

The Amen Chronicle



The Newsletter of New Sardis

April 2017

www.newsardischurch.com

Living Legends/Tailblazers 2017



1st Row (L-R) Dr. Beverly J. Williams-Cleaves, Attorney Teresa Jones, Tonya Pinkett, Dr. Gina Stewart, Robbie Montgomery, Ruby Bright, First Lady Mary Gray, Rev. Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr. ; **2nd Row (L-R)** Rev. Charles Hodges, Calvin Anderson, Arveal Turner, Winston Stewart, Dr. Ethelyn J. Williams-Neal, Williams, Judge John Donald, Rev. Norma Cole-Meadows, Sidney Chism, Calvin Taylor, Mary Mitchell, Coby Smith

Photo by Tyrone Easley

“Life Focused, Bible Based, And Christ Centered With A Mission And Message”

FROM PASTOR'S PEN



Dearly Beloved,

The Bible says, To everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We are now in the season of spring, but before you turn the page and get into Spring Cleaning, let us have a moment of thanksgiving for a marvelous thing that has happened in our city.

An historic marker, (the first honoring an African-American on Main Street) honoring the legendary Lee Sisters of Memphis has been unveiled downtown. It was placed at a site, Main Street and Gayoso, where, 45 years ago, they would have been arrested for attempting to shop. Forty-five years ago, they were arrested, there and many other places and many other times. So many times that, at one time, Jet Magazine called the Lees of Memphis the most arrested family in America.

Only the Lees and the Lord know how much they sacrificed and suffered in their unrelenting demand for the rights that are guaranteed in a document that this nation professes to hold dear. Like the late, great, Fannie Lou Hammer, they were often called troublemakers by their own hue, who had not a clue. We cannot repay them, but we can thank God for them. In all of their demonstrations: their walking, talking, sitting, standing, singing, marching, going to jail, demanding justice; not only in Memphis, but justice everywhere. Dr. Martin Luther King has reminded us all that, Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.



Ours is not to reward these seven sisters. In the words of Lincoln, it is 'beyond our poor power to do so.' But we can thank God for them. Their ultimate reward, is yet to come is from the One who says, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord* (Matthew 25:21).

What we can do is strive to be good soldiers, as diligent for Christ as they were for the cause.

L. LaSimba Gray, Jr.

PREAMBLE

We the members of New Sardis M.B. Church, Memphis, Tennessee, reaffirm our faith in the fatherhood empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Within the church universal, we subscribe to the priesthood of all believers and to the autonomy of the local congregation of baptized believers in matters of church organization and governance. Thus we commit ourselves to the Christian way as that is understood and practiced by Baptists.

We acknowledge that the church has a mission to preach, to teach, and to bear witness to the faith to all people throughout the world and to urge all to be reconciled to God through Christ. We accept the testimony of the Apostle which he wrote to the Corinthians (11:5:17-20), "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us."

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Sister Kathy Cohran
Sister M. Joyce Spight
Sister Tracie White

We welcome comments, letters to the editor and articles for consideration.

Mission Statement

God the Father, Jesus the Son and we, the members of New Sardis M.B. Church, reaffirm our faith in the Holy Spirit. Within the Church Universal, we subscribe to the priesthood of all believers and to the autonomy of the local congregation of baptized believers in matters of church organization and governance.

We acknowledge that we have a mission to preach, to teach, and to bear witness to the faith to all people throughout the world and to urge all to be reconciled to God through Christ. We accept the testimony of the Apostle Paul who wrote, "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

We shall strive to be Christ Centered, Bible Based and Life Focused to the glory and the edification of humanity.

CHANGES AT NEW SARDIS 2017



Rev. Darell Harrington,
Assistant Pastor



Rev. Norma Meadows,
Evangelism



Dr. Freddie Everson,
Chair Trustee Board



Sister Dorothy Sinclair,
Church Historian



Sister Ollie Johnson,
Church Archivist



Sister Rochelle Cox,
Events Coordinator



Sister Felecia Steverson,
Church Clerk



Dr. Charlotte Harper,
Sunday School
Superintendent

SPRING CLEANING ANYONE?

Submitted by Ulanda J. Crivens

Spring is here. March the 20th marked the beginning of spring; cold weather gone, longer sunnier days, more time for us to be “outdoors”. Spring! Nature renewing all that has lain dormant during the winter months: trees, plants, flora, blooming. Creatures coming out of hibernation reveling in the warmth of sunshine; birds singing. Just the smell of honeysuckle awakens in us a feeling of excitement in the promises of the new season. Many of us will perform our annual cleaning - vacuuming, sweeping, dusting, cleaning out closets etc. But what about our spiritual cleaning which has eternal influence?

I'd like to share with you some tips on Spiritual Spring Cleaning given by Mary Fairchild from *Your Guide to Christianity*. I encourage you to read the scriptures given as you follow each step to refreshment. So dust off that Bible and get ready for a spiritual spring cleaning.

Step 1. Cleanse Your Heart – Get Spiritually Healthy

The Bible encourages us to draw close to God and allow our hearts and bodies to be cleansed. We can't clean ourselves. Instead we must draw near to God and ask Him to do the cleansing. (PSALM 51:10 AND HEBREW 10:220)

Step 2. Clean Out Your Mouth – Deep clean Inside and Out

Spiritual cleansing requires deep cleaning. It is housekeeping that goes beyond what others see and hear. As your heart gets clean, your language should follow. This is not just talking about bad language, but also negative talk and pessimistic thoughts that contradicts the Word of God and faith. This includes the challenge to stop complaining. (LUKE 6:45 AND PHILLIPPIANS 2:14)

Step 3. Renew Your Mind – Take Out the Garbage

This is an area of struggle for most of us – removing the garbage from our minds. Garbage in equals garbage out. We must feed our minds and spirit the Word of God instead of the garbage of this world. (ROMANS 12:2 AND II CORINTHIANS 10:5)

Step 4. Repent from Hidden Sin – Clean Out Your Spiritual Closet

Hidden sin will destroy your life, your peace and even your health. The Bible says to confess your sins – tell someone, reach out for help. When your spiritual closets are clean, the heaviness from hidden sin will lift. (PSALM 32:3-5)

Step 5. Release Unforgiveness and Bitterness – Get Rid of Old Baggage

Any sin will weigh you down, but long kept unforgiveness and bitterness is like old baggage in the attic you just can't seem to part with. You are so familiar with it; you don't even realize how it is hindering your life. (HEBREWS 12:1 AND EPHESIANS 4:31-32)

Step 6. Invoke Jesus in your Daily Life – Let the Son Shine In

What God wants most from you is relationship – friendship. He wants to be involved in the big and small moments of your life. Open your life, let the light of God's presence shine into every part, and you'll have no need for a yearly spiritual cleaning. Instead experience daily, moment to moment refreshing of your spirit. (I CORINTHIANS 1:9 AND PSALM 56:13)

Step 7. Learn to Laugh at Yourself and at Life

Some of us take life too seriously. Jesus wants you to enjoy yourself, and learn to have some fun. God made you for His pleasure. (PSALM 28:7 AND PSALM 126:2)

GOLDEN CIRCLE MEMBER'S REACTION TO THE MOVIE, HIDDEN FIGURES

By M. Joyce Spight

The movie, Hidden Figures, which is based on a non-fiction book written by Margot Lee Chatterley, evoked numerous emotions in me. As I sat there in the crowded theater clutching my popcorn, I could sometimes feel the tears rolling down my cheeks. I could feel the heat of anger from a scene depicted on the screen that took me back to a time when I was very young. Or, there was that glowing feeling of pride and that inward expression of gratitude from what was being accomplished in telling this story.

Hidden Figures tells the story of three African American women mathematicians who, against so many obstacles, were major players in the success of the United States space program.

The themes that were weaved into this movie took me through a time span in my own life. Watching this movie was also a humbling experience, because I saw through these characters, women who stood the test of time and found ways to maneuver road blocks and accomplish their established goals.

The real-life African American women that were portrayed in this film are the backbones for many young women who have chosen to enter the Scientific Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs now being offered in specialty schools and universities.

Culture, and the historical period, along with the geographic location, in the movie, Hidden Figures, showed that Jim Crow was standing tall. Unequal salaries based on gender, racial segregation, sexual segregation, and educational segregation, and educational segregation raised their ugly heads throughout the film. However, through the actresses' depiction of the real-life women, one could see there was a joy in the careers they had chosen, and they would complete them.

Another aspect of Hidden Figures that was so smoothly and elegantly shown was the different types and stages of love in the African American culture. There was the love between a man and a woman, the love between husband and wife, family love, sisterly love, and the love of a career other than the domestic engineer. This movie is an inspiration, and should be used as a teaching tool in segments of today's educational curriculum.



Dorothy Vaughan

Katherine Johnson

Mary Jackson

LIVING LEGENDS - A GLORIOUS CELEBRATION!

By John Glaze

Living Legends 2017 was an historic success. Members, visitors and honorees seemed equally moved and impressed. From the call to worship to the benediction and banquet that followed; the day was a sumptuous feast for the heart, mind, body and spirit.

After the procession of the honorees and African royalty, Brother Cliff Henderson's devotion took the congregation on a spiritual journey to the land of our ancestors with a "lined out" singing/moaning/chanting form of religious expression that came to this country in chains. Calling this ancient African form of call and response "Dr. Watts" is akin to calling Kunta Kinte "Toby".

Another highlight was a Black History tribute to special guest, James Meredith, the living legend who, in 1962, integrated the den of racism that was the University of Mississippi. T.C. Sharpe, a professional actor (*Hustle and Flow*, *Black Snake Moan*), gave an award winning rendition of James Weldon Johnson's *The Prodigal Son*. It was one of two great sermons that day. The other was from Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart, Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church and the first African American female to be elected pastor of an African American Baptist Church in Memphis. She was also one of the legends/trailblazers honored.

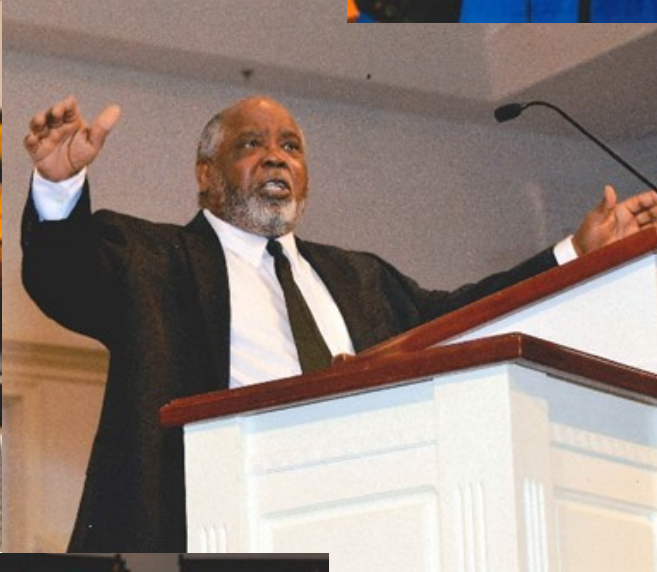
Joining Dr. Stewart were Calvin Anderson, Ruby Bright, Rev. Norma Taylor Cole-Meadows, Rev. Charles and Leroy Hodges, Attorney Teresa Jones, Mary E. Jones-Mitchell, Robbie Montgomery, Dr. Charles Pinkston, D.D.S.; Dr. Coby Smith, Winston A. Stewart, Calvin Turner, Arveal Turner, Dr. Beverly J. Williams-Cleaves, and Dr. Ethelyn J. William Neal. Each of these individuals is a living legend or, like Robbie Montgomery of Welcome to Sweetie Pie's, a trailblazer.

This year's program saw the initiation of a new award. New Sardis Baptist Church collaborated with the African American Museum to establish the Francis (Fannie) Wright Award. Ms. Wright was a Scottish born freethinking abolitionist who, in 1825, founded The Neshoba Community in Memphis for the purpose of educating and emancipating slaves. Her goal was to build a self-sustaining multiracial community.

The basis of the Francis Wright Award is, she did not have to do anything. Racially and economically insulated from the rise and fall of slavery she insisted on doing what was morally right. Gayle S. Rose, named one of Tennessee's 100 most powerful people by Business Tennessee Magazine, has a proven record of philanthropic intervention for freedom and justice for all. She does not have to do anything to improve the quality of life for all people of all races but she does, quietly and with little fanfare. Gayle Rose is the inaugural recipient of the Francis Wright Award.

The New Sardis Living Legends celebration was the brainchild of Dr. Erma Clanton, a living legend in her own right. She brought the concept to Dr. La Simba Gray 14 years ago, and it is now a Sardis staple. It always falls on the last Sunday of February. It is always the highlight of our Black History Celebration. And we always look forward to saying "Thank you" to the outstanding men and women who are inspirations to us all.

LIVING LEGENDS CELEBRATION



SENIOR PROM

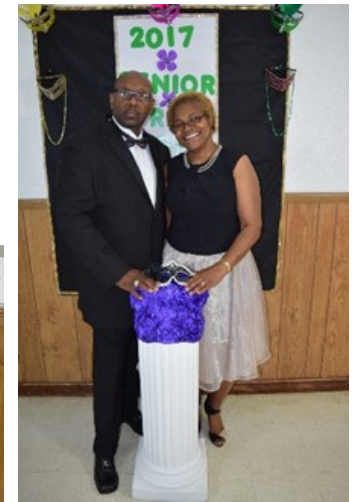
By Tracye White

This year, the Seniors (adults) of our church came out in rare form to support our youth at the Senior Prom. The prom is a fund raiser for our youth to assist them in their summer trip. This year's theme was Mardi Gras and the décor, food, and masque were proof of that.

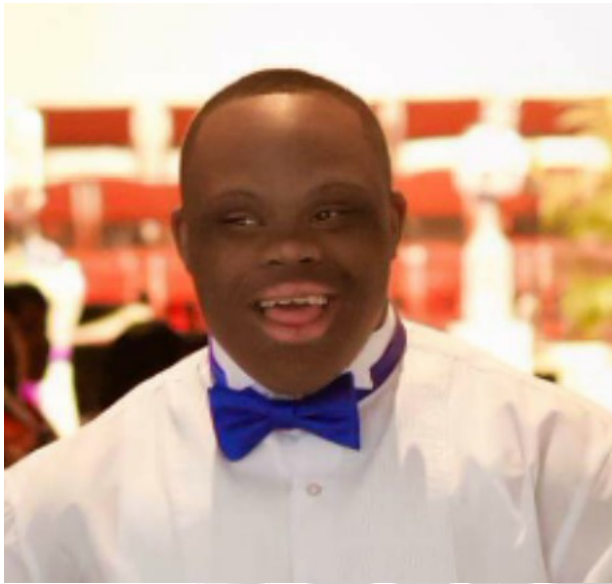
We are so thankful to the youth and millennials of the church who came out to assist with the decorations. It is a blessing that we have professionals in our congregations who will support our youth. A special thank you goes to Sister Connie Spruell (All Around Affairs) and Sister Janice Weir (In Any Event) for their expertise and dedication to making this a first class affair.

We were blessed to enjoy the good eats from the Lil Chef, Sister Shannon White and her staff. The music, by our very own Leon Gray, was off the chain.

Brother Anthony and Rev. Stephanie Yates were crowned the "King and Queen" of the prom. We could not have had a more loving couple to be the king and queen with thirty years of marriage. Thank you, New Sardis, for your support of our youth.



OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Marquis Dorsey -

Southwind High School



Sinatra Dunlap -

**Freedom Preparatory Academy
High School**



Karema Al-Hallaf -

White Station High School



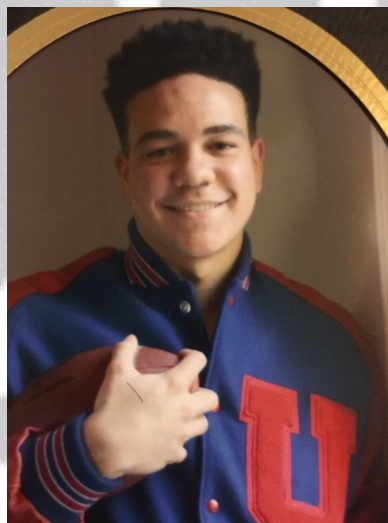
Sara Henderson -

Germantown High School



Essence Davis

**Saint George's Independent
School**



Joshua Gray

Memphis University School



Kevin Gibson

Cordova High School

**No
Photo
Available**

Dearius Smith

High School

LIVING VALENTINES - WHAT MAKES HIM/HER SPECIAL



SMITH
Randy & JoAnn; Angela

Sister Joann Smith He is a good father and provider for our family and just supportive. He is patient and listens when I have problems and we read the Bible together a lot. WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO HIM? He was just different, just being himself. He was not trying to be more than .. you know .. a lot of guys try to so macho and he was just a normal guy that I was attracted to

Brother Randy Smith - Well, we actually knew each other from high school, lived in same neighborhood. I knew her and grew up with her. She was active in church and I knew her mom. We kind of connected of connected, having the same kind of needs and beliefs and things like that. WHAT FIRST DREW YOU TO HER? We started out as friends. She would talk me to death and I would listen. I was interested in getting more romantic but she wanted to talk. So we spent a lot of time talking and getting to understand each other and I really think one of the keys to why we are still together is because we

started out as friends, understanding each other's situations.

Rev. Lorann Robinson - We pray together. We know each other's likes and dislikes and, being a woman of God, I know that one of my first ministries is to please my husband and to try to be a faithful and good help meet to him. He is kind and generous and thoughtful and I just thank God for him. He is one of the best things that ever happened to me outside of my faith in God.

Deacon Jeffrey Robinson - Well what makes her special is because of her faith and her strength in God. What makes her special to me. Her beauty, I've always admired her beauty but once I got to know her as a person and saw how she reaches out to people and cares about all of the things that God cares about, that's what makes her special to me.



ROBINSON
Jeffrey & Rev. Lorann

LIVING VALENTINES - WHAT MAKES HIM/HER SPECIAL



FAULKNER
Arthur & Eva

Sister Eva Faulkner - He's been my valentine since the first day I laid eyes on him. He is special because he has been there for me. He's been there by my side. And we've always, from the very first day we met, we've always had a lasting, loving relationship.

Brother Arthur Faulkner - For her to be able to put up with me for forty years, that's my valentine right there because, now, I'm not the easiest guy in the world to get along with but now, I've been working on myself, and with the wife I've got, she's so kind, she's so graceful, and she helped me with my mother when she was really sick and not just then. You know, she and my mother were just like daughter and mother. People at this church for years thought that my mother was her mother. So you know she was my valentine.

Sister Karen Clark - He's my best friend. He's a good father, good grandfather and I love that we share everything equally and, I'm his backup and he's mine. I love him for it. And he took care of my mom when I couldn't. He loved her like his mother and I love him for that.

Brother Melvin Clark - Well, she is my best friend, too. It took a long time for me to get it together. She is the best thing that that could have happened in my life. I love her for that, being my wife, my best friend. She's just my everything. She's a blessing to me.



CLARK
Melvin & Karen



PAYNE
J B & Ruby

Brother J.B. Payne - What made your marriage so successful? Probably my wife. You know I don't know other than I think we are compatible. Being willing to let her have her own way. WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HER? Everything. Her looks and attitude. Sensitivity. She's the sensitive person, I'm not.

Sister Ruby Payne - One thing that is so special about him is he is a good provider. He has always taken care of me and the children. He is just an overall good man good man. I think one of the things that has caused it to last so long is we trust each other. We just have a good relationship, good understanding. I think that has a lot to do with it. Trust and love.

GOLDEN CIRCLE AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION

By M. Joyce Spight

Golden Circle members know the importance of celebrating. It plays a key role in keeping the human spirit on track. Per Sister Beatrice Simelton, celebrating keeps one motivated. Celebrating is on-going with Circle members, but extended efforts are put forth during National African American History Month which is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans. This is a continuation of Carter G. Woodson's brainchild that was begun with Black History Week.

The Circle decorating committee, headed by Sister Connie Spruell, transformed the monthly meeting area into a setting with the Black Nationalist Flag colors of red, black and green adorned with table centerpieces of roses in beautifully decorated vases. This was an example of how the right space and clothing sets the atmosphere. There was excitement on faces and in conversations as participants entered the meeting place wearing African American attire, and getting a hint of the aroma of delicious food dishes being prepared.

The uplifting devotion, which began the program, included the National Negro Anthem, songs, prayer and scripture. The Negro spirituals moved some to stand with smiles and wave their hands. It was noted that the Circle singers may someday be ready to compete with the New Sardis Choir. A young man, Mr. Michael Cole, who is an author, presented the spoken word. There was a tender moment before his presentation when he turned to his mother, Sister Dorothy Simmons, who had her (28th) birthday this month and said, "You are a strong woman. You have raised me with care. You must overcome all anxiety and keep a positive attitude because God's got me."

Sister Beatrice commented, "The millionaire game and the historical quiz questions that were played for prizes were a reminder of some of the accomplishments of African Americans in different fields. The Black History Month fun facts are a good way to jog the memory. I think we all like the competition. Our history and our culture are so rich."

Sister Harriet Dixon, a 2017 new member, has experienced three aspects of the Golden Circle ministry. She stated, "Becoming a member of this ministry should have happened to me some time ago. I have now been a participant in a Circle business meeting, a standard meeting, and a luncheon activity. All three have been enjoyable." She further explained that it was interesting to have the African American lunch with Sister Carrie Bradley and Sister Pauline Neville. A segment of their conversations was about the preparation of some cultural dishes that were served, and how their parents prepared them. This was an interesting exchange of ideas.

As Christians, we must keep celebrating African American History because we are all His people, and this month's celebrations creates an awareness for all people. It highlights the best of our history and culture, and inspires us to be better stewards of the privileges we have gained because of the sacrifice and suffering endured by others.

SCENES OF SARDIS



FANNIE LOU HAMER— THE FIVE FEET FOUR INCH VOICE OF A MOVEMENT



By Deacon David Muskin

Sometimes one grows up in the shadow of greatness and never knows it. That was the case of me and my friends growing up in Ruleville, MS, the home of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hammer, in the sixties. We had no idea how great she was until we started studying black history. Up until then she was just Ms. Fannie Lou, the mother and grandmother of our playmates. Some of the adults called her a trouble maker. Black people registering to vote faced harassment, loss of jobs, beating and lynching. Ms. Fannie Lou said, “I guess if I’d had any sense, I’d have been a little scared but what the point? The only thing they could do was kill me, and it kind a seemed like they’d been trying to do that a little bit at a time since I could remember.”

In 1961, while having a tumor removed, she was given a hysterectomy without her consent by a white doctor. White doctors gave six out of every ten black women hysterectomies without consent, in the south, during the sixties. It was their way of trying to control the black population. Ms. Fannie Lou called it the Mississippi appendectomy. It was because of that practice most black women used

midwives to deliver their babies.

Ms. Fannie Lou wasn’t an educated woman. She had to drop out of school at the age of 13 to work on the plantation. But she was very intelligent. Ms. Fannie Lou got involved with the Civil Rights movement because she knew that GOD didn’t intend for people to be treated the way blacks were being treated in the south, especially in Mississippi. Ms. Fannie Lou’s fires of Civil Rights activism were lit in 1962 after hearing a sermon by Rev. James Bevel at the historic Wright Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Ruleville. After that, she traveled throughout the south getting people to register to vote and working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

On her way back from a trip to Charleston, SC in 1963, she was arrested in Winona, MS on false charges. The police held her down and ordered black inmates to beat her nearly to death with a blackjack. It took her more than a month to recover. It caused permanent damage to her kidney, a blood clot in her left eye and caused her to forever walk with a limp.

The beating did not discourage her, it enabled her. She organized the Mississippi Freedom Summer for SNCC and became vice-chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Ms. Fannie Lou wanted the entire delegation to be seated but Vice President Hubert Humphrey offered a compromise of letting two members of the delegation to be seated. Ms. Fannie Lou rejected the offer saying, “We didn’t come all the way up here to compromise for no more than we’d have gotten there. We didn’t come all this way for no two seats when all of us is tired.” In 1968 the delegation was finally seated.

Although she was a woman during a time when women, especially black women, didn’t have much power, she stood bravely in the face of racism and death. The place that she took a stand was considered the most racist and violent state in the union, Mississippi; and the most racist and violent county in the state, Sunflower County.

After not winning a seat in the U.S. Congress in 1964 and 1965, Ms. Fannie Lou continued to work. She started Head Start programs, the Freedom Fund Cooperative in Sunflower County and worked on Martin Luther King, Jr’s Poor People’s Campaign. She was born Fannie Lou Townsend, October 7, 1917, the youngest of 20 children. She married Perry “Pap” Hamer in 1945. Ms. Fannie Lou died March 14, 1977, and is buried in Ruleville in the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Garden next to her husband.

Quotes of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hammer:

“I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

“Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.”

“I keep a shotgun in every corner of my bedroom and the first cracker who even looks like he wants to throw some dynamite on my porch won’t write his mama again.”

“You can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and try to do something, God is not going to put it in your lap.”

“Sometimes it seems like to tell the truth today is to run the risk of being killed. But if I fall, I’ll fall five feet four inches forward in the fight for freedom. I’m not backing off.”

“Whether you have a Ph.D., or no D, we’re in this bag together. And whether you’re from Morehouse or No house, we’re still in this bag together.”

“The landowner said I would have to go back to withdraw or I would have to leave and so I told him I didn’t go down there to register for him. I was down there to register for myself.”

LUPUS SUPPORT GROUP

By Rev. Norma Cole-Meadows

The Neshoba Resource Center Lupus Support Group had their first community gathering in February as they joined other healthcare organizations at a Health Fair hosted by Greater Imani Cathedral of Praise. Lupus materials and information were given out to participants who stopped at the Neshoba table to ask questions and learn more about the disease. Some of the members of the Neshoba Lupus Support Group helped host our table and we are appreciative to Delores Evans, Thedoris Simmons, and Dottie Spikner. A special thanks goes to Barbara Taylor, our events coordinator, who makes sure that the tables at our events are properly decorated and represent our organizations in a professional manner. It is our desire to serve the Memphis and Mid-South Area by bring HOPE to those in need.

Lupus is a chronic AUTOIMMUNE disease that can affect different parts of the human body. This is all inclusive of the heart, lungs kidneys, brain, blood, and joints. The purpose of the IMMUNE SYSTEM is to fight off viruses and bacteria. However, it loses the ability to fight off these “foreign invaders” in a lupus patient and the system turns against your own body (auto) and attacks it, causing inflammation.

There are four types of lupus:

Discoid (Cutaneous) – This type of lupus affects only the skin and shows up as a rash. Rashes can occur anywhere, but especially on the face, neck, and scalp. The rash may be red, scaly, and sometimes itch. This type of lupus does not affect any of the internal body organs.

Systemic (SLE) – Systemic lupus is usually more serious than discoid lupus and can affect a person anywhere in the body. It usually attacks the major organs. The disease can follow an irregular pattern of REMISSIONS (times when symptoms disappear) and FLARE-UPS (times when the disease is more active).

DRUG INDUCED – This type of lupus occurs after a person takes certain types of medicine, the most common being HYDRALAZINE and PROCAINAMIDE. The symptoms are similar to systemic lupus, but they usually disappear when the person stops taking the medicine.

NEONATAL LUPUS – This type occurs in babies of lupus patients and disappear after six months.

For some reason the exact cause of lupus is still not known, however, with proper treatment, 80-90 percent of the people with this disease can look forward to a normal life-span. Please feel free to call the Neshoba Community Resource Lupus Support Group at [901-755-2250](tel:901-755-2250) for additional information about this disease.



GOLDEN CIRCLE MEMBERS' VALENTINE CHOICE - "I CHEWS YOU"

By M. Joyce Spight

Sister Margaret West stated, "The presentation time is approaching, and we need at least 150 valentines to complete the gift package for the Golden Circle annual February visit to the Quince Nursing Facility."

"That's going to be a little over our budget," Sister Dorothy Simmons, who is Golden Circle's finance manager, explained." Dialogue within the group continued for a minute and suddenly there was a suggestion from the floor in a very soft voice: "We could make our own valentine cards." From the numerous retired teachers in the room, ideas began to flow. So the valentine project, "I Chews you", was begun.

This project was a labor of love. It was completed by the Golden Circle volunteers who worked tirelessly with only the reward of knowing that someone else would benefit from this undertaking. After gathering a collection of construction paper, glue, lace, dollies, scissors, markers, sticks of chewing gum and patience, the project was completed in three days. All materials were obtained through small purchases and donations from Golden Circle members who handmade and packaged 160 valentine gifts. That soft voice from the back of the room again whispered. "The budget is in order and we are now ready to deliver." The six members of the visiting team packed the gifts and headed to the Quince Nursing facility.

Mr. Melvin Clark and his wife, Sister Karen Clark, have made this visit to Quince Nursing facility before. They both understood that love is the basis for living. It is God's commandment for His children. Every day is a good day to show others that someone else cares. However, this is a special time to show feelings of love, appreciation for others, affection, and just good old fashion friendship. Sister Clark noted that she and Melvin are thankful that they can participate in this activity.

All residents of Quince received a valentine package from the Golden Circle Ministry. Sister Zoe Simpson explained that the residents were receptive to visitors. Many of them look forward to seeing and hearing from the New Sardis visiting team. To see the smiles on their faces and hear them say, "This is beautiful; thank you my friend; this means a lot to me" or "bless you my sister", is a spirit lifter. Many of the residents were resting or sleeping. In this case, the beautiful red and white valentine package with the statement, "I Chews You", was placed on the bedside table or where it was visible to the resident upon awakening.

This project ended on a high and grateful note for the manufacturers and the recipients. However, when this time presents itself again, the budget will probably be seriously considered.

Brother Melvin Clark and Sister Maggie Barnett
with valentine Love for Quince Nursing residents



To My Golden Circle Family

My thoughts on daily blessings always include you. I am thankful and do appreciate your membership and your participation in the Golden Circle Ministry. It is you who keeps this ministry afloat, active, and growing. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

Maggie Barnett, President
Golden Circle Ministry

SPRING INTO "SPIRITUAL" FINANCIAL PLANNING

By: Rev Darell Harrington

All too often many people tend to make money matters "NON -SPIRITUAL", when the truth is God has ordained that we become good stewards of that which He has blessed us with. In this critical season of life, where just a few years ago we witnessed one of the most devastating financial times in the history of the U.S. – it is imperative that we **HAVE AN EFFICIENT and EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL FINANCIAL PLAN!**

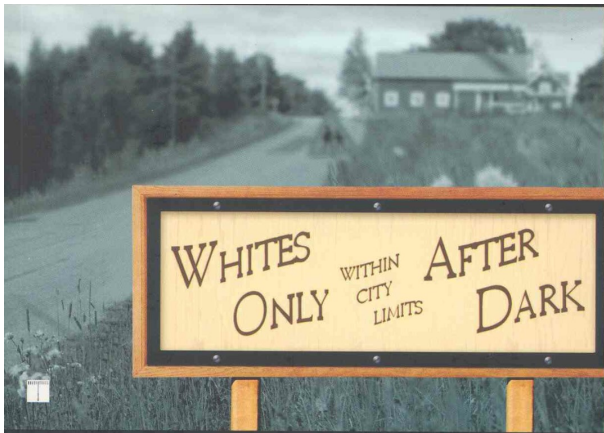
1. **LOVE God and People - not property and profit!** Understand the value of your resources and respect them accordingly. While making money is important it is more important **NOT** to let "Money make YOU". Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from the 'LOVE' of money, and be content with what you have, for He said "I will never leave or forsake you."
2. **Recognize and Recalibrate – heal unhealthy habits (like overspending)!** From cell phone bills to enormous cable (and internet) bills, **HIGH** insurance rates and high interest rates on loans; overspending can often be silent and deadly! Luke 14:28 advises us to "count the cost" in matters that matter! If you think you are spending too much for goods and services, you probably are. Consider lower rates with competing companies and reap the benefits!
3. **Every dollar deserves a destination – develop a spending plan!** Habakkuk 2:2 The Lord tells us to write the vision and make it plain so that the one who reads it may understand it clearly! It is vital and necessary that we **WRITE** our plan (budget) and revisit it often. This gives us clear direction regarding how we should adjust and improve areas of spending.
4. **Gaining through Giving – God's ROI!** Luke 6:38 tells us to – Give and it will return to us. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure that you use, it will be measured to you. This principle far exceeds just money matters. God has a "Return On Investment" (ROI) policy like none other. Use this principle to guide you in areas of forgiveness, love, grace and mercy along with money! You will find yourself in life's surplus when this "value added" belief is used properly!

We must be intentional when it comes to improving our financial lives. Economic storms will come, yet, when there is a storm readiness plan in place, we have a much better chance of survival! Prioritize your financial future and know that the Word of God will be your guide!

SUNDOWN TOWNS

(America's unspoken racism)

By Deacon David Muskin



Sundown Towns, sometimes known as Sunset towns or gray towns, were places where African-Americans and other minorities were not welcomed “after the sun went down” and in some instances, purposely driven out altogether. Some of these areas warned black people by signage that, if caught there after dark, they were subject be picked up by the police, harassment, threats, and violent acts, up to and including lynching. Most however were known to do so, especially among African-Americans in the area, by rumor and reputation. In some cases, the exclusion was official town policy or was promulgated by the community's real estate agents via exclusionary covenants governing who could buy or rent property. They practice a form of

segregation by enforcing restrictions excluding people of other races via some combination of discriminatory local laws, intimidation, and violence. The city of Goshen, Indiana was a sundown town for much of its history that forbade African Americans from living in or entering the town, often under threat of violence. In Martinsville, Indiana, Carol Jenkins, a young black woman was murdered for selling encyclopedias after dark.

The term came from signs that were posted stating that colored people had to leave the town by sundown. Some communities placed at their borders signs with statements similar to the one posted in Hawthorne, California, in the 1930s, which read: “Nigger, Don't Let The Sun Set On YOU in Hawthorne” other cities had signs that read: “If You Can Read, You'd Better Run. If You Can't Read, You'd Better Run Anyway.”, In Colorado: “No Mexicans After Night”. In Connecticut: “Whites Only Within City Limits After Dark”. In Nevada, the ban was expanded to include Japanese. Gardnerville, Nevada is said to have blown a whistle at 6 p.m. daily alerting Native Americans to leave by sundown. Jews were also excluded from living in some sundown towns, such as Darien, Connecticut and Lake Forest, Illinois which kept anti-Jewish and anti-African American housing covenants until 1990. There were at least 10,000 “sundown towns” in the United States as late as the 1960s. These towns were not limited to the South. They ranged from Levittown, N.Y., to Glendale, Calif., and included the majority of municipalities in Illinois and Indiana. Midwestern towns and those in other areas outside the South actively created “sundown towns” but were ignored by the media.



James W. Loewen, an American sociologist, historian and author who first taught at historically black college Tougaloo in Jackson, Mississippi, explored this practice in his book Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism. States that this practice dates back to the 1890s, a time when just 119 of the U.S.'s thousands of counties had no African-American residents. By 1930 the number had nearly doubled and almost 700 counties had fewer than 10 African-Americans living there. Dubbed “The Great Retreat” by Loewen, this process of expelling of African-Americans began during the period spanning from Reconstruction's end in 1877 to roughly 1901, with some extending the time frame to 1920, , during which racial violence against African-Americans was quite extreme, especially in the South because many white Southerners longed for slavery's reinstatement.

SUNDOWN TOWNS

In response, as many as 50,000 African-Americans left the South in droves for the Midwest in what is known as the Exoduster Movement or the Black Exodus between 1879 and 1881. Relocation to the Midwest, however, did not shield them from racial intimidation. The formation of the NAACP, for instance, was largely in response to the race riot there in 1908, ignited by a white woman beaten by a white man who pinned it on a black man instead. Horrified, Mary White Ovington, a white social worker who worked with African-Americans in New York, came together with William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moskowitz, both white as well, in early 1909 and later issued the call that would result in the NAACP. During the 1920s, the Indiana branch of the Ku Klux Klan was also quite active, exacting much influence on local politics. And its offshoots sustained this power and control for some time.

Road trips for African-Americans were fraught with inconveniences and dangers because of racial segregation, racial profiling by police, the phenomenon of travelers just "disappearing", and the existence of numerous sundown towns. African-American travelers faced a variety of dangers and inconveniences, such as white-owned businesses refusing to serve them or repair their vehicles, being refused accommodation or food by white-owned hotels, and threats of physical violence and forcible expulsion from whites-only "sundown towns". In response, New York travel agent Victor H. Green created a travel guide for African Americans, called the "The Negro Travelers's Green Book" or just the "Green Book" published from 1936-1966, to give the Negro traveler information that will keep him from running into difficulties, embarrassments and to make his trip more enjoyable.

Here is a list of additional resources concerning Sundown Towns:

FILMS DOCUMENTARIES:

Banished: How Whites Drove Blacks Out of Town in America is a 2006 documentary

The Injustice Files: Sundown Towns (February 24, 2014)

Trouble Behind (1991)

BOOKS:

Elliot Jaspin's book Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America (2007)

James W. Loewen, Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism (2005)



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



APRIL



April 1st - Mother's Board – Mother Lou Hamilton

April 3-8 - Zion District Alonzo Barber Institute

April 8 - SAS Meeting

April 10 - Ministerial Meeting

April 14th – Good Friday Drama Presentation

April 15th Easter Egg Hunt

April 16th - Easter



MAY

May 14th – Mother's Day

May 28th - A Taste of Sardis

JUNE

June 5th – 9th VBS

June 18th - Father's Day

June 25th – Pastor Gray's Birthday

