

MESSAGE

from the Mount

Volume 36

3 Year Anniversary Issue

MEN'S WEEKEND AND



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



The Pastor's Pen

credits

Editor-in-Chief

Tonya Johnson

Director of Operations

Henry C. Smalls Jr.

Layout/Design

Victor Hayes

Photography

Henry C. Smalls Jr.

Tonya Johnson

Julian Jean-Baptiste

Production Team

Barbara Jones

Kunle Adetona

Maurice Colbert

Contributors

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett

Tonya N. Johnson

Malék Simpson

Marilyn Moore

Shanice Maxwell

Gregory McBroom

Bridget Franklin

Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood

Eva J. McLeod

Staff Writers

Leslie Davis-Green

Eva McLeod

Doreen Cotter

Mount Aery Baptist Church

73 Frank Street

Bridgeport, CT 06604

Church Office: 203.334.2757

Website: www.mtaerybaptist.org

Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We greet you in the name of Jesus, The Christ. Let me thank each of you for your prayers and participation in our 21 Days of Prayer for our Music Ministry. We prayed for our own consecration, for the Music Ministry to be prepared to minister to the congregation and beyond, and that God would prepare us and prepare the new person who will lead our Music Ministry. Again I wish to thank Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood and the Prayer Ministry for coordinating another fine prayer season.

I also want to mention the outstanding job done by cast and crew of Emerging Voices under the very capable leadership of Rev. Ina Anderson. I believe this year's presentation at The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit as well as the full production presentation at Mount Aery enlightened, intrigued and inspired all who were present. We certainly look forward to continuing our celebration and reflection of our culture and faith.

As we move into March, we want to acknowledge the celebration of women during this Women's History month. So much of what Mount Aery Baptist Church has become and so much of what this nation has accomplished is in part due to the countless unknown women who used their faith in God to make a difference in the lives of those they loved. Particularly, I thank the females of this congregation for their participation and leadership within the Mount Aery ministry. You have indeed blessed this community.

Let me also take a moment to thank Minister Nancy Kingwood-Small and the Five Star Church Book Team for their sacrifice of time and energy in developing more effective leadership curriculum and strategies for ministry for communication. Please mark your calendar for March 9th, 10th (Leadership Retreat) and March 13th (beginning of our Leadership Development Classes) as our leadership development curriculum will be taught.

Let us also not to forget to support Ushers Banquet on Saturday, March 10th and our Men's Weekend, March 16th – 18th. The Men's Weekend theme is, Resurrection: By Any Means Necessary.

Because this is the Lenten season, we pray that each of us will reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and how we can make particular sacrifices in our lives for the purpose of growth and development in Christ. It is my prayer that each of us will examine ourselves and ask, "God, how can I yield myself more to you today?"

God bless you,

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



Editor's Desk

Slowing Down and Spending Time with God

Table of Contents

Namaste My Mount Aery Family,

For months both of my parents have been telling me that I need to slow down and I haven't listened, I kept insisting "I can't, I got stuff to do". Today made me realize how in the blink of eye this could all be over but by the grace of God I am still here to see another day and I am so very thankful.

Today on my way home from work I was so busy rushing to get back to Bridgeport that my mind really was on the road and apparently neither was my attention. I slammed into the back of another car that then slammed into another car. Thankfully no one was hurt but I was still distraught. My friend came to sit with me while I waited for the police and he kept asking me "Are you ok? Are you ok?" I said "Yes physically I am fine but I don't understand what just happened? How did I not see that that car had stopped?" He said "You need to go home and relax. Take some time for yourself." Of course my response was "I can't, I got stuff to do."

When I finally reached home I began to unwind and think about the events of the day. When I thought about the accident I began to pray and thank God for sparing my life. I know this may sound a little over dramatic but I still find it disturbing that I cannot say how the accident happened so with that I feel it could have been worse.

This whole experience has made me realize that my parents and my friend are right I need to slow down and take time for myself. I am now going to listen to my family and friend so for this Lenten season I am going to focus on me by not only giving up over committing myself to things; I am yielding myself to spend more time with God in prayer. By yielding myself to spend more time with God this will give me the chance to learn more about my spiritual journey and allow me to discover what God has for me.

During this Lenten season how are you yielding to God?

God bless,

Tonya N. Johnson
Editor In Chief
MFTM Publication

Pastor's Pen 2

Editor's Desk 3

What's Next 4

Important Events
Acknowledgement
Announcements

Bulletin 6

Vision Statement
Healing and Prayer Lists
Hospitalized/Nursing Home
Bereavement

Ministry Spotlight 7

Music Ministry

Poet's Corner 8

Imara by Malék Simpson

Health & Wellness 9

African American Women
Creating History

Youth Speak 10

What Does Black History
Month Mean to You?

Black History 11

Bessie Coleman

General News 13

Our Lenten Fast to God for 2012
Men's Weekend
A Matter of Principles
Historical Prayer Participation

Special Commemoration

Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr. 19

Reflections 22

The Strength & Struggles of an Icon

40 Days of Prayer

Birthdays
Calendar

WHAT'S NEXT?

Important Dates

40 Days of Prayer during the Lenten Season - Call in to the prayer line at 7:00a daily at 610-214-0000. The participant access code is 111933#. Please do not speak if you call in after 6:59 am. Please mute your phone by pressing *6. Please note that long distance charges may apply.

Sister's at the Well will be meeting on March 12th at 6:30 pm in Bass Hall. The scripture reading for the evening is *Matthew 26 and 27:11-50* and the discussion topic is "Your sacrifice can not compare!"

Men's Weekend is being held March 16th – 18th. The donation is \$25. The theme for this year is "Resurrection: By Any Means Necessary"; *John 11:43-44*. For more information or to register please see Phil Tyner, Greg McBroom or James A. Smith, Jr.

Game Night hosted by the TLC Ministry is being held on Saturday, March 24th from 6 – 9 pm in Bass Hall. To RSVP please contact a TLC Member by March 16th. Refreshments will be served.

Leadership Development Mandatory 16-week training - Classes are scheduled for 6p to 7:30p.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1 – 8 Weeks

- Intersection of Five Star Church and 9 Types

May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26 – 6 Weeks

- Broad Based Organizing through CONECT

September 11, 18 – 2 Weeks

- Pastor's Wrap-Up

MAYA is hosting the **4th Annual Café Night** on May 18th beginning at 7pm. Tickets in advance are \$7, \$10 at the door. For more information please contact Nieja Jackson.

Pastor's Engagements

April

April 4th at 7:30pm
Cathedral of Faith Church of God
2319 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport
Holy Week Services

April 25th at 7:30pm
Living Water Deliverance Ministry, Inc.
5 Cemetery Drive, Stratford
14th Pastoral Anniversary

May

May 6th at 4pm
Ebenezer Gospel Assembly
291 Bunnell Street, Bridgeport
17th Pastoral Anniversary

May 27th at 4pm
English Chapel Cathedral of Miracles
285 Wilmot Avenue, Bridgeport
Usher's Anniversary

Acknowledgements

- With special thanks to all of you...Although this note says "Thank You" in just this simple way, there is special meaning to these words to all of you today. For the thoughts behind this message are especially warm and true, and words cannot express the special thanks this brings to you. From Deacon Dover Seawright's nieces

Announcements

• **Generation Next Youth Ministry**

- Generation Next Youth Ministry is asking all Members who are interested in volunteering time to the youth of Mt Aery Baptist Church please give your contact information to Malakhi Eason after church in the Narthex. You can also email your contact information or questions to mabc.generationnext@gmail.com

- **Business Owners** – Mount Aery is filled with people needing products and services that someone at "The Mount" can provide. There are several active business owners amongst our church family. We would like to develop a business directory as a resource to the congregations and beyond. Please pick up a form from the carousel in the Narthex. Once completed, turn into the church office. For more information, please see Vyola Parker.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Important Dates

- **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 March are Deacons Dewitt-Smith and Vermont.
- **Submissions of announcements and due dates:**
 - o **Message From The Mount**
 - Send information to mftm@mtaerybaptist.org by Wednesday after the first Sunday
 - o **Mid-Month Message From The Mount Update**
 - Send information to mftm@mtaerybaptist.org by Wednesday before the third 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.

Mount Aery Development Corp offers FREE Tax Help!
Beginning Thursday February 2, 2012 to April 18, 2012

The Mount Aery Development Corp.

Will offer Free Income Tax Preparation for taxpayers with 2011 earned income under \$49,000, through the Volunteer Income Tax Program (VITA).

The IRS will employ the services of trained, certified tax preparers to help you file your Federal and State tax returns quickly at no cost. Professional services will include FREE E-filing and direct deposit for filing returns. The goal of the Volunteer Income Tax Site:

- o Is to promote tax understanding and awareness
- o To prepare accurate tax returns free for qualified taxpayers, and
- o Encourage Financial Education and Asset Building (FEAB) through tax incentives,
- o Free tax preparation services to tax payers earning under \$49,000 in 2011.

Start Date: February 2, 2012

Scheduled Hours: Thursdays - 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Sundays - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Mount Aery Baptist Church - Libation Computer Center

Persons seeking Volunteer Opportunities should contact Brenda B. Seldon, Site Coordinator

To reserve your Space Call 203-540-5624 Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or Call 211.

a. Control number		OMB No. 1545-0048		Safe, accurate, FAST! Use e-file		Visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov/efile	
b. Employer identification number (EIN)		44-1XXXXXX		1. Wages, tips, other compensation	2. Federal income tax withheld		
				16500.25	2087.54		
c. Employer's name, address, and ZIP code		West Way Books 43 Bookend Rd Albuquerque, NM 87108		3. Social security wages	4. Social security tax withheld		
				16500.25	1023.02		
				5. Medicare wages and tips	6. Medicare tax withheld		
				16500.25	239.25		
d. Employer's social security number		444-XX-XXXX		7. Social security tips	8. Allocated tips		
				9. Advance EIC payment	10. Dependent care benefits		
e. Employer's first name and initial		Last name		11. Nonqualified plan	12a. See instructions for box 12		
Susan A. Quintana		1000 Old Club Rd SW Albuquerque, NM 87105		12b. <input type="checkbox"/> 12c. <input type="checkbox"/> 12d. <input type="checkbox"/> 12e. <input type="checkbox"/>			
f. Employer's address and ZIP code		NM 44-XXXXXX-XX		13. Other income	14. Other		
				15. State wages, tips, etc.	16. Local wages, tips, etc.	17. Local income tax	18. Local income tax
				16500.25	404.26		

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement **20XX** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service
Copy B—To be filed with Employer's FEDERAL Tax Return.
This information is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

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.

Deaconess Queen Boone

Bridgeport Manor, 540 Bond Street, Bridgeport, CT 06610

Grover Gardner Sr.

Gardner Heights Nursing Health Care, 172 Rest Rock Road, Shelton, CT 06484

Bernice Adams, West Barnes, Leroy Wilson

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

Deaconess Okakue Brown, Bernice Geter

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

Please Pray for Our Healing List

Deacon Brad Belcher
Maxine Boykin
Delores Cox
Lester Dennis
Sally Gordon
Kenneth Knight
Eulalia Pettway
Juanita Sims
Mary Thigpen
Deaconess Anna Watkins
Cecelia Wilson

Please Pray for Our Prayer List

Clinnie Black
Emmanuel Burton
Sandra Cameron
Ruth Hasty-Dove
Harold Farrar
Lois Farrar
Deaconess Milla Green
Susan Holmes
Unice Jones
Barbara Macey
Regina Manns
Clyde McLaughlin
Carol Carter Mims
Michelle Porchia
Lillian Ragsdale
Tanya Lazaro Young

Bereavement

- **The Seawright Family and the Mount Aery Family** in the loss of Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr.
- **Deidre Fairfax** in the loss of her father Isaac Shaw in Bridgeport, CT.
- **Barbara Jones** in the loss of her uncle Ernest L. Laury, in Mount Vernon, New York.
- **Shalishea Laws** in the loss of her aunt Daisy Pettway.
- **Wanda McClain** in the loss of her aunt Helen Bryan in Norwalk.
- **April Gist** lost her aunt in North Carolina.
- **Lillian Riddick** in the loss of her brother-in-law and **Lydia Staton** in the loss of her uncle in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- **Boone, Cox and Crawley** in the loss of their relative Robert Cox.
- **Celeste Taylor** in the loss of her husband Ronald Taylor in Bridgeport, CT.
- **Carol Carter Mims** in the loss of her god-mother Vergie Bell Rutledge in Brooklyn, NY

Ministry Spotlight



Music Ministry

by Tonya Johnson

The Music Ministry has always been an essential part of worship service at the Baptist church. At Mount Aery our Music Ministry has been going through a transition since the departure of the Music Minister. I interviewed Pastor Bennett about what he is looking for in a new music minister and what are his expectations of the music ministry as a whole. Here is our conversation:

Me: Good evening Pastor. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me.

Pastor: Thank you Sister for dealing with my hectic schedule.

Me: No problem. So I'll jump right into my questions. I know that we (Mount Aery) are in the process of looking for a new Music Minister. Beyond the specifics listed in the job description, what are you looking for in a new Music Minister?

Pastor: Beyond the job description we are looking for someone that has a willingness to learn, someone who will partner with the pastor and the disciples of the church, and someone who has an openness to grow and become a witness to the gospel of Jesus the Christ. They must know how to read music some experience in terms of diverse music genres because we are a diverse, multigenerational congregation that likes Mahalia Jackson, Kirk Franklin, etc. We like quartet singing choir singing and it would be great if Mount Aery had all of that.

Me: As far as the choir, are there any changes that you are looking to make there?

Pastor: Right now we are keeping our regular schedule of the Mass Choir singing on first Sunday, Praise Team on Second Sunday, Men's Choir on third Sunday and Chosen Generation our youth choir on fourth Sunday. I don't see us changing that necessarily. Obviously people may adjust, like the number of members may grow in each of those groups. I hope that we may attract more male vocalist to the ministry that will display their skill set in both the praise team and the choir itself. Then when the director of music comes we will partner with that person to see what best would work but right now we are looking to have the choirs that are integrated continue to be integrated. Just expand the breath of our songs.

Me: When you developed the idea of the 21 Days of Prayer for the Music Ministry what was the premise behind it? What was your goal?

Pastor: The premise was to use the power of prayer which gives us an understanding of our direction. Biblically, it is in our prayer time that some of our descendants come down as well as direction can be received thru God in terms of the way we are to move in ministry. It was also a way of unifying the choir and affirming the work that the choir has done and yet calling us in some unifying fashion beyond just the singing.

Me: In closing, what do you hope to see from the minister of music?

Pastor: I hope to see a broader and more diversified Music Ministry that is in sync and in partnership with the dance ministry and all the other ministries that minister on Sunday. I hope to see an even more anointed group of men and women, boys and girls and teenagers that are willing to display their gifts to minister to the congregation as well as the community. I hope to see the ministry go to a new dimension of not only skill, performance skill but chorally to music ministry.

I would like to express my appreciation for all of our past Ministers of Music since I have been here, 18 years, Minister Mark Murray, Brother William Acosta and Melvin Andersen. I want to thank all of our directors, Corvina Nielsen, Denise Hanks, D'Andre Haynes and for anyone I missed I want to say thank you for all your work.

Poets' Corner

Poets' Corner

speaking with
ink and pen
release

Imara by Malék Simpson

By the way of the most high one thing cannot be denied

I am a Strong Black Man

With the heart of a lion and a spirit of God

I am a Strong Black Man

With the Wisdom of God and the Patience of Judah

I am a Strong Black Man

Like a black diamond I'm rare yet bold

I am a Strong Black Man

A strong Black Man who faces adversity on a daily

I am a Man who stands tall amongst many

We lead by example

Sometimes I fall so far others count me out and talk about me as if I'm garbage

Yet I land on God's Grace & Mercy

I am a King and nothing less

I am the result of my ancestors

Where black men stood on chopping blocks as anything less than objects

I am that homeless man pan handling for food

Where home is Africa and Freedom is my nourishment...

We are Strong Black Men

Who give up for no one & Fight for eternal life

We are Strong Black Men

Often misunderstood & overlooked

We are Strong Black Men

Who are tired of all the talking and are taking our communities back

We are Strong Black Men

Who love endlessly & live out what we preach

We are Strong Black Men

Who grow up without Fathers to become Father figures to many and eventually our own...

We are Strong Black Men



African American Women Creating History

In Celebration of Women's History Month

by Marilyn Moore, Founder & CEO Witness Project of Connecticut, Inc



Thirty years ago there were no Black women in the White House, other than the staff, none leading a Fortune 500 company, and none owning a cable network.

A lot has changed in the past thirty years. Today, the First Lady, Michelle Obama, is a Black woman as is Ursula Burns the CEO of Xerox and Oprah Winfrey who owns a television network. Black women are on the move.

It is a time in which one-third of employed Black women work in management or professional jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and a record number are attending college. Black women with college degrees earn nearly as much as similarly educated white women. The number of businesses owned by Black women has nearly doubled in the past decade to more than 900,000, according to census figures.

The health of African-Americans has also improved over the last thirty years. Data published in 2011 from the National Vital Statistics System, revealed that the life expectancy of African American women has increased from 68 to 77.4 years.

Many factors have helped improve our health such as regular medical care, exercise, a healthy diet, and timely screening tests. We must be vigilant as we strive to make progress and reach (and hopefully exceed) the life expectancy of white women which is 80.6 years. We need to be aware of these preventative health practices to make sure we are properly screened in order to ensure a healthier future for ourselves and our families.

A number of factors can affect a woman's risk for heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Some factors, such as getting older and family history, cannot be controlled. Yet, you can lower your risk of these diseases by changing some aspects of your life:

- ♥ **Don't smoke.** If you smoke, try to quit.
- ♥ **Keep a healthy weight.**
- ♥ **Eat healthy foods.** Eat lots of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- ♥ **Make physical activity a habit.**
- Limit alcohol** to no more than one drink per day.

Women also can protect themselves by getting regular checkups and screenings. It's all about doing what Black women do best – nurture, but this time it's nurturing and taking care of *ourselves*.

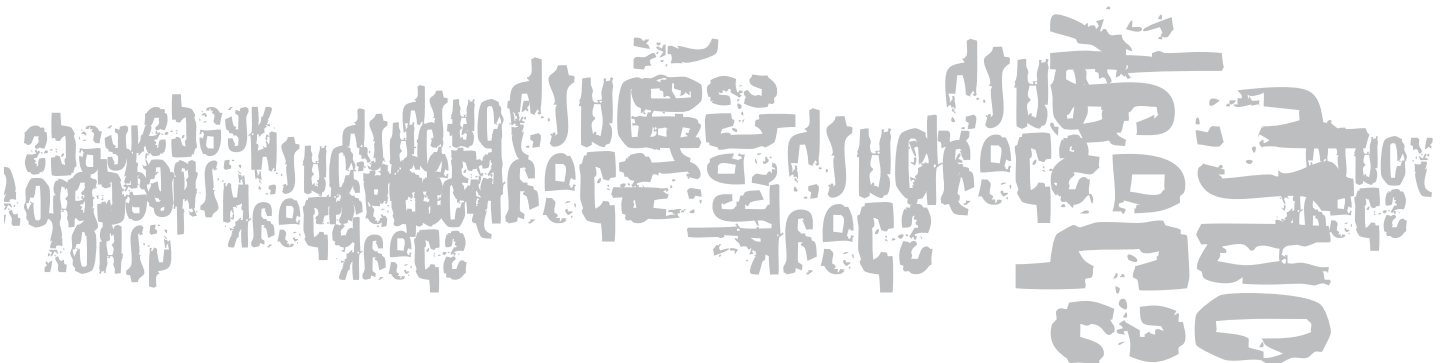
As we celebrate Women's History Month this month, let's be mindful of what we do today, how we live and how we care and nurture ourselves becomes the women's history of tomorrow. Let us create a healthy and proud history that will be passed along to our children's children and let's enjoy and celebrate womanhood!



What Does BLACK HISTORY MONTH Mean to You?

by Shanice Maxwell

"Black History? What's that? I thought we were all Americans." The words of those ignorant to the lineage of excellence that came before them. Yet, some truth is spoken. Black History is American History. "Every February we talk about the same black people. I know there were more than just MLK & Rosa Parks." The inquiring mind yearns to be educated on those the school systems keep hidden in the shadows. I am Black History. The hopes and dreams of a little slave girl from North Carolina, I now live out each and every day. Refusing to take my education for granted or becoming another statistic. I rise above the nonsense that surrounds me and encourage others to do the same. Celebrating who I am, 365 days a year (366 on leap years)! The intelligence, creativity, and strength that flows through me is all owed to my African DNA. So when asked what Black History means to me, I can give only one answer. It is the chance for the great cloud of witnesses that cheer us on to be celebrated. All who have made a difference, no matter the size, deserve to be thanked. For without their struggles, we would not know what victory looks like.



Black History Moment: Bessie Coleman

The First African American Woman Pilot – Queen Bessie

by Tonya N. Johnson

March is Women's History Month so we are spotlighting the first African American Female Pilot in our Black History Moment to celebrate both Black History and Women's History. Enjoy Queen Bessie's story!!

Bessie Coleman was the first African American to earn an international pilot's license. She dazzled crowds with her stunts at air shows and refused to be slowed by racism (a dislike or disrespect of a person based on their race).

Early life

Bessie Coleman was born on January 26, 1892, in a one-room, dirt-floored cabin in Atlanta, Texas, to George and Susan Coleman, the illiterate (unable to read and write) children of slaves. When Bessie was two years old, her father, a day laborer, moved his family to Waxahachie, Texas, where he bought a quarter-acre of land and built a three-room house in which two more daughters were born. In 1901 George Coleman left his family. Bessie's mother and two older brothers went to work and Bessie was left as caretaker of her two younger sisters.

Education for Coleman was limited to eight grades in a one-room schoolhouse that closed whenever the students were needed in the fields to help their families harvest cotton. Coleman easily established her position as family leader, reading aloud to her siblings and her mother at night. She often assured her ambitious church-going mother that she intended to "amount to something." After completing school she worked as a laundress and saved her pay until 1910 when she left for Oklahoma to attend Langston University. She left after one year when she ran out of money.

Back in Waxahachie Coleman again worked as a laundress until 1915, when she moved to Chicago, Illinois, to live with her older brother, Walter. Within months she became a manicurist and moved to a place of her own while continuing to seek—and finally, in 1920, to find—a goal for her life: to become a pilot.

Learning to fly

After befriending several leaders in South Side Chicago's African American community, Coleman found a sponsor in Robert Abbott (1868–1940), publisher of the nation's largest African American weekly, the Chicago Defender. There were no African American aviators (pilots) in the area and, when no white pilot was willing to teach her to fly, Coleman turned to Abbott, who suggested that she go to France. The French, he insisted, were not racists and were the world's leaders in aviation.

Coleman left for France late in 1920. There she completed flight training at the best school in France and was awarded her Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (F.A.I.; international pilot's license) license on June 15, 1921. She traveled Europe, gaining further flying experience so that she could perform in air shows.

Her mission



Back in New York in August 1922, Coleman outlined the goals for the remainder of her life to reporters. She would be a leader, she said, in introducing aviation to her race. She would found a school for aviators of any race, and she would appear before audiences in churches, schools, and theaters to spark the interest of African Americans in the new, expanding technology of flight.

Intelligent, beautiful, and well spoken, Coleman often exaggerated her already remarkable accomplishments in the interest of better publicity and bigger audiences. As a result, the African American press of the country, primarily weekly newspapers, quickly proclaimed her "Queen Bess."

In 1923 Coleman purchased a small plane but crashed on the way to her first scheduled West Coast air show. The plane was destroyed and Coleman suffered injuries that hospitalized her for three months. Returning to Chicago to recover, it took her another eighteen months to find financial backers for a series of shows in Texas. Her flights and theater appearances there during the summer of 1925 were highly successful, earning her enough to make a down payment on another plane. Her new fame was also bringing in steady work. At last, she wrote to one of her sisters, she was going to be able to earn enough money to open her school for fliers.

A tragic ending

Coleman left Orlando, Florida, by train to give a benefit exhibition for the Jacksonville Negro Welfare League, scheduled for May 1, 1926. Her pilot, William D. Wills, flew her plane into Orlando, but had to make three forced landings because the plane was so worn and poorly maintained. On April 30, 1926, Wills piloted the plane on a trial flight while Coleman sat in the other cockpit to survey the area over which she was to fly and parachute jump the next day. Her seat belt was unattached because she had to lean out over the edge of the plane while picking the best sites for her program. At an altitude of 1,000 feet, the plane dived, and then flipped over, throwing Coleman out. Moments later Wills crashed. Both were killed.

On May 2, 1926, thousands of mourners — among them hundreds of schoolchildren who had heard Coleman lecture on the glories of aviation — attended a memorial service in Jacksonville. Three days later her remains arrived in Chicago, where thousands more attended a funeral at the city's Pilgrim Baptist Church. Several years after her death, black aviators inspired by her pioneering achievements formed a network of Bessie Coleman Aero Clubs. A new organization known as the Bessie Coleman Aviators Club, open to women pilots of all races, was founded in 1977 — some 50 years after her death — by a group of black women pilots from the Chicago area. Every April, on the anniversary of Coleman's death, the Bessie Coleman Aviators, together with pilots from the Chicago American Pilots Association and the Negro Airmen International, fly low over Lincoln Cemetery in the Chicago suburb of Blue Island to drop flowers on her grave. As an additional tribute to the life and courage of the world's first black woman pilot, in 1990, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley renamed Old Mannheim Road at O'Hare Airport "Bessie Coleman Drive." In 1992 he proclaimed May 2nd "Bessie Coleman Day in Chicago." Shortly thereafter, Coleman received national recognition when the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating her extraordinary life and accomplishments.

Related Resources:

www.notablebiographies.com

www.gale.cengage.com



Our Lenten Fast to God for 2012

What is Lent?

Lent is a period of 40 days not including Sundays, dedicated by Christians to repentant prayer and fasting in preparation for Resurrection Sunday. This is the period of reflection upon the voluntary struggle and suffering of Jesus, The Christ and His ultimate triumph over death, hell and the grave.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. Christians who observe Ash Wednesday participate in special services, which include putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of repentance for sin.

What is Fasting?

A Biblical definition of fasting is a Christian's voluntary abstinence from food for spiritual purposes. It is Christian, for fasting by a non-Christian obtains no eternal value because the disciple's motive and purpose are to be God centered.

Fasting is voluntary in that it is not to be coerced. Fasting is more than just the ultimate crash diet for the body. It is abstinence from food for spiritual purposes.

There is a broader view of fasting that is often overlooked. This is the approach Richard Foster takes when he defines fasting as "a voluntary denial of a normal function for the sake of intense spiritual activity." **

So then, fasting does not always deal with abstinence from food. Sometimes we may need to fast from involvement with other people, or from the media, from the telephone, from talking, from sleep, etc., in order to become more absorbed in a time of spiritual activity. Fasting includes abstinence from anything that is legitimate in and of itself for the sake of some spiritual purpose. **

What is the Purpose of Fasting?

The example of fasting in the New Testament show that the people of God often engaged in fasting when they had to make unusually difficult decisions, undertake challenging tasks or faced unusually strong opposition from Satan. When accompanied by prayer, fasting is often done to separate a person as much as possible from the common affairs of everyday life.

This separation period allows the person or group of persons to direct all spiritual attention on important issues without distraction. *

During Lent, the goal for Mount Aery is to:

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:3 & 11

Why are We Fasting as a Congregation?

To pray for our prayer agenda:

- That we rebuild faith, family and finances
- That Pastor and Congregation stay focused on its mission in the midst of distractions
- That we (Pastor and Congregation) gain great insight into balancing what we are able to do and what only God can do.
- That there will be a greater number of disciples participating in the various in-reach and outreach ministries of the church
- For divine covering as we mature in the faith
- That the teaching and preaching ministries of the church grow in effectiveness and quality (whoever does it; Pastor, Associate Ministers, Laity, Guests)
- For insight into the Word of God and its relevance to us and those to whom we minister
- For being grounded in the Word of God
- For discovering how we are "wired" – 9types.com
- For discovering and using our spiritual gifts
- That we are a gifted congregation
- For maintaining the effectiveness of our gifts (rest and renewal)
- Understanding that Jesus is our example of a gifted Savior
- For individual and collective prosperity (fiscally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually)

Pastor is asking that the disciples of Mount Aery do not purchase any Easter paraphernalia (new clothing for Easter, candy, baskets or other commercial items.) Pastor is also asking that we refrain from negative conversation about all People and in particular, People of Color.

These are simply suggestions. You may add others to the list:

1. Telephone – refrain from engaging in gossip or “They Say” conversations
2. Shopping – refrain from excessive and unnecessary cash and credit card spending
3. Food – minimize eating foods or intake that are harmful to your physical temple
4. Television – significantly reduce TV viewing hours
5. Fear – discover what your comfort zone is and then ask God if its time to step out of it.
6. Other – any other thing that you enjoy and/or know that is not good for you

What Should We Do to Replace These Things?

Instead of engaging in one of the previously mentioned activities, consider the following:

1. Pray for our purposes up out of our prayer agenda.
2. Study the Word of God.
3. Spend quality fellowship time with the faithful in Christ.
4. Extend yourself by reaching out to someone in need.
5. Refuse to be pulled into situations and things that hinder your spiritual witness.
6. Read positive material that will lead to your emotional, spiritual and social growth.
7. Set monies aside from the non-purchase of Easter paraphernalia for tithing, personal savings, investing, and for your personal and spiritual edification such as the MAAFA, Women’s events, Men’s events, Youth events or sacrificial giving.

How Long Will We Fast?

We will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd and continue through Resurrection Sunday, April 8th. Individuals will commit to fasting from something of their choosing. In addition, every Friday beginning the Friday after Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, we will engage in a food fast from sun up to sun down (6am to 6 pm).

Does Fasting Work? Yes!

Who Should Fast?

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the general fast by making a commitment to fast from something that would require some form of sacrifice in their daily living habits. Every day at 6am, we will lift out of our prayer agenda. Every Friday during the hours of 6am to 6pm, those who are able, will abstain from food and only intake juices and water. Due to dietary restrictions, some may not be able to participate in the Friday food fast. Please consult your physician before engaging with this fast.

Can Fasting Be Done Incorrectly?

Fasting can be done incorrectly when persons fast insincerely. The Bible sites clear examples of some people who made a show of their fasting, thinking they were impressing others and in particular impressing God; but they were only inviting God’s condemnation. (Isaiah 58:3-5, Matthew 6:16-18; Luke 18:12). By contrast, God approved of true fasting, whether individual or collective when it was combined with genuine prayer (Matthew 4:1-4; Luke 2:37; Acts 13:2-3).*

Biblical Examples of Fasting

<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
Deuteronomy 9:9	Matthew 6:16-17
Joel 2:15-16	Luke 18:2
2 Chronicles 20:3	Matthew 4:2
Zechariah 8:19	<i>Acts 9:9</i>

Men's Weekend: Resurrection: By Any Means Necessary

by Gregory McBroom

Intro:

Men's Weekend 2012 will be conducted over the third weekend in March covering the dates of the 16th, 17th, and 18th.

This year's theme: "Resurrection: By Any Means Necessary – Because Mary and Martha Have Carried Us Long Enough". Elicits a response from brothers that is nothing short of a reawakening. As many great lyricist have said before now it is time to Get Up, Stand Up and stop Sitting On the Dock of the Bay. This theme shouts, People Get Ready, There is a Train Coming; You Don't Need No Ticket, You Just Get On Board.

To encapsulate just what the organizing team is up to, I choose to have each of them answer some probing questions. Here are the responses of:

James Smith: Coordinating Team Captain

Phil Tyner: Coordinating Team Co-Captain

Patrick D. Williams: Musical Production Coordinator

Malakhi Eason: Youth Coordinator

Interview Questions:

1. What is your vision for the overall production of Men's Weekend 2012?

James Smith –

Answer: Through the use of music, visual aids, symbolism and scriptural relevancy bring light the necessity of the African American Man to resurrect himself from the slavery experience induced slumber to heed a call of expediency within our community first and in specificity and the world in general. "Rise up you Mighty Nation, You can accomplish what you will" - Marcus Mosiah Garvey

Phil Tyner -

Answer: My vision for this Men's Weekend is that it be more than just entertainment. It should be that, but it should also be informative and inspiring



Patrick D. Williams –

Answer: That we can create an overall awareness of God's plan for man. Gen.2:26.

Malakhi Eason –

Answer: Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) Says "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."



2. Can you give me the details of the proposed events/programs for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday?

James Smith –

Answer: Without giving away all the details I can say this from Friday through Sunday we are going to be singing, swinging and getting merry like Christmas.

General Outline:

Friday Night: Praise and Worship

- Songs by the Men's Generational Choir
- Men's Testimonials
- Prayer
- Spoken Word
- Sermonette

Saturday

- Prayer
- Breakfast
- Health Forum/Tai Chi Interactive Demonstration
- Business Owner Presentations
- Bowling Outing

Sunday – Two Live Services Featuring:

- Guest Speaker
- Men's Generational Choir
- Dance of Praise and Exhortation

Phil Tyner -

Answer: We will open the weekend with a men's service of prayer and music. Saturday will deal with our health physically, spiritually, financially. Sunday will be very powerful for the whole Mt. Aery family.

Patrick D. Williams -

Answer: Resurrection by Any Means Necessary

Malakhi Eason -

Answer: This is my first year helping out with the planning of the Men's weekend but it has been a pleasure working with spiritual men who put God first. My part is to help organize the creative side of planning and bringing in more youth. Please believe me when I say that this is going to be something that is written down in the books for a long time. There will be a great skit that incorporates all the men through music, dance, and song. The Men's Generational Choir joins together the Youth department men and the men of Mt. Aery as one. I can envision the connection that we are creating in our ministry being nothing shorter than epic.

3. What do you want or envision the outcome of this weekend to be?

James Smith -

Answer: I really expect a renewed commitment from the brothers who have been doing their part to continue to be carriers of this great vision at Mt. Aery and abroad, a new commitment from the brothers who have been lukewarm in their actions, and a resurrection commitment for the brothers who for whatever reason just haven't seen the necessity to dig into this vision and help direct it.

Phil Tyner -

Answer: What I would like to see come out of this entire thing is a fire started in the hearts of all for service.

Patrick D. Williams -

Answer: That the men of The Mount will leave with encouraged hearts and be prepared to answer Gods call! Exodus 32:19. Matt 4:4.

Malakhi Eason -

Answer: Hopefully through the Men's Weekend our men's choir grows and it eases the minds of the men in Mt. Aery and encourages them to get more involved. The Men's Weekend will reinsure that they have Pastors support and their fellow brothers in Christ to back them up. I'm so very excited for the movement.



4. Do you have any closing statements?

James Smith -

Answer: First, I want to take the time to honor a pillar of Men's Fellowship and Mt. Aery Baptist Church, the Honorable Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr. That Elder was such an epitome of Christian Love and a true man's man. Therefore, I dedicate this Men's Weekend to his memory.



Second, I would urge every brother to consider the times we are now faced with and understand that this weekend while it will be entertaining it is not solely for your entertainment but it is a call to action (verb no longer nouns). Our children are being used solely for the lust of some class action pedophiles. It is no longer ok or acceptable to just sit back and watch this terror unfold. There is revelation unfolding right before our eyes. We must all stand up and be men!!! This is not a movie.

The Revelation Will Not Be Televised.

Phil Tyner -

Answer: When we have put all of this together I believe it will be very difficult not to have something positive stir within the hearts of first the men and then the rest of the Mt. Aery family.

Patrick D. Williams -

Answer: We must keep our ears open to hear Gods voice. We live and breathe today for a purpose yet to be fulfilled.

Malakhi Eason -

Answer: The labor put into the development of Men's Weekend has been consistent, organized, and inspired to achieve one objective; which is to worship God and bring the men of Mt. Aery Baptist Church together through the brotherly love of Jesus Christ. The men's ministry understands the importance of Family but also understands that God is the head of our lives and without him we will be lost. The Men's Weekend is structured to bring that to the front line.

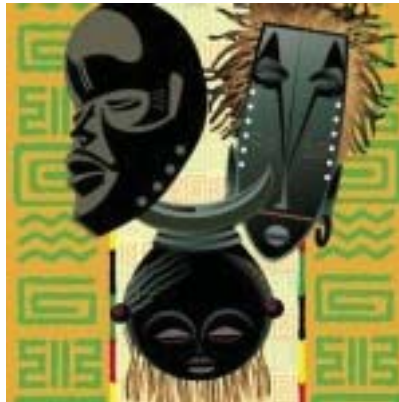
Close:

Wow, with all that said, I don't believe I need to say much more, I think you got the message "Wake Up Everybody"

G. Marshall McBroom

A Matter of Principles by Bridget Franklin

NGUZO



SABA

**The second day of Kwanzaa celebrates
Kujichagulia – Self Determination**



To define ourselves,
To name ourselves,
To create for ourselves,
To speak for ourselves.

The practice of Kujichagulia/Self-determination affirms the right and responsibility of African Americans to think, to speak, and to act from their own cultural framework. By doing this, Blacks make a contribution to the whole of humanity and thus are confirmed in their human worth. Blacks would do well to remember Mary M. Bethune instruction: “We as blacks must recognized that we are the custodians as well as heirs of a great civilization. We have given something to the world as a race and for this we are proud and fully conscious of our place in the total picture of mankind’s development.”

Historical Prayer Participation at Mount Aery Baptist Church by Rev. Alicia Tyson-Sherwood

Under the awesome auspices of Pastor Anthony L. Bennett and the Praying People of Mt. Aery, prayer participation has quadrupled by the use of a free teleconference prayer line. This prayer conference call started on January 2, 2012 and is still going strong. The entry and exit tones were a major distraction to the prayers led by Pastor Bennett in the first few days of our 30 Days of Prayer. Once we moved from the entry and exit tones, the prayer participants had to be reminded to mute their phones. Through it all the prayer went forth with power and might. We were able to work out the kinks and recognize that prayer does change things. Mt. Aery will never replace physically being present for prayer with a prayer conference call. The prayer teleconference is a tool to allow people who are on the healing list, people who are not able to attend church on a regular basis, people who want to draw closer to God through corporate prayer to come together at 7:00 am every morning and pray using the technology of today to have more people praying in the 89 year history of Mt. Aery Baptist Church Prayer Ministry. To God Be the Glory!

There were so many powerful testimonies that were birthed from the 30 Days of Prayer. Rena Monk, a New Disciple facilitator, commented, "I have absolutely loved the fifteen minute prayer conference call this month. I commend you and your ministry for thinking it up, creating it and getting it going and I have definitely benefited from it." Another disciple, Sister Vernetta shared that her dad was in the convalescent home and she was visiting from the South to take care of her dad. She stated that she put the phone on speaker and let her dad listened to it and after she went back down South, she still continued to utilize the prayer line. Mr. and Mrs. Smalls, newly married disciples of Mt. Aery, said, "Henry and I were so honored to be on the line and it was such a blessing early this morning to be a part of this. I know this has been a vision of yours for some time and I am just glad that we were a part of the vision coming to fruition. I pray that it continues to occur, that more people join the line, and that it is a true blessing. We both know for a fact that prayer works." These are just three of many voice mails, phone calls and face to face testimonies that have been shared during these 30 Days of Prayer. The re-occurring theme was "we just don't want to see it end".

The 30 Days of Prayer focused on the book of Habakkuk and the theme that was birthed from prayer was, "Recasting the Vision". The first week of prayer, we prayed on the "Need for Vision". The second week, we petitioned for, "Communicating the Vision." The third week, Pastor Bennett led us in a focal prayer for "The Carriers of the Vision". The final week, "When the Vision Becomes Reality" was the climactic prayer and the theme for Mt. Aery Baptist Church was born. Recasting the Vision was commu-

nicated through bible studies and awesome sermons during the month of January.

In February, the church embarked on recasting the vision for the Music Ministry for 21 Days. It was obvious, every time the Music Ministry ministered to us on Sundays that prayers were being manifested into the flesh. We heard from heaven during the 21 Days of Prayer for our Music Ministry. The access codes changed from 111933# to 818878#, but Pastor Bennett was ever so faithful. The Music Ministry was asked to look at three weekly themes. The first theme was "Examining and Healing Ourselves as Ministers." Many disciples who joined us in the 30 Days of Prayer remained faithful as we prayed for our Music Ministry. The second theme was "Preparing Ourselves to Heal the Congregation"; many disciples could feel the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in our worship. The last theme was "Preparing Ourselves for the New Leadership". The 21 Days of Prayer allowed us to collectively lift up our Music Ministry for the God we serve, we praise, and we love to continue to bless the Music Ministry inside of all of us. Let everything that has breath praise ye the Lord!

Finally, we are now embarking on the 40 Days of Lenten Prayer. This journey of prayer history in the making has not been easy, but it has been worth it. The commitment to get up every morning and pray and read the scripture of the day has disciplined the disciples in ways beyond measure. One of the senior saints, came up to me in Bible Study and said, "When does Rev. Sherwood get rest? I go on every morning and I just love the prayer line." This disciple's encouragement is all the rest that I need to continue to be a part of the great church we call Mount Aery. I encourage all of you to take part in the prayer conference call by dialing 610-214-0000. In the event, you cannot get up early or have other commitments, feel free to use the play back by dialing 610-214-0100 and simply hit the # sign to access the prayer of the day of any prayer that has gone forth during the 30 days of prayer and moving into our current 40 days of Lenten Prayer.

God has allowed Mount Aery to see great visions through praying and now when we say "Much Prayer, Much Power", we are reaping the harvest of so many people that have prayed for the past 88 years. We salute all of the powerful women and men of Mt. Aery Baptist Church, who have prayed and stayed over the years that made this tool of technology to move us and give us the ability to reach more people than before. We are praying without ceasing and encourage all to join us for our 40 Days of Lenten Prayer, which started with the first fruit prayers of January's 30 Days of Prayer.



deacon dover seawright, jr.

A WONDERFUL MAN OF GOD

Deacon Seawright touched so many of the lives in Mount Aery and we just wanted to show our appreciation for his life, love, gifts and wisdom. Message from the Mount has put together a loving note from his son, Dwayne Seawright, and a collection of heartfelt words from the Deacon Ministry. We will miss you Deacon Seawright!! God bless!!!!

Namaste,

I would like to give God all the Glory for blessing me with my earthly father. It's hard to put into words what my father meant to me. He was my spiritual leader, provider, teacher and mentor.

Spiritual leader in the sense that he (along with my mother, Dorothy) showed me how our God and church are so instrumental in our lives. He was always involved with church and made a promise that if the good Lord would spare his life, that after he retires from his jobs, he would devote the rest of his life to serving the church and its people.

As a provider, he worked long hours but still had time to throw the football or baseball around on the side of our house. He told me the stories of him growing up in South Carolina and the struggles that he and his family had to endure. Education back in the 1940's was not the top priority in his household. He had to help his father in the fields. He made sure that my brother (Duke) and I graduated, not only from high school, but college also.

As a teacher and mentor, he would always sit me down and give me advice, from having good credit to living a productive and fulfilling life. We would get up early in the morning to go fishing and sit for hours trying to catch fish. He also taught me how to drive a stick-shift car in an empty parking lot. Dad was an avid motorcycle rider. There was a school right near our house, and dad would let me sit on the gas tank and ride me around the school parking lot. He always told me to "do your best, that's all I ask of you".

I have always been grateful for what Dad has done for me, but as I entered into my 20's, my relationship with Dad changed. I started to see him in a different light. He saw me as an adult, and I saw him more than just Dad, but as Pop. The word, "Pop" is a term of endearment for me. I could come to Pop and talk to him about anything. We laughed together and cried together. Pop always told us he was proud of his boys and what we had achieved. I told him, "it is God's will and your hard work that made us what we are today". I also told him, "it is an honor to be your son".

Pop may be physically gone, but his spirit lives in me and all the people he has touched during his time on this earth. I know I will see you again.

Love you, Pop!!!
Your son,
Dwayne Seawright

Deacon Brad Belcher, Chair of the Deacon Ministry –

One of my fondest memories of Deacon Seawright, Jr. is going to my first National Baptist Deacons Convention. We roomed together and drove up to Boston, MA together. Deacon Seawright introduced me to people that I still have contact with today and for that I will always be grateful.

Deacon CJ Adetona, Co-Chair of the Deacon Ministry –

Deacon Dover Seawright Jr. exemplified what it means to be a true Servant Leader. I thank you "Deac", for your words of encouragement and advice over the years, especially when I was a Deacon-In-Training. So priceless. You will be missed greatly.

Deacon-In-Training Peter F. Hurst, Jr. –

Deacon Seawright was a lot of good things to a lot of people: a father, a grandfather, a husband, a son, a brother, and a friend. Most importantly, he was a man who loved God, a man who praised God, and a man who appreciated the grace of God. I met Deacon Seawright as soon as I joined Mount Aery Baptist Church, but not at church. Rather, Deacon Seawright and I crossed paths on many occasions at the YMCA on Park Avenue. We were both trying to use exercise to combat the creeping effects of age and life, and as a way to reduce the stresses of life. Later on, I knew Deacon Seawright as a customer. I always appreciated that he went out of his way to try to do business with the bank. Deacon Seawright was always warm, always concerned about what you were dealing with, and always ready with a supportive or kind word. I have always found Mount Aery to be a refuge for the things that are bothering me in my personal and professional life. That refuge takes many forms. Sometimes it's a direct conversation with God through prayer. God was using Deacon Seawright to provide a refuge for me and I am sure many of the disciples of Mount Aery feel the same way. Deacon Seawright, we all will miss your physical presence. But thankfully, your spirit will be with us forever.

deacon dover seawright, jr. A WONDERFUL MAN OF GOD

Deacon-In-Training Edwardo Paul –

Deacon Seawright has been a witness in my transformation from a boy to a man over the years. He has always been a soldier for Christ here at Mount Aery. It felt like he was my own personal spiritual mentor. I would attend Men's Fellowship and he was present, I would attend Men's Retreats whenever and wherever there was a need for ministry Deacon Seawright would be around sharing gifts, love and wisdom. When I think of what Deacon Seawright was to me my response is that he was the reflection of the kind of man I would want to be.

Deacon-In-Training Cynthia Seabrook –

What's in a name? That is exactly how Deacon Seawright and I met. "Seawright," "Seabrook."

People were mistakenly relating us. From that point forward, a relationship was built.

I found Deacon Seawright to be a "snappy" dresser. He was straight forward with what he had to say and was refreshing and encouraging during conversation. He was an awesome man of God and I know without a doubt that I will feel his presence.

Rest in Peace Deacon Dover Seawright, and my prayer is that God allow him to be my "Guardian Angel" as I embark on my new journey as Deacon-In-Training.

Deacon-In-Training Kathy Tabb-Small –

Amongst many, two of my fondest memories about Deacon Dover Seawright revolves around children, which revealed to me his nurturing nature and concern, not only for his biological children, but for all of our children. The first incident occurred one Sunday when I spotted Deacon Seawright's grand-daughter, Deja entering the sanctuary with tears in her eyes. I immediately went to her aide and helped her resolve the issue. Unbeknownst to me, Deacon Seawright had been watching us the entire time, but in classic Deacon Seawright style, he never approached us, but inquired about the situation the following Sunday. After I shared with him what had occurred, he thanked me for "looking out for her". The second incident involved my own son, Blair when he was asked to participate in the annual Aids Awareness program at Mt Aery. At that time, we were fairly new disciples to The Mount, and unsure of what Blair's role would be, and just a little bit nervous about the unknown. With his uncanny wisdom, Deacon Seawright pulled us aside separately, explained my son's role to him in detail and then reassured me, the worried mom, my son was a good young man and he would be okay. For this and more, Deacon Seawright will forever be dear to my heart.

Deacon Charlie Jones –

As I reflect on the life of my brother, mentor, and friend Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr., I think about a man who was a true servant leader. He was a deacon who served God and God's people with his whole heart and soul. In everything he did he did with a loving and kind heart and spirit. Deacon Seawright was a leader in the deacon ministry. During my fourteen years as an ordained deacon at Mount Aery Deacon Seawright was willing to share his knowl-

edge and wisdom with anyone who was willing to listen and learn. I thank God for the years I was able to know Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr. I will always remember him and cherish my memories of him.

Deacon W. Richardson –

Farewell to a delightful, dapper, dedicated Deacon. I will never forget you taking me out to deliver my first communion. Gonna miss you and those porgies (LOL). Love you.

Deacon Willie Baldwin –

I have known him since 1990 until now. We agreed and disagreed but he was always my friend. My sympathy goes out to his family. If ever there was anything he could do for me he was there just as I was for him. Psalm 123:1-2

Deacon John R. Hill, Sr. –

I have known my friend Deacon Dover for thirty years or more. I am convinced that he knew the Lord, and I also believe that he trusted the Lord, no matter what obstacles were –placed in his path. Dover was always willing to help someone even when he needed help himself.

Likewise with prayer he was always ready to go out and pray for someone who couldn't get to church or for someone who felt that they needed prayer. Dover was always proud of his ability to pray for anyone at anytime and at any place.

Dover will be missed by his family, the Mount Aery Family, the Deacon Ministry and me.

Deacon Minnie Grant –

Well done thou good and faithful Servant.

Deacon Esau J. Failey –

Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr. was a man of integrity; he was an inspiration to all he came in contact with. He brought joy and laughter to all. Deacon Seawright was an asset to the Deacon's Ministry. All you had to do was ask and he would accommodate you the best that he knew how. He would always say that "If you need me just give me a call but not when the Price is Right is on" (laugh). The gift of friendship and knowledge was precious to the Ministry. I enjoyed working with him. He will be missed by all. God bless Deacon Seawright.

Deacon Primus Jackson III –

My special moments with Deacon Dover Seawright was when he called me and said that the Deacon Ministry had been watching me and would I consider becoming a Deacon. I will never forget that phone call. Another memory was when we attended a NY Mets baseball game together, he was in his glory!

Deacon William “Bo” Dewitt-Smith –

Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr. – a true friend, mentor, teacher and leader. He was most of all a man of God. I will forever cherish and utilize the skills, gifts and talents that he trained me to use in my deacon experience. I miss our singing and praying together during visitations to the sick and shut in. I thank God for your time with me in my spiritual journey. “Rejoice in Heaven” Faithful Servant ~

Deacon Leroy Haggans –

I loss a friend, brother, my Deacon, he was one I could go to and call when I needed someone to talk to. You are going to be missed. There will be no care package this summer. I’m going to miss our time traveling in and out of state. Opening Day is not too far off just keep on watching over them Mets. Rest in peace Deac.

Deacon Terence Vermont –

When I first met Deacon Seawright, I had not known yet that he was a man of great integrity and wisdom. Later when I became an ordained Deacon, I would converse with Deacon Seawright and he always , had a smile on his face and he would always greet me with a hug and handshake. I would occasionally bump into Deacon Seawright in the grocery store or at the local Walgreen and we would talk for quite a bit. I will miss his sincerity and humor. Deacon Seawright will be missed but he will never be forgotten.

Deacon Luis & Annette Febres –

We love you Deac. I remember how Deacon Seawright used to greet me; he would say “Luigi” and shake my hand real hard. I remember one day Deac said “Luigi I need you to look at my motorcycle I need something welded.” I looked at it and said “Deac. I think we need to look for this because it can’t be welded”, he said “Just do something so I can ride.” So I did and the joy that I saw in his eyes made me feel so good. Deac. was one of a kind when I came into the Deacon Ministry it was him, Deacon Haggan, Deacon Boone and Deacon Hill; they taught me so much. God bless Deac.

Deacon Naomi Holmes –

Deacon Dover Seawright
an extravagant giver
The party
The problem
The principle
The process
The gesture
God’s gift
Final words
References
That’s the love of God.



deacon dover seawright, jr.

Deacon Sean Bunyan –

When I close my eyes and think of Deacon Seawright. An image of a seasoned man with a black suit and a silver chain that says Namaste on it appears. The best memory of Deacon Seawright helping me before I became a Deacon was on the Mt. Aery Baptist Church fishing trip. We were next to each other on the boat and I was having a hard time with my fishing rod. It was tangled and the line was going every which way. Deacon Seawright took a time out and put his rod down to help me with my rod. I apologized and said sorry for taking away your time on this trip. He said, "I been on enough fishing trips for me to help a young man out like yourself. It's not a problem at all." Then he smiled. Deacon Seawright always had a smile on. As I grew deeper in the Deacon Ministry I realized the reason why a smile in and out the church is a must. When I was a Deacon in Training, Deacon Seawright’s knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the bible and the church history was essential in my development in becoming a Deacon and a man of God. His characteristic imprint and his legacy memories will never leave Mount Aery Baptist Church. They are going to be continued on through his family and friends throughout generations to come. Deacon Seawright’s body left this earth but he still lives in all those that know and love him. I believe that his spiritual growth is still being developed just as it was on earth and now in heaven. So I have joy in my heart and mind knowing that an earthly soldier of God is now amongst the others that left this earth still watching over us all. Thanks be to God.

Deacon Doreen Cotter –

A great “Giant” laid to rest – gone but never forgotten
his memory and legacy will continue to live on.
I had the privilege of his acquaintance through Community Time
(a ministry that once existed within Mount Aery),
the AIDS Ministry, the Deacon Ministry and being involved with
community outreach.
He was truly an inspiring individual. He touched my life and the
lives of so many others. Whether we were entrusted to his care
or not, he made himself available to be used by God, to
share many words of wisdom and encouragement.
Surely his living was not in vain; he will be greatly missed.
Selah...

Deacon Regina Mosely –

Deacon Dover Seawright, Jr. was a Servant, Leader, Mentor, Accountable, Committed, Honest, a man of faith and compassion, Guided by the a Divine Spirit that followed him through all aspects of his life. As a Deacon he demonstrated his faith in God through his service to his family, church, community and on his job. He sort to pray and bring comfort to the sick doing their darers moments. I looked to him as the Deacon that lived the life of Faith, Worship, Love and Peace for God. Mt. Aery and the Deacon Ministry has lost a great man, but Haven has gained an Angel.



REFLECTIONS

"YES Jesus Loves Me, This I know"

The Strength and Struggles of an Icon by Eva J. McLeod

Whitney Elizabeth Houston
August 9, 1963 – February 11, 2012

This is Women's History Month and I had several women in mind to write about. As I put on my thinking cap and came up with several names, Coretta Scott King, Dr. Betty Shabazz, Sojourner Truth, Maya Angelou, so many women who have graced this planet who have made insurmountable contributions to this country. I said to myself why not Whitney E. Houston; a legendary Icon, beautiful, statuesque sister with an amazing VOICE that she shared with the world.

Personally, I loved Whitney from day one when she first hit the music scene with her VOICE, "the VOICE" in 1986. The strongest and most prolific voices you will ever hear in history.

I woke up that morning thinking about my father who passed away three years ago in Atlanta, Georgia. I was there with him and my family when he passed the night before thanksgiving in 2009. His birthday is 2/11/31. He died from a massive heart attack. Every year when his birthday comes around, I am sad, questioning God and feeling some sort of way. Nonetheless, my faith in God never wavered. He answered my questions and prayers. So when I received a text from a friend around 7:30 p.m. on 2/11/2012 stating that Whitney Houston had died. "My God," I gasped and thought that it couldn't be true. Someone has put out a malicious rumor; all sorts of things were going through my mind.

As I continued to drive home thinking what is going on I said, "Oh God is this true?" He answered back and said "Yes it is true" at that moment I knew it was real. I just want to celebrate Whitney for Women's History Month as she is to be celebrated, with high honors. I know there are people who want to pass judgment, make negative statements and not celebrate her triumphs but celebrate her trials. I beg the difference. Whitney was beautiful, inspirational, and most of all Spiritual. She knew who God was and that's most important.

She grew up in a spiritual household in Newark, New Jersey with her parents and siblings. She was the only daughter of Cissy Houston. She was born gifted with a VOICE that superseded most in the music industry. I believe that God ordained

Whitney in her mother's womb. God gives us all a reason and purpose for being. We just have to figure it out for ourselves and know what our purpose is in life.

For Whitney it was all about making music and singing, loving God and living a fulfilled life. She has exceeded 5 to 10 generations. She believed in charity, love, family and marriage. She loved her family, her former husband and most of all her daughter, Bobbi Kristina. She as, most women, wanted to be loved, cherished and idolized. We as Black women have to learn how to celebrate each other and celebrate ourselves. We have to stop criticizing each other and tearing each other down. We have to hold each other up in our struggles, our triumphs and our lowest points in our lives. For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son. "Who are we?"

What I loved about Whitney is she told the truth about who she was. She didn't lie about her struggles. She let the world know she was struggling with drugs, life and her demons. She made her choice and she struggled with it. Impart from all her struggles and dreams, Whitney knew the Lord. She carried her bible with her everywhere she went. You heard the stories, you watched the funeral, and you saw for yourself the woman behind the mask. We as women and people struggle with our demons just like Whitney. Some people share and some people don't. We as a people and particularly Christian folk have to learn how to not judge one another but to lift each other up.

She was loved all over the world, nationally and internationally. Her character was none other than a woman who wanted to be heard, who wanted to be loved and most of all, a woman who wanted to be respected.

My heart goes out to her mother who raised her in the church with morals and values, her daughter whom she loved unconditionally and people all over the world who loved the tall, statuesque, beautiful woman with "the VOICE".

We love you Whitney, "Rest in peace"

[MARCH 2012 - 40 DAYS OF PRAYER]

40 Days of Lenten Prayer

Prayer time is 7:00am to 7:10am from 2/22/2012 through 4/8/2012. 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 distance 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 2 Timothy 3:16-17	2 2 Timothy 2:15	3 Philippians 4:13
4 Psalm 139:1	5 Romans 7:14-15	6 Ephesians 2:10	7 1 Corinthians 12:12-14	8 Proverbs 19:21	9 Psalm 33:11	10 Romans 8:28
11 1 Corinthians 12:7	12 1 Corinthians 12:1	13 1 Peter 4:10	14 Romans 12:5	15 1 Corinthians 12:31	16 Psalm 139:16	17 Hebrews 12:1
18 John 4:20-24	19 Matthew 25:14-30	20 1 Corinthians 12:8-10	21 Ephesians 1:2	22 Ephesians 4:11	23 Romans 12:6-8	24 1 Corinthians 12:28
25 1 Timothy 2:1-2	26 Galatians 5:22-23	27 Psalm 119:1	28 Philippians 2:13	29 Romans 12:1	30 Psalm 37:4	31 John 15:7
Maintaining the Effectiveness of Our Gifts (Rest and Renewal)						

Discovering How We are "Wired", 9types.com

Discovering and Using Our Spiritual Gifts

We are a Gifted Congregation

MARCH 2012 Birthdays

March 1st

Azpiri, Naiara
Bryant, Jeffrey
Fedick, Lisa
Gardner, Denise
Guerrier, Fabienne
Lee, Alice
Miller, Judith
Murray, Christopher
Parks, William
Seawright, Lillian
Thigpen, Barbara

March 2nd

DeJesus, Michael
Edmonds-Myles,
Sadiga
English, Malcolm
Gibson, Trevin
Pulley, Karen

March 3rd

Deslandes, Dorothy
Frances, Gregory
Jordan, Manion
Kendricks, Kimberly
Kendricks, Rhonda
Mullins, Roger
Myles, David
Smalls, Barbara
Szucs, Barbara
Wilson, Clarice

March 4th

Brown-Rogers,
Renata
Cohen, Tonahja
Daniels, Terrell
Fisher, Doris
Martin, Janna
Nimmons, Jean
Phillips, Nadine
Studivant, Robert
White, Christina
Williams, Monique
Wright, Joseph

March 5th

Anderson, Catherine
Anderson, Juanita
Henry, Kiearta
Jones, Ashley
Langston, Ali
Lee, Kim
Thompson, Sylvia

March 6th

Day, Jovan
Goodwin, Rochelle
Greatheart, David
Lewis, Sandra
Roundtree, Lois
Smalls-Layne, Sharon
Stone, Noelle
Tejada, Eleanor

Williams, Tiffany
Wright, Lakeem

March 7th

Adams, Bernice
Annunziato, Kristen
Austin-Christy, Sharon
Baldwin, Dalaine J.
Carter, Sovah
Cobb, Sherrine
Dumas, Renee
Johnson, Latasia
Mendez, Dezmondade
Mones, Barbara
Reid, Joel

March 8th

Black, Thomas
Brown, Kristina
Davis, Cynthia
Durant, Tracy
Lazaro, Monica
Turnball, Deborah

March 9th

Black, Geneysa
Cooper, Odell
Davy, Orlando
Jones, Unice
Maye, Shawneisha L.

March 10th

Butts, Jr., Curtis
Dixon, Theresa
Laws, Stanley
Pettway, Mackerea
Porter, Rashaun
Williams, Betty
Wright, Zequanda

March 11th

Belcher, Bradford
Gallimore III,
Frederick
Ingram, Bobbie
Padilla, Freddie
Richardson, Leon
Spearman, Barbara

March 12th

Brown, Nysheen
Coleman, Quella
Crumpton, Lavesha
Lopes, Ana
McFadden, Simone
Miller, Remy
Miller, Sheila
Phillips, Laurie
Spencer, James

March 13th

Gatling, Bryan
Gordon, LeVar
Hill, Harold
Jones, Nedra

Martin, Betty
Womack, Sidney

March 14th

Boykin, John
Dennis, Isaiah
Hall, Quantishay
Hargell, Brinita
Johnson, Shenneetha
McLean, Palmer
Pulley, Christina
Reid, Dean
Riddick, Denzel
Thigpen, Mary

March 15th

Alves, Lynda
Brown, Stafford
Burton, Samantha
Hendricks, Stephen
Jones, Jennifer
Manns, Betty
Whitfield-Ferguson,
Felicia

March 16th

Gatison, Thedis
Gerald, Johnny
Holbrooks, Debra
McKenzie, Julian
McKenzie, Mabel
Miller-Hayes, Jocelyn
Paul, Candida
Wilson, Anita

March 17th

Belin, Freddie Lee
Boston - Bass, Fallon
Brown, Caleb
Cherry-Cruz, Teresa
Foster, Jimmy
Foster, Johnny
Gary, Michael
Jones, Christine
Jones, Garrett
Washington, Kimberly
Wilson, Michelle

March 18th

Barnes, Ashley
Hill, Antoinette
Holloway, Clarice
Jones, Rhonda
Joseph, Tiffany
Moore, Markus
Rozier, Ricardo
Sheffield, Kendale

March 19th

Bember, Mary Ann
Bostick, Warren
Fleming, Bernice
Fowlin, Dalon
Holloway, Qiayima
Johnson, Lorenda

Moore, Claudia
Perkins, Glory
Pinto, Delia
Richardson, Kenneth

March 20th

Cameron, Charles
Jackson, Nicole
Shabazz, Adul Jalil
Young, J

March 21st

Abrams, Elizabeth
Adams, Joshua
Crumpton, Tanya
Cuttino, Barbara
Galberth, Ella
Geter, Chakachan
Mack-Alderson, Helen
Underwood, Chaz
Underwood, Chaz
Upchurch, Ellen
Williams, Andrew

March 22nd

Buster, Jacqueline
Camacho, Aida
Cauthen, Deja
Coleman, Jason
Daley, Tanisha
Goode, Margaret
Hall, Doreen
Kearney, Dorothy
Macey, Barbara
Mims, Kimberly
Palmer, Tiffany
Williams, Mary

March 23rd

Bailey, Glenstene
Byrd, Nannette
Cohen-Gatison, Mary
Dickey, Lindsay
Flores, Anna
Shepard, Willie

March 24th

Ballard, Na'Taya
Christy, Alyssa
Gonzalez, Syeria
Hibbert, Sheryll
Moore, Debbie
Richardson, Willie Mae
Riley, Debbie
Timmons, Rushawn
Williams, Porsha

March 25th

Breedlove, Eleese
Jones, Samantha
Jones, Shani
Jordan, Charlene
Matthews, Bonita
Royals, Doris
Walker, Brian
Walker, Lamesha
Wilson, Denise

March 26th

Davis, Piaget
Patton, Garland

March 27th

Bonney, Richard
Gamble, Cassandra
Jackson, Larry
Washington, Wayne
Witherspoon, Jonathan

March 28th

Adetona, Oluwadamisi
Allen, Laretha
Coslow, Myrtle
Davis, Winston
Dukes, Danielle
Lindsay, Theresa
Simmons, Jena
Williams, Bobbie

March 29th

Gardner, Mark
Jordan, Molly
Lee, Shelia

March 30th

Green, Sampson
McIntosh, Joel
Pullins, Mitzi
White, Princella
Williams, Terrance

March 31st

Byfield, Bryan
Danso, Kellie
Etheredge, Deloris
Lary, Helena
Miller, Tony
Ramsey, Donna
Spearman,
Lynda Corrine

*Joan's
Bridal
Boutique*

Tuxedo Rental • Dyeable Shoes
Weddings • Proms & Banquet Gowns
Quinceañera • Etc

Tel: (203) 373-7800
Fax: (203) 416-0042
3803 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606



Store Hours

MON - FRI - SAT
10:30am - 6pm

TUE - WED - THUR
10:30am - 7pm

SUNDAYS CLOSED

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 7:45 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Bookstore 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Olmec Store 1:00 PM Tax Preparation	5	6 6:00 PM Five Star Meeting 6:30 PM Martial Arts CT 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	7 12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 5:30 PM Prayer Ministry 6:30 PM Jesus Corner 6:45 PM Bible Study	1 9:30 AM MADCC Meeting 6:30 PM Deacons Ministry 6:30 PM REFUGE 6:30 PM Tax Preparation 7:30 PM Music Ministry	2	3 8:30 AM Men's Ministry Meeting 10:00 AM Minister's Meeting 12:30 PM Interpreters 1:00 PM Missionary Ministry Meeting 2:30 PM Men's Weekend Choir
11 7:45 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Bookstore 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Olmec Store 1:00 PM Tax Preparation	12 6:30 PM Fellowship Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM SAW Gathering	13 6:00 PM Leadership Development Mandatory Training 7:30 PM Martial Arts CT 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30 PM Trustees Ministry	14 12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 5:30 PM Prayer Ministry 6:30 PM Jesus Corner 6:30 PM P.L.U.G 6:45 PM Bible Study	15 6:30 PM Deacons Ministry 6:30 PM REFUGE 6:30 PM Tax Preparation 7:30 PM Music Ministry	16 5:00 PM Men's Weekend	17 6:00 AM Men's Weekend
18 7:45 AM Men's Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Bookstore 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Men's Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Olmec Store 1:00 PM Tax Preparation	19	20 6:00 PM Leadership Development Mandatory Training 7:30 PM AIDS Ministry Meeting 7:30 PM M.A.Y.A. Ministry Meeting 7:30 PM Martial Arts CT 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	21 12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 5:30 PM Prayer Ministry 6:30 PM Jesus Corner 6:30 PM P.L.U.G 6:45 PM Bible Study	22 6:30 PM REFUGE 6:30 PM SAW Book Club 6:30 PM Tax Preparation 7:30 PM Music Ministry	23	24 8:30 AM Men's Ministry Meeting 9:00 AM New Disciples Ministry 10:00 AM Scholastic Ministry 1:00 PM LaDale Codrington Wedding
25 7:45 AM Worship Celebration 9:45 AM Olmec Bookstore 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Celebration 1:00 PM Olmec Store 1:00 PM Tax Preparation	26	27 6:00 PM Leadership Development Mandatory Training 7:30 PM Martial Arts CT 7:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	28 12:00 PM Daytime Bible Study 5:30 PM Prayer Ministry 6:30 PM Jesus Corner 6:30 PM P.L.U.G 6:45 PM Bible Study	29 6:30 PM Deacons Ministry 6:30 PM REFUGE 6:30 PM Shepard/Turner Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 PM Tax Preparation 7:30 PM Music Ministry	30	31 8:30 AM Men's Ministry Meeting 10:00 AM Minister's Meeting 11:00 AM Safe Place Training 3:30 PM Shepard/Turner Wedding

** Church Calendar is subject to change daily. Please be certain to read all media from the church to keep you updated. **



Mount Aery Baptist Church
Sisters At The Well Ministry

*'Your sacrifice can not
compare!'*

*Please read Matthew 26 and
27:11-50*

Date: Monday March 12, 2012

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Place: Mount Aery Baptist Church
– Bass Hall –

MEN'S WEEKEND 2012

**Resurrection:
By Any Means
Necessary**

John 11: 43 & 44

MARCH 16TH

TO

MARCH 18TH

"Lazarus, Come forth!"



M.A.Y.A.

MOUNT AERY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PRESENTS

4TH ANNUAL

CAFE NIGHT SOUL *Inspiration*

FRI. MAY 18TH 2012

ADMISSION

\$7.00 IN ADVANCE
(\$10 AT THE DOOR)

SOCIAL HOUR 7:00-8:00PM

ENTERTAINMENT 8:00-10:00PM

21 AND OVER



MOUNT AERY
BAPTIST CHURCH

BASS HALL · 73 FRANK STREET · BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604