

The PEOPLE'S Pride

The People's Community Baptist Church
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Dr. Haywood A. Robinson III, Pastor
The Late Rev. Dr. T.J. Baltimore Sr., Founder

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Welcome to a New Season

Solomon penned, "To everything there is a season..." (Eccl. 3:1). Spring, like its sister-seasons, has characteristics unique unto itself. In Springtime God unearths the potential and purposes which He cultivated and camouflaged by the bareness of winter. Amazingly, new foliage, flowers, and fruit burst forth from pre-existing branches. Branches which survived yet another season - another storm - another shift. Likewise, many fallen and forgotten seeds, sown before winter, begin to rise, reach and release their life-bearing and God-glorifying resources. Finally, spring often finds those who relocated during the winter, returning with song and dance, praising God.

Well, spring has sprung at TPCBC! And, we eagerly await what God plans to unearth before our very eyes. To those who have been away during winter, welcome back! To all pre-existing "branches", allow God to do something new in and through you. It's time for those who have fallen to rise up and bear fruit again. Let us all stand ready to break new ground, sow new seed and reap a new harvest!

Remember, Jesus said, "I am the vine. You are the branches" (John 15:5). As we abide in Him we can be confident that "He who has begun a good work in you will continue to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). Again, welcome to a new season!

Dr. Haywood A. Robinson, III
Pastor

Baptist Men's Fellowship Tours South Africa

Romans 1:10-11 describes how we thought about Africa as we set out on our journey. "Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. (Africa) For I long to see you that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established."

In the 2004 fall/winter publication of *The People's Pride*, we published an article regarding The Baptist Men's Fellowship Rites of Passage Program. At that time, we promised to share details in the next publication about our tour to Johannesburg, South Africa.

On Sunday, August 2, 2004, 22 excited youth from the Men's Rites of Passage program departed The People's Community Baptist Church's parking lot on a bus headed for Dulles airport en route to Johannesburg, South Africa.

We arrived in Capetown the next morning and promptly began to tour the colorful and lively city, which is framed by mountains. The highlight of our first day was dinner at the Africa Café. The entrée consisted of tasty dishes that were served by hostesses dressed in their elegant native celebratory attire.

(continued on page 3)

Ushers

Who They Are and What They Do

Did you know that being an usher is both an opportunity and an obligation? Did you know that it's an opportunity to serve God by serving His people? Did you know that it's an obligation to learn how to listen to God, so we can be sure that we are providing the right kind of service - God's service?

Welcoming members and visitors to The People's Community Baptist Church is a gesture extended by a group of individuals whose goal is to exemplify and extend the hospitality. Ushers provide the immediate, warm, and direct human touch.

Being the first people to meet upon arrival, they have the responsibility to greet parishioners and visitors with a friendly smile, offer a Teller, suggest seating, and sometimes direct or escort them to the pew. Ushers offer their service to the ministerial staff and congregation, as well as work to maintain the quality of the worship atmosphere to ensure the best possible worship experience for those attending services.

Each year, usually the second Sunday in November, our Usher Board celebrates its Annual Usher Day. It is a special occasion during the Sunday worship service when ushers sit together and are recognized for their commitment to God and the church. Thanks to the many volunteers who fill the welcoming role in support of our ushers.

Last year's Usher Board Annual Day of observance was held on Sunday, November 14, 2004. Ushers Daniel Wilson and Calandra Tate co-chaired the celebration. That particular Sunday was indeed special because our new Pastor, Dr. Haywood Robinson, III, officially delivered his acceptance sermon at both 8 and 11 a.m. worship services.

During the service ushers were commended for their commitment, dedication, faithfulness and exemplary leadership. Additionally, members of the Men's and Women's teams were recognized for their commitment and dedication to the ministry. Honorees were Barbara Jo White and Jean Pierce for the Women's Team and Larry Lewis for the Men's team.

The Youth Award was extremely special this past year. As many know, Brandon Lee passed away in November 2003. On days when this spirit-filled and courageous young man was not feeling well, he sat on a stool at the front door and greeted parishioners. After his death, the Youth Usher Board decided to name the Youth Usher of the Year Award after Brandon. The 2004 Youth Usher of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Shayla Hines for her outstanding commitment to the Ministry.

The 2004-2005 Usher Board is directed by Marilyn Massey-Ball, chairperson; D.J. Strauss, Women's Team Leader; Brenda Barbour, Secretary; Bruce Taylor, Men's Team Leader and Daniel Wilson, Team Leader for the Youth.

Each year, the Usher Board donates a monetary contribution to the Thomas J. Baltimore Scholarship Fund in memory of Dorrian Parker. The Dorrian Parker Scholarship Fund was established by usher Jean Pierce in memory of her son Dorrian.

Your greatest expression of faith may be your willingness to serve others. Don't hesitate! Please contact a member of our ministry if you would like to become an usher. We seek and welcome spiritual helpers who are reliable, conscientious, caring, and dedicated.

*Daniel R. Wilson, Youth Team Leader,
Usher Board Ministry*



Youth Usher Board

Baptist Men's Fellowship Tours South Africa (cont.)

During our stay in Capetown, we encountered three damp, cold, and rainy days but that did not prevent us from visiting several local and interesting sites. Manyano High School and Mama Amelia's home for orphaned children are two sites we shall always remember. Manyano High School is a large one-level complex. The classrooms have no heating or air conditioning, few amenities, yet the students were eager to meet and greet their American visitors. We received a warm welcome from the faculty. The students sang and danced for us, as we did for them. It was a love that gladdened our hearts beyond measure. We gave the students educational supplies, clothing, and a monetary gift.

From there we visited Mama Amelia's home where we witnessed one woman's dedication to managing over 150 children from infancy to young adulthood. We left the home with a greater sense of God's love for everyone.

Continuing our tour in Capetown, we attended a lecture presented by a local physician who works tirelessly to combat AIDS. Later that same day we visited the new Apartheid Museum. Anyone visiting the museum has an opportunity to sit on the historic benches inscribed "European-only".

Before departing Capetown, we toured the Parliament, visited the well-known Robben Island where Nelson Mandela and many other Republic of South Africa Freedom Fighters were imprisoned, and spent an unforgettable evening at the Drum Café where we all participated in drumming.



Baptist Men's Fellowship in Capetown, South Africa

We spent the second leg of our journey in Johannesburg. During our stay we visited an orphanage for HIV infected children. We also had the opportunity to visit our adopted sister church --Johannesburg Bethany Baptist Church (JBBC). Visits to the church allowed us to worship with our brothers and sisters and to learn more about their struggles. Parishioners say the church provides a safe home where they can learn and grow spiritually.

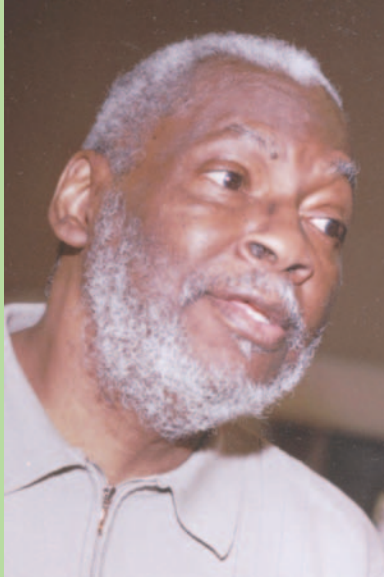
The final leg of our trip took us to the majestic Pilannesburg Park and game preserve where giraffes, elephants, wildebeests, jackals, zebras, monkeys, impalas, rhinoceros, hippos and the rarely sited and speedy cheetahs were in their natural habitats.

Thank God for a marvelous and God-directed tour. We invite you to speak with any of the persons listed regarding our trip to South Africa: Evan Brown, Chris Lesesne, Kriston Colclough, Adam Simms, Eric Givens, Jefferi Lee, Jr., Keith Hill, Marcus Cotton, Glenn Taylor, Gian McCann, Alex Gray, Kadir Barry, Desmond Gardner Taliaferro, Minister Carl Lashley, Jr., Julius Brinkley, John Stovall, Ron Sturdivant, Norman Jones, Jonathan Davis, Barbara Wells, Lisa Jones, Faith Robinson, Lorna Forde, Tina Lee and Andrea Daniels.

We are grateful to those who made contributions of any kind to allow our dream to become a reality. The Baptist Men's Fellowship ministry is currently planning a return trip to South Africa in summer 2005 for this year's program graduates. We are again in the midst of raising funds to support what we envision will be another blessed and successful tour. The good Lord has blessed and kept us, and allowed us to be fed by Him, and to be used by Him to feed others.

*Deacon Norman Jones, Baptist Men's Fellowship Rites of Passage
Chairman and Current Member Council of Elders*

Theatre Ministry Brings the Bible to Life



Lenny Chapman
Theatre Ministry Founder

The People's Community Baptist Church Theatre Ministry continues to flourish, and for that the ministry is blessed. Thanks to Lenny Chapman who saw the need, eight years ago, to unveil the glorious talents of Christians who seek to express God's teachings in words and action.

In December 2004, Chapman-former chair--was acknowledged as the Theatre Ministry's founder as he was presented with the Volunteer of the Month award. In accepting the award he said, "It is such a surprise to be recognized for something that I merely consider a joy and am able to do. I recalled an individual in our church who said to me, Lenny let's write a play, to which I agreed. That person was Deaconess Ava Curtis. We put our heads together and from there the first play Home - A Remembrance was written. Based on the success of that play, The People's Community Baptist Church Theatre Ministry was born".

The mission of the Theatre Ministry is to bring souls to Christ by bringing alive the word of God through expressions of talents in drama, dance, art and oratory. Presently, the co-chairs of the Theatre Ministry are Renee Fountain and Sophonia Simms. Throughout the years, the ministry has set the stage for several successful productions. Most recently, for Saturday Church on March 19, and Sunday Worship Services on March 20, 2005, the Theatre Ministry presented Light and Darkness, an original play written by Sophonia

Simms, and directed by Renee Fountain and Lisa Turner.

The play, based on John 3:1-21, clarifies the meaning of being born again and presents the true difference between light and darkness. In John 3, Nicodemus poses a question to Jesus, "what does it mean to be born again?" Japera Rahming, in the role of Grace, struggles with the same question. Just as Grace is ready to make a turning point in her life, Darkness enters, played by Bill Flowers. Darkness or the evil one attempts to draw Grace away from her revelation.

As the struggle begins, Light, played by Sonya Sims appears. Light drives Darkness away and gives Grace a lesson in spiritual growth and answers the question, what does it mean to be born again. Does Grace really embrace Light's lesson? In response, Rahming gives a powerful, heart warming prayer and a moving rendition of the song, "Open My Heart". Light envelops her in the end.

Last October in a spectacular presentation, the Theatre Ministry took several members of its cast to the AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center-downtown Silver Spring-to participate in the theatre's annual tribute to America's all time gospel legend Mahalia Jackson. The cast presented scenes from the original play, Mahalia, the Life I Sing, written by Sophonia Simms and directed by Lisa Turner.

Debra Farmer, in the role of Mahalia Jackson, portrayed the essence of Jackson's commitment and devotion to gospel music. Farmer performed two of Ms. Jackson's classics, "I'm Going to Live the Life I Sing About" and "Movin' on Up". Other members of the cast who skillfully brought the story to life included Harold Peaks in the role of Professor Dubois, Tracey Chapman as Mahalia's singing friend, Jeff Brown as a Carnegie Hall announcer, and Cliff Slay in the role of Ike Hockenhull.

The Theatre Ministry has opportunities for everyone. This ministry provides an avenue where individuals of all ages can enhance skills in acting, directing, dance, writing, public speaking, and working as a member of a team. We hope to engage volunteers who are willing to enter into a relationship of service to God and an understanding that the ministry is at the heart of all we do. This is a commitment with full accountability to be good stewards of our time and talent.

For more information regarding the Theatre Ministry, please call 301-384-2601 extension 219.

Renee Fountain and Sophonia Simms, Co-Chairs, Theatre Ministry



Light and Darkness cast (l-r): Bill Flowers, Japera Rahming, and Sonya Sims

Johannesburg Bethany Baptist Church Shares Success

Dear Church Family,

Last year was a wonderful year full of many exciting moments in my life at Johannesburg Bethany Baptist Church (JBBC). Although two groups left to start new churches in our locality, we saw God bringing in new members slowly and steadily. The fire keeps burning and the Lord keeps blessing us.

For many years, I tried to groom and train people for leadership in the church. Most of them, after reaching a reasonable maturity level, leave to start their own ministries. Nevertheless, I thank God for Elder Nyolokani Phiri our Treasurer, Rev. Saul Ebema, Assistant Pastor and Minister Ofentse Boikanyo, Youth Minister, who have remained faithful and committed to JBBC.

My wife Susan, Nelly Phiri, and Cynthia Ebema, give us unwavering support in their respective ministries. We now have a vibrant youth ministry, along with Youth Sunday School, a Women's Ministry, and last month we launched a Men's Fellowship group, all of which are doing very well.

As we advance this year, I am encouraged to see that we are all focused and willing to be used by God in all areas of our lives. We started a Bible school that is growing and currently has 10 students. We endeavor to empower our members with knowledge of the Word of God, to make them strong in faith and able to share their faith with others.

Last year, we suspended evening services due to some disruptions. We have now resumed with lots of excitement. JBBC administration has empowered the youth to manage the evening services. They are extremely happy about this new responsibility and are committed to the task.

"Everything Has Its Time!" I have labored at JBBC for a long time almost single-handedly. I have experienced many painful moments, disappointments, and a period of hunger. Today, as I look back, I am reminded that God was teaching me how to plant in his vineyard. I have planted through my prayers, labor, and perseverance. Now I can say that even though I am not there yet, I have begun to pluck from what I have planted.

Johannesburg Bethany Baptist Church is no longer the same. JBBC is on the move! JBBC is on fire for the Lord! The structures we built assure us that with God's help Johannesburg Bethany Baptist Church will continue to grow and the gates of hell shall not prevail against its growth.

Beginning in 2000, The People's Community Baptist Church has played a major role in the growth of our church. Your prayers and monthly financial support help our ministries to stay alive and focused. TPCBC has brought us a long way and without its faithful support, I do not know where we would be today. May God bless the soul of late Pastor T.J. Baltimore, Pastor Haywood Robinson and members of The People's Community Baptist Church.

Rev. John N. Ndungu
Pastor/Senior Minister
Johannesburg Bethany Baptist Church

The People's Community Baptist Church Web Site Gets A Face Lift

See our new look! Visit The People's Community Baptist Church website at www.tpcbc.org. You'll find easy to download forms, valuable links and updated information on what our ministries are doing. Click on the Bookstore's web page while you're there and check out the Book of the Month, or the featured gospel CD.



Pictured - *The People's Community Baptist Church home page.*

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON!

The Social Action Ministry is on the *move*

The Social Action Ministry solicits your participation in National Race for the Cure on Saturday, June 4, 2005.

Christian Education Ministry Holds Roundtable Discussions

Roundtable discussions are held to enrich your Christian walk with the presentations and exchange! Check the Teller for the next Roundtable Discussion.

Vacation Bible School

Join us for a spectacular summer event – The People's Community Baptist Church 2005 Vacation Bible School (VBS) Program. This year's host is the Joseph Family. Please mark your calendars for June 20-24. More details will follow. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Let's Work Together

The *People's Pride* thanks all those who contributed their time and effort to this newsletter. If you, your church family, or ministry has a noteworthy accomplishment to share, please contact a member of our newsletter staff, or leave a message in the **Communications Ministry's voice mail at (301) 384-2601, Extension 22.**

Bernice Lowe
Managing Editor

Upcoming Events

2005

May

Installation Week

*Sunday, May 15 -
Saturday, May 21*

June

Vacation Bible School Registration
Generation I Senior Recognition
VBS Begins

*Saturday, June 11
Sunday, June 12
Monday, June 20*

July

Youth Explosion Conference
One Church One Child Matching

*Saturday, July 9
Saturday, July 18*

The **PEOPLE'S** *Pride*

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