

# The Testament

February 2024

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

*A timeless message from the archives..*

## An Infinite Hope

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

During the fall of 1987, I attended a rally at NCCU for supporters of the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Like many in attendance, I was inspired by Rev. Jackson for a number of reasons and curious about his intentions to mount a campaign for the 1988 presidential election. "Run Jesse Run!" was the chant that greeted him as he arrived and that interrupted him at various times throughout his speech.

A gifted orator, Rev. Jackson shared with us his dream for America. Steeped in optimism and fueled by fairness, his dream featured a mutual appreciation and respect of all races, genders and religious preferences. He spoke about a "Rainbow Coalition" of people from all walks of life and from nations all across the globe that would help to transform our fractured nation into a harmonious land of opportunity and brotherhood. He gave us facts and figures, but mostly, he gave us hope. Hope that despite the odds, his ideas and his campaign could make a difference in the political process and in turn, improve the lives of all of God's children.

Although he won several state primary elections, he lost the Democratic Party's nomination to Gov. Michael Dukakis. At the party's convention in Atlanta, Rev. Jackson delivered a powerful and passionate speech about his vision and hopes for a better America. Concluding his message with a repeated refrain of "Keep Hope Alive!", many were moved to tears and inspired to act with the belief, and the hope, that a better tomorrow was on horizon.

In the years since Rev. Jackson's presidential bid, hope has indeed been kept alive. We have witnessed the advancement of Black Americans in the fields of education, law, medicine, science and technology, corporate America and politics. The crowning achievement thus far, of course, has

been the election of Barack Obama as our nation's first Black President.

Along with our successes, however, we still have our challenges. Too many Black men find themselves locked behind prison bars at a disproportionate rate as compared to our nation's general population. Too many of our younger brothers and sisters are without jobs and contribute to a disproportionately higher rate of unemployment for the Black community. Far too many of our young brothers lose their lives to senseless violence and in many cases their demise is caused by another young brother. Too many of our people have simply given up on life. In essence, they have lost hope.

As a Christian community, our job is to restore hope to the hopeless. Boundless in possibilities and infinite in duration, hope drives us and sustains us as we navigate our way, and guide others, through the various pathways of life. Hope provides us with a target, a goal or some end point that we can focus on and point our collective energies toward. Hope centers us on God's Word and reminds us that He is always with us. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)*

Throughout February and beyond, I encourage each of you to "Keep Hope Alive!" Reflect on the hope that our ancestors had as they prayed for an end to slavery, an end to the lynchings during the Jim Crow era and an end to the physical and mental abuse suffered in a segregated society. Hope for a better tomorrow for our youth and a better today for our homes, our churches and our leaders. More than anything, hope for a better



## Please Vote!!

As you may have already noticed, the 2024 election season has begun! Beginning this month and continuing through the general election on Tuesday, November 5th, a series of elections will take place to elect leaders for various offices at the local, state and federal levels. Your participation in the voting process is critical! Many lives have been lost in the effort to secure our right to vote. Let's make every effort to ensure that those lives were not lost in vain! Please vote in each of these forthcoming election!

### Early Voting:

*(for the March 5th Statewide Primary Election)*

**Thursday, February 15th to Saturday, March 2nd**

### Early Voting Locations:

Durham County Main Library  
South Regional Library  
NCCU - Turner Law Building  
North Regional Library  
East Regional Library  
Eno River UUF  
Duke - Karsh Alumni Center

### Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 7:30pm

Saturdays

8:00am - 5:00pm

*(\*\*March 2nd: 8:00am-3:00pm\*\*)*

Sundays

2:00pm - 6:00pm

understanding of God's Word and a closer walk with thee. Sing with a strong voice - "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness". *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Romans 12:12)*

There is no limit to the love that God has showered upon us. Let us extend that love to others, and maintain an infinite hope in the manifestation of His Word, and in the glory of His salvation.

# *Around Lincoln...*



Bro. Dean and Sis. Apryl Jernigan participate in the Durham Community MLK Steering Committee's Unity March and Rally on the MLK Holiday.



Representing past scholarship recipients of the Durham Community MLK Steering Committee, Sis. Apryl Jernigan gives reflections on the impact of the scholarship during the Steering Committee's Annual Religious Service on the MLK Holiday.

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.*

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



*Deacon on Duty for the month of February:*

*Deacon Robert Brodie  
(919) 593-3743*

# *Congratulations Tish!*

**E.K Powe Elementary School @Pow... · 5h**  
Congratulations to Ms. Johnson for winning DPS January Teacher of the Month!  
[#weareDPS](#) [#togetherweSOAR](#)



Congratulations to Sis. LaTisha Johnson on being honored as the Durham Public Schools Teacher of the Month for January 2024! A dedicated professional who shares her creativity with her students everyday, Sis. Johnson cherishes the opportunity to teach and inspire our youth. We pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to shower His many blessings upon Sis. Johnson!

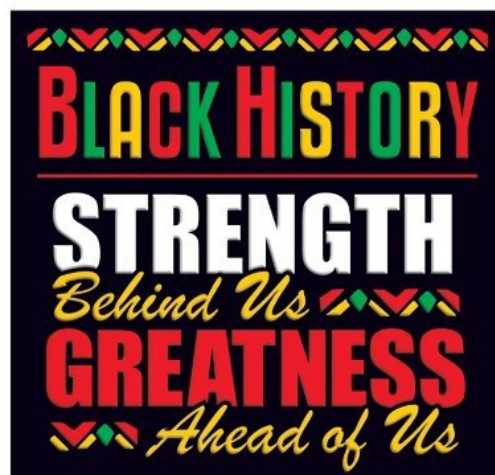
## *LMBC Black History Agenda*

**1st Sunday**  
*Introduction*

**2nd Sunday**  
*HBCU Day*

**3rd Sunday**  
*Poems and Historical Presentation*

**4th Sunday**  
*African Attire Day*  
*Black History Fellowship Luncheon*  
*(Culinary Arts)*



# Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



## Fort Valley State University

Since 1895, Fort Valley State University (FVSU) has empowered people to use education as a pathway to maximize their potential through invention, intellectual fulfillment, civic leadership, and meaningful careers. It was founded 122 years ago as a bridge to prosperity for the first generations of free black men and women in America and has a continuing legacy of producing leaders in a broad range of fields critical to human advancement. FVSU's legacy is built on the belief that every human being is entitled to limitless learning, regardless of the circumstances of its birth. As expressed in its first academic catalog as a college, the institution exists to give students "a better chance in life" and help uplift people, "wherever the college can, through its graduates."

The chains of physical slavery were broken in the United States by the Civil War, but the chains of mental slavery could only be broken through education. On November 6, 1895, an interracial group of 15 black men - at least half of whom were former slaves - and three white men, petitioned the Superior Court of Houston County, GA to legalize the creation of a school to "promote the cause of mental and manual education in the state of Georgia," and the Fort Valley High and Industrial School was born. The group's leader, John Wesley Davison, himself a child slave, was hired as its first principal after its incorporation on January 6, 1896.

Davison's successor was Henry Alexander Hunt, Jr., a graduate of Atlanta University who was an expert carpenter as well as a teacher whose contributions to Georgia include work building the state capitol building. He taught at Biddle University (now Johnson C. Smith University) before coming to Fort Valley High and Industrial School in 1904 to mold it in the model of Hampton Institute and Tuskegee University.

Today, Fort Valley State University continues to help talented students access opportunity through education under the leadership of Dr. Paul Jones, who became president on December 16, 2015 after holding numerous senior leadership roles within the University System of Georgia. FVSU continues to garner a national reputation for educational excellence, producing more bachelor's degree graduates in math-related majors than any other school in the country during 2 of the past 3 years. In Georgia, FVSU is the number one producer of African Americans with bachelor's degrees in agriculture, agriculture operations, and related sciences and a top 5 producer of African-Americans with degrees in engineering technologies and engineering related fields, family and consumer/human sciences, and computer and information sciences and support services. The school also ranks in the top 10 of schools in Georgia in producing African Americans with bachelor's degrees in psychology and physical sciences.

<https://www.fvsu.edu/about-fvsu/fort-valley-state-university-history>

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to [newsletter@mylmbc.org](mailto: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

# They Still Do!

Congratulations to our former Pastor, Rev. McArthur Clemons, and his gracious and wonderful wife - Sis. Lucille Clemons, as they celebrate **60 years** of marital bliss and happiness! Organized by their children, the joyous couple basked in the warmth of a loving crowd of family members and friends who gathered to join in on the celebration. Forever valued for their contributions to Lincoln's growth and development, we pray for God's continued blessings on Rev. and Sis. Clemons and for many more anniversary celebrations. **Congratulations!**



*Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

*Matthew 19:6*

## Happy Birthday to our

## February Birthday Celebrities!

Tyrone Pratt (2nd) • Annie Wright (3rd)  
Robert Brodie (7th) • Shannon Daye (7th)  
Sam Kearney (8th) • Aaliyah Byrd (18th)  
Felicia Amos (20th) • Bianca Brodie-Hunt (21st)

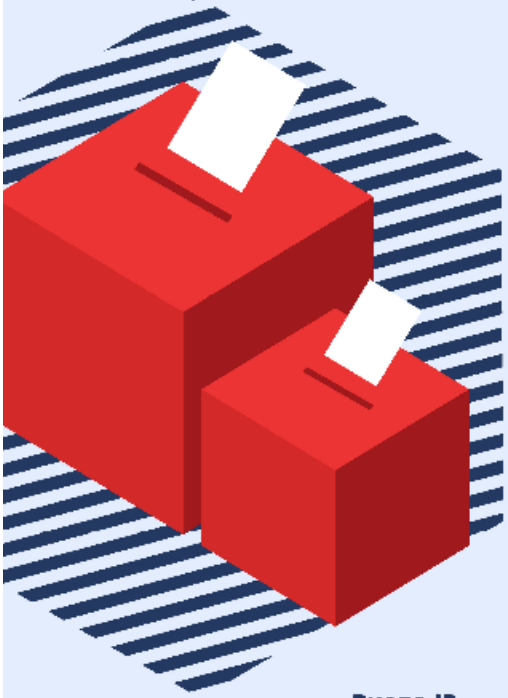
## Happy Anniversary!

None


**Best Wishes For Many More!!**

# Free Voter Photo ID Cards!!

To help citizens comply with North Carolina's new law that requires a photo ID to vote, the Durham County Board of Elections has scheduled a series of events to educate voters on the new requirement. *The events will also provide an opportunity to receive a free photo ID.* Please share the information below with your family members, friends and neighbors and encourage everyone you know to participate in the forthcoming elections! *Your vote matters and can make a difference!!*



## NC VOTER PHOTO IDS



**VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD**


Doe  
John Michael Sr  
123456789  
EXPIRES: 99/99/9999

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS


Come out to one of our upcoming community events at a Durham County Library to learn about the new photo ID requirements to vote in North Carolina and receive a **free Voter Identification Card!**

- ✓ **Saturday, January 20th, 2024**  
Main Library - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturday, February 17th, 2024**  
Southwest Regional Library - 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturday, March 16th, 2024**  
South Regional Library - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturday, April 20th, 2024**  
North Regional Library - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturday, May 18th, 2024**  
East Regional Library - 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturday, June 15th, 2024**  
Main Library - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ **Saturday, July 20th, 2024**  
North Regional Library - 2:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
For more information on Community events at the Board of Elections, visit [bit.ly/DCBOE-Events](https://bit.ly/DCBOE-Events) or scan the QR Code below.



**PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS**  
For more information on how to get a free photo identification card, visit [bit.ly/DCBOE-ID](https://bit.ly/DCBOE-ID) or scan the QR Code below.



Call Us: 919-560-0700



## August 6, 1965

President Lyndon Johnson signs into law the historic **Voting Rights Act of 1965**. The Act eliminated barriers to voting such as poll taxes, literacy tests and other restrictions aimed at preventing Black Americans from exercising their right to vote. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and additional individuals instrumental in the struggle for freedom and equality were on hand to witness the event.

## Celebrating Black History

No amount of space would be sufficient to capture the full essence of our illustrious history. Following are just a few of the events that can be found on the pages that capture key moments in Black History.



**The National Black Political Convention.** In 1972, Gary, Indiana hosted the National Black Political Convention. With over 10,000 attendees, it was the largest independent Black political gathering in U.S. history.



**Baton Rouge Bus Boycott.** The Baton Rouge (Louisiana) Bus Boycott in 1953 was the first large-scale boycott of a southern segregated bus system. It inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott that took place two years later - led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Poor People's Campaign (December 4, 1967 – June 19, 1968).** The Poor People's Campaign was created on December 4, 1967, by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to address the issues of unemployment, housing shortages for the poor, and the impact of poverty on the lives of millions of Americans.

## Change the Way You Think, Change Your Life

*Make no mistake about this: You can never make a fool out of God. Whatever you plant is what you'll harvest.*

*Galatians 6:7 (GW)*

You don't plant apple seeds and get tomatoes.

In the same way, you don't plant bitterness and get love. You don't plant criticism and then get encouragement from other people.

Galatians 6:7 says, "Make no mistake about this: You can never make a fool out of God. Whatever you plant is what you'll harvest" (GW).

Read that again: "Whatever you plant is what you'll harvest." If you plant in the soil of your sinful nature, you'll harvest destruction. But if you plant in the soil of your spiritual nature, you'll harvest everlasting life.

God has said for thousands of years that our sins can affect future generations. For instance, when you're angry and you lose your temper with your kids, you're setting them up to lose their temper with their kids. Sins get perpetuated in families, possibly for multiple generations. Not only does it work relationally and environmentally, but it also works physically. We now know your brain can actually be changed by repetitive behavior, for good or for bad.

Everyone used to think the brain was pretty much set in stone by the time you were an adolescent. Now we know about brain plasticity and how your brain can continue to be molded for the rest of your life.

That's good to know! It means if your brain has been naturally molded toward depression or a quick temper or anxiety, it can change.

But you've got to change the way you think. The Bible refers to this as repentance or changing your mind. You can change your mind, and when you do, it changes the way you feel. And when you change the way you feel, it changes the way you act.

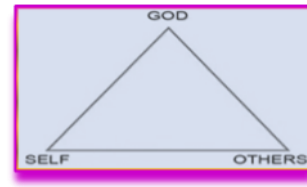
Then, you plant in your spiritual nature and watch what amazing fruit God will reap in your life.

*Pastor Rick Warren  
www.pastorrick.com*

# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

## A LOVE TRIANGLE



**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:12 NIV**

The main feature that makes triangles so important and meaningful is the fact that they have three points – the word “triangle” means “three angles” – and the number “three” is considered to be one of the most significant of all numbers. In the Bible, the number 3 is mentioned 467 times. It represents **completeness and perfection**, serving as a reminder of His wholeness. In this lesson, **A Love Triangle** illustrates a relationship triangle that depicts the ideal relationship between God, self and others. God is represented at the top point with self and others on the two bottom points. The idea is that as both self and others get closer in their relationship to God, they grow closer with each other.

Do you know that love is intended to flow to us and then through us? It begins with God’s unconditional love for us and is brought to completion when we learn to love one another. Being able to love is a process and it begins with God giving His love to you. Once you accept and receive that love, your response is to love God in return. Love is considered complete once you allow God’s love to flow to other people.

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**There are three different forms of love God has instructed us to demonstrate, or "live out."**

**And each one needs to be balanced, so they can work together:**

**#1 Loving God** ---So, how do you express love for God? Giving love to God includes worshipping Him, spending time in His presence, studying and honoring His Word, praying, praising Him, and expressing gratitude to Him. The ultimate way we show God that we love Him is through obedience because actions definitely speak louder than words. It’s tough, and we won’t always feel like we want to obey. However, our desire for obedience should grow as we continue to experience His love, goodness and faithfulness in our lives. Loving God more doesn’t just happen all by itself. If we want to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, then we have to do our part – we have to feed and strengthen our spirit by studying the Bible, talking to God regularly, freely forgiving others, denying our self and our way, and rejecting worldliness.

**#2 Loving Yourself** ---The Bible indicates that it is proper, even necessary, to love yourself to a reasonable degree. Such love includes caring for yourself, respecting yourself, and having a sense of self-worth. However, the Bible does not command self-love, but rather assumes it to be true. There are two types of loving yourself: 1) Being conceited, prideful and arrogant thinking you’re better than everyone else, which is a sin; and 2) Naturally loving yourself, which is being thankful for what God made. Rather than glorifying selfishness, the Bible puts self-love in its rightful place. In the New Testament, Jesus said the greatest commandment of all is to love God with all our heart. But He also added the second greatest commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There’s something important here that I think people often miss: You cannot give away something you don’t have in you. How can someone love another person if they don’t love themselves? We all need to accept ourselves—our personalities and imperfections—knowing that although we are not where we need to be, we are making progress. God wants us to love ourselves and our identity in Him!

**#3 Loving Others** ---The Bible teaches us to love one another --- show kindness and compassion, forgive freely and refrain from judgment. You can show love by praying for others or encouraging them. Showing love to someone doesn’t always mean buying a gift or spending a lot of money on them. You can show love to others simply by spending time with them. God’s love is a gift to us; it’s in us, but we need to release it to others through words and actions, stirring excitement in your spirit when you do something to make someone else feel loved and cared for. The act of loving others can be an exhilarating experience. It’s called “loving out loud”.

Although it is not easy to keep all three levels of love in balance, that is the goal of the Christian life. For no love is complete and adequate until it mirrors what God has designed as **A Love Triangle**.

*Dear Heavenly Father, Help us to love You with all of our heart and to love others as we love ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

## What does the Bible say about love?

What does the Bible say about love? All Bible verses are in NIV!

1. Love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor. 13:4)
2. And now these three remain: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13) 
3. Greater love has no one than this: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:13)
4. We love because \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 4:19)
5. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 3:14)
6. Love must be \_\_\_\_\_. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. (Rom. 12:9)
7. Be completely \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Eph. 4:2)
8. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still \_\_\_\_\_, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us. (Rom. 5:8) 

# February 2024

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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. Chellee Lee at clee9195@gmail.com.</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>				1          6:30pm Mass Choir	2	3  Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)  10:00am Trustees  12:00Noon Women of Faith  1:00pm Missionary Min.
4	5          7:00pm Music Ministry	6          6:30pm Sounds of Joy	7  6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line  7:00pm Bible Study	8          6:00pm Christian Education  6:30pm Sounds of Joy	9	10  Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)  10:00am Deaconess  11:30am G.Y.M .
11  Deacons (TBA Internally)	12	13          6:30pm Male Chorus	14  6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line  <b>Lent Begins</b>  7:00pm Bible Study	15          6:30pm Male Chorus	16	17  Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)  TBA Laymen’s League
18	19          7:00pm Graves Scholarship (Virtual)	20          6:30pm Voices of Praise	21  6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line  7:00pm Bible Study	22          6:30pm Voices of Praise	23	24  Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
25  Black History Fellowship Luncheon (following Moring Worship Service)	26          6:30pm Computer & Technology	27          6:30pm Mass Choir	28  6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line  7:00pm Bible Study	29          6:30pm Mass Choir		

*Photos Taken/Submitted by Bro. Reginald Davis, Sis. Kathy Williams and Bro. Dean Jernigan*