

The Testament

January 2021

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

The Wonders of Life

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

Throughout the holiday season, I enjoy watching several of the Christmas themed movies. *The Preacher's Wife* is touching and *This Christmas* has slowly become one of my favorites. High up on the list is the classic, *It's A Wonderful Life*. Set in the year 1945, the movie tells the story of George Bailey, a moderately successful businessman who encounters a troubling financial situation. Thinking that the proceeds from a life insurance policy will solve his problem, he jumps into a cold river in an attempt to end his life. Unknown to him, however, is that an angel jumps in with him. George saves the angel and in essence, saves his own life.

Seeing George's disappointment that he was still alive, the angel's new job is to convince him of the preciousness of God's greatest gift. Through a series of events, the angel then shows George how the lives of others would have changed if he had never been born. George soon realizes the impact of his presence on the fate of others in his family and his community. Eventually, he comes to realize that he has a wonderful life after all and that he should not end it because of a financial problem.

The movie's core theme centers on the idea that each life impacts the lives of others. It's an easy concept to grasp when we consider how we are each unique in the manner that our Heavenly Father has designed and equipped us. As we grow and mature, we tend to move instinctively in directions that are guided by our thoughts, gifts and desires. Often, our journey leads us to destinations where our unique design and gifts are needed to fill a void, bridge a gap, or serve as the necessary shape to complete the puzzle of an organizational structure.

It should come as no surprise that God has designed each of us to be

different from one another. This is a testament to His individual focus on the well being of each of us and the work that He has designed for us in His Kingdom. *In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. (Romans 12:6-8 NLT)*

When we use our God given gifts, they are bound to have a positive impact on the lives of others. Using our gifts helps us to realize that our lives have value and that we add value to the lives of others by sharing our gifts. Families grow stronger when their individual members blossom and provide strength and balance to its structure. Churches serve God's Kingdom better when individual members pool their talents to create collective outcomes that exceed the value of individual efforts. Choirs gain harmony when we lend our gifts to singing praises to God. In turn, our church family is aided in its effort to send up praises to our Heavenly Father. Ministries are strengthened by the concept of synergy, where the overall output of the ministry exceeds the sum of the input of the individual members. These examples illustrate the best use of our gifts in working the works of God for His glory.

Of course, it also stands to reason that if our gifts are not used, then someone else may miss out on a



Season Greetings

*For unto us a Child is born
Unto us a Son is given
And the government will be upon
His shoulder
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*



Greetings Lincoln family,

Truly we are thanking God for the birth of his son Jesus, for saving us but mostly for keeping us during this year. 2020 has been a year set aside for clear vision and for all to focus on who is really in control. Lincoln, although we have been unable to see and hug each other we feel this has allowed our hearts to grow fonder. As we grow closer to Christ during this pandemic, we also believe we are growing closer as a Church family. We thank God for each one of you; for the cards, gifts, calls, and most of all your prayers for our family.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

Pastor & First Lady Atkins

blessing, an inspiration or some other positive force of energy as a result of the lack of the introduction of our gift into their lives. In the fictional *It's A Wonderful Life*, during the sequence where the angel shows George the

Continued inside...

Around Lincoln...



Deacon Carlos Best announces his calling to preach God's Word with the Lincoln family. Full of compassion and love for all of God's children, we pray for God's continual blessing upon his life and his labor of love in growing God's Kingdom! Congratulations Deacon Best!



With a bouquet of flowers and lots of love, Rev. Atkins and the Lincoln family celebrate First Lady Marva in recognition of her 55th birthday!



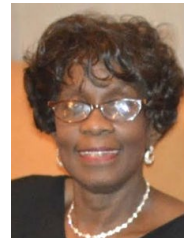
Sis. Pamela Jernigan, joined by daughters Sis. Adrienne and Sis. Apryl Jernigan, enjoy the moment as they sing songs of joy during the virtual Sunday School Christmas Program.

Minister's Corner

- by Rev. Patricia Lee

"Bringing in the Sheaves"

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed for sowing shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.



Psalms 126 verses 5 and 6 clearly answers a question recently presented to homeowners whose Christmas decorations included a cross. The question was, "what does the cross have to do with Christmas?" The explanation given by the homeowners wasn't acceptable and they were given a designated time to remove the cross.

The bible tells us in Luke 2:7 that Mary brought forth her "firstborn son". The holy birth of Jesus portrays His undying love for us by way of a Manger and by way of an old rugged cross. This completed an awesome demonstration of love and assures us of the gift of eternal life through and by the Holy Spirit.

My question to their HOA is how can there be a death and resurrection if a birth has never occurred? And why was all this necessary? To bring his children hope and encouragement. Yes this is a new norm. Yes there were less Christmas family celebrations and fewer in attendance. Yes there were unexpected visitor's "ants" seemingly out to take over our kitchen, and yes our home is lacking heat since Christmas Eve and perhaps you dealt with some unpleasantness as well.

Jesus is our great hope. He came, died and rose again. His Comforter is present always to keep us as we continue to work in his fields and bring in his sheaves. The road does get hard sometimes but we shall come in rejoicing. Cause this is the only way to bring in the sheaves. So go ahead and weep but weep tears of Joy because the cross is a strong reminder that Mary's firstborn son still lives. The light still shines all around us. Just keep on keeping on!

BRING IN THE SHEAVES FOR THAT GREAT HARVEST!!!!

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Barber-Scotia College

What would become Barber-Scotia College was founded in January, 1867, by Reverend Luke Dorland, who was commissioned by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. to establish in the South an institution for the training of African-American women. Concord, North Carolina, was selected as the location of the school due to its demographics. The institution included a program of elementary, secondary, and college.

The original purpose of the college was to prepare women to go into the fields of education and social work. The mission of the college has always focused on total student development as etched in the Faith Hall cornerstone: "For Head, Hand and Heart."

In 1916, the name was changed to Scotia Women's College. In 1930, Barber Memorial College of Anniston, Alabama, merged with Scotia Women's College. The present name, Barber-Scotia College was adopted in 1932.

Four years after the merger of Barber with Scotia, the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools granted Barber-Scotia approval as a Class 'A' Junior College. In 1942, the Board of National Missions took action to fully support a four-year program for the College; and in 1945, the first class to be granted the Bachelor's Degree was graduated. The North Carolina Board of Education granted four-year rating in 1946, which made it possible for graduates who plan to teach to receive the 'A' Certificate.

On April 2, 1954, the charter of Barber-Scotia College was amended to admit students without regard to ethnicity or gender. As a result, the college was admitted to full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College became accredited to award Level II degrees-Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. In 2004, it was removed from membership in SACS. In 2020, the current Board of Trustees voted to pursue other avenues for accreditation.

Barber-Scotia College continues to foster the ideals of uplifting humankind through education. Its ongoing relationship with the Presbyterian Church has made it possible to do God's work and carry out the mission for more than 152 years.

www.b-sc.edu/our-history

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

A Crowning Achievement!

Congratulations to Bro. Trevor Williams on being voted as **Mr. Hillside High School!** Well-liked and respected by the Hillside High student body, Trevor will serve as Mr. Hillside through the end of the school year. Trevor's parents, Deacon Tony and Sis. Kathy Williams and Ms. Leah Hatch, were on hand to join him as he received his crown. Congratulations Trevor!



Happy Birthday to our January Birthday Celebrities!

Leonidus Murphy (8th) • Kenya Harrell (10th)
Joseph Eley, Sr. (11th) • Enza Ellis (11th)
Charmaine Harris (14th) • Anissa Belcher (18th)
John Hodge, Jr. (20th) • Joan Lofton (23rd)
Lelia Ervin (29th)

Happy Anniversary!

None

Best Wishes For Many More!!

Ordained!

Congratulations to Deacon Tony Williams on his recent ordination as a Deacon. Prior to his ordination service, Deacon Williams worked with the ministry in a training and learning capacity for over 18 months. Although his ordination service was abbreviated due to the ongoing pandemic, we trust and believe that there is no abbreviation in Deacon Williams' desire to serve the needs of others. We pray for God's continued blessings and guidance for Deacon Williams!



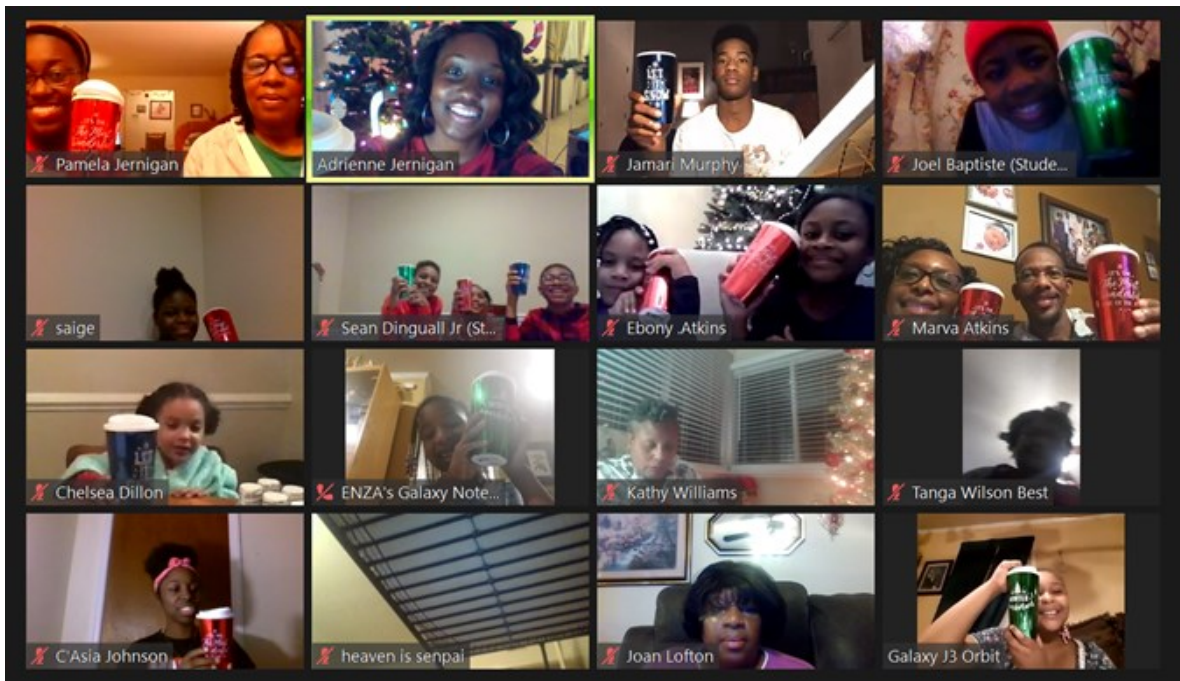
Deaconess Kathy Williams presents Deacon Williams to the Lincoln family during the Ordination Service.



Deacon Williams listens attentively as he receives encouragement and supporting materials from Deacon Joseph Hilliard and completes his ordination with Rev. Atkins.

Sounds of Joy Virtual Christmas Fellowship

Although the pandemic has interfered with their rehearsals and limited the participation of others, the Sounds of Joy were mindful of the true reason for the season as they joined together for a virtual Christmas Fellowship. "Paint & Be Merry" was the theme of the evening as the youth enjoyed cider, snacks and games as they painted images on canvases supplied by Sis. Adrienne Jernigan. A wonderful time was had by all of the youth (and the adults too!).



The Wonders of Life (cont'd)

impact of the absence of his life in the lives of others, hundreds of men in a military vessel lose their lives because George's younger brother, Harry, was not there to save them from an enemy attack. That's because, in this sequence, Harry dies in an accident while sledding on ice as a young boy. This is painful for George to see because he remembers saving Harry's life following the accident. "You see" said the angel, "you weren't there to save Harry. So Harry never joins the military and was not around to save the soldiers from the attack."

The movie is fictional but it drives home the point that sometimes we cannot know the impact that we have on others that we do not even know. It also hammers home the importance of valuing and treasuring the relationships of the people in our lives that we do know.

When we rise each day, God provides another opportunity to take in the wonders that make up the wonderful lives that we are each blessed to have. The wonder of the flesh and blood families that we share our lives with. The wonder of the church families that we worship with throughout the week. The wonder of the friends that bring us joy, the careers that drive us and the causes that prick our hearts and motivate us to extend God's love beyond the comforts of our everyday environments. There is also the comfort of knowing that we were designed for a specific purpose and that our God given mission continues. That fact alone is enough to offer our praise and acknowledgement for His awesome job in designing us to do His Will. *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:14 ESV)*

Indeed, we each have the wonder of life. As we enter into a new and fresh chapter of God's greatest gift, let us be ever mindful that the gift extends beyond the boundaries of earth and transcends the darkness of space. It is a gift given in the purest form of love that only requires love in return. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

Happy New Year!

Lincoln & Sis. Wilma Mayfield Featured on CNN

Following the informative and well-timed COVID presentation by the Christian Education Ministry in November, Sis. Wilma Mayfield was interviewed by Aneri Pattani, a reporter for Kaiser Health News. In her subsequent article titled, *Black Churches Enlist Mental Health Pros to Support Community*, Ms. Pattani described the efforts of Black churches across the country to combat the ills and stigma of mental health related issues. Counseling programs designed to provide assistance were featured as well.

The article, which highlighted our webinar's focus on maintaining an optimal level of mental health during COVID, was later featured on CNN's website. Both Lincoln and Sis. Mayfield were featured in the article, including the following:

At Lincoln Memorial Baptist, leaders who organized the virtual presentation with the psychologist knew that people like Mayfield were struggling but might be reluctant to seek help. They thought members might be more open to sensitive discussions if they took place in a safe, comfortable setting like church. It's a trend that psychologist Dr. Alfiee Breland-Noble, who gave the presentation, has noticed for years.

Thanks again to our Christian Education Ministry for the webinar and to Sis. Wilma Mayfield for her willingness to participate in the interview. A link to the article can be found on the church's website.



***Deacon on Duty for the
month of January:***

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

Join With Google Meet!

Teen Sunday School

meet.google.com/rxr-rehw-keg

Phone:

484-816-4113 • PIN: 870 747 288#

Adult Sunday School

meet.google.com/irq-saum-atu

Phone:

315-642-7335 • PIN: 710 765 343#

Weekly Bible Study

meet.google.com/qyw-qspm-omb

Phone:

567-259-6448 • PIN: 251 064 968#

Women of Faith/Missionary

meet.google.com/tvb-yayo-wru

Phone:

573-568-8273 • PIN: 228 755 757#

Layman's League

meet.google.com/hep-juez-yci

Phone:

914-713-7683 • PIN: 715 408 806#

Morning Worship Service (Audio Only)

315-642-7335 • PIN: 710 765 343#

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock





At the beginning of this New Year, let us ask ourselves this question: Do I know that I am an important part of the **Family of God**? Oftentimes, we struggle to feel valued by each other, our families, and even God.



Mr. Taylor wants to teach all of us how to celebrate the qualities that make each of us different, unique, and important in the Body of Christ with an illustration called the Toolbox Challenge.

The lesson begins with trouble in the workshop. The tools were unhappy and were having an argument about who was the best. They argued about who was needed the most. They talked about how peaceful the workshop would be without the troublemakers!

Some of the tools blamed the **hammer** for starting all the trouble. He was far too noisy – so, he needed to go. But,

the  blamed the **saw**. He said that she couldn't make up her mind what direction she was going and was driving everyone crazy constantly just going backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards...No, the  would not be blamed.

Then, the carpenter arrived. He knew that each of the tools had equally important jobs to do and all of them were needed to complete the task...

The carpenter was making a **bird house** for the garden. First, the wood would need to be measured, so he picked up the **ruler**. Now that the wood was measured and the different sections marked, the carpenter needed a tool with which to cut the wood and only the **saw** could do this. But the wood was a bit bumpy and needed leveling...It was the **plane**'s turn to complete this task.

The carpenter was very pleased with his work but the wood was a bit rough and needed smoothing. That was when the **sandpaper** came into the story. Now, there was a big hole to be drilled on one of the pieces to allow the birds to get in and out of the house and smaller holes were needed for the screws...The **drill** was ready for that task but what about a tool to screw all those bits together? The **screwdriver** was ready to take her turn. When the birdhouse was finished the carpenter searched for one last tool to nail it to the tree...Of course, last but not least, the **hammer** was there – ready and willing like the others had been.

And so the work was completed with all of the tools involved at different stages of the task.

What is the moral of this story and the message for us today?
Everyone has value and we need to work together!

The Bible has a similar illustration in **Romans 12:3-5**.

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

It's easy to compare yourself to someone else and decide if their abilities make them more important than you. But, that's not how God sees us. Because He created us, He knows the unique qualities that each of us possess. Our gifts and talents, the things that we're good at, don't function individually in the same way as they do when we are using them in the bigger picture of the Family of God.

For example: sandpaper is only useful when there is wood that can be smoothed out and rough edges removed. Without the wood, the sandpaper is unable to fulfill what it was created to do. Without the sandpaper, the wood would remain unfinished and flawed. *Dear Heavenly Father, Help us to realize that we need each other to fulfill the purposes that You have for us. To start this New Year, we ask You to reveal our place in the Family of God and to remember that every person is important, with no one more valuable than another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

KIDZ ZONE

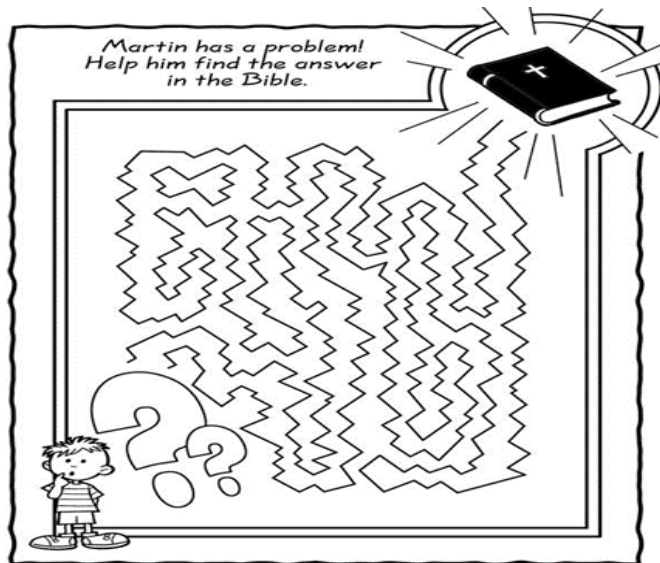
-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

laketwoodcommunitychurch.org



Discover Spiritual Gifts

Use the code to find some examples of spiritual gifts.

to speak God's message in sermons

to help other people learn from the Bible

to share money and other things to help in God's work

to notice people's needs and try to meet them

to see other people's abilities and encourage them to use them

to help people work together to do God's work by assigning a job to each person

Code:

A C E G H I L N O P R T U V Z



You have a gift

God desires that you use that gift



January 2021

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

**Note - Most meetings are being held either virtually or via the telephone. Rev. Atkins will advise when all services and meetings may resume at Lincoln.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:00am Morning Worship Service	<p>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</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>			1:00pm RTTC Community Group	1	2 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Ministry
3	4 6:30pm Music Committee	5 6:30pm Sounds of Joy 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	6 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	7 1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	8	9 10:00am Deaconess
10 8:00am Deacons	11	12 6:30pm Voices of Praise	13 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	14 1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Voices of Praise	15	16 10:00am Layman's League
17	18 6:00pm Health & Wellness	19 6:30pm Male Chorus	20 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	21 6:30pm Male Chorus	22	23
24	25	26 6:30pm Computing & Technology 6:30pm Mass Choir	27 6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	28 6:30pm Mass Choir	29	30