



First Baptist Church of Vienna
 Dr. Kenny Smith, Pastor
 450 Orchard St., Vienna, Virginia
 Phone (703) 938-8525
 www.fbcv.org

Epistle

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PASTOR'S CORNER

"One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed" (Proverb 19:17, NAS).

"If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks" (Deut. 15:7-8, NAS).

Haiti: I Saw It for Myself!

On Tuesday, January 12, Haiti experienced an earthquake that measured 7.0 on the Richter scale. This natural disaster is reported to have killed an estimated 200,000 people, injured over 150,000 and displaced between 900,000 to 1 million people, just in the area around the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The loss in property damage caused by the earthquake is in the billions of dollars. The two aftershocks of 5.9 and 5.5 in magnitude have wreaked havoc to an already mentally frail people. The psychological and emotional damage this experience will have upon the Haitian people won't be known for many years.

After viewing the scenes on tele-

PASTOR, continued on next page

Support for Haiti...Praising God in Advance!

By Rev. Ethel Bothuel, Special for the Epistle

The Worship and Arts Ministry has received the "go-ahead" from Pastor Smith to plan and implement a spectacular worshipful and artistic event to benefit our brothers and sisters in Haiti. The May 22 event will be a celebration of the worship arts including dance, drama, music, oratorical performers from around Washington, Maryland, and Virginia. As you know, it takes a combined effort to have a successful program like the one being planned.

You are needed to help by serving on one of the following working groups:

- Social media
- Community Outreach
- Correspondence
- Publicity
- Day-of Logistics
- Participants' Liaison
- Youth Outreach
- Program Booklet
- Order of Service
- Stage Design, Construction, Management

All of the proceeds from this event will be sent to Haiti to benefit those most devastated by the earthquake. Won't you lend a helping hand so that, together, we can give aid

to those who are less fortunate than most of us? Thank you for prayerfully considering which working group you will join.

Please call Sandra Graham at (703)742-8373 (sandgra@aol.com) or call the church office at (703)938-8525 and sign up to work on the Haiti Benefit Team. When you call or email, please give your name, telephone numbers (home and cell), and any email address that you use most often. We're planning a great and successful program. With your help, we can.



Pastor Smith with Haitian children on his recent trip to Jacmel, Haiti

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Chile and those who are offering relief.

vision and reading about this calamity, I was burdened by a need to respond in a tangible way. I wanted to go and see it for myself. However, I was leery because I knew that Haiti was unstable. Because of the shortage of food, water, and shelter, little or no infrastructure to take care of the dead and the injured; the possibility of being exposed to all kinds of diseases would be high. Still, I knew that I needed to see it for myself.

On Feb. 12, I left with Deacon Carl Biggs, two medical doctors and a minister for Jacmel, Haiti. We departed from Dulles airport to JFK airport. From JFK we went to Santiago, Dominican Republic because there were no commercial planes landing in Port-au-Prince at the time. We stayed overnight with a missionary family. Then the next day, after waiting in the airport for 5 or 6 hours, we took a nine passenger airplane to Jacmel. Upon landing in Jacmel, we discovered that the airport, such as it was, had been taken over by the Canadian military. We were met by members of the Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH) team already in-country. We were taken to a rented house, where about ten members of the team stayed. I was pleasantly surprised, because I had mentally prepared myself for sleeping in a tent without any of the conveniences of a house.

On our first full day in Haiti we got a chance to see the devastation of the earthquake. Jacmel, located about 22.5 miles south of Port-au-Prince, did not sustain major damage as did the cities closer to the epicenter. There were thousands of people living in tents. Some people whose homes were not destroyed were still living in tents in their front yards a month after the quake. We were told that the people were still fearful of another earthquake, so they would not sleep in their homes.

Our first stop was at what they called "the depot". It was a building located on a school campus where the medical supplies were kept. Some people who had come from other loca-

tions who were working with CCH, lived on the grounds in tents. There were stacks of medical supplies on the floor, some sorted and some unsorted. Our second stop was the hospital that is currently being managed by the CCH staff assisted by Haitian doctors, nurses, and support people. When we arrived, there were hundreds of men, women and children, lined up for medical care. My heart was overwhelmed by the number of people and by the desperate look on their faces. I had a sinking feeling of how Jesus must have felt when he saw the multitudes "that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed...." (Matt. 15:31). Jesus said, "I have compassion on the multitude...." (Matt. 15:32). Then He took action. My heart was moved by this mass of broken humanity, but unlike Jesus, I felt helpless. (This is the first of a two or three-part series on my trip to Jacmel, Haiti).



Deacon Carl Biggs and Pastor Kenny Smith



Worship services being held outside under a tarp because the church was destroyed

The Dream Lives On

Pastor Kenny Smith was among the speakers for the NAACP's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at First Baptist, which was sponsored by the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

U.S. Reps. Gerald Connolly (D-Va.) and James Moran (D-Va.) were also featured speakers.

Pastor Smith challenged the audience to imagine what Dr. King would think about the poverty, racism, and war that still engulfs America 42 years after his death. He bemoaned America's spending \$9 billion a month on foreign wars while unemployment is rampant, health care is too expensive and educational achievement is substandard.

Pastor Smith took exception with those people who say that the NAACP or Urban League are no longer needed and Blacks should be satisfied because African Americans have made tremendous strides and hold many high offices.

"The foundation has been put in place, but the building has not been built yet," he said. "We have a boat, but no water. We have a car and no gas. We have a check, but no bank in which to cash it."

—Compiled by Roscoe Nance, Epistle Staff Writer

To Be Successful...

We need you! It's not too late; there is still time to participate in The Living Easter Story.

Calling all actors, carpenters, costumers, public relations specialists, crew chiefs, makeup artists, logisticians, set designers, and prayer warriors! It's time to plan, rehearse, and pray for the success of this annual production. The performance dates are Thursday, April 1st, 7:30-8:30 pm; and Good Friday, April 2nd, 7:00-7:45 pm.

Rehearsals will be every Monday beginning March 1st; 7:30-8:45 pm. This event can't be successful without you!

The Purpose of the Church

Matthew 16:13-18 says, "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea and Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Indeed, the church will prevail, but the question is why does the church exist? Read the references listed in the left hand column and match them up to the respective reasons listed in the right hand column.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. 2:4 ____ | a. To edify believers |
| 2. Eph. 1:5-6, 11-12, 14; 3:21 ____ | b. To love God |
| 3. Matt. 28:19-20 ____ | c. To evangelize the world |
| 4. I Cor. 14:16; Eph. 4:11-12 ____ | d. To provoke Israel to jealousy |
| 5. Rom. 11:11-14 ____ | e. To glorify God |

ANSWERS: 1-b; 2-e; 3-c; 4-a; 5-d

—Rev. Clevester Hawkins

NEWSMAKER

Governor Appoints Gregory to Judicial District Court

Keith O'Brien Gregory was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue to the District Court bench for the 10th Judicial District for Wake County. His proud parents are Louis Gregory and First Baptist Church member Iliga Gregory. He has three sisters who are also members of First Baptist, Wanda, Lisa and Kenya, also an attorney. Judge Gregory will be appointed to the seat that was created by the General Assembly in 2008.

Judge Gregory is a past member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Cary, N.C. and is a current member of World Overcomers in Durham, N.C. He resides in Cary, N.C and is father to Carter, his son from his former marriage.

The Red-faced Usher

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."

—NewsletterNewsletter.com

March is National Nutrition Month

The American Dietetic Association reminds everyone that an easy way to focus on eating better is to start with the basics. Here are some ways to improve your nutrition from the ground up:

1. Focus on fruits and veggies: Most people are not eating enough fruits or vegetables. Add a serving each day to one meal and increase it every few weeks. Check out local farmer's markets to find new, fresh foods in your area. This can be a great way to eat well and support your community at the same time.

2. Make calories count: People often think of foods as either "good" or "bad." When you're choosing between options, focus instead on the food with more of the vitamins and nutrients that you need. Sometimes, foods with fewer calories aren't always the healthiest options. To figure out how many calories you need to achieve a healthy weight, visit www.mypyramid.gov.

3. Expand your taste buds: A healthy eating plan emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat or fat-free dairy and includes lean meats, poultry, fish, beans and nuts. Those are the basics, but there are many opportunities to try new things. Try a fish you've never eaten before or find a new vegetable recipe. By expanding your food choices, you might find new healthy favorites to add to your regular grocery list.

4. Don't forget to add treats: A healthful diet doesn't mean deprivation. If you have a sweet tooth, have fruit and yogurt for dessert. If you want a snack in the afternoon, have some trail mix or nuts. There is no reason to go hungry just because you're making healthful changes.

For more tips on building your healthful diet from the ground up, during National Nutrition Month and all year long, visit www.eatright.org and click on "For the Public."

—Submitted by Linda Grant



...HOW WIDE AND LONG
AND HIGH AND DEEP
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

ALTAR FLOWERS

A very special "Thank You" to the following persons who provided flowers during the month of FEBRUARY.

FEB. 7 Ceola Allen, Danny and Alfred Bunaugh in loving memory of their parents, George and Bertha Bunaugh.

Lorraine and Ted Thomas for her mother, Horine T. Riley, to commemorate her 109th birthday and in loving memory of her father, William Beverly Taylor and stepfather, Dea. George Riley.

FEB. 14 Harriet Carter and daughter Jennifer, in memory of their uncle, Deacon Robert Carter and to commemorate the 108th birthday of their aunt, Almira Carter.

Nathaniel and Deloris Emerson and family to commemorate the 101st birthday of her mother, Jennie Ellis.

Deacon Michael and Celia Clinton and daughter Felicia in loving memory of Celia's mother, Celia W. Adams.

FEB. 21 Louise Boyd and children, Pam, Sandra, and Ivan, and grandchildren to commemorate the 84th birthday of her husband and their father and grandfather, Deacon John C. Boyd.

Sandra Cooper, daughter Monique and granddaughter Taylor Hampton to commemorate the 41st birthday of their son-in-law, husband, and father, Sidney Robert Hampton.

FEB. 28 Norman and Mary Sulton to commemorate the 96th birthday of Mary's father, Robert Payne.

Nathaniel and Deloris Emerson and family in memory of her brother, George T. Ellis.

In memory of Margueriette Harrod, given by her daughters, Loretta and Wilma, and her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Also, Pamela Charlesworth in loving memory of her parents, Phyllis and Arnold Lewis.

Stewardship: The Issue of Investing

Should Christians invest their financial resources in order to get a return? This is an issue with which many Christians struggle. In fact, some do not see a distinction between investing and gambling. However, I maintain there is a significant difference with regard to mandate. That is, the people of God are commended for investing, whereas gambling is condemned.

The first investment is recorded in Genesis 3:23. One might ask, "How can you say that this is an investment?" Well, Adam had been cast out of the garden and told to cultivate the soil for his food. In order to obey the command he had to risk planting seeds that could have been eaten. Therefore, by planting he became an investor. Hence, investing is as much a part of being a good steward as giving and budgeting.

In the Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30, several references are made to investing various amounts. This parable was intended to reflect the attitudes and faithfulness of investors in the absence of their master. It is important to note how the man traveling into the far country responded to the different servants. To the servant that he gave five talents, he said well done. To the servant that he gave two talents, he said well done. But to the servant that he gave one talent, he called him wicked and slothful. Why were the responses different? They were different because the first two invested and brought a return on their investment. On the other hand, the servant who was given one talent did not invest.

What are some legitimate reasons for investing? In Larry Burkette's book, *Using Your Money Wisely*, he says that there are two valid reasons for investing. First, he says that investing is a valid way to further God's work. He maintains that investments are a way to preserve and multiply a present financial surplus in order to meet future needs. Second, he maintains that investments can be a vehicle for fulfilling family responsibilities. Investments can be used to meet family responsibilities long after a person has died physically. Also, such actions help the local church concentrate on the needs of the poor because you would have already taken care of the needs of your family.

Once you have concluded that you want to serve God better through investments, the crucial question is how much to invest. Burkette makes three recommendations in this area. First, before investing, give to God's work until you know that all of the needs God has placed on your heart are satisfied. It is important that we demonstrate the proof of our love openly before God's people (2 Corinthians 8:24). Second, settle on a level of family needs that is within God's plan. We must remember that God will meet our

needs when we do those things that are pleasing to Him (1 John 3:22). Third, have a plan for the use of your potential surplus. We must recognize that God is glorified by the liberality of our contributions to others (2 Cor. 9:13).

—Rev. Clevester Hawkins



The Parable of the Talents

Welcome New Members

Tina Posey was born and raised in Vienna. She and husband Matthew and sons Timothy, 18, Ryan Michael, 15, Matthew, 10, and Joshua, 6 live in Chantilly. Tina is a receptionist for First Baptist; she is also a member of our newest choir, God's Anointed Praise. She is really happy being with First Baptist. When asked what was the favorite part of her job, Tina replied, "(the) daily interaction with Christian people in a Christian setting."

Marcel Leverett is the son of FBCV member Monica Leverett. He is 14, attends Gainesville Middle School, where he is in the eighth grade. His favorite subject is science. Marcel likes First Baptist, especially our services.

—Compiled by Anita Morton

Remember Your Church, Even in Death

FBCV will soon have an Endowment Ministry. The purpose of the endowment will be to have funds for long-range and future major projects. This will be a separate incorporated entity and the funds would be administered by a church-appointed committee.

Individuals will be able to place FBCV in their wills and remember their church even in death. Hopefully, you agree with me that we should leave something for those who will follow us.

If you want to know more about this new ministry or are willing to work on its formation please let me know.

—Pastor Smith

With Our Deepest Sympathy

The family of
Deonna Williams Moss
Emma Simmons for the loss
of her brother

Couples Ministry Hosts Valentine's Dinner

On Feb. 12 the First Baptist Couples Ministry hosted a Valentine's dinner at Clyde's Restaurant in Tyson's Corner. The event was attended by 26 loving couples who enjoyed a delicious meal complete with dessert, and door prizes. Also included was a trivia quiz along the lines of The Dating Game, with Kathy and Reggie Jones getting a perfect score. Each couple left with a gift, and all of the women received a long-stemmed rose.

The ministry is planning a married couples seminar on April 24 and a cookout in July. Stay tuned for details! All couples are encouraged to attend.

If you need additional information, please contact a Couples Ministry facilitator; Harold and Pamela Dockins, Tony and Donna Ivey, Tim and Linda Smith, or Quentin and Barbara Taylor.

—Pam Dockins

B-I-B-L-E Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

College Connection Spotlight

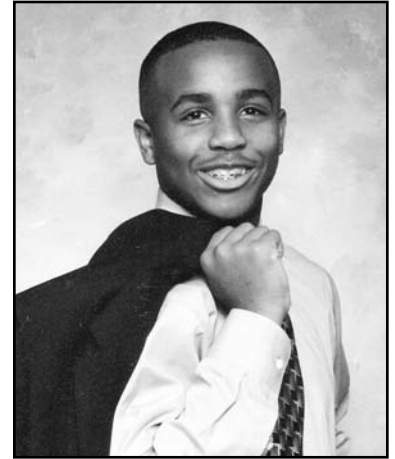
I enrolled at Howard University during the fall of 2009 and I am majoring in Business Information Systems. The first semester was a great experience. I am learning about the basics of business management.

I also took Portuguese, Psychology and African American Studies classes and enjoyed all of them. I am adjusting to living in a dorm. I have classmates from all over the country.

I am enjoying the college experience. Homecoming week at Howard was fun and I am looking forward to next year.

I have sampled food from various cultures at the dining facilities. I am still getting my workout at the gym. Sometimes I run or lift weights. When I come home on the weekends, I usually spend some time at Gold's Gym.

I appreciate the care packages and encouragement from First Baptist. Thank you for keeping me close.



Brandon Davis

Family Traditions

To strengthen your family, consider establishing some traditions. These don't need to be complicated or expensive. For example, traditions can range from having daily devotions to attending a church camp together each year. Traditions not only build bonds between family members but help create lasting memories.

Last summer, a newspaper editor wrote of a tradition he and his wife started after a visit to some churches in Europe. They bought a small font (receptacle for holy water) while there, brought it home and put water in it. That led to a new family tradition.

Now when the family's two boys are leaving for school or an outing, the father dips a finger into the font, makes a small cross on each head and says, "May God remind you He blessed you with brains to make good decisions."

—NewsletterNewsletter.com



SPECIAL DATES

World Day of Prayer, March 5

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 7

4th Sunday in Lent, March 14

Daylight-Saving Time

begins, March 14

First Day of Spring, March 20

5th Sunday in Lent, March 21

Palm Sunday, March 28

Holy Week, March 28-April 3



**This
Month's
Birthdays**

ADULTS

LaToya Tucker	1
Nehita King	1
Kevin Duncan	2
Jerome Battle	2
Stanley Stewart	2
Esther Carter	2
LaKasha Williams	3
Carolyn Denny	4
Laverne Cooper	4
Norman Sulton, Jr.	4
Gordon Carter	4
Cynthia Brown	4
Vincent Brown, Sr.	6
Sharna Pearson	6
Rodney Ruffin	6
Melvin McCoy	6
Angela Ford	7
Wanda Robinson	8
Tamika Lansdown	8
Tamilia Hall	10
Terrie Sherrod	10
Barbara Baker	10
Corina Funes	10
Sadie Brown	11
Marion Devoe	12
Yolande Bullock	12
Jon Banks	12
Tommy Washington	12
April Ivey	13
Rev. Martin Cox	13
Sandra Fortson	14
Mary Johnson	14
Marionetta Caige	14
Carolyn Daniels	14
Rose Ehichioya	15
Emmanuel Bot	16
Bradley Smith	18
Brandon Bellamy	18
Anthony Brazelton	18
Ebony Washington	18
Rev. Ethel Bothuel	18

Willie Boykin	19
Blanche Dudley	20
Cheryl Orr	20
Patricia Rogers	21
Timothy Fortune	22
Marie Ellis	22
Trina Denny	22
James Harrison III	23
Jessica Liggon	23
Jan Richardson	23
Peggy Chloe	23
Janel Hester	23
Ruthe Simmons	24
Sandra Bell	24
Ervin Bullock	24
James Carter	25
John Taylor	25
Kimberly Glass	25
Syl Hollman	25
Andia Weaver	26
Clarissa Orange	26
George McGhee	26
Rev. Alvin Hugley	26
William West	26
David Jackson	27
Lanette Biggs	27
Gloria Carter	28
Terri Dixon	28
Jay Grant	30
Warren Ellis	30
Edwin Patton	30
Ann Devoe	31
Matthew Brooks	31
Tracy Perry	31
Ariel West	31

YOUTH

Adrian Patton	14
Ariel Copeland	26
Shamica Bush	27

What is faith?

“Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by faith. Therefore we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith.”

**Every Member
Plugged-In**

By Natasha Hicks, Epistle Staff



Andre Copeland has been a member of First Baptist Church of Vienna for six years. He, his wife and his two daughters were introduced to First Baptist through family friends.

Copeland is actively involved in the Men’s Ministry as well as in Church School as an instructor for the Men’s class. He said his involvement in ministry has allowed him to grow spiritually.

“I’ve become a better person,” Copeland said. “I’m able to be a better male role model to my daughters.”

Copeland, a native Washingtonian, is an architect with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol in DC. He has been able to share his expertise with First Baptist through the years. He helped with the design of the Youth Minister’s office as well as the design of the recently renovated sound room.

Copeland encourages other members to become involved in ministry at First Baptist. “Don’t be afraid to start off small,” he said. “Take the first step and the next steps will only get easier.”

Youth Page



Taylor Eley with her sister Ashley

Getting To Know... Taylor Eley

Taylor is a 9-year-old 4th grader at Flint Hill School, where her favorite subject is math. Taylor is a member of the Children's Choir, and is a regular attendee in Church School. In her spare time, Taylor likes to watch "Sweet Life On Deck", and enjoys playing with her 4-year-old sister Ashley. When she grows up, Taylor would like to be a teacher or a veterinarian.



Drexel's Calling

First Baptist Member Mousa Touré has received an acceptance letter from the Engineering School at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. Mousa, a Marshall High School senior has also been accepted to the University of Kentucky, but is still waiting to hear from his No. 1 choice, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Albany, N.Y., where he would like to major in Civil Engineering. With his degree in hand, Mousa would like to become a structural engineer and begin designing buildings. In his spare time, he enjoys drawing, writing fiction, and reading fantasy/sci-fi novels. Good Luck Mousa!

Eagle Eyrie High School

(Luke 9:18-20)

March 19 – March 21

Lynchburg, Virginia

Share Your
Faith in Christ



PURPOSE:

- Spiritual renewal and growth
- Develop a closer relationship with God
- Praise and worship God with other youth
- Fellowship with other youth

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

TO EAGLE EYRIE

(Pack lightly because space is limited)

- Bible
- Toiletries (Deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc.)
- Casual Dress—Comfortable clothing (jeans, sneakers, shirts, shorts—depending on weather, etc.)
- Towels and washcloths will be provided, however you might want to bring your own
- Umbrella
- A jacket or sweatshirt
- \$15 – \$20 spending money
- Flip flops for the shower is a MUST

DEPARTURE/RETURN

- We will depart from church on Friday March 19 at 10 a.m.
- If you need transportation to the church contact Nelson Lipscomb.
- We will depart Eagle Eyrie Sunday morning around 7:30 a.m. and return to church before or during the 11 a.m. service.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Participants are encouraged to not bring large sums of money.
- There is an ice cream store/game room/Vito's pizza unit on the grounds that will be available to the participants.
- No cell phones allowed (this is a request from the Baptist General Convention who sponsors the retreat). For questions contact Cathy Brown.
- MP3s are ONLY allowed on the bus ride. They will be locked up once we get to the mountain.

CONTACTS

Rev. Maurice Maxwell at 703-938-8525

Nelson Lipscomb at 703-346-0727

Cathy Brown at 703-927-2835