

# The Testament

March 2021

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

*A timeless message from the archives...*

## Growing Pearls From Our Perils

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

It has been said that nothing adds a touch of elegance to a woman's attire more than a string of highly polished pearls. They are attractive, classy, and complementary to a woman's natural beauty. They are highly valued and are a prized possession.

Have you wondered how pearls are made? It's an interesting process. Most pearls are made by oysters and, surprisingly, they actually start out as irritants. At some point, in either the feeding cycle or breathing process of the oyster, a small object enters into the oyster and lands on soft tissue in its interior. The presence of the object is irritating to the oyster and in response it forms a sac around the object and secretes a coating, called nacre, over the sac. The more the object irritates the oyster, the more it secretes in order to find relief. Finally, after repeated secretions, the irritation ends and the covered object left behind is what we call a pearl.

Isn't it interesting that something as beautiful and valuable as a pearl starts out as something that is so painful and disturbing?

In many ways, through the Will of God, the same thing happens to us as we take our walk of faith on life's highway. We encounter many irritants along the way. Some irritants come in the form of people who get under our skin or laws that impede our progress. Others come from the stress and strain of failed relationships, unemployment, illness, financial woes, and the storms of life that cause strife and wreak havoc in our lives. These perils knock us off balance and cause us to stumble aimlessly as we try to regain our footing.

It may be a challenge, but during these difficult times, we have to remember that every irritation has a purpose and has the potential to result in a valuable lesson or experience for us. It's not easy to have that mindset and the enemy will do everything in his power to keep us from thinking that way, but we have to know and believe that regardless of the circumstance, that God is in control. We

have to remind ourselves of the battles that He has won for us in the past and the trials that He has brought us through. We have to continue to find comfort in His promise that He only has good intentions for us. *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

When perils start to line up to take their shot at you, look to God's Word for strength and evidence of how His love has guided others through their difficult and challenging situations. A great example can be found in the book of Daniel. Recall how King Darius was tricked into issuing a decree that resulted in Daniel being thrown into a den full of hungry lions. Surely Daniel would meet his demise and serve as a tasty meal for the lions. Yet God spared him by sending an angel to close the mouths of the lions and he left the den without being harmed. This feat convinced King Darius that Daniel's God (our God!) was worthy to be praised and turned Daniel's peril into a pearl of prosperity for the remainder of King Darius' reign.

Recall also from the book of Daniel the plight of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. After refusing to bow to a golden image set up by King Nebuchadnezzar, the furious king had them bound and thrown into a fiery furnace that was heated seven times hotter than normal. Surely they were destined to perish in the fire. Yet, to the astonishment of the king, when he looked into the furnace, he saw not 3, but 4 men walking in the furnace. Our Heavenly Father sent the protection of our Saviour to shield them from the danger and they walked out of the furnace untouched by the fire. King Nebuchadnezzar declared that the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (our God!) was worthy to be praised. By demonstrating an unwavering faith, these three men turned their perilous situation into a pearl of promotion in the province of Babylon.



## In Memoriam



**Bro. James Hicks**

**September 2, 1947 - January 29, 2021**

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*

*Psalm 116:15*

What are the perils in your life that are causing strife? What keeps you up at night or worried throughout the day? Whatever the matter is, look to our Lord for strength. God didn't promise us an easy road, but He did promise to stand by us and to never forsake us. He allows trials and suffering into our lives to mold us and to prepare us for situations that lie farther down the road.

As uneasy as it may be, we have to stand firm in our faith, live through the pain of the moment, and believe that God will strengthen us as we go through our periods of peril. If we trust in His Word, then we know that we too will be rewarded for our faith with a bounty of blessings that only God can bestow upon us. *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)*

Let God's Word serve as your coating when life's irritants try to have their way with you. Open your heart and accept His repeated secretions of love and mercy as you stand firm in your faith. Look for the light in every dark cloud and for the hope in every hopeless situation. *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)* In time you'll notice that the storms have ended and that blessings have been bestowed upon you. Rejoice in the majesty of God's power. Rejoice in the fulfillment of God's Word. Look in the mirror and rejoice at the awesome sight of God's pearl staring back at you!

# Around Lincoln...

## Read With the Women of Faith!

Please make plans to join the Women of Faith each 1st Saturday at 12 Noon as they join in unison to read and discuss "Life Interrupted".

### LMBC WOMEN OF FAITH BOOK STUDY

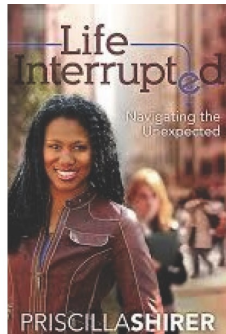
12 NOON

MEET.GOOGLE.COM/TVB-YAYO-WRU

OR CALL IN

573-568-8273

PIN:228 755 757#



**Part I: "Interruptions, Interruptions"** March 6th



**Part II: "On the Run"**

April 3rd



**Part III: "Repentance at Sea"**

May 1st



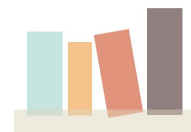
**Part IV: "Second Chances"**

June 5th



**Part V: "Unfinished Business"**

July 3rd



The smile on Deacon William Mayfield's face shines through his mask as he celebrates the end of his radiation treatments! We pray for God's continued blessings upon Deacon Mayfield and we are claiming the victory that the cancer has been eradicated! **Congratulations Deacon Mayfield!**

# Minister's Corner

- submitted by Rev. Patricia Lee

## I Refuse To Be Discouraged

I refuse to be discouraged,  
To be sad, or to cry;  
I refuse to be downhearted,  
and here's the reason why...

I have a God who's mighty,  
Who's sovereign and supreme;  
I have a God who loves me,  
and I am on His team.

He is all wise and powerful,  
Jesus is His name;  
Though everything is changeable,  
My God remains the same.

My God knows all that's happening;  
Beginning to the end,  
His presence is my comfort,  
He is my dearest friend.

When sickness comes to weaken me,  
To bring my head down low,  
I call upon my mighty God;  
Into His arms I go.

When circumstances threaten  
to rob me from my peace;  
He draws me close unto His breast,  
Where all my strivings cease.

And when my heart melts within me,  
and weakness takes control;  
He gathers me into His arms,  
He soothes my heart and soul.

The great "I AM" is with me,  
My life is in His hand,  
The "Son of the Lord" is my hope,  
It's in His strength I stand.

I refuse to be defeated,  
My eyes are on my God;  
He has promised to be with me,  
as through this life I trod.

I'm looking past all my circumstances,  
To Heaven's throne above;  
My prayers have reached  
the heart of God,  
I'm resting in His love.

I give God thanks in everything,  
My eyes are on His face;  
The battle's His, the victory is mine;  
He'll help me win the race.



- by Lita Kurtzer

<https://www.turnbacktoGod.com>

# ***Black History Spotlight***

*Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series*



## **Elizabeth City State University**

On March 3, 1891, Hugh Cale, an African-American representative in the N.C. General Assembly from Pasquotank County, sponsored House Bill 383, which established a normal (teaching) school for “teaching and training teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of North Carolina.” The bill passed, and the origin of Elizabeth City State University was born. The institution's first name was Elizabeth City State Colored Normal School (1891-1939).

The first leader, Peter W. Moore, was called a Principal (subsequent leaders would be called President, then Chancellor). Moore served as Principal and then President until his retirement as President, Emeritus, on July 1, 1928. During his tenure, enrollment increased from 23 to 355 and the faculty from two to 15 members. During the tenure of the second president, John Henry Bias, the institution was elevated from a two-year normal school to a four-year teachers college (1937). Two years later, the institution's name was officially changed to Elizabeth City State Teachers College (1939-1963). The growth and elevation to teachers college changed the mission to include training elementary school principals for rural and city schools. The first Bachelor of Science degrees in elementary education were awarded in May of 1939.

Between 1959 and 1963, the institution became more than a teaching college, adding 11 academic majors to the original elementary education major. In 1961, the college joined the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accrediting group (SACS) and maintains its accreditation with that body to the present. In 1963, the N.C. General Assembly changed the institution's name from Elizabeth City State Teachers College to Elizabeth City State College (1963-1969) and on, July 1, 1969, the college became Elizabeth City State University. In 1971, the General Assembly redefined the University of North Carolina system with 16 public institutions, including ECSU. Together, those institutions became constituents of The University of North Carolina (July 1972).

Currently ECSU offers over 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. From business to education to aviation and emergency management, ECSU prepares students to compete in the global work force.

<https://www.ecsu.edu/about/history/index.html>

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

***Thank You!!***

***Seanñi Dinguall thanks the Lincoln Family for all of your help and support with her Girl Scouts cookie sales for Troop #83.***



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

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

***Save The Date  
Bi-Monthly Church Conference  
Thursday, March 18th  
7:00pm***

***A virtual meeting link will be sent to members prior to the conference.***

### ***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#

***Happy Birthday  
to our  
March Birthday Celebrities!***

*Trevor Williams (1st) • Roberto Figuero (9th)  
Tennille Dinguall (12th) • Sean Dinguall, Sr. (14th)  
Jacqueline Brown (14th) • Justin Bailey (16th)  
Willie Wilks (31st) • Jeannine Wardrick (31st)*

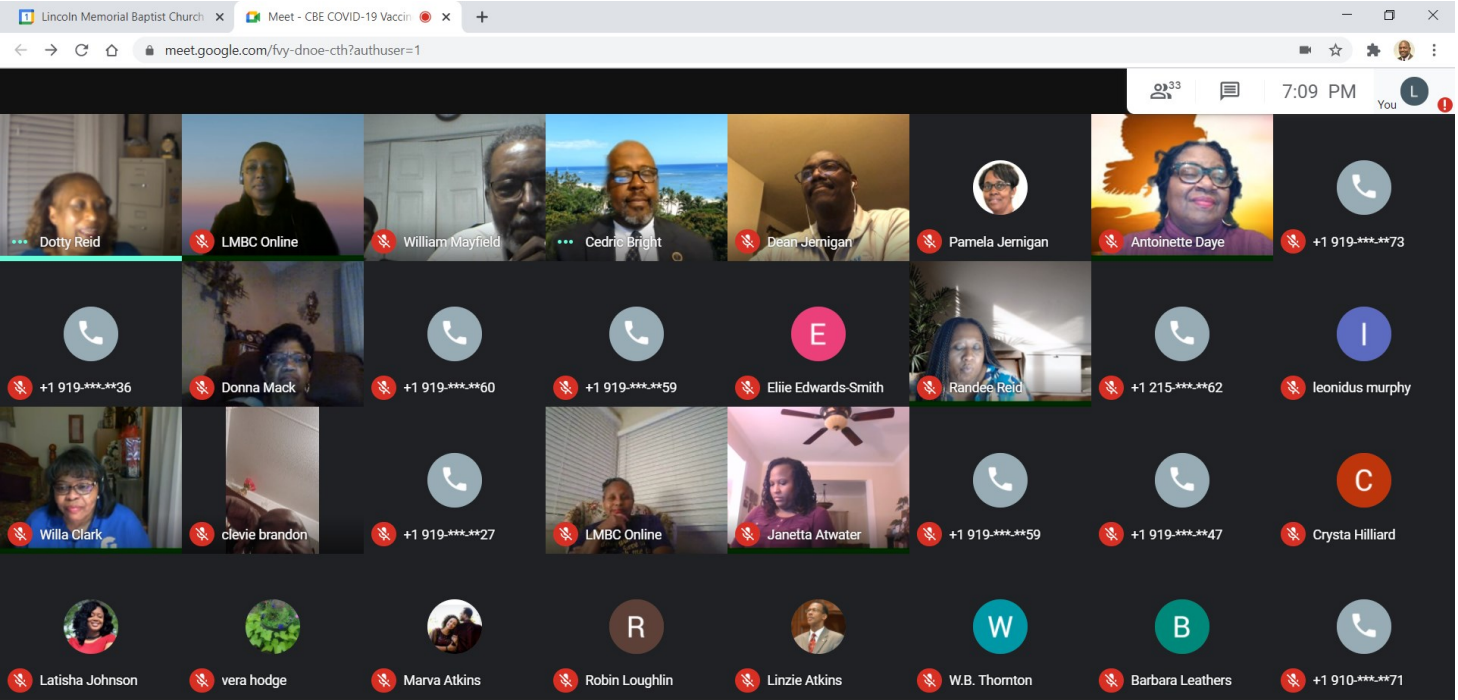
***Happy Anniversary!***

*Minister Carlos and Deaconess Tanga Best (18th)  
Deacon Robert and Sis. LaTonya Brodie (25th)*

***Best Wishes For Many More!!***

# CEM COVID Presentation

Continuing their effort to provide meaningful information to our church family, the Christian Education Ministry hosted a valuable presentation on the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Cedric Bright, from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, provided a valuable overview of the development of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines as well as a fact-filled review of their high rate of efficacy among Black participants in the clinical trials prior to their approval. He stressed that the vaccine was safe, did not contain any live parts, and urged everyone to take whichever vaccine becomes available to them first. Hats off to our Christian Education Ministry for this timely presentation.



## Health and Wellness

- submitted by Sis. Betty Jay, Chair

**Women's Health Awareness**  
*Virtual Series: "RealTalk With the Experts"*

*This virtual series provides a unique opportunity for you to gain state-of-the-art health knowledge and ask specific questions to world-renowned experts.*

**Enhancing Family Mental Health in the Era of COVID**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021**  
**6:30 - 7:45 p.m.**

This session addresses how families create optimal mental health and well-being in the era of COVID.

**Participants will be able to describe:**

- Strategies to promote optimal mental health and well-being.
- Strategies for parents to engage in age- and developmentally appropriate communication with their children/adolescents.
- Coping techniques to support healthy emotion regulation among children/adolescents and adults.
- Strategies for enhancing compassion and care toward loved ones.

**Webinar Goal: To learn about strategies to promote psychological health in the era of COVID**

Registration is free and opens at 3:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 15, 2021**, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 10, 2021**. Register at <https://niehs.nih.gov/whad>. Zoom link will be provided prior to webinar.

## *Moments and Memories with Bro. James Hicks*

A cherished member of the Lincoln family, Bro. James Hicks will be remembered as a quiet man with a big heart. Always approachable, his kindness and warmth radiated through the pleasantness of his personality. He will be missed but remembered fondly by his Lincoln family.



Bro. Hicks serves dinner to attendees at one of our Vacation Bible School sessions. As a member of our Culinary Arts Ministry, he was a fixture at events that provided a meal to the Lincoln family.



Many years ago, during the effort to raise funds for the church expansion, members posed with a shovel after making their contributions. Bro. Hicks, along with our beloved Rev. Delores Hicks, pose after they made their family contribution.

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*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.*

*Psalm 37:23-24*

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## *How to Fight Darkness with Light*

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21 NIV)*

I don't know if there's anything more counter-cultural in the world today than responding to evil with good. And because it's so counter-cultural, it can be one of the hardest things to do.

When there's a bully trying to make trouble in your life, you need to respond positively. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21 NIV).

That's a step of faith, isn't it? Because everything in you probably wants to overcome evil with evil and fight darkness with more darkness. That's what the world tells you to do: Fight dirty. That's why it takes faith to go against what your flesh and culture are telling you to do and instead trust in God and respond to darkness with his light.

You fight darkness with light. You fight hatred with love. You fight unkindness with kindness. You don't let evil overcome you. You overcome evil with good.

That's tough to do. But it gets even tougher: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44 NIV).

Is that easy? No. Is it unusual? Yes. Is it a choice? Absolutely. It's your choice to be better than the bully. Choosing light over darkness means walking the way of Jesus. And Jesus wouldn't just walk away from a fight and forget. He would lay down his life if that's what he needed to do to show how much he loves someone—and that's exactly what he did.

God doesn't want you to retaliate. He also wants you to do good. He wants you to show love to even the hardest hearts by praying for them and asking God to give them hearts like his.

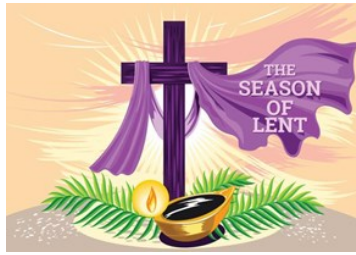
Jesus gave us the greatest example of responding in love and praying for enemies. When you follow his example, you're going to stand out in a world where everyone thinks of themselves first.

Taking the step of faith to overcome evil with good will not always be easy, but it will make you a powerful witness for Jesus.

*Pastor Rick Warren  
www.pastorrick.com*

# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



## Springtime and Lent

### “What is Lent?”

The Season of Lent is a very important season in our church year! Lent is the 40 days - not including Sundays - from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. During Lent, Christians around the world observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ -to consider His suffering and His sacrifice, His life, death, burial, and resurrection.

The word “Lent” comes from another word “Lente” which means springtime. That makes sense...since Lent and Easter always happen during springtime.

As I was thinking about Lent and springtime, I realized that many of the things I like to do in the springtime are similar to the kinds of things you and I can and should do during Lent as we prepare for Easter. Let me explain.

In the springtime, I like to **OPEN UP**. I open up my windows and let fresh spring air fill my home.

For Lent, a great thing to do is **OPEN UP** our Bibles and read them more. When we read our Bibles, God speaks a fresh Word to us and fills our hearts with His presence.

In the springtime, I like to **CLEAR OUT**- especially the clutter in my closets. I go through my closets and take out the things I don't really need: heavy coats, old shoes- things that will just be in the way.

For Lent, it is good to **CLEAR OUT** the things in our lives that we don't really need—things that get in the way of following Jesus. For example, maybe you watch TV or play video games a lot. Why not put them away for a while and use that extra time to pray.

In the springtime, I always need to **SWEEP UP**. I try to find and clean up all the dirt in my home that has been hiding all winter- like under my rugs, dirt that no one else sees, but dirt that I know is there.

For Lent, it is good to ask ourselves, “Have I made any mistakes or messes that I need to clean up? Do I need to apologize to someone for something I said or did? Do I need to ask God to forgive me?”

In the springtime, I love to **PLANT**. I plant seeds in my garden pots and water them as I wait and watch them grow into something beautiful.

Dear Jesus, We love You. Help us to **Open Up** our Bibles, **Clear Out** our clutter, **Sweep Up** our messes, and **Plant** seeds of righteousness. Amen

<https://sermons4kids.com>

For Lent, it is good for us to **PLANT**- different kind of seeds.

### Planting a Lenten Garden

#### Three rows of Squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash criticism
3. Squash indifference

#### Six rows of Peas

1. Prayer
2. Perseverance
3. Politeness
4. Preparedness
5. Purity
6. Patience

#### Seven heads of Lettuce

1. Let us be kind
2. Let us be charitable
3. Let us be faithful
4. Let us not be weary in well doing
5. Let us be obedient
6. Let us be truthful
7. Let us love one another

#### No garden is complete without Turnips

1. Turn up for Sunday School and Bible Study
2. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult
3. Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service

#### Conclude with Thyme:

Time with God, time for fun, time for rest

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love

# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



- |            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash        | Holy Week     | Palm Branch  |
| Wednesday  | Holy Thursday | Forty Days   |
| Sacrifice  | Good Friday   | Jesus        |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover     |
| Prayer     | Easter        | Foot Washing |
| Fasting    | Palm Sunday   | Resurrection |
| Lent       | Purple        | Love         |



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## GIVE UP...TAKE UP LENT IDEAS FOR KIDS

### GIVE UP

- Asking for more
- TV
- Talking back
- Picky eating
- Being alone / Isolation
- Worrying
- Interrupting
- Entitlement ("gimme gimme")
- Sneaking & lying
- Ipad / video games
- Disobedience/Ignoring
- Anger
- Avoiding chores
- Quitting / giving up
- Screens
- Making excuses / blaming others
- Bragging
- Buying unnecessary things
- Hogging favourite toy
- Complaining
- Fear
- Being half empty
- Teasing / Gossiping
- Negative self-talk

### TAKE UP

- Gratefulness
- Prayer time
- Respectful obedience
- Curiosity: try 3 bites of new food
- Find ways to love family
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Reading the Bible
- Faithfulness / Listen first time
- Gentleness
- Do chores before being asked
- Determination / try again
- Learn a new hobby
- Honesty
- Humility (NOT humiliation)
- Give money to someone in need
- Sharing
- Self-control
- Trust
- Hope
- Build up / Compliment
- Identify as child of God

## WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare ourselves for the joy and new life of \_\_\_\_\_.

Lent starts on \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday and lasts 40 days. We think about what kind of person we are. During Lent we try harder to live like \_\_\_\_\_ lived.

Jesus showed everyone he met \_\_\_\_\_ and kindness.

**Easter  
Jesus  
love  
time  
Ash**



# March 2021

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

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