

*A Church Empowered by the Word of God – January 2024*

# Open Door Voice

*Open Door Baptist Church*

**Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor**

**Pastor**

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Chairman, Deacon Ministry

**Deacon Fred Walker**

Deacon Emeritus

**Deaconess Montez Taylor**

President, Deaconess Ministry

**Deaconess Evelyn Brown**

Deaconess Emeritus

**Trustee Bernodette Melton**

Chairperson, Trustee Ministry &  
Treasurer

**Trustee Romell McCoy**

Financial Secretary

**Trustee Tomika Holmes**

Coordinator – Budget Ministry

**Sister Margaret Jackson**

Church Clerk

**Sister Deborah Lyles**

Assistant Church Clerk

**Sister Shamia Ross**

Assistant Church Clerk

**Trustee Michelle McCord**

Date Clerk

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*From The Desk Of The Pastor*



GREETINGS,

I hope that each one of you found a way to enjoy and find some happiness during this holiday season.

As we look back over 2023, we will see that we experienced many of the same trials and tribulation that we have experienced in previous years. There were wars and rumors of wars in familiar and unfamiliar places. Economic upheaval and financial instability continued in our country as well as around the world and, sadly, our communities dealt with the tragedies of crime and social unrest. There seemed to be problems and trouble everywhere and no means of escape!

It is at times like these that we all need something to help us! We need to be able to garnish HOPE! Hope is still the expectation of something good and such hope can always be found in our faith system that is based and found in The Lord! Our belief in the mission of our Savior is one thing in which we can always be confident. We are able to experience The Lord's Peace, Joy and Presence during times when we need it the most. The bible teaches us that Jesus came to save people from their sins. The Lord was willing to sacrifice Himself to accomplish this. Now when we need Him the most, in times like these, He is here! Ain't that "Good News"!

In 2023 as a church we were able to do many good things in the Name of Jesus. Because we were not distracted by the confusion of this present age, we were able to provide support to many of our mission partners around the world which included Kids Against Hunger, meal packages to Haiti, Liberia and Kenya. We supported the ongoing clinic in Kipsitet and worked to expand the water

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project to provide clean drinking water for surrounding areas. We are continuing to provide pastoral support for the churches that we helped to build and plant in Kenya and we are praying for the success of the coffee nursery that we sponsored in that same country. We have traveled to present medical supplies and food to the National Hospital in Monrovia, and the School for the Blind in Liberia. Together we were able to do these projects and even while leading the leading the campaign to raise \$60,000.00 for building "Wells for Wellness." I am told that seven of the wells have already been completed. These are just some of what we have accomplished together this past year.

Recently The Lord spoke to my spirit and gave me an addition to our thematic emphasis for 2024:

**"GIVING TO CHANGE LIVES;  
SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE,  
BIG ENOUGH TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE"**

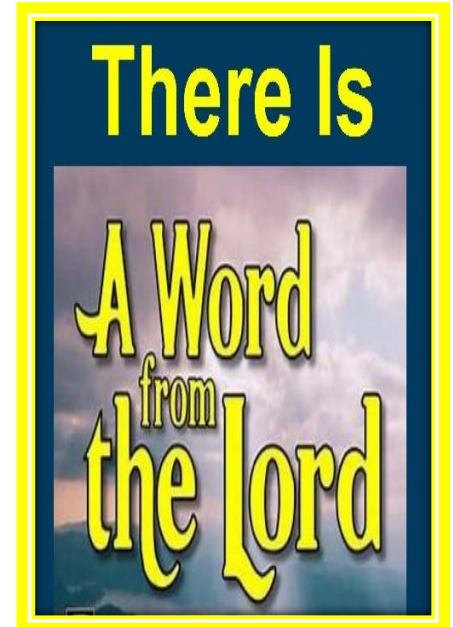
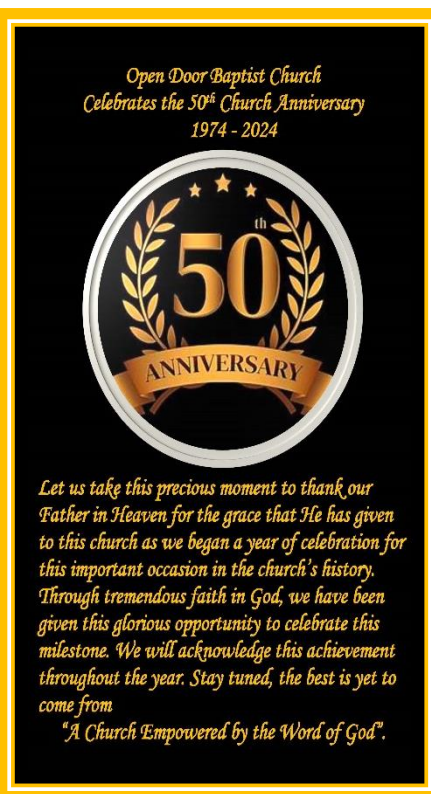
***Nehemiah 2:18 (KJV)  
Then I told them of the hand  
of my God which was good  
upon me; as also the king's  
words that he had spoken  
unto me. And they said, Let  
us rise up and build. So they***

***strengthened their hands for  
this good work.***

This year is a banner year for our church -- our 50th Anniversary! We will celebrate all year long with different events that will make it a time for remembering the past while we embrace the future, trusting The Lord every step of the way!

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your prayers, gifts, encouragement and support this year! As we move forward together, your contributions and efforts have made a difference in the journey. May the Lord continue to bless you all!!!

Pastor Taylor



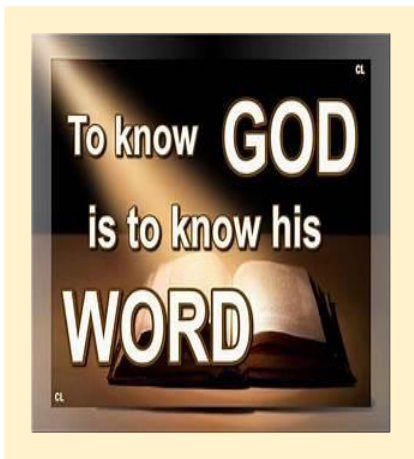
Join the Open Door Baptist Church each Wednesday for our Prayer Call with Pastor Taylor as he delivers inspirational words of wisdom to begin our day and end with prayer for all who stand in the need of prayer. If you desire prayer for you and/or others, notify the Church Office by 5:00 pm on Tuesdays at on 202-584-1744 or email your request to [odbc5600@aol.com](mailto:odbc5600@aol.com). The Call begins @ 7:00 am.

Dial-in number (US):  
(720) 708-1212

Access code: 6867574 followed by  
the pound (#) sign

1. Persons who call in will be muted and you will be unable to unmute yourself.
2. This is a time of meditation, reflection and prayer.
3. The entire call experience, will last only about 15 minutes: the online experience will last a lifetime.

# *A Church Empowered by the Word of God – January 2024*



As confessed believer in God and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, make this year the year that you study the Word of God in order to learn of Him and follow in the footsteps of His Son.

Here at the Open Door Baptist Church we preach and teach Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Join us as we grow and learn of Him.

Join Us Each Sunday in person at 5600 Central Avenue, SE – Washington, DC (**don't forget to wear your mask**) or on our website at [odbc5600.com](http://odbc5600.com) at 11:00 am for the Worship Service.

The Word of God is Preached and Taught here in Sunday School on Sundays, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays Bible Studies. Join us. Tune in on zoom.com or by phone. The phone number is the same for each class (301-715-8592) but the Meeting ID numbers are different for each one. All are invited and welcome to join in. Our **Bible Studies** are as follows.

**Sunday School**  
Sunday @ 9:30 am  
ID No: 810 2029 3019

**Mid-Day Bible Study**  
Tuesdays @ 11:00 am

ID No: 156-595-416

**Night Bible Studies**  
Wednesday @ 6:30 pm  
ID No: 157-597-139

If the church office has your email address, a copy of the Sunday School Study Book will be sent to you. Just download the Lesson/Book, save it in your files where you can find it, open it up and study the lessons. If we do not have your email address and you would like a copy, notify the church office at [odbc5600@aol.com](mailto:odbc5600@aol.com).



**Please Continue to Pray for:**

Brother Bernard Powell  
Brother Clinton Winborne  
Brother Luke Allsbrooke  
Brother Jermaine Brown  
Coronavirus Victims & Families  
Deaconess Kandace Taylor  
Deaconess Montez Taylor  
Deaconess Patricia Brooks  
Deaconess Evelyn Brown  
Haiti & the World  
Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor  
Sister Brenda V. Jones  
Sister Gloria Jefferson  
Sister Grace Ayers  
Sister Jackie Caroline  
Sister Joan Thomas  
Sister Kimella Rodgers  
Sister Margaret Smelley  
Sister Marva Price  
Sister Mary Jones  
Trustee Juanina Harris  
United States of America  
VP Kamala Harris  
All Members of the ODBC especially those in the Medical & Health Care Profession, Fire Department, Police Department, Transit Authority, Preachers, Teachers, all military personnel and other persons who are on the front line of service. Special prayers for the conflict all around the world.

## **Missionary Auxiliary Spreading Christmas Cheer**



Sister Rosa Winborne and Deaconess Selina Tankard delivering children's coats to "Don't Forget About Me," a non-profit organization for under privileged children, Mrs. Lynette, Director.



Sister Blanche Smith and Deaconess Selina Tankard delivering coats to the Prince George's Men's Shelter in Capitol Heights, MD.



Sister Grace Ayers, Deaconess Selina Tankard and Deaconess Anna Peters, delivering gifts to Charlotte Branch Nursing Home in Bowie, MD.

The Missionary Auxiliary Ministry would like to thank everyone who donated to the Coat Drive this year. We were able to distribute 85 coats. The women's coats will be distributed this month, the shelter would not accept any coats until January. We collected a total of 104 coats. Thank you!

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To all persons born in the month of **January** especially to the following

**Sister Margaret Jackson**  
January 2

**Brother Andre Brown**  
January 11

**Sister Sherre Leach Copeland**  
January 18

**Trustee Marvin Yarber, Jr.**  
January 18

**Sister Tyeisha Hall**  
January 27

**Brother Kenneth Mial**  
January 29

**Deaconess (1<sup>st</sup> Lady)**  
**Montez Taylor**  
January 30

**Brother Keith Killgo**  
January 30



To All Who Celebrate their Wedding Anniversary in the month of **January**.



Submitted by  
*Sister Royale Ledbetter*

If you have inspiring words of encouragement, an article, recipe, etc. that you would like to share with others in the Open Door Voice, please submit it to the church office by email to [odbc5600@aol.com](mailto:odbc5600@aol.com). We thank you in advance for your assistance in making our news letter a VOICE of interest to all readers.

## Inspirational and Uplifting

Submitted by:  
*Sister Royale Ledbetter*

I have always thought that Noah was safe inside the Ark because he built it according to God's specifications. I thought that perhaps it was the strength of the gopher wood and the soundness of the architecture that ensured that the waters of the flood would not come into the Ark.

But today I encountered a verse that shifted this whole paradigm. Let's read what Gen 7:16 says ... "The animals going in were male and female of every living thing as God had commanded Noah... **THEN GOD SHUT HIM IN...**"

Don't miss this... even after Noah had built the Ark, it was God Himself who shut him in, in order to shut out the waters of the flood... In other translations this verse says "The Lord sealed them inside."

It is not the fact that you have locked your house that keeps you safe at night, it is not your good driving skills that keeps you safe on the road, neither it's your healthy eating habits that keeps you healthy - only God can shut you in and shut out the devil that is seeking to devour you. Amen.

May the Lord Bless you so abundantly  
That you fall to your knees in thankfulness

May the Lord Heal your broken heart  
That you dance in the shadows

May the Lord reveal His amazing plans for you and you hear Him

May the Lord renew your strength  
that you may have His power to stand firm

May the Lord give you peace  
that you may rest in Him

May you know the Lord deeper  
this year than last Year

May you be all that God has created you to be no matter the season you are in.

God bless you my dear friends!

## Happy New Year