Harriett Tubman
And millionaire entrepreneurs like Madam C.J. Walker just to name some
Through adversity came triumphant and through triumphant came success
The world is full of phenomenal Sisters that gives their all and never give any less
When these Sisters meet at the well they raise more than just water
They raise buckets of love, buckets of wisdom and buckets of passion
These Sisters posses a glorious love that is forever everlasting

Painting: Woman at the Well, Hyatt Moore, US

youth speak

What MAAFA Has Meant to Me?

by *Shanice A. Maxwell*

If you were to tell me 11 years ago that I would be a part of a ministry dedicated to telling the stories of my ancestors, I'd probably look at you in total confusion. Before MAAFA, I didn't even know what an ancestor was. As far as slavery goes, I only knew what they taught me in school, which rarely ever went past two pages (shortest chapter in my social studies book). I was only 5 years-old and I just wanted to fit in with my new church family. Who would have thought that I would make some of my closest friends in the process?

This year's production was a different experience for me. Since it is my senior year, my mother thought it was imperative to take a break from MAAFA in order to focus on the college process. I failed to understand why she would take me out of MAAFA of all things. This ministry has given to me more than I have given to it. Having to take a step back and sit in the audience was going to be the biggest challenge of this season. This was one challenge I refused to take on.

I came to almost all of the rehearsals and began to see how much work really goes into putting on this production. When you're a part of the cast, you witness a portion of it, but you have no idea about the other tedious aspects of pulling off the show. Marketing, set design, costume design and ticket sales all require diligent workers and time. Now that I was on the

outside looking in, I was impressed at how we were able to do it this long. The only explanation I could come up with was; by the grace of God.

The interesting part about this story is that I didn't even have to cajole my mother into letting me be in the production this year. Reverend Anderson and Shante' Hanks put me in it 4 days before Friday's performance. I was at the very beginning in the Narthex scene and at the end with the commentary. I got to watch everything in between. Although everyone did an outstanding job, I must give a special shout out to my brothers in Christ, Maurice and D'Andre. Watching them grow, mature and step out of their comfort zones has made me a proud sister. They truly brought the stories of Emmett Till and Trayvon Martin to life. I also have to commend the children. Rev. Anderson assigned me to work with them on Children's Hope about a month before performance. They worked hard and almost brought tears to my eyes as they stood up on that stage affirming what they believe in. They are beautiful, they are smart, and they are intelligent.

So if you missed this year's performance, don't beat yourself up too bad. Just make sure you are first in line to buy your tickets for next year. I'm certain that you will be blessed. WASA WASA!



FROM TEARS TO TRIUMPH

Dr. Otis Moss, III & Y.A.N.A. by DIT Kathy Tabb-Small

Our MAAFA theme this year is “Do You Remember Me?”, and as only God would have it, Rev. Ina Anderson invited members of Y.A.N.A. (You Are Not Alone), a support group consisting of parents who have lost children to violence, gun violence in particular, in the city of Bridgeport. In Rev. Anderson’s words, the message we wanted to convey to Y.A.N.A. is “we are a community that cares about our own”.

As we listened to the song, “We Can’t Afford to Lose Another Son of This City”, a slideshow presentation on the church monitors served as a reminder that these precious children are not just a number, but they represent an intricate part of our village, and they will never be forgotten.



Y.A.N.A.’s founder, Dawn Spearman, shared that her loss did not come in the form of a child, but that of a spouse. Dawn states that the purpose of Y.A.N.A. is to help families get through the grieving process, and to help them to understand themselves, but most importantly, to let families know that they are not alone on this journey.

When mom, Nicole Matthews, spoke of her son, Shaahyid, you could just feel the love, the pain, and how much she deeply missed her baby. Nicole shared, “you are not alone, your pain is our pain; learn to trust no one but God, our strength and our comfort. As she called out the name of each child, she answered the question: MAAFA—Do You Remember Me?—the answer is yes, we remember you.”

Maria Williams spoke-out on behalf of her son, Mark. She shared, “one constant in my life is my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; my son’s death was a surprise to me, but it wasn’t a surprise to God; some things in life you don’t choose, it chooses you; why did I join this group, you ask; I didn’t, this group was chosen for me by God”.

Then it was preaching time! Dr. Otis Moss, III of Trinity Baptist Church in Chicago, IL shared MAAFA is with us again this year. Rev. Moss thanked us for the special moment of remembrance as he defined “to remember” in the following manner: “It’s not just memory, but it’s To Re-Member which means to bring back together that which has been separated or disconnected. It’s re-attaching; it’s re-affirming. When Jesus hung on the cross, they who hung next to him asked, will you remember me when you get into the kingdom? Jesus said, “yes, I will remember you”, in other words, I’ll bring you back together. So the village gathers tonight in remembrance, not just in memory, but to bring together that which has been disconnected to demonstrate the love of God.”

Rev. Moss preached from the thought, “When Brooks Dry Up” & “The Drought Is Over”, 1Kings 16:31 & 17. He shared that “no matter who you are, at some point, the brook (the resources, etc.) will dry up because life guarantees a moment of drought. Brooks will dry up—jobs will disappear, businesses will close, marriages will shatter, relationships will implode, communities will dissolve, children will act as though they are losing their minds!”

Rev. Moss also reminded us that sometimes God will send us to a valley first so that we can learn how to walk with God. Then he will send someone from our community to help us out.


From Tears to Triumph—Holding on to the pain is just another trick of the enemy to keep us in bondage. Tonight, through painful testimony, powerful preaching, and much prayer, these mothers were able to triumph as they brought the entire congregation to tears.

For more information on Y.A.N.A.:
yanaofbridgeport@yahoo.com
203-441-3197



REACTIONS TO THE MAAFA

by Renee Weidele



I attended my first MAAFA Commemoration performance on Friday November 30th. Prior to the show I had attended one of the acting rehearsals, so I had a bit of a sneak peek into what I would see at the show, but I learned as soon as I entered Wilson Hall that I was in for quite an experience. My mood instantly changed when an usher said “Whites enter through this door ma’am.” This made me a part of the experience rather than a passive audience member. I found that though there were many aspects of the performance that I was familiar with, for example the Trayvon Martin and Emmett Till stories, there were many things that I had never heard of before. One of these things was the “Black Wall Street.” As a newcomer to the Mount Aery congregation, I was overwhelmingly impressed by the performance of the cast, and their reenactment of the struggles of African Americans throughout history. Growing up I had always viewed racism as something of the past, but as I have matured, I have realized that it still exists today. Racism and reverse racism are seen in many aspects of our lives, from the alarming number of young African American males that are incarcerated in our jails, to the use of derogatory terms that belittle one based on their race in rap music. I think we all know which word that I am talking about. The one thing that has always bothered me is the transmittance of racism from generation to generation. For the past two summers, I was employed by a summer camp in my home state of Rhode Island. One of these years, there was a six year old child in my group who said that he did not like white people, especially white men. When I explained to him that what he was saying was racist, he seemed confused. He could not explain to me why he hated Caucasian men. It was as if he felt this way, because it was the way that he was expected to feel. Hate for others is not something that we are born with, it is something that we learn. This child was not born with disdain toward Caucasian men; it is something that he learned from someone. I think that it is important that programs such as the MAAFA Commemoration exist, so that children can learn the negative outcomes of hate, which will hopefully help them to become more accepting of others and end the inheritance of racist orientations. I think that it is important that we recognize that whether we are red, yellow, black or white, we are all God’s children. He does not look at the color of our skin, but rather the love in our hearts.

MAAFA COMMEMORATION

A NOTE FROM REINE BOYER

by Reine Boyer

This is a note that Reine Boyer sent out to her friends and family after seeing the MAAFA Influence Production 2012. We asked her if we could share this letter with you as it shows her enthusiasm and appreciation of the production.

Hello Family:

I hope you all had a great weekend! This weekend, my church family, Mount Aery Baptist, located in Bridgeport, CT presented MAAFA 2012. I hope some of you had a chance to view the performance. It was awesome and inspiring! Although I had soooo much to do this weekend, I KNEW I couldn't miss Friday night's, November 30th, performance of the MAAFA! It was a spectacular show complete with thought provoking dramatic performances, dancing, singing, poetry, beautiful costumes, awesome set design, and great teaching by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss of Trinity United in Chicago, Illinois.

As I've told you all in the past, the MAAFA is NOT a musical play, but an EXPERIENCE! Kudos to the vision of my Pastor, Dr. Anthony L. Bennett who brought the MAAFA to Mt. Aery from our sister church, St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. Also, congratulations and a job well done to all the volunteers (100+ member cast and crew), Director & Producer - Rev. Ina Anderson, Co-Producer Gina LeVon Simpson, Writer and Co-Director, Julian Scott Varner, Assistant Director, Shante Hanks, Youth Acting Coach, Shanice Maxwell, Cathy Patton, William "Bo" Dewitt-Smith, Brenda Selden, Veronica Douglas, Henry Smalls, Robin Shepard, Denise McGhee-Maxwell, Sharon Austin-Christy, Maxine Plummer, Margaret Young-Hurst, Timothy Fountain, Carrie Greatheart, Isaiah Little, Betty Hill, Simone Shepard, Team Ujimaa and the Mt. Aery Development Corporation.

It was an extraordinary performance that took the audience through space and time, bringing us to Africa when our African

ancestors were kings and queens (I say "our" ancestors because we are ALL [no matter our racial identity] one big family whose DNA/roots can be found in Mother Africa). The telling of the story continues to the heart wrenching, but thought provoking depiction of the transatlantic slave voyage to the Americas, known as the Middle Passage. We heard stories of liberation from historical figures such as Haiti's brilliant military tactician and revolutionary leader, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jamaica's well known and feisty leader of the slaves, Queen Nanny of the Maroons and US (Virginia's) brave rebellion fighter, Nat Turner. We also heard the stories of African American struggle and identify from fallen figures such as Trayvon Martin, Emmett Till and Troy Freeman.

As you can tell, this production was "chock full of history and revelation." If you did not see it, please be sure to pick up the DVD. I believe it will be available soon within the next few weeks. You can also check the Mt. Aery website to see the promotional video and find out the release date of the DVD.

This production was several hours long, but if you are an educator and wish to present an abbreviated version of the MAAFA to your school or youth organization, (possibly for Black History month [Feb 2013] or next year in November 2013) please contact me and I will put you in touch with Cathy Patton or Rev. Ina Anderson for further details.

<http://www.mtaerybaptist.org/maafa.html>

(MAAFA Promotional)

www.mtaerybaptist.org

(Mt. Aery Webpage)

Peace & blessings,
Reine



MAAFA COMMEMORATION





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Black History Moment: *John Henry Thompson*

by Tonya N. Johnson

Namaste Family! I toyed with the idea of discontinuing this section but I decided that 12 issues is just scratching the surface of all that we as African Americans have done to build this country. This year our focus will be geared more towards inventors that are still alive. This month we are spotlighting Mr. John Henry Thompson. He intrigued me because his background, computer programming, is similar to mine. Enjoy the story!!



John Henry Thompson

Even in high school, John Henry Thompson was interested in computer programming languages. He taught himself several programming languages such as FORTRAN, PLI, COBOL and JCL while working in a New York research facility. Thompson's goal was to absorb as much knowledge as possible so he could invent his own computer language.

After graduating from High School, he attended MIT where he obtained a degree in Computer Science and a minor in Visual Arts. By combining these two seemingly disparate disciplines, Thompson wanted to bridge the gap between art and technology. Four years later as a chief scientist at Macromedia™, he was able to make progress towards this goal. He developed a number of products, many of them based on his most famous invention, Lingo programming: a scripting language that helps render visuals in computer programs. Thompson used Lingo in one of his better-known computer inventions, Macromedia™ Director. Macromedia™ Director is able to incorporate different graphic formats (such as BMP, AVI, JPEG,

QuickTime, PNG, RealVideo and vector graphics) to create multi-media content and applications, thus combining computer programming language with visual art.

Lingo is now used with many programs that have interactive simulations with graphics, animation, sound, and video. Along with Macromedia™ Director, Thompson has helped develop MediaMaker, Actions, VideoWorks Accelerator, and Video Works II. Lingo has also been used to create flash and shockwave programs that now are prevalent in video games, web design, animation, and graphics.

Resources:

<http://www.black-inventor.com/John-Thompson.asp>

Fellowship Ministry Christmas Party

What does the Fellowship Ministry do best? Meet and Greet

by Deacon Doreen Cotter

The Fellowship Ministry did it again – they know how to host a Christmas party and have a good time. Whether they are at Alderio's, the Holiday Inn, Smolen's or Mount Aery's Bass Hall, it was an evening of laughter, fellowshiping, fun and dancing.

The Bass Hall was transformed into a Banquet Hall. As the evening progressed, mistress of ceremony, Sister Lisa Wilson continued to entertain the guest, with her comedic humor and did a wonderful job as always. A surprise birthday tribute was presented to Pastor Bennett by Sister Denise Maxwell on behalf of the Ministry.

The dinner for the evening was succulent baked chicken, fresh green beans, rice pilaf, baked ziti, filet of sole, stuffing, salad, rolls, cranberry sauce, cake and cookies along with Sister Liza's traditional punch.

Then it was time to exchange Secret Pal gifts. If you are wondering what a Secret Pal is – "At the beginning of each year a member gets to secretly pick a name. Whatever name you chose, you can send a Birthday, Anniversary card or you can send a card of your choice of holidays. You do not reveal your identity, you sign as your "Secret Pal." Then at the Christmas Party you reveal who you are by giving your gift." Everyone seems to be happy and excited about the gift they received.



As usual there is always a surprise give away under someone's chair. The center piece from each table was the giveaway this year.

Music by Brother Michael Gardner and Brother Maurice Colbert set in a festive holiday spirit. Sister McGhee, Deacon Haggans, Denise Maxwell and Sister Liza Wilson opened the dance floor.

As you know the Anthems of ALL partying started playing – "The Electric Slide, the Cha Cha Slide, the Cubic Shuffle and most recently the Wooble." Young people who were also present at the party were on the dance floor along with other members of the ministry. However, when the lyrics of Cha Cha Slide started playing, at the point where they said "How Low Can You Go" shout outs go to Sister Lisa Wilson. She went down the lowest and she was able to get back up again, so kudos to her.

It was evident who shut down the parties "back in the days" – for while everyone was about to leave, Sisters Sadie Bristow, Barbara Wilson and Chinesta McLeod started dancing right there at their table. Sister Tonya Johnson had to take back out her camera to capture some of the moments that words fail to describe.

Sister Gloria Lee, Chairperson of the Fellowship Christmas Party thanked all those who had any part in making the evening a success: the D.J's, Mistress of Ceremony, Planning Committee - Dee Dee Pirro, Delores Crawley and Denise Maxwell; the Kitchen Crew - Liza Clark, Christine White and Mildred Dyer; and Betty Hill for the beautiful center pieces. She thanked everyone for coming, and asked that we keep the situation in Newtown lifted in our prayers, then she bid everyone farewell.

Sisters at the Well ~ 2012 Christmas Gathering

by Eva J. McLeod

On December 10th, 2012, the Sisters at the Well held a Christmas gathering to fellowship with one another, reflecting on the past year and looking forward to embarking on a new Journey in the New Year of 2013.

The colorful room was embellished with evergreens, red Christmas ornaments tucked away inside of the evergreens with white candles which were filtering the room with warmth and the spirit of Christmas.

Sister Lowe was speaking as I walked in the room. She was talking with a small group of women about "Where do we go from here". She elaborated on coming together with new ideas and new experiences to continue with making the ministry a ministry that will speak to all women, not just the women at Mt. Aery Baptist Church.

Different facilitators discussed how "The Retreats" were powerful in the past. Those years were exciting, stated Sister Jones. There were women from different parts of the globe who came and participated in the retreat with the women at Mt. Aery Baptist Church, to name a few: Reverend Leslie Callahan, Pastor Veronica Thompson, Pastor Renitha Harris, Pastor Susan Smith and many more who have come and graced the women's retreat at Mt. Aery. These were powerful women who came to participate in a retreat that was truly awesome and life changing. It was a beautiful time and a spiritual movement that had taken place.

The question was asked, what was so different then, as to where the retreats are now, was it the facilitators who made the difference in bringing in different speakers or was it just a different era and things went according to God's plan at that time. Sister Dawn Jones stated that

she recalls those phenomenal retreats where those women were on "fire" for God. The spirit was omnipresent. Surely, it was. I was a part of that experience. I totally agreed. Not to say that the ministry has fallen spiritually, it just needs a new revival and the Sisters at the Well totally agree. Sister Leona, stated, "Separation is hard", but she will always be there to assist another sister and help out in whatever capacity that's needed.

The ministry desires to move in the right direction and revamp the ministry into a new realm of "Retreat Ministry", if you will. The sisters were sharing and expressing past projects that were implemented. Sister Nieja Jackson mentioned the "Labyrinth" that was conducted by Sister Betty Hill which was a different experience but an awesome experience. Sister Gail Patterson and Sister Lowe, stated that maybe we can come together and plan a retreat just for the women to just "Whoosah" and unleash themselves into something different, only to come back replenished, renewed and spiritually filled ready and prepared to do God's will.

Sisters discussed and agreed that sisters should contact one another and reach out to the next sister, if one doesn't know what is going on in the ministry or find out what another sister needs are, better yet does she need help with transportation or need someone to help with the children. Just being more mindful of one another and supporting one another as sisters. Most importantly, that whatever is shared among the sisters that it is held in confidence.

The Sisters at the Well realized that individuals think they are an exclusive ministry, but they are not. All are welcomed and the ministry wishes more women at the Mount would join and share their talents to help other women.

Every woman on this earth has a spiritual gift and talent that can be shared with other women to help them. Sisters at the Well is a much needed ministry to the Mount and other churches in the community. The ministry must maintain its presence and diligently continue to evolve the "Well" into a promising ministry that expands not only at Mt. Aery but to the surrounding towns and communities at large.

It was discussed that the Sisters at the Well ministry is the only women's ministry that graced this community until Cathedral of the Holy Spirit started their own ministry. Sister Lowe stated that if everyone should take one month out of the year and show their creative self and the core of the ministry will flow without any problems. Ideas were heard, problematic issues were discussed and the Sisters at the Well wrapped up the festive event with clarity and understanding that with cohesiveness, faith and empowering each other and the community, the ministry will continue to flourish and expand spiritually.

The ministry is seeking the women of Mt. Aery to come join, the women in the community to come and share their God given talents and allow God to propel his will for the Sisters at the Well ministry. Come one, come all, the ministry has an open door policy, no one is exempt. We welcome you.



TO THE BROTHERS of Mt. Aery Baptist Church by Kenny Jackson

It's Time! It's Time! It's Time! It's time to ask the question that Brother Jawanza Kunjufu turned into a book. The title of that book is called: Adam! "Where Are You?" (The men of Mt. Aery are the Adam he's talking about, not all men though). Why most Black men don't go to church? I would like to ask, why most Black men that go to church don't get involved?

This is a question that needs to be answered. Our Black Men are needed to step up all over the United States. We need to take our Rightful Place, in our churches first as men of God. Once we do that, everything else will fall right into place.

I've been going to Mt. Aery on and off for more than 45 years. My spirit is now telling me to make a call of order out to the Men of Mt. Aery. It's time to let the Spirit of God have its way with us and guide us in the way we need to be guided.

GENESIS 3:8-10

This is out of Brother Jawanza's Book

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God said to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Why does Adam Believe he can hide from God? Was God's question, "Where are you Adam?" a rhetorical question? Did God know where Adam was all the time? Why is God so concerned about Adam? Why would Adam be afraid if he heard God? Why is Adam afraid of being naked in the eyes of God?

Anecdotes

- **What happens when a son watches his father read the Bible and pray?**
- **Have Black men transferred their anger from their earthly father to their Heavenly father?**
- **How can Black men holler more for Jordan than Jesus?**
- **When you separate a Black man from God, you strip him from his power.**
- **When you save a Black man, you save a Black family.**

To the Brothers of Mt. Aery: If any of this offends anyone, Brothers, that's not my intentions at all. It's just that it's time for us as Mt. Aery Men to become more of a force or should I say, Spiritual Force so we can be that powerful Spirit Lead Army for the Lord that we should be. TOGETHER!!!

STAY TUNED, MORE TO COME!

JANUARY 2013 Birthdays

January 1st

Antoine, David
Cato, Cindy
Feliciano, Pablo
Hill, Moya
Lusanga, Kelly
Minott, Quillian
Parks, William
Smith, Joanne
Smith, Neil
Sunsrae, Dennis
Walden, Jean
Wilson, Barbara

January 2nd

Barry, LaAustralia
Blatch, Cicely
Charles, Devonne
Gardner, Braxton
Grant, Minnie
Holliday, Jade
Lewis, Adriane
Maldonado, Ivelisse
Muller, Adrian
Vennable, Josie
Vicente', Annie
Wallace, John

January 3rd

Addison, Sharhonda
Fields, Zoretha
Hill, Reva
Johnson, Lovicia
Mercado, ToniAnn
Pettway, Tawanda
Williams, Brenda

January 4th

Badjoin, Tanta
Evans, Duanecia
Figueroa, Priscilla
Gardner, Alan
Gardner, Eva
Shepard, Robin
Spencer, Marissa
Turner, Vera

January 5th

Correa, Yaratzed
Gaskin, Doris
Geter, LaWanda
Hall, Robert L.
Holbrook, Margaret
Holmes, Frederick
McNeil, Deidre
Salmon, Tyrena
Singleton, Sadie
Stanley, DeNisha
Taylor, Rochelle
Thigpen, Keysha
Tyson, Shirley
Weeden, Terry
Wells, Deidre
Williams, Alexia

January 6th

Baldie, Sanjay
Boyer, Reine

Gamble, Lisa
Sams-Allen, Pearlye
Stephenson, Tyreese

January 7th

Blank, Brandon
Carter, Linda
Darby, Alonzo
Dennis, Alesia
Glenn, Justin
Sherwood, Amelia
Stanford, Michelle
Teasley, Elizabeth
Thompson, James
Velez, Maritza
Whidbee, Mary
Williams, Joseph

January 8th

George, Nicole
Mughwai, Vincent
Thompson, Alicia

January 9th

Cheney, Karen
Courtney, Damu
Dennis, Wilton
Glenn, James
Gnat, Debra
Harvin, Joylette
Meyers, Joyce
Oden, Zadie
Spaulding, Rakeen
Vaz, Zoe

January 10th

Johnson, Vanessa
White, William

January 11th

Byam, Lorraine
Cooper, Jacqueline
Dailey, Janice
Edmonds Rogers,
Yasmeen
Marshall, Richard
Mayes, Arneta
Pettway, Willie
Pompey, Anthony

January 12th

Anderson, Heather
Brown, Raeshawna
Brown, Rashea
Craig, Elaine
Gamble, Sharniece
Porter, Shanea
Spencer, Olive
Wilborn, Ricky

January 13th

Black, Martin
Brayboy, Samantha
Earley, Rematha
Gordon, Janelle
Hill, Takeenia
Maxwell, Eugene
Vining, Sandra

January 14th

Balcombe, Michael
Brown, Tyhishia
Daniels, Laura
Davis-Joyner, William
Dudley, Doreen
Hill, Theresa
Jones, DaJuan
Joyner-Davis, William
McCullough, Lander
Parker, Vyola
Satchwell, Garfield

January 15th

Blackwell, Dikembe
Bowens, Rodnae
Burnett, Celeste
Cobb, Deric
Coplon, Joseph
Cummings, Dyane
Davis, Melvin
Green, Hubert
JeanBaptiste, Tracey
Johnson, Deborah

January 16th

Cherry, Karen
Hanks, Shante'
King, Rasheda
Lee, Nashon
Morton, Betty
Rilley, Anthony
Thomas-Allen, Josephine
Whittington, Dakota
Williams, Thomas

January 17th

Burch, Andre
Costa, Walter
Gary, Daryl
Muse, LaVonne
Peterson, Deloris
Walker, Glenn

January 18th

Gilbert, Margarite
Karol, Anthony
Martha, Sanders
Mosby, Rohan
Williams, Kyle

January 19th

Mack, Karen
Mills, Rickman
Moss, LaRosa
Peeler, Talisha
Roebuck, Tressa
Savariali, Tricia
Smith, Linda
Smith, Pamela
Vining, Dawn

January 20th

Collins, Denise
Drakeford, Luther Mae
Hicks, Gwendlynn
Holbrook, Sharon
Holliday, Javis

Layne, Eleanor
Layne, Yasmin
Myers, Demetrius
Newport, Rose
Ragsdale, Lillian
Riley, Frances
Smalls, Kathy

January 21st

Coote, Daiquan
Jarvis, Alfred
Jenkins, Jr., Napoleon
Jones, Latifah

January 22nd

Cantella, Marie
Douglas-Givan, Veronica
McNeill, Samantha
Monk, Davonnah
Rockingham-Kearse,
Patricia

January 23rd

Butler, Ashley
Day, Georgia
Fleming, Schelita
Hunter, Akymia
McIntyre, Kyla
Robert, Calvin
Schoolfield, Gloria
Tartaglia, John

January 24th

Booth, Katora
Brown, Katherine
Bruce, Betty
Bryant, Mary
Charles, Sonia
Gregory, Franklin
Kearse, Jocelyn
Marshall, Kerry

January 25th

Daymon, Tameka
Goodwin, Marquis
Hudson, John
Irby, Crystal
Kinder, Debra
Lebron, Lebron
Newsom, David
Newton, Pamela
Simpson, Ella
Thompson, Alphonso
Torres, Gloria

January 26th

Allen, Ada
Cauthen Jr., George
Coltrane, Michelle
Cox, Jason
Ellis, Shanika
Jones, Leola
Mincey, Ulysses
Oliver, Robert
Williams, Truila

January 27th

Brooks, Elisa

Dubose, Charmaine
Geter, Ronald
Jackson, Primus
Johnson-Mack, Mechele
Kenion, Scott
Lanham-Dennis, Gloria
Lewis, June
Mebane, Vera
Scott, Lyvonna
Sims, Juanita
Tucker, Brittany

January 28th

Collington, Price
Hunter-Craig, Robin
Johnson, Tina Marie
Mayes, Nathan
Nixon, Clara
Richardson, Kelcey
Spillane-Dixon, Juanita
Williams, Carol

January 29th

Bradley, Michelle
Cannon, Jaydah
Colter, Daniel
Day, Briana
Earley, Oscar
Ellis, Crystal
Humphrey, Romonie
Irby, Willie James
Jones, Shaquanna
Maxwell, Shanice
Perry, Paula
Sheppard, Kimberly
Simpson, Gina LeVon
Singleton, Edward
Wells, Celestina
Williams, Deborah

January 30th

Barnes, P. Magnolia
Bloodworth, Lucius
Brooks, Sharon
Cary, Fred
Nedd, Antwan
Stokes, Pamela
Williams, Patrick
Young, Lineo

January 31st

Bartelle, Victoria
Carter, Patricia
Crear, Ruby
Jordan, Bernice
Riddick, Kim
Thaxton, Eunice

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		30 Days of Prayer Begin New Year's Day 9:00 AM Church Office Closed	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 6:45 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM Deacons Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Music Ministry		8:30 AM Men's Ministry Breakfast 10:00 AM Ministerial Staff Meeting 1:00 AM Music Ministry 1:00 PM Missionaries Ministry Meeting
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7:45 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Store 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Olmec Store		6:30 PM Trustees Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 6:45 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Senior Ushers Ministry Meeting		8:30 AM Men's Ministry Meeting 1:00 AM Music Ministry
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
7:45 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Store 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:00 AM Youth Church 1:00 PM Olmec Store	6:30 PM Fellowship Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM SAW Gathering	6:30 PM M.A. Y.A. Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 6:45 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM Deacons Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Music Ministry		8:30 AM Men's Ministry Meeting 1:00 AM Music Ministry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
7:45 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Store 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 11:00 AM Youth Church 1:00 PM Olmec Store	8:30 AM Black Pride MLK Service	7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 6:45 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Joint Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Music Ministry		8:30 AM Men's Ministry Meeting 10:00 AM Leadership Institute/HSDS 1:00 PM Music Ministry 2:00 PM Junior Ushers Ministry Meeting
27	28	29	30	31		
7:45 AM Worship Celebration/Consecration of Servant Leaders 9:45 AM Olmec Store 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration/Consecration of Servant Leaders 1:00 PM Olmec Store		7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 6:45 PM Bible Study	30 Days of Prayer End 6:30 PM Deacons Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM REFUGE 7:00 PM Music Ministry		

JANUARY 2013—NINETY YEARS AND BEYOND

Organized Prayer Time

Prayer time is 7:00am to 7:10am beginning 1/1/2013 through 1/31/2013. Conference Dial-in Number: 610-214-0000, Participant Access Code: 111933#. See Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood for more information. **To playback prayer: 610-214-0100, access code is 111933#.** **This is not a toll free call, Long Distances Charges May Apply** Note: Do not announce yourself if you call after 6:59am. Please mute your phone so that prayer will not be disturbed

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Psalm 119:106 Pastor Bennett	2 Matthew 6:8 Pastor Bennett	3 Romans 8:28 Pastor Bennett	4 Ezekiel 36:26 Pastor Bennett	5 Hebrews 4:12 Sis. B. Dempsey
6 Psalm 37:4 Min. P. Williams	7 Matthew 25:40 Pastor Bennett	8 Ephesians 2:8-9 Pastor Bennett	9 Philippians 4:6-7 Pastor Bennett	10 James 5:7-8 Pastor Bennett	11 Colossians 3:23 Pastor Bennett	12 John 10:10 Min. Kingwood- Smalls
13 1 John 4:18 Min. P. Williams	14 Ephesians 2:10 Pastor Bennett	15 John 14:6 Pastor Bennett	16 Hebrews 13:1-2 Pastor Bennett	17 Romans 16:7 Pastor Bennett	18 Proverbs 21:21 Pastor Bennett	19 Matthew 6:33-34 Sis. B. Dempsey
20 Colossians 2:3 Min. P. Williams	21 Genesis 1:1 Pastor Bennett	22 Ephesians 1:11 Pastor Bennett	23 Acts 3:21 Pastor Bennett	25 1 Peter 1:14-16 Pastor Bennett	26 James 1:17 Pastor Bennett	27 1 John 2:27 Min. Kingwood- Smalls
28 Revelations 1:18 Min. P. Williams	29 Luke:4:18-19 Pastor Bennett	30 Mark 12:28-31 Pastor Bennett	We're Moving Forward.....			

READY FOR SOME BASKETBALL!!!



VS



FEBRUARY 22, 2013 - 7:30PM

Barclays Center, Brooklyn, NY

Transportation Provided

COST: \$60.00

DEPOSIT: \$30.00 (Non-Refundable)

Final Payment Due: 2/9/13

See Dwayne Seawright or
call Men's Ministry at
203.334.2757 x54

