

The Testament

January 2022

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

Continue To Dream!

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

Happy New Year Lincoln! We give all praises and thanks to God for bringing us through last year and for allowing us to move forward into 2022. We certainly had challenges during 2021. It was our second full year of being under COVID restrictions which caused consternation for many, anguish for others and a wave of unthoughtful commentary and behavior across the country. Elected leaders in our nation's capital continued their spread of division and political polarization within our United States. Communities, schools and employers struggled with mask mandates, vaccine mandates and social distancing requirements. Many churches and houses of worship across the country continued their utilization of hybrid worship services, while others returned to their pre-COVID practices. A challenging year indeed!

Looking ahead to the new year, I am among the many who are hopeful that we will move beyond the rancor of 2021 and leave it in the past. As we approach the holiday that honors that life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I am reminded of his dream of living in a nation where everyone values the lives of others and respects the rights of others. His expressed desire of transforming "the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood" paints an inspiring picture of people with varying thoughts and interests working together for the benefit of our nation as a whole. *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.* (Philippians 2:3-4 NIV)

Is it realistic to still dream of a nation of people living together in harmony? Yes, I believe it is! But we have a long way to go to get there. Unfortunately, there is still an unhealthy level of hate in the world. Here in our country, an unsettling amount of racial animus was exposed and fueled by the hateful rhetoric spewed forth from individuals in the Trump administration. However, when we read God's Word, we know that He has the power to remove the stain of hate from any of us.

Recall Joseph's story from the book of

Genesis. Loved and admired by his father but despised by his brothers, he was sold into slavery by his brothers and imprisoned for a crime that he did not commit. Yet, through a series of events, he rose to a position of power second only to Pharaoh in Egypt. At some point later, his brothers - unknowingly, came before him begging for provisions to aid their families. When Joseph revealed himself to them, they were fearful for they were mindful of their prior act of hate against him. But the love of God was at work within Joseph. He forgave them for their past actions and told them of God's plan. *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.* (Genesis 50:20 ESV)



The story of Joseph reminds us that God has a master plan for our lives as well as for the events and circumstances that shape our lives. Nothing catches Him by surprise. God allows events - both good and not so good, to impact our lives. Those events test us and try us; but mostly, they require us to trust His Word. *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Can we dream of a better 2022 than 2021? Yes, we can. Can we dream of a post-pandemic society determined to live more harmoniously than in the days prior to this COVID experience? Yes, we can. Can we share in Dr. King's dream where the content of an individual's character will factor more prominently than the color of his or her skin? Yes, we can! For if we believe these things as a dream in our minds and desire them in our hearts, then with God's blessings, we can see them come into fruition! *Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.* (Psalm 37:4 NKJV)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, take the lid off of your dreams this year! Dream big! Don't give in to doubt or discouragement. Praise God - and keep Him with you always! *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.* (Psalm 139:14)

In Memoriam



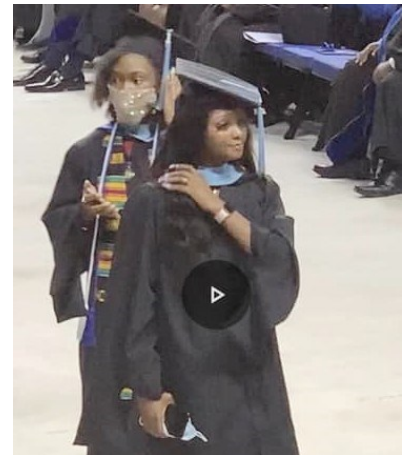
Sis. Leona Johnson

September 30, 1947 - December 14, 2021
*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.*

Psalm 116:15



Congratulations Meme!!



Congratulations to Sis. Jameca Cotton on receiving her Master of Arts degree in Counseling from North Carolina A&T State University! May God continue to use and bless her as she continues her educational and professional development!

Happy New Year!

Around Lincoln...



Sis. Deborah Murphy presents Sis. Adrienne Jernigan with a gift of appreciation from the parents of the members of the Sounds of Joy. Congratulations Adrienne and thanks to all of our musicians in the Music Ministry!



No celebration of the birth of Christ is complete without the splendor of hearing Sis. Mamie Brodie sing *Jesus, What A Wonderful Child*. The Lincoln family was treated to this wonderful blessing from this wonderful vessel of the Lord! May God continue to bless, strengthen and provide for Sis. Brodie!



On behalf of our Sunday School Ministry, Sis. LaTisha Johnson presents a special poem written in celebration of the true reason for the Christmas season! Thank you Sis. Johnson.



Members of the Trustee Ministry gathered for a Christmas fellowship at Nantucket Grill to celebrate their work and the true reason for the season! Thank you Trustees for all of your work in aiding the operations of our church.



Bro. Cecil Sharrock offers words of hope and inspiration during the Layman's League Fellowship Breakfast. He encouraged the men to be more visual servants than verbal servants. He spoke on the topics of "Prayer, Persistence, and Patience; Faith, Family and Finance; Time, Talent and Treasure. Hats off to the Layman's League for staying connected and encouraging the men in the Lincoln family.

Happy Birthday to our January Birthday Celebrities!

*Leonidus Murphy (8th) • Joseph Eley, Sr. (11th)
Enza Ellis (11th) • Charmaine Harris (14th)
Anissa Belcher (18th) • Joan Lofton (23rd)
Lelia Ervin (29th)*

Happy Anniversary!

None

Best Wishes For Many More!!



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

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

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Alabama State University

Alabama State University's (ASU) 148-year history is a legacy of perseverance, progress and promise. The ASU movement began with the impetus to establish a school for Black Alabamians. The Civil War resulted not only in the end of slavery but also in the opportunity for Blacks to have the right to education. With the Northern victory, Black Southerners with the assistance of Northern white missionaries and the leaders of African-American churches set out to establish educational institutions for the freedmen. ASU was born in that movement.

Blacks in the Black Belt of Alabama, the heart of the Confederacy, founded Lincoln Normal School at Marion in 1867. As a descendent of that school, ASU is one of the oldest institutions of higher education founded for Black Americans. The American Missionary Association (AMA) leased a building and operated and financed the school. In 1869, the AMA, with the support of \$2,800 from the Freedmen's Bureau of the federal government and support from the "colored people of Alabama," raised \$4,200 to construct a new building. In 1870, while the AMA provided the teachers, the Legislature appropriated \$486 for the school's use. The state's support rose to \$1,250 the next year.

In 1873 the Alabama Legislature established a "State Normal School and University for the Education of Colored Teachers and Students." That act included the provision that Lincoln School's assets would become part of the new school. This led to Lincoln Normal School in Marion becoming America's first state-supported liberal arts educational institution for Blacks.

Despite having to face tremendous obstacles, the ASU family continued to make significant contributions to the history of the state and nation, especially with the involvement of students and employees in the Civil Rights Movement. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, awakened a new consciousness within the university and the community responded to the call for participants. Even though officials retaliated against the school with a decrease in funding, ASU continued to persevere and flourish so that today it is a model of diversity and equal opportunity for all. At the same time, ASU is a beacon in the legacy of Black leadership and the preservation and celebration of African-American culture.

<https://www.alasu.edu/about-asu/historytradition/>

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

Grow in the Light of God's Word

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:12 (NLT)

As a vegetable gardener, I can tell you that the more hours of light you have, the bigger your crops will grow. For more than 30 years, I've used a special light bulb for gardening called a grow light. It emits a certain kind of light that causes plants and trees to grow. You use it in areas where there isn't enough light for plants to survive. I planted young redwood trees on the shady side of my house and used the grow lights on them until they got tall enough to get sunlight on their own. Today those trees are about 40 feet tall.

Light is the key to life. Every plant grows by photosynthesis, which is dependent upon light. Humans depend on light to see and for our body's systems to function normally. No light, no power. No light, no growth. You can't live without light.

What's true of light in the physical realm is also true in the spiritual realm. On your dark days, when the sun is hidden and you can't see the light, you need the light of Jesus to change you for the better.

There are two ways that you change: when you see the light and when you feel the heat. One of those ways is far less painful than the other. If you would just change when you see the light, then you wouldn't have to change when you feel the heat.

Do you want to know what your grow light is? It's God's Word. Studying God's Word will help you grow in your knowledge of God and love for him.

Ephesians 1:16-17 says, "I pray for you constantly, asking God to . . . give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow" (NLT). When you know God's Word, his light will flood your heart. Then you'll understand the wonderful future God has promised you.

In the Bible, light and life go hand in hand: "You are the giver of life. Your light lets us enjoy life" (Psalm 36:9 NCV).

Life is meant to be enjoyed, not merely endured, not just at Christmas but all year long. The key is to live in God's light.

That's why Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life" (John 8:12 NLT).

Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com

Sounds of Joy Christmas Fellowship

Resting their singing voices and channeling their energy toward a spirit of unity, the members of the Sounds of Joy gathered during the Christmas season for wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship. Led by Sis. Adrienne Jernigan and under the watchful eyes of family members, the youth participated in several fun and interactive activities. Members of the Christian Education ministry were on hand as well to offer encouragement and support. Youth member Faith Dobson captured the spirit of the season well when she reminded everyone that “Christmas is not about presents, it’s about family!” We pray for God’s continued blessings upon our youth and the Sounds of Joy as they minister God’s Word through song!



Want God's Best: Trust and Rest

I'm so looking forward to my weekends. During the State Fair of Texas, my colleagues and I work seven days a week for almost a month. I don't think you realize how precious something is until you have less of it, or it's gone. Long work hours can leave you tired, irritable, and yearning for sleep. Although it's temporary and something I was prepared for, it doesn't remove what you experience physically, mentally, and emotionally. I think that's the case for our lives. I think we realize that life will be hard and filled with challenges. We know that with our heads but when it happens, our hearts, emotions and even our bodies don't often align.

We know the pain we endure is temporary but at the moment, the pain supersedes everything. It is so easy to complain and whine about our circumstances because of how we feel versus what we know to be true. We know God is able and yet, we will doubt God's ability to make things happen for us. We know that God is the Creator of heaven and earth and yet, we act as if God is not in control. We know that God cares for us but when something happens to us that is not what we expected, we believe that God forgot about us or is punishing us. It's easy to begin to place more confidence in ourselves than in God. When I focus solely on what is in front of me, I can miss all the things that are going on around me.

I can find myself sad about a situation without seeing God's goodness and the multiple blessings around me. Trusting my limited vision has set me up for disappointment. The Bible tells us that there are consequences in solely depending on ourselves and our limited vision. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones." (Proverbs 3:5-8) When we trust God's plan, put God first, we can rest in knowing that God will make things work out not because of our wisdom but knowing that God's plan is greater than our own.

When we trust in ourselves, it's easy to make bad

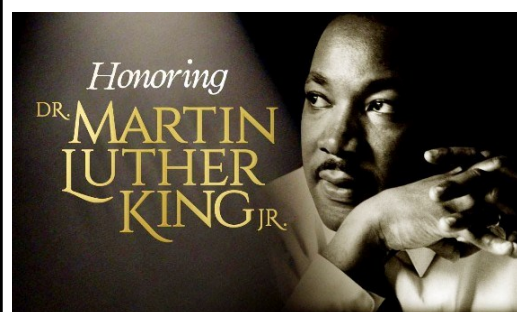
decisions and even do things that go against God and what's best for ourselves. The challenge of being tired and weary is that we don't always make the best choices. What would happen when we know that we are tired and worn out, if we went to God instead of doubting, complaining, or taking things into our own hands to solve? The part of this scripture that isn't emphasized is that there is a healing and rest that takes place when we trust God. I don't think we equate trusting God to rest and healing. Doubt is often the result of disappointments that happen repeatedly causing anxiety.

Can I really trust God with taking care of this for me? Just as there is a physical exhaustion, we can become mentally and emotionally exhausted affecting our relationship with others and with God. God knows the importance of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual rest. It is a matter of trusting God to be our source of replenishment when our tanks are low, and we can't go further.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Trust and rest go together. We must believe that God is able to give to do this for us, but it is contingent upon our willingness to surrender. "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2) Trusting God is necessary for our rest. This has been such a difficult season for so many of us. We can not allow the pain of the past to rob us of the possibilities of our purpose.

If God repeatedly shares the importance of rest, there are lessons for us to know that it is a part of our journey if we truly want to experience God's best for our lives. "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his." (Hebrews 4:9-10). Want God's best? Trust God and Rest.

- Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew
www.blackpressusa.com



**January 15, 1929 -
April 4, 1968**
**Holiday Observance &
National Day of Service:**
Monday, January 17th
**"A Day On -
Not A Day Off"**



KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



This lesson will explore how we can look back to **THANK GOD** while moving forward to **TRUST GOD**.

The week between Christmas and New Year's is a time of looking back well and moving forward wisely. When looking back on 2021, don't concentrate on the negative things that happened. Looking back can be a bit dangerous and can lead to unhappiness and regret. Remember that looking back only with disappointment cheats us from all the good that God still has for us. However, there is a right way to look back. The Bible instructs us to look back to remember all that God had done. So, looking back well is looking to God with thankfulness.

As we anticipate the arrival of 2022, now is a great time to sit down and think about what you want to do in the new year, what it will hold and the changes, additions, or deletions that you want to make. Looking forward can be dangerous as well. It's easy to map out our plans and goals first and only later ask for God's blessing. Looking ahead can also make us fearful of the hundreds of hard things that could happen. We have no idea what the New Year will hold. However, God designed us to look forward with trust. We're called to Walk by Faith. Looking forward wisely is looking to God in trust.

Can you think of anything you did not do last year? --- Listen to Mom & Dad; Invite someone to church; read your Bible more; tell someone about the love of Christ; or be a better friend. Well, don't think about those things now, set new goals for yourself to strive towards within the coming year.

Here's a short story to demonstrate the downside to looking back and the upside to moving forward:

How many of you have ever been involved in a foot race? What is the one thing that can slow you down? Yes, that is correct---**looking back!** Here are two (2) reasons why: 1) You are spending energy and time at looking where you have been and not where you are going; and 2) You lose sight of the mark or finish line. In both instances, you lose focus which in turn causes you valuable time in a race.

Paul speaks of this very thing in the Bible. It can be found in Philippians 3:12-14 (KJV), "*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*"

Paul is talking about pressing toward a goal or winning a race. He knows that he has not won the race, but he counts himself still in the race trying to obtain the prize. He states in verse 13; in running the race one thing he does is forgetting those things that are in the past and reaches for the future. In other words, he doesn't look back! A runner in a race doesn't keep looking back at who is behind him, lest he can trip and fall on his face. Instead, he is intent upon the goal up ahead. "Forgetting" is not to have remembrance of something. I don't think that this means our mind is wiped clean of any remembrance of past hurts and failures, but that we choose not to go there any longer. We choose not to remember. We choose instead to look forward. Now, just like in a race and as Paul tells us; "Don't look back, press on toward the prize!! The prize we have in Jesus Christ our Savior!!"

<https://lisaappelo.com>; <https://sermons4kids.com>

Dear Lord, Help us to look back with a thankful heart and to start each day trusting You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

The Light is Ahead!
Don't Look Back!

Look always ahead!
 Set your face towards Jesus,
 your **B**rother,
 your **S**avior and Lord,
 the Light of the **W**orld.

Don't look back
 at yesterday's mistakes,
 at yesterday's regrets, or
 at any shadows of yesterday.

Look to **J**esus.
 Look upon the brightness
 of **H**is promises.
 Look upon **H**is love
 that casts out fear.
 Look upon **H**is guiding light
 that leads you
 from the shadows of yesterday
 to the light of tomorrow!

Always Look Ahead!

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org

Forward: Philippians 3:13-14

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behind	call of God	Christ Jesus	forgetting
forward	lies ahead	Philippians	pressing on
prize	straining	upward	

January 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January						
30 9:00am Worship Service	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>				1 New Year's Day!
2	3 7:00pm Music Committee	4 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	5 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	6 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	7	8 10:00am Deaconess
9 Deacons (TBA Internally)	10	11 6:30pm Male Chorus	12 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	13 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Male Chorus	14	15 TBA Layman's League
16	17 ML King, Jr. Holiday	18 6:30pm Voices of Praise	19 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	20 7:00pm Church Conference	21	22
23	24	25 6:30pm Computing & Technology 6:30pm Mass Choir	26 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	27 6:30pm Mass Choir	28	29