



# HIGHLIGHTER

A BIBLE BELIEVING, CHRIST CENTERED, & SPIRIT LED CONGREGATION

## THE LIVING STONE



Dr. Henry P. Davis, III

*“You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple, He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.”*

*1 Peter 2:4*

*(New Living Translation)*

### Each and every one of us has to deal with rejection in our lives.

Unfortunately, this is not a very easy subject and it is not limited to any stage of life. Recently on the Today Show they were analyzing the feelings which come from being rejected. It is always the hope that persons would not get wrapped up in deviant behavior, but some times that does happen as persons will express their frustrations in many different ways. Sometimes they strike out at others and at other times they will do things to themselves.

We can be rejected by people but ultimately we are approved by God and that is the most important factor, but that does not eliminate the hurt and frustration that is felt by each of us who are wrapped up in the flesh.

That’s right. We’re human and no matter how super spiritual we act, with our quick responses that give off the impression that trouble never darkens our door steps, but in this life we must acknowledge that the walk of faith is not always easy, but we are grateful for His abiding love.

Jesus has indeed come so that we might enjoy eternal life and that is why unbelievers cannot understand the joy of following Christ. Each day that we walk with the Lord, God will shower new levels of blessings. But at each new level we have to deal with new challenges. It is such a joy to live for Jesus, as He always knows the way that He is trying to direct us, as He wants the absolute best for our lives.

In this message I lift the idea of The Living Stone, as over these past couple of years we have witnessed the construction of our New Worship and Conference Center, but we would not want to think about where we would be without the power of prayer. Our blessing is that we’re not just building a building, but we are engaged in Kingdom Building and our new house of worship is here to glorify God and we pray for many souls to positively respond to the call to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

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### Planning for the Inevitable Life Event

by Sister Yvonne Lowe

**“Get Your House in Order” Preplanning for End-of-Life Events was the theme of an information exchange session hosted by the Women’s Ministry this past March.**

The featured speakers summarized the benefits of preplanning and prepaying for end-of-life situations, that is, your (or a loved one’s) eventual death. The audience discovered, depending on their situations, advance planning goes beyond having a will and a burial plot.

Ms. Michelle Wiseman (owner of Wiseman funeral home in Clinton, MD), and Ms. Cereta Lee (the Prince George’s County Registrar of Wills and a member of First Baptist) captured the audience’s attention as they shared information that is not discussed often enough among family members. They provided insightful information on everything from guardianship of property of minors, often overlooked costs associated with funerals and burials, to examples of situations where advance planning was and was not done. There was a marked difference in the impact on loved ones left to handle, or not handle (which was the case in some examples), all the details and costs of the funeral and burial, as well as matters relating to property and assets.

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## A Living Stone continued

At the core of everything that a Believer does must be Jesus and this Scripture is a ringing reminder of that reality. It is within the walls of our new church that we will be inspired, encouraged, and challenged to continue to push the envelope for the cause of Jesus Christ. God does not want us to be lazy in our faith, but to always look to Him, who has the ability to empower us to do things that we could never think about without His presence, power, and purpose.

*“When God gets you to a certain point in your spiritual development, He never desires for you to become complacent in your pursuit to be more like Him.”*

Even Jesus knows the feeling of being rejected. Just the other day I went to pray for a person, who refused my prayer. No matter how long that I have been a Christian it is still difficult when persons say no to prayer. That just squeezes my heart as I say to myself how could a person say no to Jesus and say no to prayer. I still believe that prayer changes things and it changes situations. And even though he did not want my prayer, I still silently prayed that God would touch him.

In the recent Rio Olympics we saw many fantastic performances and we saw a number of the Gold Medalists give praise and honor to God as they refused to be ashamed of their faith. All of us, who are in the faith, can celebrate how far the Lord has brought us. Where would we be without the Lord on our side? From the Jamaican sprinter, Usain Bolt, to the first African-American swimmer, Simone Manuel, to win a gold medal, these athletes proudly let the world know that Jesus is at the center of their lives. There is no limit to what God can do in our lives when we release ourselves to Him.

Jesus dealt with rejection, but He still held His head high. We must do the same as we will go through life and there will be moments, in which we will fall, but God can empower us to get back up again and in many cases we can be stronger than we've ever been as a result of the Lord pouring into our lives.

When God gets you to a certain point in your spiritual development, He never desires for you to become complacent in your pursuit to be more like Him. Now the devil does not want to see this positive progress and you are a threat to his Kingdom, so he wants to do whatever he can to slow down your progress. That is why prayer, Bible Study, and worship must always be a priority and we cannot allow outside distractions to make us lose sight of the great God whom we serve. Just reflect on how far the Lord has brought you and that should help you to know that God will always remain true to his word.

Unbelievers will never be able to get away from the wide reach of God, because we can never outrun His love. Love is alive and God is alive. That is the Spirit that we will take into our new house of worship, as we keep lifting the name of Jesus as high as possible.

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## Planning for the Inevitable Life Event continued

Additionally, some First Baptist members shared their experiences with preplanning and prepaid funeral/burial arrangements for themselves and for loved ones. They emphasized the need for knowing the details of those plans and sharing with family members prior to the actual need for them. The guest speakers and First Baptist members encouraged everyone without plans to take action before it is too late. Alleviating unexpected financial burdens and knowing the final wishes of the deceased were benefits cited most often.

In summary, the speakers generated great interest and discussion. So much so, that the Women's Ministry was asked by several attendees to host another session that includes men and women. ☒

## Did You Know?

**Mexico is as a country in the southern half of North America.** It is bordered to the north by the United States; to the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; to the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and to the east by the Gulf of Mexico. The country has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the world with almost a third of all Spanish native speakers. Mexico is crossed from north to south by two mountain ranges known as Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental, which are the extension of the Rocky Mountains from northern North America. The United Mexican States are a federation of 31 free and sovereign states, which form a union that exercises a degree of jurisdiction over the Federal District and other territories. Each state has its own constitution, congress, and a judiciary, and its citizens elect by direct voting a governor for a six-year term, and representatives to their respective unicameral state congresses for three-year terms.

**Capital: Mexico City**  
**Currency: Peso (MXN)**  
**Population: 119,530,753**  
**Continent: North America**  
**Official language: Spanish**  
**President: Enrique Peña Nieto**



Mexican Flag

## GOD “The Game Changer”

by Deacon Robin Tunstall

**First I would like to give God all the Honor and all the Glory and all the Praise for “Sitting high and looking Low” and to thank him publically for his tender mercy and loving care he shows me every single day.** Despite the fact that we get caught up with the cares of this world, and we sometimes take Him for granted, it’s a wonderful miracle that he never sleeps nor slumbers and he forever watches over us.

When I was asked by Rev. Barnett to share my experience about my Mexico trip, I had to laugh to myself because that meant I had to disclose how silly I looked at the Airport with mountains of luggage at the check-in desk ready to board the plane, when I was told at the last minute that I could not travel to Brazil without a Visa. That’s when I felt like a bomb had dropped on me. I stood there speechless, all I could do was frown my face and yell out “What Visa?” and I gave him my passport anyway. He looked at me so apologetic and slowly gave back my passport and said you also needed a visa. Then I went into shock mode! At that point, the attendant supervisor assured me we needed visas in order to travel to Brazil. It was at that point that it finally sunk in, we were not going to Brazil, and I thought to myself, “I can’t believe after all that planning and preparation, God would allow this to happen to me”. So I questioned God right then and there, and of course He answered me. God would prove himself strong in my life, if I would trust HIM and to trust that GOD’s will for my life and his word is a permanent change in my life, and he will guide me through my emotions and eagerness to go to Brazil, but I needed to trust the inner spirit man that is within me to lead me.

He reminded me that having Faith doesn’t make things easy, but Faith makes all things possible. So God gave me the revelation that HE was in control of this trip and my destiny. So it was then that I calmed down and looked back at my daughters and mumble out “We are not going to Brazil”. As I turned to face my daughters to see how they would take the bad news, my 20 year old daughter Talia eagerly confided in me that she was sort of glad we were not going to Brazil because the Zika virus has been all over the news, and she didn’t want to take any chances of getting bitten by mosquitoes. She had already googled the Zika virus in Brazil on her phone to show me the latest health alerts. It was then that I learned the Zika Virus is transmitted to people primarily through the mosquito’s bites. In which most cases cause mild fever, skin rashes, muscle and joint pain, and conjunctivitis and that these symptoms normally last for 2-7 days. All I could say was WOW! What a blessing it was that we couldn’t go to Brazil. I began to think about what if one of us was bitten and became sick for 2-7 days with that virus while in another country, how devastating that would be. It was then I heard a soft voice say, don’t be sad, that’s why I changed your plans. I have made other plans for you, I couldn’t allow you to end up in a place you didn’t need to be. Again He asked “Where is your faith?”

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Deacon Robin Tunstall & her daughters



Pictures from Mexican Trip

## A Living Stone conclusion

We praise God for how we can come down Sheriff Road and see those three crosses on top of our new church and we have no idea how many persons are being touched by that powerful message through the living image of the cross that Jesus died on so that we might have access to eternal life. Wow! God is so awesome, as He is alive and that was realized by how He got up on Resurrection Sunday morning.

The City on the Hill – First Baptist Church of Highland Park will continue to be Bible Believing, Christ Centered, & Spirit Led because we're standing on The Living Stone. There are many things that can disappoint us, but not Jesus. We might not understand Him, but that does not deny His greatness, nor the mighty things that He can [and will] do in our lives. Praise God for how the Lord is able to meet us right where we are and He can give us just what we need. He is, indeed, The Living Stone. ■

## HPCA EMBRACES PRE-K SPANISH AGAIN! Hurra y Vitores

**Three-year-old Amir Moten reached for the oversized plastic lime green microphone and tentatively repeated, “me llamo Amir,” then sat back to eye his peers as they too introduced themselves in a new fangled way.** It was the first lesson of a year long Spanish Immersion program for pre-schoolers at the Highland Park Christian Academy. For 2.5 hours, twice a week, five pre-school groups get 30-minute instructions in Spanish. And they are delighted.

“Hola, hola, hola,” the students yelled, waving their hands as Yarim Heureaux rushed into the room armed with Óliee the piña puppet, story cards, colorful hoops, miniature easel and music player. They stared with wide-eyed excitement.

“Hola Amigos,” Señorita Heureaux responded then plopped down on the royal blue alphabet floor mat in the middle of the room. “Muy bien.”

A lot is crammed into the high-energy, 30-minute sessions of pure Spanish. Students learned body parts: head is la cabeza; feet are los pies; and, hands are las manos. They counted. They repeated phrases such as brush teeth, wash with soap and comb hair. And then, they sang, danced and twirled as they repeated the Spanish phrases with near reckless abandon.

Dual language schools and programs are fast growing across America as the number of immigrants – particularly from Spanish-speaking countries – soars. Even in Prince George’s County there is a growing effort to immerse young students in a foreign language. Three PGCPSS elementary schools offer Spanish immersion in kindergarten. However, HPCA is only one of only a few private schools that offer Spanish instruction to children as young as 2- and 3-year-olds.



**Señorita Heureaux teaching Spanish**

Heureaux is a consultant who offers drop-in lessons. The program provides a full curriculum too.

“The advantage is the fact that if we introduce a language early, we start to see them really use the language by third grade,” Ms. Wright explained. “When they are in real world situations, they are able to read the language and comprehend when someone is speaking.”

Spanish is the most popular foreign language taught in U.S. schools, although there are schools that also offer Chinese, French and Mandarin. Early childhood foreign-language immersion programs are increasing, according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Surveys by the Center for Applied Linguistics said the nation had three public-school immersion programs in 1971 and grew to 448 in 2011. Current data is not yet available.

Just as the parent recommended a program for HPCA, experts said parents are the biggest proponents of early bilingual education because studies show the programs prepare students for the global environment and teach acceptance and social-emotional competence. Research also suggest that youngsters who become bilingual at a young age are often more creative and fare better at solving complex problems in school.



Ms. Wright, a licensed minister who officially became principal this year after a one-year stint as interim leader, said pre-school Spanish had been offered at HPCA in 2013. She decided to bring back Spanish for pre-schoolers after watching a demo of Señorita Heureaux’s Piña program this summer. “She was energetic,” Ms. Wright said of the instructor. “The students were highly engaged. I was taken aback by how much they comprehended in such a short period of time. She transitioned from one thing to the next and the students were engaged the entire time, from beginning to end.” To pay for the pre-school Spanish immersion program, Ms. Wright explained that school leaders were able to parlay some book and technology fees. “I just thought this is something we really need,” she said. ■

## Six Initial Sermons

**There have been a number of firsts since the arrival of Pastor Henry P. Davis sixteen years ago.** Pastor Davis licensed the first woman minister of First Baptist, had the first husband -wife preaching duo at 7:30 and 11:15 services on the same day, and the first group of Seven Sisters to deliver the Seven Last Saying of Christ in seven minutes. We now have another first, six ministers giving their initial sermons in one night.



Rev. Carl Felton II, Rev. Costello Davis, Rev. Norma Roy-Hardie, Rev. Yolanda Craig, Rev. Valencia Richardson, and Rev. Dr. Karen Alexander have answered the call to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the masses.

Dr. Alexander's message entitled 'You', You –Obedience- Unconditionally. The text was taken from Deuteronomy 6:5. The question was asked, "Who are you?" You a child of God, an ambassador for Christ, Joint Heir with Jesus Christ, a royal priesthood, a part of the chosen generation that bears witness to the glory of God. You are accepted. You must obey the leading of the Spirit unconditionally to fulfill your purpose just as Jesus did. The wonderfulness of you.

Rev. Yolanda Craig's message entitled 'Your assignment doesn't have to make sense' was taken from the text, I Kings 20:35-36. There were four points given to emphasize this passage: 1) Sometimes God is going to ask you to do something that doesn't make sense to you. 2) If you don't complete your assignment God will find someone else to do it. 3) God expects you to be obedient even when you don't understand. 4) God expects you to learn His voice.

The passage chosen by Rev. Costello Davis was John 3:16. She entitled her message, 'The Power of Love'. She opens her message by telling us the four different types of love; Eros, Storge, Phileo, and Agape. There are three points that emphasized the power of love. 1) The power of love for God is love. 2) The power of love is based on obedience. Jesus was willing to lay down His life. He stayed faithful to His purpose and mission. 3) We can show the power of love every day. God wants us to love. Love is action, so let's do something. Jesus did something he was obedient to the power of love. The power of Love is God for God so loved the world.

The Felton name is not new to ministry here at First Baptist church, Dr. Carl Felton and Dr. Yvonne Felton are the parents of Rev. Carl Felton II. Rev. Felton's text was taken from Matthew 16:13-18, 'No room for Haters'. He shared with us the four P's, places, personal, perspective, and prophecy.

**Places** -Jesus' ministry was not bound to location. Jesus wants you to take you from your current situation and take you to new heights in your life.

**Personal** – We have to know Jesus for ourselves. We need Jesus to be our personal Lord and Savior. Peter's private declaration became his public pronouncement. Our personal encounter with Jesus determines how we represent him in every area of our lives.

**Perspective** – Only God can give us revelation as to who Jesus is. When we have a mind that can understand Jesus and the Gospel that's from the Lord and not our intellect.

**Prophecy** – Jesus by His earthly existence fulfilled prophecy, He also spoke prophecy. Despite some of our short comings, despite some of our spiritual setbacks, despite some of our slipping and dipping and falling, we can get back up. Jesus has major plans for you.

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## God the "Game Changer" continued

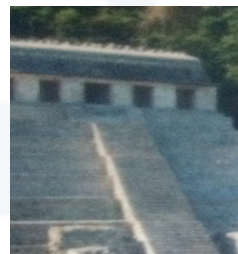
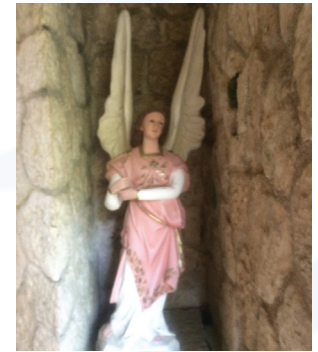
So this is why I felt I had to share this story with you how I learned that God is a Game Changer in my life! He changed my plans right then and there at the last second or so like a miracle that fell from the sky. He made it so I couldn't maneuver my way to board that plane even if my life depended on it. God required me to live beyond the natural and gave me hope that something bigger and better was about to happen to me. You see, all this was unknown to me at the time I made my travel arrangements, I wasn't aware of the wide spread of the Zika virus outbreak in Rio de Janeiro in November, 2015. My daughters and I were scheduled to leave for Brazil in early March of 2016 for 5 days and 4 nights. However, I must admit, I didn't do enough research about the country or I would have known I needed a visa to travel to Brazil and surely I would have known more about the Zika virus. Instead, I was so excited about the opportunity to travel to South America that I only focused on the trip itself. All I could think about was, what a blessing it would be to see the most famous monument to Christianity in the world, the statue, "Christ the Redeemer". To be able to see this man made statue made from concrete and soapstone from 1926-1931, that stands 130 feet tall and weighs 700 tons was incredible to envision. AMAZING!

I was so eager to visit the country that I purchased three roundtrip tickets and made hotel reservations six months in advance to get cheap air fare and contacted the First Baptist Church of Brazil to attend their worship service. It wasn't until a week or so before the trip that I heard more information about the Zika virus. However, I felt for sure that God was with me and that I was in HIS will to visit this country and worship with the people who loved Jesus enough to build such a monument to him. Not ever once stopping to think or to investigate more about the country or the dangers the Zika virus could impose on the health of my two young daughters.

As I look back during our check-in, at Ronald Regan Airport, all I could do now is to thank God for intervening my traveling to Brazil and HIM protecting me and my daughters from unseen dangers. The verse Genesis 50:20 came to mind: What the Devil meant for evil against me, God meant it for my good, that God changed my plans for my good. So my entire perspective of the trip changed. I was no longer disappointed about not going to Brazil but instantly began to thank GOD for not taking the risk of getting the Zika virus. It was at that time my daughter suggested that since we were already at the airport that we should try to get a flight to Mexico (she conveniently left out it was Spring Break in Cancun, Mexico), but she looked so revived and excited about the possibility of going that I couldn't say no. It finally registered with me that God didn't allow me to go because he knew deep in my heart, I really just wanted to spend some Rest and Relaxation time with my girls. It was an eye opening experience to watch my 20 year old act all grown up and utilize her traveling skills she had learned by watching and traveling with me all of her life, to take the lead on scheduling our flights to Mexico. I literally was able to soak in how much she had grown over the 3 years living away from home at college even spending 6 months in California on a college internship, to come back home, displaying courage and wisdom. I was proud she felt it was her responsibility to take the lead on managing our trip to Mexico because she suggested that we go. That was a mother's exhale moment that I will never forget.

She made all of the hotel arrangements, car service and many other discounts for service. Her efforts enabled me to relax, and gave me needed time to bond with my youngest daughter who was transitioning from 9th grade to 10th. She had a lot to discuss with me and she talked the entire trip. In other words, God Blessed me more than I can ever say in this report.

While in Mexico we had a wonderful time. We were able to visit beautiful Churches and attend a Catholic mass in our hotel. We visited ancient monuments and historical grave sites and we ate lots of Mexican food. ☒



## Men's Retreat 2016

Rev. James L. Barnett

**The 2016 Men's retreat was held on May 18 - 19, 2016 at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Virginia.** Romans 12:8 served as the Scripture and theme for this retreat and it reads: "If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging, if it is giving, give generously, if God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

The retreat was full of praise and worship as the men were given encouragement and I quote Pastor Davis "To draw closer to God so that we may be equipped to be better husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers." There was much prayer as Pastor led a sunrise prayer walk and run on Saturday morning and the Holy Spirit was evident and in power.

This year's retreat presented some prolific speakers in the person of Roger Leonard, Dr. Kevin Billups, Dr. Alfred Correa, and Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley.

Our first speaker, Roger Leonard, the older brother of Sugar Ray Leonard is a certified addiction counselor (CAC). Leonard also was an accomplished boxer in his own right by winning the Golden Gloves Championship in 1974 and capturing boxing titles while in the United State Air Force. He rose to the #2 ranked boxer by the World Boxing Association in the middleweight division. However, his new passion is to counsel those addicted to drugs and alcohol. Leonard shared his personal testimony on how God delivered him from drugs and alcohol after hitting rock bottom. He has been doing this work for 27 years and is still teaching the message that you must believe in God and yourself.

Next was the dynamic Dr. Howard-John Wesley, the pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. Pastor Wesley graduated magna cum laude in 1994 from Duke University and attended seminary at Boston University School of Theology in 1997. He graduated from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2003. Pastor Wesley preached on "The Blessing of Being Broken." His teaching focused on how God can release you into a struggle that does not make sense just as Jacob in Gen. 32:24 wrestles with God. As men of God, sometimes the only way for God to shape, groom, and grow us is to cause us to go through some experiences that we would rather avoid. God will occasionally walk you into an orchestrated hell to get you ready for heaven. God will allow you to go through a storm in order for you to stand on the foundation of faith. Pastor Wesley attributed that God will sometimes break us just as he broke the hip of Jacob. God breaks us to teach us to submit to His sovereign plan. God can change you by blocking you, by blessing you, or by breaking you. The good news is that if God breaks you, He can rebuild you. He can deepen your discernment and understanding in who He is by your brokenness. Just as Jacob, we should not let go of God until He bless us. Our lesson is to hold on to God no matter the pain and no matter the tribulation.

Dr. Kevin Billups was our next speaker. He is an Urologist specializing in Men's Health and Sexual Medicine. He received his Medical Degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. We always have a medical component at our men's retreat and Dr. Billups provided valuable information to the men of First Baptist. It was an eye opener when he said "Men take better care of their cars than themselves." Dr. Billups' information included African-American men are 60% diabetic in the US population. Cancer is the leading cause of death. Heart disease is prevalent among black men and 40% of men will suffer from a stroke. The men were encouraged to have annual physicals to include the PSA which measures Prostate and should be in the range of 0 to 4. African American men PSA should be approximately 2.5. Men should check for diabetes by checking their A1C. A reading of 6.5 is pre-diabetic. Also, testosterone levels below 300 is not healthy for African American men. The normal range is 300 – 1200. The discussions were very lively as the men were able to ask health related questions.

Last but not least was the charismatic Dr. Alfred Correa, senior pastor at the Brighton Heights Reformed Church on Staten Island, NY. Dr. Correa began his journey to ministry under the leadership of our own Pastor, Rev. Dr. Henry P. Davis III at Second Canaan Baptist Church. Dr. Correa completed a Masters Degree in Divinity and Doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from New York Theological Seminary. Dr. Correa's message was from Acts 5:12-16 and Luke 22:31-34 entitled "The Biases on the Frontline." As men of God, we go through turbulence when God is taking us somewhere. Dr. Correa's message aligned so well with all the previous messages thanks to the Holy Spirit. Dr. Correa stated that mental health is another issue that is not discussed among men. Families do not allow the conversation and we often suffer in silence. The saying "What goes on in the home stays in the home" is killing us. This mantra has killed people spiritually and mentally. People resort to self-medications with drugs and alcohol because of mental health issues.

In the Scriptures, Dr. Correa teaches that Peter wanted to serve God on his terms. Jesus tells Peter there are some issues in his life that causes Satan to want to sift him. He denies Jesus three times. Peter did not want to address his issues. Peter covered up his issues and acted like everything would be alright. That is the same thing we do as Christians. We do not want to deal with our issues. You get involved in ministry and issues start to show up. God asked Peter did he love Him in order to restore him from his brokenness. Dr. Correa speaks about individuals are made of two parts.

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## Men's Retreat 2016 continued

The first part is the "Persona." This is your civilized self. The person you are presenting and the one you are taught to be so that you are a productive citizen. The other is the "Shadow." This is the part of your personality that is hiding in the attic of your psychic. Occasionally we have "Shadow" eruptions in which you retaliate against someone that harms you. The "Shadow" often reacts in a non-civilized way to perceive or real harm at the expense of others. You can't take it anymore. This is a result of past brokenness. Some people are broken because of negative spoken words in your life. In order to prevent "Shadow" eruptions, you need the Lord. You must control your negative attitude. Dr. Correa posits that in order for us to help others with brokenness, we must deal with brokenness in our own lives. Don't listen to the negative voices. As men we are called to do what God called us to do. We have the ability to overcome and with God all things are possible.

This retreat was one of the best spirit filled experiences of all time and one that was transformative and a blessing to all the men that attended. Each of us received an awareness of God's calling on our lives as men of God. ☒

## Six Initial Sermons continued



Rev. Valencia Richardson is another from a family of ministers. Her grandfather is one of the former pastors of this church. She is the granddaughter of Pastor James and First Lady Lucy Wyatt. Rev. Richardson asked the question, 'Where is the love?' taken from Matthew 22:34-40.

The love of God is the first and great commandment and the sum of all commands. Our love must be sincere, not in word or tongue only, but in deed. To love our neighbor as ourselves is the second great commandment. There is a self love which is corrupt and the root of the greatest sins. There is also self love that is the rule of the greatest duty. We must have a true concern for the welfare of our own souls and bodies and we must love our neighbors as truly and sincerely as we love ourselves. In some cases we must deny ourselves for the good of others.

We shall love the Lord our God means we shall love Him with all of our strength and might. We must love Him supremely, more than all other beings and things and be willing to give up all that we hold dear at His command.

With all your soul means to be willing to give up your life to Him and to devote it all to his service, to live to Him and to be willing to die at his command.

With all your mind means to submit your intellect to His will, to love His law and Gospel more than we do the decisions of our own mind.

Jesus gave us the example of love. He was moved to do everything that he's done because of his love. God's love is unselfish, unmerited, and unconditional. God's love was best demonstrated at Calvary.

One day we will stand before God to give an account for what we did in our lives, whether good or bad, we will stand before Him. When He ask us about these two very important commandments and if we obeyed them... will there be enough evidence to proclaim over you well done thou good and faithful servant.

Love is all you need to solve the problems of your life today and the problems in this world today.

Where is the love? Here is the love of God (holding up the Word of God) God's love doesn't get any better than this. Six powerful initial sermons were shared with the congregation. Six new ministers answering the call to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the masses. To God be all the glory. ☒



## Town Hall Meeting



**The atmosphere was electric as throngs of members streamed into the sanctuary to hear firsthand the status of the new sanctuary. Members expressed their excitement for what God was doing.** First Baptist Church of Highland Park held its very first Town Hall Meeting on June 20, 2016. The Town Halls held by the presidential candidates paled in comparison to how the Lord used the members of the committee.

Program participants spanned a wide range of ages from the youth to the seasoned saints. The melodious voice of Cheryl Brooks filled the air as she sang a special rendition of America the Beautiful. Tabitha offered a spirited welcome to all in attendance followed by numerous facts about the new edifice being shared by Donte Bynum while asking the question, 'Did you know?'



The state of the giving congregation was presented by Treasurer Gary Clark. The story of everybody, somebody, anybody and a few bodies was presented to a larger proportion of the 2360 active members of the church, from the babies to the ageless. This summary gave the congregation a real perspective of how some were making the necessary sacrifices while others were encouraged to contribute more.

A panel discussion was held to discuss, Faith Forward, Faith Works and Faith Finishes. The panelists were Trustee David Gatling, Trustee Randy Williams and Pastor Henry Davis. We were all told that we must be all in. We must be participants not spectators. Everyone should want to be a part of the miracle on the hill.

Trustee Williams' signature statement of 'Pray, pray, pray' is how he opened. We were reminded of how God is blessing this body of Christ. Although we have been faced with over 135 change orders we are now in the last phase of the building process. Trustee Gatling stated, 'We are getting it done'. He shared what was needed to get to the finish line and encouraged the members not to sit on the sideline, but to join in the race to the end. We were reminded that all pledges are tax deductible, as are our tithes, when we are giving to the Lord.

Pastor Davis emphasized the importance of this building to the community. The benefits will range from utilization of the Grand ballroom for community events to the neighbor parking on the hill.

Mrs. Davis told us, 'What it's going to take to get to the finish line.' She expressed her love of God, the love for Highland Park, and the love for her pastor. Tithing is a part of her life and should be a part of the life of all members because no matter how much you give you can't beat God giving.

Pastor Davis reminded all in attendance, 'We have taken many laps, but we still have more to go. All members were asked to help us cross the finish line and we will reach the finish line October 29, 2016 at 10 a.m. as we march into the new edifice. ☐





## POWERFUL PRAISE DANCE FEST 2016

**On Friday, July 8, 2016 God truly showed up and showed out at The Park!** Youth Pastor, Rev. Altheria Barnett set the atmosphere as she prayed throughout the sanctuary. The opening dance was a debut of Shekinah Dynasty, a new mime ministry to Tasha Cobbs' Put A Praise On It. Scripture and prayer were led by Highland Park's own youth.

The rest of the night was blessed by a story created with music and motion. The story went something like this: I Bow Down because I'm Desperate for you Lord. How He Loves Me shows me that I have the 123 Victory! I Wanna Be Happy because I know You Are Worthy. It Was You that Set the Atmosphere that assured me that I was Worth saving.

We would like to give a special thanks to our Pastor, Rev. Henry P. Davis III for allowing this vision to come to fruition, our guest Johnson Memorial BC Dance Team and Purple September Productions, Nimba and Highland Park's own Misha Purnell, Divinely Anointed and Deliverance Power, TNT (Treyvon & Tanasia), the band, the media team, security, ushers, the church secretaries and our wonderful hostesses. Last, but not least Hank Savoy our Master of Ceremony. ☒

# CONGRATULATIONS

# Graduates

Name	High School
Zoe Davis	Clarksburg HS
Melanie Joy Douglas	Takoma Academy
Alliyah Rose-Mary Jamison	Fairmont Heights HS
Kendric Payne	C.H. Flowers HS
Ayeri Price	Frederick Douglas HS
Aaron Smith	Bishop McNamara
Kimberly A. Williams	Eleanor Roosevelt HS
Kaavon Williams	Croom Vocational HS



Name	College	Degree
Rev. Dr. Catherine Borges-Johnson	Maple Springs Baptist Bible College	D.Min
LaToshia A. Butler	American University	MA Criminal Justice
Lakellia Aleise Butler	University of MD	BS Family Science
Jason Craig	UM College Park	Computer Engineering
Brandi Giles	Maryland University	Masters
Kenesha Guns	University of Phoenix	MA Public Administration
Kennedy Johnson	Univ. of N. Carolina	BS Pre-Medicine
Ronald Dean Johnson II	Hampton University	BA
Danielle Lynae Johnson	Southern NH University	MA Business
Commissioner Cynthia Miller	UM College Park	Fellow, Local Governance
Taneya Pair	Trinity Wash. Univ.	MA in Counseling
Darlene Marie Palmore	Kaplan University	MA in Criminal Justice
Sharkina Parker	Spelman College	BA in Psychology
Ethan Jerome Posey	Howard University	BA in Psychology
Jahmor Seltzer	Allegany College of MD	A. S. General Studies
Julian Seltzer	Bowie State Univ.	BS Computer Technology
Randi C. Williams	University of MD	BS Computer Engineering



## 10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD

# Tithe

*Tithe: To **tithe** is to freely give one-tenth of one's income annually to the Lord through His Church.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. It is Biblical - Approved by God in Old and New Testament - Malachi 3:10 & Matthew 23:23 | 6. Because You want to avoid a Curse an Escape Condemnation - Malachi 3:8 |
| 2. To Show Your Love Toward God - Song of Solomon 8:7                                       | 7. It is an Act of Worship - Nehemiah 10:38                               |
| 3. It Demonstrates that you put God and His work first - Matthew 6:33                       | 8. It is Holy unto the Lord and it belongs to Him - Leviticus 27:30       |
| 4. It is a Testimony that you recognize and acknowledge God's ownership - Psalm 24:1        | 9. It gives confidence in the practice of prayer - 1 John 3:22            |
| 5. It Helps to Spread the Gospel - 1 Corinthians 9:14                                       | 10. God's blessings are upon individuals who will tithe - Proverbs 3:9,10 |

## Weekly Service Schedule

### Saturdays:

6:30 pm - Evening Worship Service

### Sundays:

7:30 am - Early Morning Worship Service

9:30 am - Sunday Biblical Institute

11:00 am - Morning Worship Service

10:45 am - Baptism Service on Second Sundays

### Wednesdays:

12:00 pm - The Power Hour of Praise and Worship

6:45 pm - Wonderful Wednesdays with Jesus (WWWJ)

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**PRAISE 104.1 FM** or [www.praisedc.com](http://www.praisedc.com)  
Saturdays at 7:30 am

**WAVA 105.1 FM** or [www.wava.com](http://www.wava.com)  
Sundays at 1:00 am, 7:00 am, & 8:00 pm

**WPGC 95.5 FM** or [wpgc.cbslocal.com](http://wpgc.cbslocal.com)  
Sundays at 6:30 am

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