

The Testament

September 2026

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

Rise Above It

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

In Luke's gospel, we read about the parable of the prodigal son in verses 15:11-32. This well-known parable describes the actions of a young son who asks his father to provide him with his inheritance early, instead of the normal process of receiving the inheritance after his father passes. The father agrees and provides a sum of money to his son.

As the story goes, the young son leaves his father's home and travels to a country far away. He lives in a wild and undisciplined manner and eventually ends up wasting all of the funds that were provided to him by his father. Soon after that, a famine occurs. Now that all of his funds are depleted, he seeks shelter and is eventually hired to feed pigs on a farm. He works, but is not fed.

Later, after becoming so hungry and destitute that he desires to eat the food that is served to the pigs, he comes to his senses and realizes that the servants hired by his father live and eat under better conditions. In verses 15:18-19, he makes a decision that eventually leads to his restoration and well-being. In those verses, we read him saying - *"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"*

Of course, we know how the story ends. When the father sees that his son has returned home, he rejoices and throws a feast in his honor.

One of the key themes in the parable of the prodigal son is the ability to rise above unfavorable circumstances that result from making poor decisions. As in the parable, some of those choices may simply reflect careless behavior with no concern for the consequences of our actions or the ramifications of the impact that these decisions will have on others. On the other hand, some decisions are well thought out and well intended, but unfortunately produce undesired results. In either case, we can take comfort in knowing that our Heavenly Father will be with us and sustain us as we go through the process of rectifying the situation. *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)*

When we search the scriptures, we can see God's hand at work in the lives of many as they persevered through trying conditions. Reflect on Joseph and the unfair treatment that he endured from his brothers.

Stripping him of his coat of many colors and selling him into slavery, the brothers sought to rid Joseph from their lives because of the special favor shown to him by their father. And while Joseph did find himself in an undesirable situation, as his story goes, we know that he rose above his predicament and ended up in a far better position than his brothers could have ever imagined. Later, from a position of authority, he says to them, *You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. (Genesis 50:20 ESV)*

What situation is causing disruption in your life? What's keeping you from getting a good night's sleep without worrying about the consequences of a decision? What is stealing your joy?

As we take our daily walk along faith's highway, the enemy of our faith will take his best shot to deter us from our desired destination, to discourage our thoughts, to damage our relationships, and to plant seeds of doubt in God's ability to provide for us. We don't know what we will face each day when we begin our walk, but we can expect that these challenges will present themselves in one form or another. Our mindset has to be that whatever the enemy throws our way, we're going to overcome it. The enemy may land a punch, but it will not knock us out. He may blow dust in our eyes, but it will not blur our view of God's untiring love for us. He may damage our homes and soil our possessions, but he will never separate us from God's never ending love.

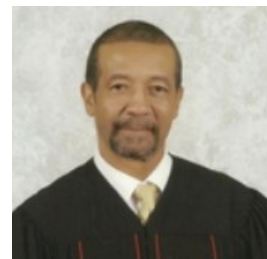
And should we ever discover that indeed, the enemy has scored a temporary victory, let's be like the prodigal son. Let's "arise" from the condition, and take the first steps along the path that leads to restoration and reconciliation. Let faith be your guide, and your foundation, as you seek God's direction in rising above your circumstance.



Save The Date!

**LMBC Revival
September 23rd-25th
7:00pm Nightly**

Please make plans to attend our 2026 Revival. Working under the theme - *"Walk in the Light, Shine for Christ"*, based on Matthew 5:16, our Revival service is sure to provide an uplifting worship experience. Revivalist for our services are:



**Rev. Norman T. Umstead, Jr.
Wednesday, September 23rd**



**Rev. Dr. Cornelius Battle
Thursday, September 24th**



**Rev. Raymond Myers
Friday, September 25th**

We hope to see you at our 2026 Revival Service. Come, be revived, and be blessed!

Around Lincoln...



Rev. Atkins and Sis. Hazel Parker enjoy a pleasant conversation during the Pastor's Anniversary Cookout!



Sis. Patricia Vereen and Min. Carlos Best enjoy the moment during a birthday outing with their spouses and friends. Happy Birthday to both!



Bro. Kyrie Stone (#8) and his teammates listen to instructions from their coach as they prepare to play a football game. Good luck Kyrie!



Deacon on Duty for the month of September:

***Deacon Joseph Hilliard
(919) 961-3710***

Youth Spotlight: Miss Chadae'



*Her shirt says it all: **God Is Good.***

At just 5 years old, Miss Chadae' Hambric already embodies a powerful presence. Whether she's singing with the choir or taking the performance to a whole new level with her surprise choreography, Chadae' brings a joy that is simply impossible to miss!

Her love shines brightly - not only through her music and joyful spirit, but also through the love and devotion she shows to her family. You'll often find her cheering on her brother, smiling lovingly at her mom, and giving the biggest, tightest hugs to Mrs. Kathy. □

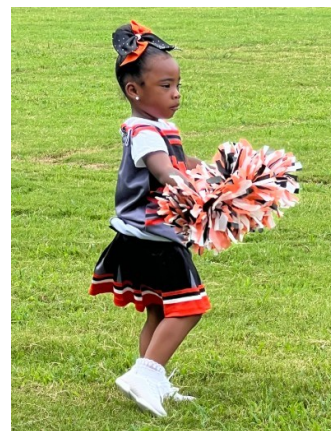
Chadae' has a beautiful way of spreading light wherever she goes. Her joyful spirit reminds us that sometimes the most powerful expressions of faith come through a smile, a song, a dance, or a simple act of love.

We are **sooooo proud** to have Chadae' as a part of our Lincoln Family. Keep shining bright, Miss Chadae', and reminding all of us just how good God's love is!

We love you, Chadae'! ♥

Your Lincoln Family

- by Sis. Amber Evans



In her role as a cheerleader, Chadae' cheers in support of her brother, Kyrie Stone, during his football game! Great job Chadae'!

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Voorhees University

Voorhees University is a four-year, co-educational, career-oriented liberal arts college affiliated with the Episcopal Church and the United Negro College Fund.

Designated as an Historic District in South Carolina, the University sits on 365 acres in Bamberg County in the city of Denmark. Voorhees is about 50 miles south of Columbia, 53 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia and 86 miles west of Charleston. Voorhees College is fully accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's degrees.

Founded in 1897 by Elizabeth Evelyn Wright-Menafee, a Black woman in her early 20s, who was barely older than some of today's students, Voorhees University has a rich history and a bright future. The University's mission always has been to offer all students a quality comprehensive general education, coupled with professional education, in a value-centered liberal arts tradition. In addition, Voorhees College was the first Historically Black College and University in South Carolina accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Voorhees University offers degrees in accounting, biology, business administration, criminal justice, computer science, sociology, English, health and recreation, mathematics, mass communication, and organizational management.

In addition, Voorhees University offers a training program in cyber security education and has a special partnership with the National Nuclear Security Administration that lets students participate in summer internships in cyber security at various locations across the United States.

The Voorhees University Tigers are in the Association of Independent Institutions of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division I. The Tigers compete in baseball, softball, women's volleyball, men and women's basketball, track and field, and cross country.

<https://voorhees.edu/about-us/>

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

Willie Murphy • Joan Lofton
Marva Atkins • William Mayfield • Apryl Jernigan
Earleen Sharrock, Editor • Dean Jernigan, Chair

Missionaries In Action!



With the hearts and minds of missionaries, Sis. Annie Wright, Deacon Robert Brodie, and Deaconess Vera Hodge visited Deacon Ron Lee at the Seasons of Southpoint Senior Care facility. This awesome display of love and fellowship served as a reminder to Deacon Lee that he is constantly in the thoughts and prayers of his Lincoln family members! We pray for God's continued presence in Deacon Lee's life!

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:15-16 NIV

Happy Birthday to our September Celebrities!

Cadin Belcher (2nd) • Ann Williams (3rd)
Asa Whitney (5th) • Kyrie Stone (5th)
Seanni Dinguall (6th) • Janice Campbell (7th)
Jameca Cotton-Johnson (9th) • Patricia Thompson (9th)
Myra Davenport (11th) • Dea. John Hodge, Sr. (13th)
Gloria Prescott (13th) • James Ellis (19th)
Hank Speller (21st) • Brittany Wall (23rd)
Amber Perry (26th) • Sarah Devane (28th)

Happy Anniversary!

Bro. Robert and Sis. Anissa Belcher (12th)
Bro. Eric and Sis. Felicia Amos (19th)
Bro. James and Sis. Enza Ellis (21st)
Deacon Ed and Sis. Wanda Crawley (24th)
Bro. Karl and Sis. Angela Brodie (28th)

Best Wishes For Many More!!

Celebrating Pastor's Anniversary!

In honor of Rev. Atkins' 24th Pastoral Anniversary, the Lincoln family gathered for a festive afternoon of fun, food and fellowship on the Saturday prior his anniversary. Our Anniversary Worship Service featured Deacon Robert Mitchell, a special guest and friend of the Atkins family from their days at Peace Missionary Baptist Church. We pray for God's continued blessings upon Rev. Atkins and his family as he strives to do God's Will in "Reaching and Teaching for Christ." Special thanks to our Pastor's Aide Ministry for their planning and execution of the anniversary events. Congratulations Rev. Atkins!



And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:15

Recreation Ministry Backpack Giveaway

Ever mindful of the needs of our youth, our Recreation Ministry distributed backpacks to our youth just in time for the start of the school year for students on the traditional attendance calendar. Filled with supplies donated by members of the Lincoln family, the backpacks represent just a small token of the love and support that we have for our youth. Hats off to the Recreation Ministry for this outstanding effort!



Graves Scholarship Continues Its Mission!

Evolving and expanding into a separate entity as a 501(c)(3) entity, the Graves Scholarship Fund continues in its never-ending quest to assist high school students in Durham with furthering their education after graduation. The benefit of becoming a 501(c)(3) entity has already been realized in one form as it has allowed for a partnership with the AAKOMA Project and a generous contribution from that organization.



Five students were recently awarded scholarships during a recognition program that was fittingly held at a branch of the Durham County Library. Curtis Rucker, a past recipient of the Graves Scholarship, provided words of wisdom and encouragement as the guest speaker. Congratulations to the recipients and to the Graves Scholarship Fund!

2026 Scholarship Recipients

Terrell Caviness, Jr.

*Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School
College: North Carolina A&T State University*

Sean Dinguall, Jr.

*Mount Zion Christian Academy
College: Wake Technical Community College*

Daniyah Humphrey

*Hillside High School
College: University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

Gianni Vereen

*Hillside High School
College: Spelman College*

Antoine Whitted

*Hillside High School
College: South Carolina State University*



KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



While walking in a toy store the day before today
I overheard a crayon box with many things to say.

"I don't like Red!" said Yellow, and Green said, "Nor do I!
And no one here likes Orange, but no one knows just why."

"We are a bunch of crayons that doesn't get along,"
said Blue to all the others, "Something here is wrong!"

Well, I bought that box of crayons and took it home
with me,
And laid out all the colors so the crayons could all see
They watched me as
I colored with Red and Blue and Green,
And Black and White and Orange and every color in
between.

They watched as Green became the grass and Blue became the sky.
The Yellow sun was shining bright on White clouds drifting by.

Colors were changing as they touched becoming something new.
They watched me as I colored, they watched 'til I was through.

And when I'd finally finished I began to walk away.
And as I did, the crayon box had something more to say.

"I do like Red!" said Yellow, and Green said, "So do I!
And, Blue, you were terrific so high up in the sky!"

"We are a box of crayons, each one of us unique.
But when we get together the picture is complete."

This classic story written by Shane DeRolf raises questions about difference, cooperation, and identity and teaches the value of diversity and teamwork. Each crayon in the box has its own distinct color and personality. It's a heartwarming tale that encourages kindness, cooperation, and acceptance. At the beginning, the crayons are unhappy because they feel they are different and cannot work well together. Through a series of conversations, the crayons discover that their unique colors can complement each other. So, they learn that by working together and appreciating each other's differences, they can create beautiful pictures. This realization encourages mutual respect and cooperation among the crayons, transforming the box into a symbol of unity and creativity.

We are like a box of crayons---Each one of us is **UNIQUE**, from our **physical traits** like hair, eyes, and skin color, to our **interests, abilities, and personalities**. **No two individuals are exactly alike**, and this diversity is what makes each person special. Recognizing and celebrating these differences helps us develop **self-esteem, confidence, and empathy** for others.

BENEFITS OF EMBRACING UNIQUENESS

- **Builds self-confidence**: We learn to value our own talents and contributions.
- **Encourages empathy**: Understanding differences encourage kindness and respect for others.
- **Supports social skills**: Sharing personal traits and learning about peers strengthen friendships.
- **Promotes creativity**: Recognizing unique abilities inspires us to explore new interests and hobbies.

THEMES AND MORAL LESSONS

- **Diversity and Inclusion**: The story promotes the idea that everyone has something valuable to contribute, regardless of their differences. By portraying the crayons as individuals with distinct colors and personalities, it promotes an understanding of diversity in a real and approachable way.
- **Teamwork and Cooperation**: The crayons' journey from conflict to harmony exemplifies the benefits of working together. The narrative shows that by combining strengths and embracing differences, groups can achieve outcomes that would be impossible alone. This theme supports social development and cooperative skills.
- **Self-Acceptance and Confidence**: Another key lesson in **THE CRAYON BOX THAT TALKED** is the importance of self-acceptance. The crayons learn to value themselves as they are, which boosts their confidence and willingness to collaborate. This message encourages us to develop a positive self-image and resilience.

By celebrating our uniqueness, we can grow into confident, compassionate, and creative individuals who appreciate both ourselves and the differences around us.

<https://scripturesavvy.com/crayon-book-series/>

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

Name: _____ Date: _____

 **The Crayon Box that Talked**

Word Search

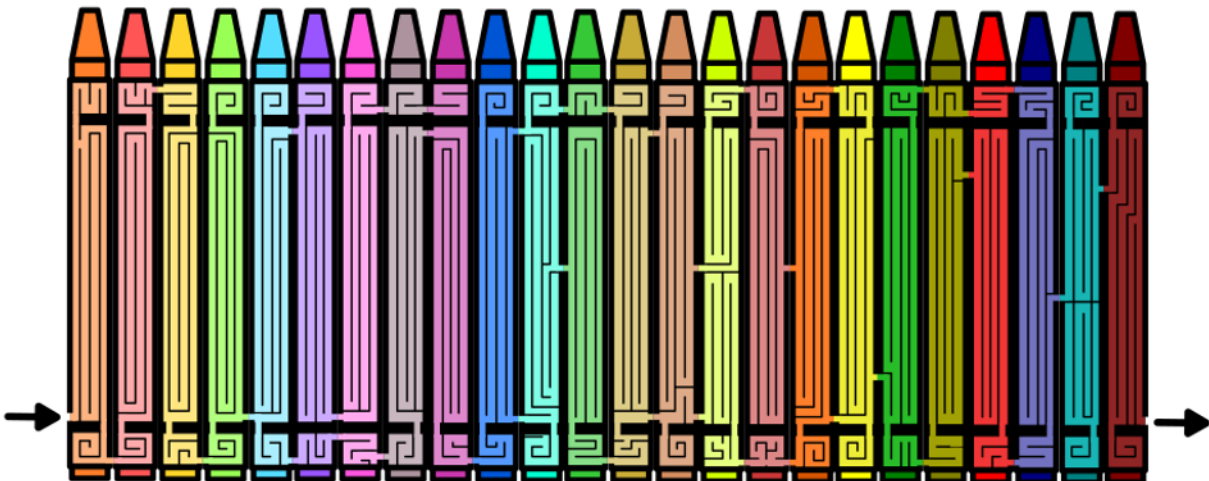
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☐ BLUE
☐ BOUGHT
☐ BOX
☐ COLORS
☐ COMPLETE
☐ CRAYON
☐ FINISHED

☐ GREEN
☐ HOME
☐ LIKE
☐ NEW
☐ ORANGE
☐ OVERHEARD
☐ PICTURE

☐ RED
☐ SAY
☐ STORE
☐ TALKED
☐ TOGETHER
☐ TOY
☐ UNIQUE

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September 2026

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm Mass Choir	2 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	3 6:30pm Mass Choir	4	5 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min.
6 8:00am Deacons	7 Labor Day Holiday 7:00pm Music Ministry	8 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	9 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	10 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	11	12 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess
13	14 6:00pm Christian Education	15 6:30pm Voices of Praise	16 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	17 7:00pm Church Conference	18	19 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 9:00am Layman's League
20	21	22 6:30pm Male Chorus	23 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line	24	25	26 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
Revival 7:00pm Nightly						
27	28 6:30pm Computer & Technology	29 6:30pm Mass Choir	30 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	<i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i> <i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Cherelle Lee at clee9195@gmail.com.</i> <i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i>		

Photos Taken/Submitted by Sis. Amber Evans, Sis. Marva Atkins, Sis. Pamela Jernigan, Sis. LaTonya Brodie, Sis. Joan Lofton, Sis. Annie Wright and Bro. Dean Jernigan