

The Testament

August 2021

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

Fitly Joined Together

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

Throughout God's Word, we can find the answers to our questions, instructions on living, and guidance through times of sorrow and distress. His Word provides the building blocks for our thoughts on family structure, our ministries and our daily work in His vineyard. His Word is uplifting and unifying. It makes clear that being in the body of Christ is where we need to be at all times.

The wonderful thing about being in the body of Christ is that God has designed each of us in a unique manner to fill a role in it. Our best destiny, as followers of Christ, is to recognize this body and the beauty of its many diverse members. And while diversity can sometimes present an outward appearance of several disjointed bodies, it is important to remember that our Heavenly Father has only created one body. *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)*

It is also important to understand that each of us brings value to the body. God has designed each of us in a different way. We all have our own unique gifts and talents. And just like the pieces in a giant jigsaw puzzle, these gifts shape us in ways that allow us to fit perfectly into different parts of the body of Christ. Thus, for the sake of the body, we have to discover our shape and use our gifts to move the body forward in growing in God's Kingdom and sowing the seeds of His love and forgiveness wherever we go.

As we work, we will often find that we cannot achieve the best results for the body by working alone. We will need to work with others in order to realize the full value of the body. Relying on God's Word, led by the Spirit and guided by our Pastor, our role is to work in tandem with our brothers and sisters in Christ. This will allow us to pool and coordinate our

gifts in order to achieve the best end result for the sake of the body. *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

Thus, each of us plays a role in building God's Kingdom. We each lead and teach in our own unique way. We set examples by working in our ministries to strengthen the ties that bind us closer as a church family. We join together to fight off the enemy of God's people, to provide those needed words of encouragement during sickness and sorrow, and to rejoice in the triumphs and successes that others experience along the way.

Joined together, we can celebrate the determination of this body of believers to continue to worship Christ despite the difficulties of the past year in assembling under one roof. Joined together, we can celebrate the quenching of our thirst for biblical knowledge and instruction through the use of technology. Joined together, we can celebrate healing in the midst of our congregation, offer hope to our youth, and continue to keep the well being and safety of our treasured seasoned members at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers.

Joined together, we can unite under the common cause of glorifying God and thanking Him for the grace and mercy that He bestows upon each day. Using our gifts, let's all remember to seek out the spot within the body that He has shaped for us to fill. *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16)*



Congratulations Rev. Atkins!

Congratulations to Rev. Linzie B. Atkins, III, First Lady Marva, and the entire Atkins family as we observe **Rev. Atkins' 19th Pastoral Anniversary!**



How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 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 10:14-15

Thank You

**Rev. Atkins for your service to and prayers for the Lincoln Family!
We still believe that "The Best is Yet to Come!"**

Save The Date!

**Annual Revival Service
August 18th-20th
6:30pm Nightly**

Rev. James Isaac, III, from New Hope Granville Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, NC will be our guest Revivalist.

Prior to the Revival, a **Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 14th, at 9:00am.** Min. Eric Melvin will deliver the message.

Around Lincoln...



Bro. Andrew Dillion, a valued member of our Music Ministry, is leaving our family to return home to Mississippi. In recognition of his contribution to our worship experience, Min. Eric Melvin presented him with plaque as a token of appreciation from the Lincoln family. Thank you Bro. Dillion and may God continue to shower blessings upon you and your family.



Bro. Dillion expresses thanks to the congregation for the love and support extended to him and his family during his time with us.



Three generations of love are on display as Deaconess Maggie Harrell enjoys the moment with her granddaughter, Sis. LaSheka Wilks and her great-granddaughter, Sis. Tamecia Daye. To God be the Glory!

Minister's Corner

- by Rev. Patricia Lee

"I AM" YOUR GREATEST GOOD Exodus 3:14

The original "Incredibles" movie that was overly watched by both adults and kids contained many life lessons. One can even look closely with the spiritual eye and glean some great "spiritual truth". I'm thankful that I was able to do that after viewing this picture on several different occasions. One such truth is provided in the subject matter of this newsletter entry.



In the movie Frozone was searching for his superhero suit so he could go fight the enemy. He asked his wife where the packed suit was and she asked him why he needed it while reminding him of their two month plan to go out to dinner. He told her fighting the dreadful enemy was a greater good than keeping a long planned dinner engagement. The powerful answer the wife gave to Frozone spoke to him and it speaks to us. She said that she was the greatest good he would ever have.

So it is with us: The Greatest Good we have is seen in Exodus 3:14. He doesn't need a superhero suit to battle our enemies. Our Greatest Good has the right to alter any plans we may have for ourselves. HE IS THE GREAT I AM. And Our I Am is truly OUR GREATEST GOOD!!

So knowing this we are able to rest from the weariness of trials and tribulations brought on by the Prince of this world. We have the awesome assurance that our GREATEST GOOD is that and more. He Is our GREAT I AM!!!

Rejoice and have a great summer!! Our "Great I Am" does encourage rest in order to have abundant life. Let's meet again in September.

And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.

Exodus 3:14



Deacon on Duty for the month of August:

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

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



North Carolina Central University

Dr. James E. Shepard, a successful businessman who was thought to be one of the wealthiest African Americans in the United States during the early 1900s, opened the doors of the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race on July 5, 1910. In doing so, he boldly declared its purpose to be “the development in young men and women of the character and sound academic training requisite for real service to the nation.”

The institution was sold and reorganized in 1915 as the National Training School. The first four-year class graduated on June 6, 1929. In 1923, the North Carolina state legislature converted the institution into the North Carolina College for Negroes and dedicated it to liberal arts education and the preparation of teachers and principals. The college thus became the nation’s first state-supported liberal arts college for Black students.

In 1938, the General Assembly authorized North Carolina College to start offering several new programs, including graduate degrees in liberal arts and professional programs including history, art, law, and library science. In 1939, the college offered its first graduate-level courses in the arts and sciences. The School of Law opened in 1940.

Throughout this period of change, Dr. Shepard continued to serve the college, acting as its president until his death in 1947.

No longer simply a liberal arts college, NCCU offers bachelors through PhD degrees and has a law school. North Carolina Central is recognized as one of the top colleges in the state and one of the top HBCUs. It is a top producer of African-Americans with degrees in math, the physical sciences and computer sciences. Its library science, hospitality and nursing programs are nationally ranked. NCCU also offers a jazz studies concentration that includes Branford Marsalis among its faculty members.

Among NCCU’s alumni are Maynard Jackson, the first Black Mayor of Atlanta; Civil Rights leaders Julius Chambers and Ben Ruffin; elected leaders Eva Clayton, Dan Blue and G.K. Butterfield; Remember the Titans coach Herman Boone; and Kristi Jones-the first African-American woman to serve as chief of staff for a North Carolina governor. NCCU proudly continues its mission of sound academic training for our young men and women.

<https://www.nccu.edu/we-are-nc-central> and http://www.thehundred-seven.org/featured_nccu.html

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

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

We Matter To God

*As we come before you, Lord,
And worship at your feet,
You pour out your blessings upon us
And meet us in our need*

*Whatever we are facing,
We can leave it with you, Lord,
And walk away with confidence
Knowing you will bear it all*

*For you are God almighty,
Our God in whom we trust
To unload us of our burdens
And shower us with love*

*Lord, you are so wonderful
To care about our lives,
Each small, insignificant detail,
Each tear that we cry*

*For everything about us, Lord,
Is so important to you,
You want to be involved in our lives
In everything we do*

*So I can't help but praise you
For the loving God you are
You care so much for every soul
And you're never very far*

*That we cannot touch your heart
Every time we come to pray
And we can come into your presence,
Each and every day.*

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Happy Birthday to our

August Birthday Celebrities!

*Linzie Atkins, III (1st) • Terri Nicholson (2nd)
Bria Davenport (4th) • Lawrence Jones (5th)
Regina Carlisle (9th) • Joseph Hilliard (9th)
Irvin Wooten (11th) • Michele Davis (15th)
Donnie Waller (18th) • LaSheka Wilks (19th)
Carlos Best (20th) • Linzie Atkins, IV (24th)
Racquel Jackson (24th) • Joshua Talley (25th)
Sonya Hopson (30th) • Janelle Corley (31st)*

Happy Anniversary!

*Deacon Ron and Rev. Patricia Lee (14th)
Bro. Cecil and Sis. Earleen Sharrock (27th)*

Best Wishes For Many More!!

HELP US BUILD THIS HOUSE

- by Deaconess Willa Clark

The members of Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church have been encouraged by our pastor, Reverend Linzie Atkins III, to meditate on Psalm 127 as we fast and pray. Psalm 127 is authored by Solomon. It contains only five verses and is such a powerful guide as we seek God's guidance in all aspects of church operation and ministry within and outside the church walls. There are always questions of what, when, where and how; but our part is to seek God-best answers. Psalm 127 has provided some God-best answers in each verse. After meditating on this Psalm, I was left with some words of encouragement for the church which can be summed up with the word **BUILD** as an acrostic. These words of encouragement were shared during a 6:00pm prayer line time and I was asked to share them in the newsletter.



Build us up Lord in your faith. The first few words in Psalm 127 read: “*Except the Lord build*” (KJV); “*If God doesn't build*” (MSG); “*Unless the Lord builds*” (AMP) and these words indicate that God is the source. He is the master builder and has the blueprints for the church administration and ministries, but we cannot understand God's blueprints without faith. Faith requires us to believe in and accept Jesus Christ as our savior, trust God our Father, and move as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Unite us as one body and help us to agree on those decisions that will secure and support your house. We do not want our efforts to be in vain. Both the church within us and the physical church building belong to God. Every decision made individually or collectively concerning God's church either adds or subtracts from the building within us as well as the physical building.

Ignite the beliefs, gifts, talents, interests, and motivations of every member and disciple. We have been given these blessings by God to use positively in service to our families, neighbors, and others in need. The byproducts of using these things that God has blessed us with include: 1) growth in our relationship with God and each other and 2) reaping other benefits simply because of our obedience.



Lead us in the path of righteousness and help us to recognize what represents God in all areas of leadership, all ministries, all meetings, and all plans. The path of righteousness represents right choices, right decisions, and right responses based on God's standards which are found in His word. We must be led and guided by the Holy Spirit to stay on this path as we represent God's character in areas of leadership and ministries.

Deepen our understanding of Your ways so that our ways become closer aligned with Your ways. We recognize that God's ways and our ways are sometimes extremely far apart, but an understanding and acceptance of God's word will reveal His ways to us. God's ways are never wrong. His ways will continue to grow our faith, keep us united as one body, maintain our steadiness on the path of righteousness, and strengthen our understanding of God's ways.



**19 Years and Counting!
Congratulations!**

**Pastor's Anniversary
Celebration!**



Food For Thought...

Rocks, Pebbles, and Sand

The Story:

A philosophy professor once stood up before his class with a large empty mayonnaise jar. He filled the jar to the top with large rocks and asked his students if the jar was full.

His students all agreed ***the jar was full.***

He then added small pebbles to the jar, and gave the jar a bit of a shake so the pebbles could disperse themselves among the larger rocks. Then he asked again, "Is the jar full now?"

The students agreed that ***the jar was still full.***

The professor then poured sand into the jar to fill up all the remaining empty space.

The students then agreed again that ***the jar was full.***

The Metaphor:

In this story, ***the jar represents your life and the rocks, pebbles, and sand are the things that fill up your life.*** The rocks represent the most important projects and things you have going on, such as spending time with your family and maintaining proper health. This means that if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full and ***your life would still have meaning.***

The pebbles represent the things in your life that matter, but that you could live without. The pebbles are certainly things that give your life meaning (such as your job, house, hobbies, and friendships), but they are not critical for you to have a meaningful life. ***These things often come and go, and are not permanent or essential to your overall well-being.***

Finally, the sand represents the remaining filler things in your life, and material possessions. This could be small things such as watching television, browsing through your favorite social media site, or running errands. ***These things don't mean much to your life as a whole, and are likely only done to waste time or get small tasks accomplished.***

The Moral:

The metaphor here is that if you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true with the things you let into your life. If you spend all of your time on the small and insignificant things, you will run out of room for the things that are actually important.

In order to have a more effective and efficient life, pay attention to the "rocks," because they are critical to your long-term well-being.

Spiritual Growth Is a Lifelong Journey

This will continue until we are . . . mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him.

Ephesians 4:13 (CEV)

Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth. Spiritual maturity is neither instant nor automatic. It's gradual and progressive.

Paul said, "This will continue until we are . . . mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him" (Ephesians 4:13 CEV).

You are a work in progress. Your spiritual transformation - developing the character of Jesus - will take the rest of your life. And even then it won't be completed here on Earth. It will only be finished when you get to heaven or when Jesus returns. At that point, any unfinished work on your character will be wrapped up.

The Bible says that when you're finally able to see Jesus perfectly, you will become perfectly like him: "We are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is" (1 John 3:2 NLT).

Many Christians become confused because they ignore this simple truth: God is far more interested in building your character than he is in anything else.

People worry when God seems silent on specific issues, such as "What career should I choose?" The truth is, there are many different careers that could be in God's will for your life. What God cares about most is that whatever you do, you do in a Christlike manner.

God is far more interested in who you are than in what you do. We are human beings, not human doings. God is much more concerned about your character than your career - because you will take your character into eternity, not your career.

God's purpose is to make you like him before he takes you to heaven. Becoming like Jesus is your greatest privilege, your immediate responsibility, and your ultimate destiny.

Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

Be still, and know I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

All things God works for the good. (Romans 8:28)

Cast all my anxiety on Him. (1 Peter 5:7)

Know whose I am! (1 John 3:1)

Trust in the Lord with all my heart. (Proverbs 3:5)

Open my eyes to see the truth. (Psalm 119:38)

Show me your ways, Lord. (Psalm 25:4)

Create in me a clean heart. (Psalm 51:10)

He who is in me is greater... (1 John 4:4)

Obey the Lord my God. (Deut. 27:10)

Oh Lord, you are my strength & shield. (Psalm 28:7)

Let love and faithfulness never leave me. (Proverbs 3:4)



Back To School Survival Kit

TOOTHPICK
To remind you to pick the good qualities in everyone, including yourself.

RUBBERBAND
To remind you to be flexible. Things might not always go the way you want, but it can be worked out.

BAND-AID
To remind you to heal hurt feelings, either yours or someone else's.

ERASER
To remind you everyone makes mistakes. That's okay, we learn by our errors.

CANDY KISSES
To remind you everyone needs a hug or a compliment every day.

MINT
To remind you that you are worth a mint to your family.

BUBBLE GUM
To remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything.

PENCIL
To remind you to list your blessings every day.



A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the **unique gifts** of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with **fresh enthusiasm** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your **enduring love**, give them **confidence and grace**, and equip them with the ability to **persevere** through trials. Bless their teachers with **wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve**, as they embark on the journey together! **Amen!**



KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

Name: _____ Date: _____

Back to School Word Search

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

SCHOOL	BOOKS	COMPUTERS
TEACHER	CRAYONS	PLAYGROUND
STUDENT	READING	CLASSROOM
DESK	MATH	BUS
PENCIL	SCIENCE	GYM
PAPER	ART	LUNCH
RULER	MUSIC	



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Name: _____ Date: _____

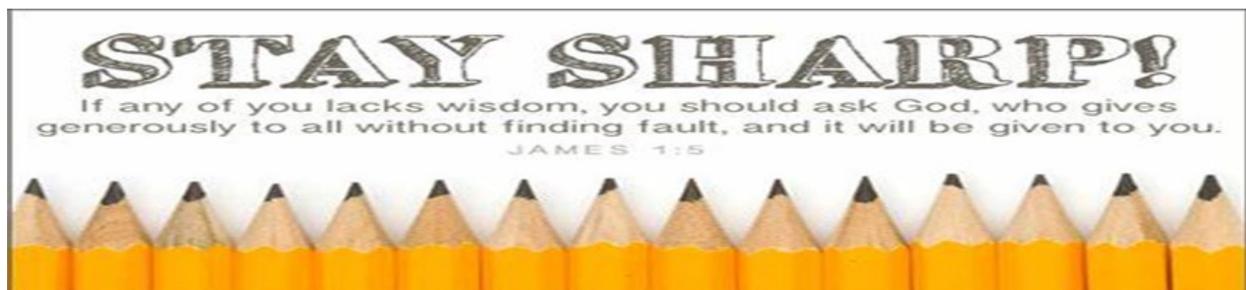
Back to School Scramble



Everything was almost ready to start the new school year but the labels for the classroom got jumbled. Can you unscramble the letters to form the names of 24 things you might find in your classroom? Watch out, one of the objects is formed from two words.

IRCAH _____	CRTOLUALCA _____
FGAL _____	RRAMEK _____
BKOENOTO _____	KACKCBAP _____
CDLNARAE _____	ROSSSICS _____
REEARS _____	CKALH _____
LSARTPE _____	OLCKC _____
EGLU _____	CATEEHR _____
IRFLEAMR _____	MSOACPS _____
CNLEPI _____	ENDUSTT _____
KSED _____	GLEBO _____
OASOCBEK _____	NIBDRE _____
TXOKBTOE _____	APPRE _____

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August 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30pm Music Committee	6:30pm Sounds of Joy	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Sounds of Joy		10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Ministry
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00am Deacons Pastor's Anniversary		6:30pm Voices of Praise	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Voices of Praise		9:00am Prayer Breakfast 10:00am Deaconess
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		6:30pm Male Chorus	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line	1:00pm RTTC Community Group		TBA Layman's League
Revival 6:30pm Nightly						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Men's Day		6:30pm Mass Choir	6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Mass Choir		
29	30	31	<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>			
9:00am Worship Service		6:30pm Computing & Technology 6:30pm Mass Choir				