

The Testament

December 2023

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

Someday at Christmas

Someday at Christmas there'll be no wars; When we have learned what Christmas is for; When we have found what life's really worth; There'll be peace on earth.

Those words, beautifully written and sung by Stevie Wonder in his wonderful Christmas song - *Someday at Christmas*, convey the loving spirit of the Christmas season. Those of us who believe in Christ and strive to adhere to His teachings have an appreciation for what life's really worth. We know that there was a price paid for our lives and for the redemption of our sins. In essence, we understand the value of life and recognize that we are truly blessed to have been given one of God's greatest gifts.

For those reasons, it can be disheartening to see the images of war and acts of violence on the nightly newscast. We shake our heads in disbelief at the messages of hate sent through the pages of social media and passed along through the lips of fellow human beings. These images and messages remind us that as Christians, our work to spread our Heavenly Father's message of love and redemption is never ending. Our goal is to eradicate hate and sow the seeds of love that will create a world like the one that Stevie sings about in a later verse of his song:

Someday at Christmas man will not fail; Hate will be gone and love will prevail; Someday in a new world that we can start; With hope in every heart.

As we extend our stay in this season of thanks and prepare for the most wonderful time of the year, let us be ever mindful of how truly blessed we are. We are blessed to have been born into loving families. We are blessed to have our health, our homes, our friends and our jobs. We are especially blessed to be members

of a like-minded body of believers in Christ!

However, in counting our blessings, it can be easy to focus on material or tangible items. In His "Sermon on the Mount" as recorded in *Matthew 5:1-12*, Jesus taught the disciples the preciousness of the intangible values that translate into blessings as well. Known as the "Beatitudes", these blessings reflect qualities in our character, our attitude toward others, and our overall spiritual well-being. These blessings play an important role in helping us to "work the works" of God and in building His Kingdom. *Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

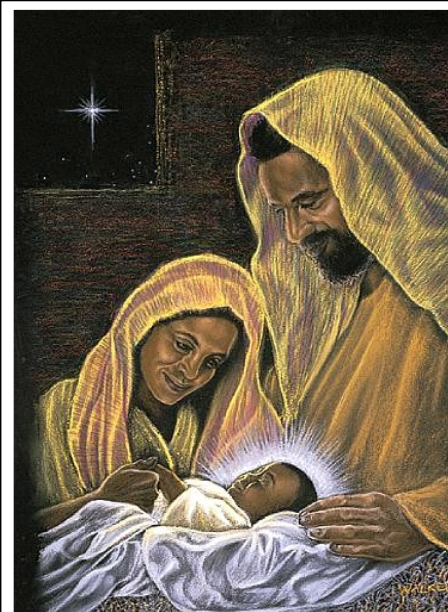
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

In our hunger and thirst for righteousness, let us remember the true

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Save The Date!
Sunday, December 31st
Virtual Watch Night Service
10:30pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 732 4343
Passcode: 957575

Phone: 1-646-931-3860
Meeting ID: 850 732 4343#
Participant ID: #
Pass Code: 957575#

reason for this season. Let us share the warmth of the love of Christ and the compassion that He has for all of God's children. Let's strive to make this Christmas the "**Someday at Christmas**" that Christmas should always be.

Someday at Christmas we'll see a land; With no hungry children, no empty hand; One happy morning people will share; Our world where people care.



Around Lincoln...



Representing BlueCross BlueShield NC, Bro. Dean Jernigan tosses the coin at midfield prior to the start of the NCCU Homecoming Game against Norfolk State University. BlueCross was the corporate sponsor of the Homecoming game.



Bro. Michael DeVito (center), bassist for our Music Ministry, performs with classmates during his graduate lecture and recital presentation. Congratulations to Bro. DeVito on completing the requirements for his Master's degree!



Surrounded by a loving group of family and friends, Min. Antoinette Daye enjoys the moment at a recent dinner event in honor of her birthday!

The Reason for the Season!

The Birth of Christ

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke 2:1-20



Deacon on Duty for the month of December:

**Deacon Eugene Lofton
(919) 638-5348**

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Florida A&M University

In 1884, Thomas Van Renssaler Gibbs, a Duval County educator, was elected to the Florida legislature. Although his political career ended abruptly because of the resurgence of segregation, Representative Gibbs was successful in orchestrating the passage of House Bill 133 in 1884. This bill established a white normal school in Gainesville and a school for African Americans in Jacksonville. The bill passed, creating both institutions; however, the state decided to relocate the school for African Americans to Tallahassee.

After the bill's passage, FAMU was founded on October 3, 1887. It began classes with 15 students and two (2) instructors. Thomas DeSaille Tucker (1887-1901), an attorney from Pensacola, was chosen to be the first president. Former State Representative Gibbs joined Mr. Tucker as the second faculty member.

Perhaps one of the greatest achievements came under the presidency of Dr. George W. Gore (1950-1968). The Florida legislature elevated the College to university status, and in 1953, Florida A&M College became Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Obtaining university status meant restructuring existing programs and designing new academic offerings to meet the demands of producing quality students at the professional and graduate levels. In addition, FAMU achieved a significant first by becoming the first Negro institution to become a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Enrollment grew to more than 3,500 and the number of faculty increased by more than 500.

FAMU's Mission Statement describes its purpose as follows: *Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is an 1890 land grant, doctoral/research institution devoted to student success at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional levels. FAMU enhances the lives of its constituents and empowers communities through innovative teaching, research, scholarship, partnerships, and public service. The University continues its rich legacy and historic mission of educating African Americans and embraces all dimensions of diversity.*

<https://www.famu.edu/about-famu/history/index.php>

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Newsletter Committee

Reginald Davis • Willee Murphy
Joan Lofton • Marva Atkins • William Mayfield
Earleen Sharrock, Editor • Dean Jernigan, Chair

Food For Thought...

The Lord's Light Within

*Lord, we reflect with thankful hearts
On the wonder of your birth
The love you expressed when you left
Your glory to come to earth*

*For your life was like a beacon, Lord
Shining brightly in the night
Filling the world with the radiance of
The Father's glorious light*

*And we, too, long to have inside
Your light for others to see
The beautiful reflection of your grace
And the wonder of your majesty*

*For as your life indwells our hearts,
We can shine wherever we are
And arise to take hold of each new day
With your light ablaze in our hearts*

*So rekindle the flame within us, Lord
So it will not flicker nor dim
Ignite us with the light of your love,
So you will shine brightly within*

© By M.S.Lowndes

Merry Christmas!!



***Happy Birthday
to our***

December Birthday Celebrities!

*William Mayfield (1st) • Lisa Eley (3rd)
Bailee Davenport (7th) • Marsha Nazzare (9th)
LaTonya Brodie (10th) • Gianna Jackson (12th)
Marva Atkins (13th) • Cherelle Lee (13th)
Karl Brodie (16th) • Eugene Lofton (28th)
Trudy Owens (29th) • Marcus Lofton (31st)*

Happy Anniversary!

Deacon Joe Hilliard (18th)

Best Wishes For Many More!!

Women's Day

Bonded by the blood of Christ and united in love, the women of the Lincoln family joined together for a weekend of sisterly fellowship in recognition of Women's Day. Gathering on the Saturday before the worship service, our women dined at Bullock's Barbeque for an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship. As part of the festivities, each woman was asked to bring one shoe to the event for a special activity tied to the theme of "Order My Steps". The Women's Day worship service featured a presentation of "SonShine Bags" to each woman from our Deaconess Ministry, a candlelight tribute to our deceased women, a wonderful women's day choir, an all-female team of musicians, and a dynamic and inspiring message from Min. Antoinette Daye. Hats off to Sis. Joan Lofton and the Women of Faith Ministry for an outstanding celebration of the women in the Lincoln family.



*Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.
Psalm 119:133 NIV*

Why Not You?

Today, many will awaken with a fresh sense of inspiration. **Why not you?**

Today, many will open their eyes to the beauty that surrounds them. **Why not you?**

Today, many will choose to leave the ghost of yesterday behind and seize the immeasurable power of today. **Why not you?**

Today, many will break through the barriers of the past by looking at the blessings of the present. **Why not you?**

Today, for many, the burden of self doubt and insecurity will be lifted by the security and confidence of empowerment. **Why not you?**

Today, many will rise above their believed limitations and make contact with their powerful innate strength. **Why not you?**

Today, many will choose to live in such a manner that they will be a positive role model for their children. **Why not you?**

Today, many will choose to free themselves from the personal imprisonment of their bad habits. **Why not you?**

Today, many will choose to live free of conditions and rules governing their own happiness. **Why not you?**

Today, many will find abundance in simplicity. **Why not you?**

Today, many will be confronted by difficult moral choices and they will choose to do what is right instead of what is beneficial. **Why not you?**

Today, many will decide to no longer sit back with a victim mentality, but to take charge of their lives and make positive changes. **Why not you?**

Today, many will take the action necessary to make a difference. **Why not you?**

Today, many will make the commitment to be a better mother, father, son, daughter, student, teacher, worker, boss, brother, sister & so much more. **Why not you?**

Today is a new day!
Many will seize this day.
Many will live it to the fullest.
Why not you?

www.inspirationalarchive.com

**I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4:13

God's Hears Prayers That Come From Your Heart

Unload all your burden on to him, since he is concerned about you.

1 Peter 5:7 (NJB)

If you have ever prayed, "God, help me. I'm overwhelmed and discouraged. I don't know if I can keep going," you were being honest with God - and it's the kind of prayer God wants to hear from you.

Do you feel under attack? Tell God. Do you feel like you have no energy? Tell God. Do you feel rejected or lonely? Tell God. You have permission to dump everything you're feeling right now onto the Lord because the Bible says: "Unload all your burden on to him, since he is concerned about you" (1 Peter 5:7 NJB).

But sometimes being honest with God can be intimidating. You might even pretend he doesn't already know everything about your life. That's why it's important to remember three facts about God when you pray.

God knows every emotion you feel. The Bible says, "The LORD gave each of us a mind, and nothing we can do can be hidden from him" (Psalm 33:15 CEV).

When you tell God how you feel, he will never say, "That's a surprise to me." Why? Because he created your mind and everything else. You can speak freely to him. Nothing you say will ever catch him off guard.

And when you do share your feelings with God, it's for your benefit, not his. God knows that when you "unload all your burdens on him," it relieves a lot of unconscious tension and internal conflict in your life.

God understands your feelings better than you do. The Bible says, "The LORD knows what is in everyone's mind. He understands everything you think" (1 Chronicles 28:9 NCV).

I doubt you understand everything you think. I certainly don't understand everything I think. And sometimes you'll have an emotion that makes you wonder, "Where did that come from?" But because God gave you your emotions, he always understands them.

The only reason you have emotions is because you're made in God's image - and God is an emotional God. The Bible says God gets sad and angry, and he even laughs. Like every gift from God, emotions are appropriate when used in their right place, not to hurt others.

God loves to listen to you. The Bible says, "I love the LORD, because he hears me . . . He listens to me every time I call to him" (Psalm 116:1-2 GNT).

God is a listening God. You may get too busy for a conversation with him, but he is never too busy for a conversation with you. And he doesn't have a short attention span; he won't say, "What were you talking about? Can you say that again?" God is always attentive.

So whenever you're distressed and at the end of your rope, pray honestly and "cry out in the night . . . pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord" (Lamentations 2:19 NIV).

Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



*And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception).
John 1:14 (Amplified Bible)*

People are scrambling to get the fifth generation mobile network called 5G --- the latest and greatest that technology has to offer that is designed to connect virtually everyone and everything together including machines, objects, and devices.

However, as Christians, we should be challenged to embrace these **5Gs of Christmas** and accept the greatest that God has to offer – His son Jesus.

1) **GIVING** - Give from a place of love without expecting anything in return.

We live in a world where not everyone is as fortunate as their neighbor. If you're able, give to others.

- You'll contribute to making the world a nicer place.
- You'll make the lives of the less fortunate better.
- You'll brighten your own soul too.

There's so much that you can give.

- You can give your time.
- You can give your warmth and friendship.
- You can give a listening ear or a shoulder to lean on.
- You can give materially.

2) **GETTING** - For many, Christmas is all about giving and getting gifts . . . mostly getting. The Magi (the wise men) gave gifts to the newborn king. However, all of us received God's greatest gift, the gift of His son, our Savior. We just have to accept the free gift of salvation (a gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of the world and rose again). *Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12, The Visit of the Magi*

3) **GRACE** - Joseph was angry when he learned that Mary was going to have a baby. He was visited by an angel in a dream who told Joseph not to break off the relationship. He told Joseph to show grace to Mary, because the baby she was going to have was Jesus, God's own son. Joseph did just as the angel said. *Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24, Joseph's Dream*

4) **GRATITUDE** - When the angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby, Mary was confused. But that confusion turned to willingness and then to gratitude as she celebrated all that God had done for her. We should have grateful hearts as we celebrate who God is and all that He has done for us. *Scripture: Luke 1:26-49, The Angel and Mary Visits Elizabeth*

5) **GLORY** - The shepherds saw a glimpse of God's glory as a multitude of angels filled the sky, singing God's praises. The shepherds saw the fullness of God's glory when they went to see the baby Jesus. We can experience the glory of God every day in many ways: in prayer, in reading the Bible, in going out into nature, in singing praises to God, in talking to others about Jesus. *Scripture: Luke 2:1-20, The Shepherds and the Angels*

<https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/collections/christmas-childrens-church-curriculum>

Dear Heavenly Father, As Christmas approaches, may our hearts be fixed on You and Your glory. No earthly present we will receive can compare to the gift we have in You. May we never take for granted what You have done and always remember Your gift of Christmas lasts the whole year through.

In Jesus' name, Amen

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



Merry Christmas!

V D V R B C T W S K F
E U A E L L O T P J T
U I B G A L F P D S R
A T I N F I H E E H I
W S L A G W M A Y E R
O B U M E D A C C P P
K A M A J O S E P H L
S K B R N O U T B E O
N K C Y O G S I G R I
J G A B R I E L J D M
I C D U J L J L C S S

Word Bank:

Angel	Jesus
Peace	Gabriel
Gifts	Manger
Mary	Goodwill
Joseph	Shepherds



This puzzle was created using RIF's Puzzle Creator,
found on Literacy Central (www.rif.org/literacy-central).

December 2023

“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
31 9:00am Worship Service 10:30pm Virtual Watch Night Service	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i></p> <p><i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Janice Campbell by calling the church at 919-688-1886. You may also reach her at churchcalendar@mylmbc.org.</i></p> <p><i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i></p> </div>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	7:00pm Music Ministry	6:30pm Sounds of Joy	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	6:30pm Sounds of Joy		Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Deacons (TBA Internally)		6:30pm Male Chorus	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Male Chorus		Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) TBA Laymen’s League	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
		6:30pm Voices of Praise	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	6:30pm Voices of Praise		Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Christmas!	6:30pm Mass Choir	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	6:30pm Mass Choir		Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)	

Photos Taken/Submitted by Min. Antoinette Daye, Sis. Pamela Jernigan and Bro. Dean Jernigan