



NJ Deacons Newsletter

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, If ye have love one for another.

John 13:35

The New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention

Deacon Robert B. Greene — Parent Body President

December 19, 2020

VISION: To serve as a model to the local church for the training of competent, enthusiastic and compassionate leaders that support God's plan and the pastor's vision for the church.

PURPOSE: The purpose shall be: (a) to create an opportunity for growth and fellowship among Deacons, Deaconess and Youth of the Baptist Churches of the State of New Jersey; (b) to educate members so that they can better carry out their duties as church officers; and (c) to provide financial assistance for the needy or sick members.

Inside this issue:

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To the Delegates and Friends of this Great Convention, Grace and Peace to everyone and I hope all of you are well and safe. During the Coronavirus national emergency, events in our churches, associations and National conventions have been canceled or postponed to a future date. We have been unable to meet in our church buildings. But with the recent approval of a corona vaccine, we now have hope that we may be able to resume some of our past "normal" activities later on this year.

"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, NIV)

Isn't it interesting the two words God is called here are "refuge" and "fortress"?

A refuge is a quick place you duck into to find shelter. A fortress is a place built intentionally for the purposes of exceptional security. The Hebrew word for fortress is metsudah, with one of its definitions being an "inaccessible place."

God is not just a quick refuge from the storm, but He's also the place where fear no longer has access to me. Instead of stressing about our situation, we need to pray about it and trust that God will make a way out of no way.

I look forward to our continuing to work together, to study together, to pray together, to praise the Lord together, as one body in Christ.

Your Humble Servant:

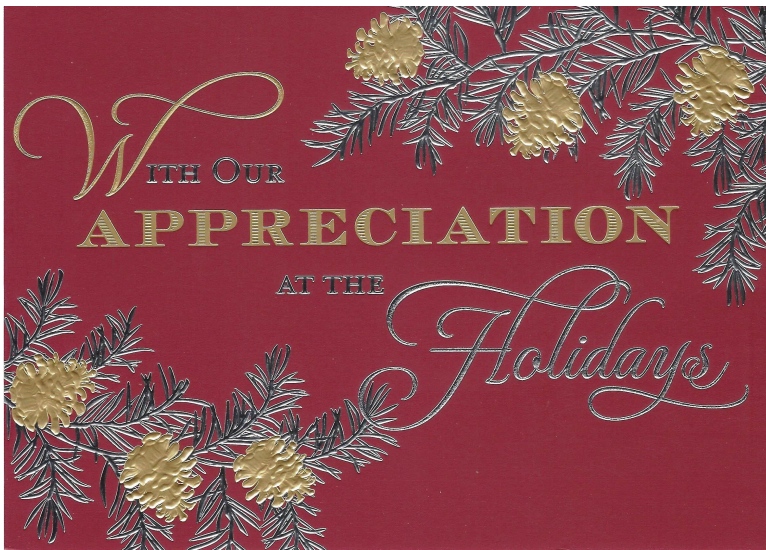
Deacon Robert B. Greene, Parent Body President

Message From the NJ State Deacons Newsletter Editor, Deacon Robert B. Greene

The NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention has a quarterly Newsletter to keep it's members and friends updated as to the events and activities of the convention. Activities and initiatives of the Parent Body, Women's Auxiliary and Youth/Young Adults will be documented in the newsletter. We also intend to provide words of encouragement, Black History information and articles to educate members so that they can better carry out their duties as servant leaders .

The next Quarterly newsletter will be available on Monday, March 15, 2021. Please take time to read and comment on this newsletter and recommend ways to make it better.

Our prayers and condolences to the families with deceased members. May the Lord comfort and keep you.



May the miracle of Christmas touch your heart in a new way, and may the blessings of the Lord be upon you and your family this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year

Words to Live By

I Believe. That you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

I Believe. That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*“

When you are hanging on by a thread, make sure it's the hem of His garment.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*
God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Never be ashamed of what you've been through; God will use your story, for His glory.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything that they have.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.



Greetings fellow Sisters in Christ:

It is my pleasure to serve as the Women's Auxiliary President of the New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention. If you are a Deaconess and are looking to further refine your knowledge, strength and growth in sisterhood, and be united with likeminded prayer servants, then this is the place for you.

We are so excited to have this newsletter outlet to showcase what our organization is about. Our theme this year from our National Baptist Deacons Convention is "Set Your House in Order" Proverbs 24:3-4 and Matthew 6:33. It is an on time theme for this year for a time such as this. I pray that we are all staying safe, practicing social distancing, wearing our masks and following the direction of the medical experts, scientist and our local and state governments.

Going through this pandemic has not been easy. We miss seeing family members and friends, some of us have suffered loss of loved ones, we miss the Sunday fellowship of worship and so much more. But through it all, we serve a God who is still in control and who will get us through this. I can't help but think that during this time we can set our house in order, through study of his word and using this time to build a closer relationship with God. Let's use this time to hit the reset button and seeing this as God giving us another chance to work on getting it right, to seek His face, and have Him reveal to us what it is He will have us to do. The scripture tells us in Proverb 24:4 "through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures". What can be more beautiful than being filled with His Spirit as we wait for Him to tell us when it is safe to go back in our houses of worship.

Let's not come out of this pandemic the same way we went in it. Set your house in Order and let God fill it with rare and beautiful treasures.

Grace and peace

Deacon Sharon J. Hunt, President of Women's Auxiliary

New Jersey Youth and Young Adult Department

The NJ Youth and Young Adult Department has been making great strides in fellowship and service. Earlier in the year, they coordinated and participated in the following: Hygiene care packages for the Homeless Community, Hayride and an apple picking weekend fellowship outing.

Additionally, they had very successful fundraising events such as their annual Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's and a Christmas Bazaar at St. John's Baptist Church, Ewing NJ. The funds raised are saved and earmarked for their travel costs for all Deacons Union related events.

Devon Wheeler and Morgan Nelson served as Youth/Young Adult liaisons in aiding the National Baptist Deacons Convention Board in New Jersey for the 2020 Deacons Union Convention. They provided valuable feedback and suggestions to assist in the event planning.

NJ Youth and Young Adult Department continue to consistently play an active role in the monthly local Deacon Union meetings, workshops and conferences. Collectively, they remain committed to the building of God's Kingdom. The goal is to assist our youth in the development of Christian principles, leadership skills, and scholarship initiatives.

National Baptist Deacons Convention Youth/Young Adult Officers from NJ

Young Adult Department: (Ages 18 to 35)

- Chaplin: Brother Devon Wheeler ~ NJ
- Assistant Chaplin: Sister Morgan Nelson ~ NJ

Youth Department (Ages 3 to 17)

Assistant Secretary - Irion Thompson, NJ

New Jersey State Convention—Youth Advisors

Marsha Nelson

Randy Morrison

Janet Porter

Samuel Nails

Devin Wheeler

The Lee G. Davis Fund- Book Award Recipients Report for 2020

Each local deacons union was asked to submit two names of High School student graduates that planned to attend schools of higher learning. Each student must be an active member of their local church that supports the local union. Each student approved by the Lee G. Davis Fund Committee will receive a \$100.00 Book Award from the NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention.

Deacon James Hall, NJSBDC Treasurer, will send the checks for the Book Awards to the Local Presidents so that they can present the checks to the students.

New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention Lee G. Davis Fund - Book Award Recipients for 2020

Congratulations

Deacons' Union of Monmouth and Adjacent Counties

Khalia Dean

Deacons Association of North Jersey

Taniyan Johnson
Frenchesca Girard

Baptist Deacons' Alliance of Central New Jersey

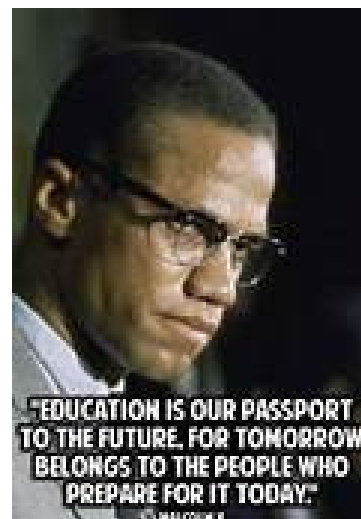
Darrel J. Weaver

Deacons' Union of South Jersey

Jayden Greene
Isaiah Harold

Deacons' Union of Trenton and Vicinity

Darius McCray
Jabraya Williams



Deacon Eugene McArthur

NJSBDC Scholarship Committee Chairperson

LOVE

If what we call love doesn't take us beyond ourselves, it is not really love. If we have the idea that love is characterized as cautious, wise, sensible, shrewd, and never taken to extremes, we have missed the true meaning. This may describe affection and it may bring us a warm feeling, but it is not a true accurate description of love.

Love is not premeditated-it is spontaneous; that is, it bursts forth in extraordinary ways. There is nothing of precise certainty in Paul's description of love. We cannot pre-determine our thoughts and actions by saying, "Now I will never think any evil thoughts, and I will believe everything that Jesus would have me to believe." No, the characteristic of love is spontaneity. We don't deliberately set the statements of Jesus before us as our standard, but when His Spirit is having His way with us, we live according to His standard without even realizing it.

Love is an indefinite thing to most of us; we don't know what we mean when we talk about love. Love is the loftiest preference of one person for another, and spiritually Jesus demands that this sovereign preference be for Himself. [Luke 14:26] Initially, when "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" [Romans 5:5] it is easy to put Jesus first.

God first removes any insincerity, pride, and vanity from our lives. The Holy Spirit reveals to us that God loves us not because we are lovable, but because it is His nature to do so. He commands us to show the same love to others by saying, "That ye love one another as I have loved you" [John 15:12]

We should look within and remember how wonderfully God has dealt with us. The knowledge that God has loved us beyond all limits should compel us to go into the world to love others in the same way. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:8] Just think how disagreeable we have been with God!! Neither natural love nor God's divine love will remain and grow in us unless it is nurtured. Love is spontaneous, but it has to be maintained through discipline. Only by full obedience to the teachings and words of our Lord will we be able to express the love in our hearts.

The fountains from which love flows are in God, not in us. It is absurd to think that the love of God is naturally in our hearts, as a result of our own nature. His love is there only because it "has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit..." [Romans 5:5]

When we try to prove to God how much we love Him, it is a sign that we really don't love Him. The evidence of our love for Him is the absolute spontaneity of our love, which flows naturally from His nature within us. And when we look back, we will not be able to determine why we did certain things, but we can know that we did them according to the spontaneous nature of His love in us. The life of God exhibits itself in this spontaneous way because the fountains of His love are in the Holy Spirit.

*Deacon James R. Plummer, First Vice President,
NJSBD Convention Parent Body*

Initial Newsletter Posting 11/29/30

Closing the Wealth Gap

Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA), Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, released a new report titled “The Economic State of Black America in 2020” that examined the recent economic progress and remaining challenges facing the Black community in America. The following key points were identified in this report;

- Despite significant economic progress over the past decades, Black Americans experience far worse economic conditions than Whites or the population as a whole.
- The wealth gap between Black and White households increase with education.
- The median wealth of Black families (\$17,000) is less than one-tenth that of White families (\$171,000).
- The typical Black household earns a fraction of White households – just 59 cents for every dollar. The gap between Black and White annual household incomes is about \$ 29,000 per year.
- Historically, the unemployment rate for Black Americans has been approximately twice the rate for Whites. That is the case today- 6.0% for Black workers and 3.1% for Whites.

In response to the above statistics, the NJ Baptist Deacons Convention supports the development of a small business program to help our youth and young adults become current and future Christian business leaders. The SOAR Small Business Institute will ensure we have solid, well-funded businesses that make significant impact in the community and within the Kingdom of God by bringing in leading experts and industry leaders to equip them to build and run, effective and stable businesses. Through this program they will have access to financial and small business training opportunities, mentorship, resources and capital. The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation indicates, “Two factors have been deemed essential to a successful business launch and a firm’s ultimate longevity: access to human capital and financial capital. Human capital refers to the personal characteristics that facilitate an individual’s economic advancement, such as education and work experience. While financial capital represents formal and informal monetary resources that support the establishment and sustainability of a business, another form of business capital that has been examined as an ancillary resource is that of social capital. Social capital refers to the networks and relationships that individuals form in a given society that aid in effective functioning or norms of reciprocity”.

The NJ Baptist Deacons Convention believes we can assist with closing the wealth gap, while creating solid Christian business leaders who build strong businesses that not only impact the local and greater community, but expand the Kingdom of God. We are committed to empowering and equipping our youth and young adults to be successful Christian Business leaders. For more information, please contact Min. Shawn L. Roberts, MA, Ysp, shawn.roberts@shawnlroberts.com,

Initial Newsletter Posting 11/29/30

646-300-2410. Baptist Deacons Associations of NJ, Inc. and Its Auxiliaries Deacon James Highsmith, Parent Body President
Deacon Richard Stanard, Publicity and Newsletter Chairman.

End Notes:

Joint Economic Committee. (2020). "The Economic State of Black America in 2020".
<https://jec.senate.gov/public>

Howard, T. (2019). "The State of Black Entrepreneurship in America". Center for Policy Analysis and Research at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

Examples of similar programs

1. The Black Wealth Boot Camp by Dr. Boyce Watkins.
2. The Jay Morrison Academy - Jay Morrison
3. Big Austin - Jeanette Peten
4. Main Street Launch (African American Entrepreneurship Institute)
5. Shark Tank

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Baptist Deacons Alliance of Central NJ, Inc. and Its' Auxiliaries

Deaconess Darlene and Deacon Marvin Anthony – Summer Garden

Here are the pictures of our garden: there were mustard greens, 18 inches in length which were volunteers from the previous year (a gift from the Lord)!!! We had four kinds of greens; mustards, turnips, kale, and collards. They were simply delicious and the tomatoes were better than ever! The okra produced throughout the summer and by the end of the season, the plants were well over 6 feet tall. These were our best crops ever and they produced in the middle of a pandemic. To God be the glory!



Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, an African American woman, is praised as key scientist behind COVID-19 vaccine provided by Moderna



Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert and a constant presence on TV during the [coronavirus pandemic](#), was asked a blunt question during a forum hosted last week by the National Urban League: "Can you talk about the input of African American scientists in the vaccine process?"

"The very vaccine that's one of the two that has absolutely exquisite levels -- 94 to 95% efficacy against clinical disease and almost 100% efficacy against serious disease that are shown to be clearly safe -- that vaccine was actually developed in my institute's vaccine research center by a team of scientists led by Dr. Barney Graham and his close colleague, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, or Kizzy Corbett," Fauci told the forum. "Kizzy is an African American scientist who is right at the forefront of the development of the vaccine." Corbett is an expert on the front lines of the global race for a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, and someone who will go down in history as one of the key players in developing the science that could end the pandemic. Corbett said that her participation during that event with the president marked an important step forward for young scientists and people of color.

According to a November Axios/Ipsos poll, only 55% of Black Americans said they would take a vaccine if it was proven safe and effected by officials.

"So, the first thing you might want to say to my African American brothers and sisters is that the vaccine that you're going to be taking was developed by an African American woman," Fauci said.

New Jersey State Baptist Deacons Convention, Celebrating 54 Years of Fellowship and Service to New Jersey Baptist Churches 1966 – 2020

VISION: To serve as a model to the local church for the training of competent, enthusiastic and compassionate leaders that support God's plan and the pastors vision for the church.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Convention shall be: (a) to create an opportunity for growth and fellowship among Deacons, Deaconess and Youth of the Baptist Churches of the State of New Jersey; (b) to educate members so that they can better carry out their duties as church officers; and (c) to provide financial assistance for the needy or sick members who meet criteria established by the convention.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

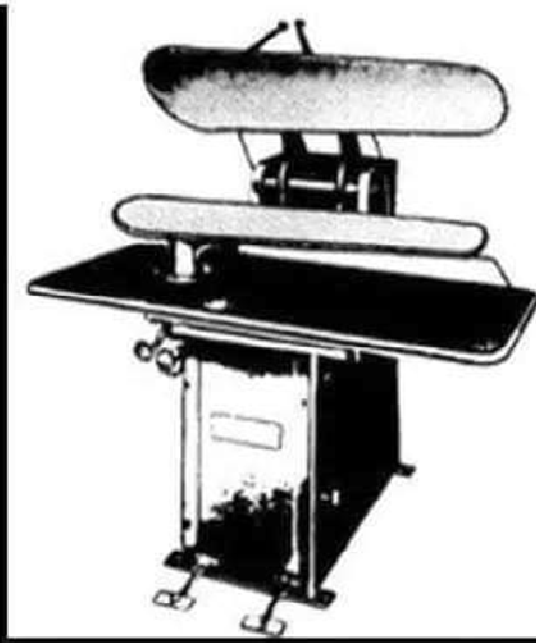
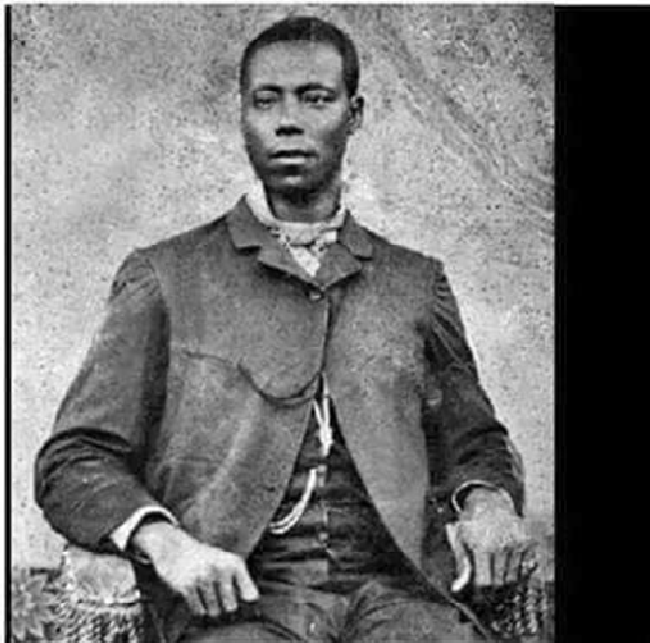
The State Deacons Convention offers an array of positive services that support worship, training and fellowship (e.g., Appreciation Services, Workshops and Ministry Training). We also assist area churches, when called upon, with devotions, worship leaders, speakers, training, ordination, etc.. We also support local and foreign missions and provide Book Awards for graduating High School Seniors.

Five (5) Local Deacons Unions that Support the State Convention

- Baptist Deacon's Alliance of Central New Jersey Inc. and Its Auxiliaries
- Baptist Deacon's Association of New Jersey Inc. and Its Auxiliaries
 - Deacon's Union of Trenton and Vicinity and Its Auxiliaries
 - Deacon's Union of South Jersey and Its Auxiliary
- Deacon's Union and Women's Auxiliary of Monmouth and Adjacent Counties

Join Us Membership in this Convention shall consist of organized Deacons' groups of the Baptist persuasion, who are in good standing in their local churches and in their area associations. Such members shall pledge their support to the Convention, and pay such fees and assessments as may be voted upon by the Convention. In addition to training and fellowship of our adult members, we also assist and train our youth in the development of Christian principles, leadership skills, financial management and scholarship initiatives. **Come join us for fellowship, study, training, worship and to learn ways to encourage and support your Pastor and your church.**

If you wish to contribute to us, you may use the DONATE button on our web page. Send all checks to: Deacon James S. Hall, 210 Maple Avenue, Neptune, NJ 07753.



Did you know that 'Dry Cleaning' was invented in 1821 by a black man named "Thomas Jennings"? Thomas Jennings owned a Dry Cleaning business in New York City and was the first black man in the United States to be granted a patent.

Valuable Information15

THIS DETROIT BLACK GIRLS CHESS TEAM WON FIRST PLACE AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE MAINSTREAM MEDIA



Coming National Baptist Deacons Convention (NBDC) Events

- March 20, 21, 2021 **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2021 Semi-Annual Session**
Host State Convention: Pennsylvania State Deacons Convention
Host Hotel: Double Tree Hotel, Plymouth Meeting, PA.
- July 10—15, 2021 **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2021 Annual Session**
Host State Convention South Carolina State Deacons Convention
Host Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, 2100 Bush River Road,
Columbia, SC 29210
- March 19, 20, 2022 **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2022 Semi-Annual Session**
Host State Convention: Not Yet determined
Host Hotel: Not Yet determined
- July 12 – 18, 2022 **National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2022 Annual Session**
Host State Convention: NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention
Host Hotel: Crown Plaza Hotel
Route 70, Cherry Hill, NJ
- =====

NBDC Officers, Starting in July 2020

President of Parent Body; Deacon Earl Wilson - Connecticut

President of Women's Auxiliary; Deaconess Alfreda LeVine – South Carolina

2nd Vice President of Women's Auxiliary: Deaconess Marilyn Greene (NJ)

Parent Body Treasurer - Deacon William Wise (NJ)

Parent Body General Secretary - Deacon Eugene McArthur (NJ)

Public Relations - Deaconess Marsha Riley (NJ)

Merry Christmas

THE TREE BELOW IS NOT A HOLIDAY TREE !!!



This is a Christmas tree.
It is not a Hanukkah bush,
it is not an Allah plant,
it is not a Holiday hedge.
It is a Christmas tree.

Say it... CHRISTmas , CHRISTmas , CHRISTmas

**Yes. CHRISTmas - celebrating the Birth
of Jesus Christ!!!**

WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS!

Santa lives at the North Pole.

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh.

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year.

JESUS is our ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited.

**JESUS stands at your door and knocks,
and then enters your heart, when invited.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa.

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap.

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can
say is 'Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?'

JESUS knew our name even before we were born.

Not only does He know our name,

He knows our address too.

He knows our history and future.

He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is

'HO HO HO'

JESUS offers health, help and 'hope.'

Santa says

'You better not cry'.

JESUS says

'Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.'

Santa may make you chuckle.

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree.

JESUS became our gift and He died on a tree; The cross!

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas!

Jesus is still the Reason for the Season.

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." **Isaiah 9:6***



New Jersey Delegation at National Baptist Deacons' Convention July, 2018 Annual Session at Radisson Hotel Baltimore Downtown Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. New Jersey was awarded the 2nd Place Trophy for money raised for State Rally on Thursday evening. Money raised is given by National's "James and Priscilla Ross Mission and Education Board" to Non-Profit companies in each state.

The following non-profit companies (501(c)3) in New Jersey have received monies from the National Baptist Deacons Convention and also from the NJ State Baptist Deacons Convention:

- Haitian Children (NJ); Sickle Cell Association of NJ;
- Fish Hospitality Program; Monmouth Institute;
- VISCOP

Coming Events

- February 20, 2021 New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention
ZOOM Executive Board Meeting, Shiloh Baptist Church,
Trenton, NJ
- March 26-27, 2021 National Baptist Deacons' Convention - Arnetta Thomas
National Youth Day; Hotel: DoubleTree Suites by Hilton
640 Fountain Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
- April 17, 2021 National Baptist Deacons' Convention
Region II Meeting (Delaware)
- May 15, 2021 New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention
Annual Session
Host: Deacons' Union and Women's Auxiliary of
Monmouth and Adjacent Counties
- July 11 – 16, 2021 National Baptist Deacons' Convention 2021 Annual Session
in Columbia, South Carolina; Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton
2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210
- September 18, 2021 New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention
Executive Board Meeting, Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, NJ
- October 16, 2021 National Baptist Deacons' Convention
Region II Meeting (Delaware)
- November 20, 2021 New Jersey State Baptist Deacons' Convention
Semi-Annual Session
Host: Deacons' Union and Women's Auxiliary of
Monmouth and Adjacent Counties

NJ State Convention—Local Union Officers and Activities

Baptist Deacons Alliance of Central NJ, Inc. and Its' Auxiliaries

Parent Body President, Eugene McArthur 908-245-7581
 Women's Auxiliary President, Deaconess Linda McArthur 908-245-7581
 No Activities to Report. The local will meet the 2nd Saturday in December

Deacons Union of Trenton & Vicinity and Its Auxiliaries

Parent Body President, Deacon Johnnie Mathis 609-672-1532
 Women's Auxiliary President, Deaconess Gladys Evans 609-387-2364

The Deacon' Union of Trenton and Vicinity has given three \$800.00 scholarship awards to young christian seniors graduating from high school this June, 2020. All applicants accepted plan to attend a post-secondary school, two or a four year college or university. Listed below are our scholarship recipients for 2020 for the Deacons' Union of Trenton and Vicinity:

1. Syanni Bagwell, St. John's Baptist Church, attended Notre Dame High School, GPA -90, a praise dancer, very involved in youth activities, sings in choir, and will be attending Mt. St. Mary University in Maryland;
2. Rae Von Baker, Friendship Baptist Church, attended Pennsbury High School, a junior deacon, junior usher, and youth fellowship; will be attending Bowie State University in Maryland
3. Jason Turner, Shiloh Baptist Church, attended Pennsbury High School, a youth worship leader; will be attending New York University.

May God bless all our wonderful and ambitious young people !

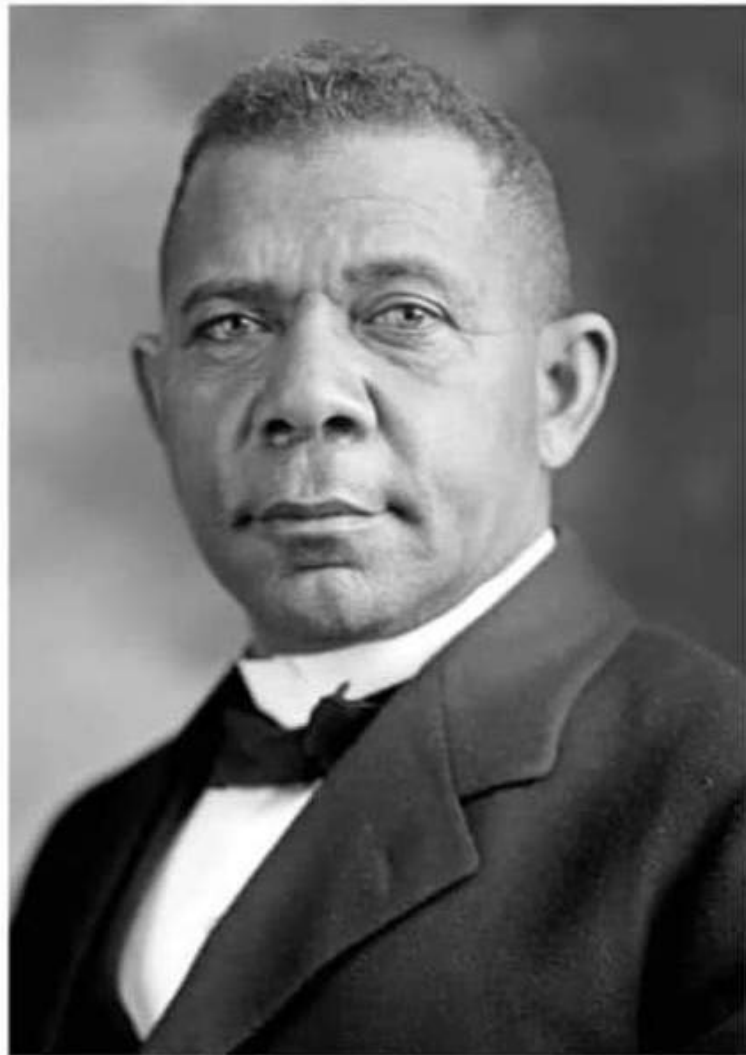
Deacons Union of South Jersey and Its Auxiliary

Parent Body President, Deacon James Vidal 856-728-8396
 Women's Auxiliary President, Deaconess Marilyn Greene 856-863-0293
 No Activities to Report. The local will meet the 3rd Monday of each month.

Deacons Union and Women's Auxiliary of Monmouth & Adjacent Counties

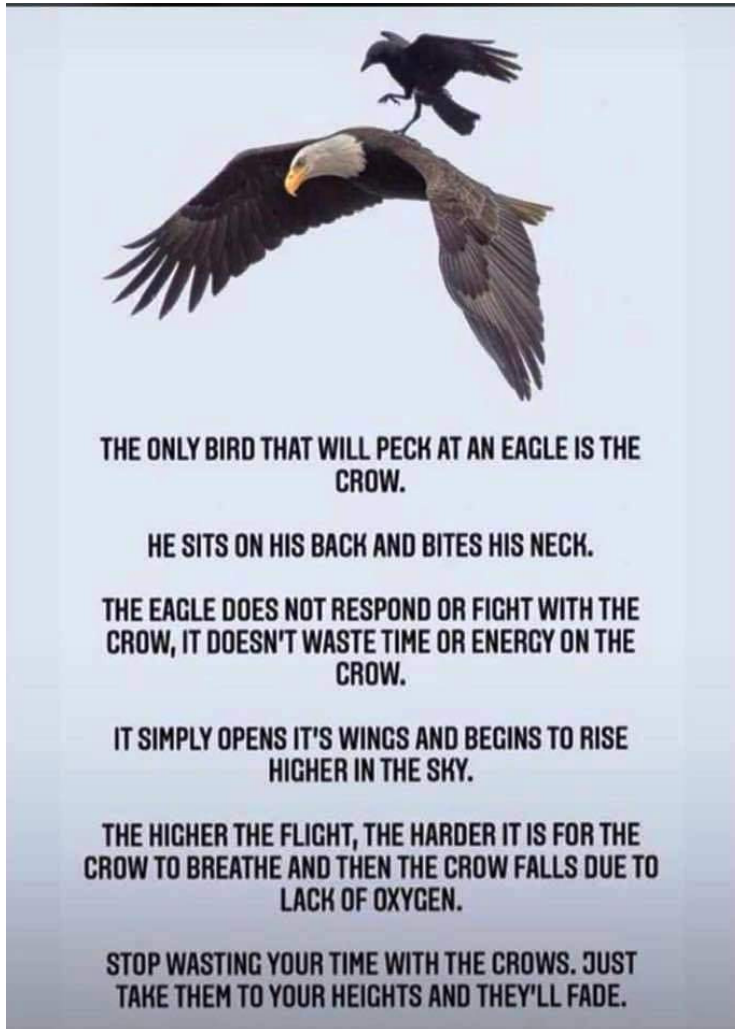
Parent Body President, Deacon William Smalls, 732-996-3977
 Women's Auxiliary President, Deaconess Lindell Plummer 732-644-0901

Holding meetings after 2nd Sunday each month using ZOOM. Pilgrim Baptist church is holding VBS with several churches using ZOOM. We invite you to our 5th Sunday Service, to be held on Nov.29, 2020, virtually for the second time in history. We will be using Zoom Video and Conference calling. The host Pastor for this service will be Reverend Owen Alston, Pastor, Harmony Ministries, USA Inc.



"A lie doesn't become truth,
wrong doesn't become right
and evil doesn't become good
just because it's accepted by a
majority."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



Some of your current friends may not be able to go with you, as the Lord takes you to new heights in your ministry.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea, though
its waters roar and foam, though
the mountains tremble at its
swelling.

Psalm 46:1-3