

Open Door Voice

Open Door Baptist Church

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Deacon Fred Walker

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Deaconess Montez D. Taylor

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Trustee Bernodette Melton

Chairperson, Trustee Ministry &
Treasurer

Trustee Romell McCoy

Financial Secretary

Trustee Tomika Holmes

Coordinator – Budget Ministry

Sister Margaret Jackson

Church Clerk

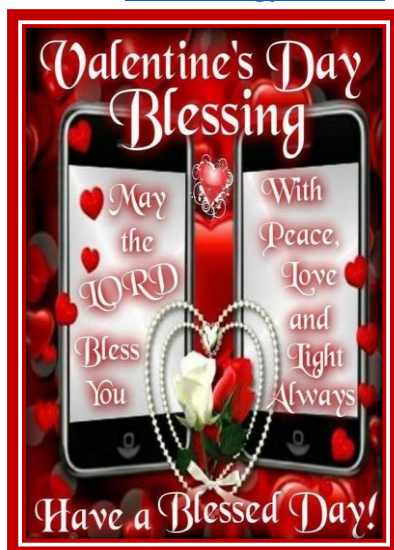
Sister Shamia Ross

Assistant Church Clerk

Trustee Michelle McCord

Date Clerk

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Greetings.

This month I come to you while on mission in Kenya. It is always a wonderful privilege to be allowed to help and serve others who are less fortunate. It is during these times that we are able to fully see and appreciate what the Lord has done in our own lives. I am often amazed and in awe of how my own life has been filled with so much grace and mercy. I know that I have not earned it and in many ways I don't deserve all that He has done for me.

One of the greatest gifts that the Lord has ever made available is the opportunity to change a person's life. We are given the opportunity of being co-laborers with Him. And as co-laborers, we are able to play a very important part in our Lord's plan to spread the

"Good News" and actually help persons change their lives! In many instances this means helping someone who may be down but reminding them they are and will never be out! A relationship with our Savior has been one of the greatest joys of my life. Being allowed to minister to others is another great privilege and a blessing.

I am so very thankful and in complete amazement at what our Lord is doing and giving us the opportunity to help is almost too difficult to comprehend. The journey to far-away places helps build up and improve the livelihood of Christians who have come to Jesus seeking a better way. We go to bring healing, helping hands. We go to encourage and lift up. We go to help change lives! It is truly a blessing for those to whom we go. It is also a tremendous blessing to us who are willing to go!

Thank you Open Door and all who allow us to participate in this transformational work.

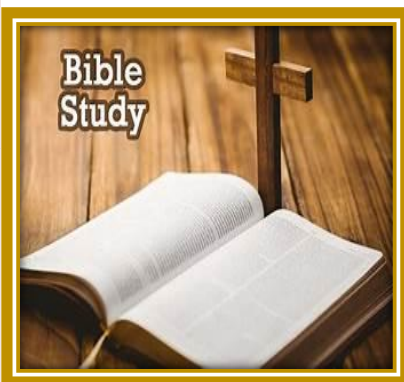
**BY THE GRACE AND
WILL OF OUR GOD WE ARE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

The cost can be expensive and it requires sacrifice but thanks be to our Lord, it is worth it!

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Taylor



Embarking on a Bible study journey to uncover God's love is an incredibly enriching decision, bringing immense joy and enlightenment. This process reveals timeless wisdom, offering guidance and comfort during life's challenges. Each verse and chapter draws you closer to God, developing a profound sense of connection and purpose that transcends the ordinary.

As we explore the scriptures, we gain insights into God's character and promises, as well as our own place in His grand design. The joy of knowing

God through His Word transforms our thoughts, actions, and spirit, leading us to a life filled with grace, love, and fulfillment.

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** 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.



Please Continue to Pray for:

Bother Mike Christ
Brother Luke Allsbrook
Brother Marcus McCoy
Brother Larry G. Foster
Deaconess Kandace Taylor
Deaconess Montez Taylor
Deaconess Patricia Brooks
Haiti & the World
Mother Grace Ayers
Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor
Sister Brenda V. Jones
Sister Cynthia McDuffie
Sister Gloria Jefferson
Sister Jackie Caroline
Sister Joan Thomas
Sister Kimella Rodgers
Sister LaShawn Farrish
Sister Margaret Smelley
Sister Marva Price
Sister Mary Jones

Sister Mary Latimer
Sister Robin Briscoe
United States of America

All Members of the ODBC,
those in the Medical &
Health Care Profession,
Fire Department, Police
Department, Transit
Authority, Preachers,
Teaches and all other
persons who are on the
front line of service
**Special prayers for the
unrest
all over the world**



*Happy Birthday to all who
were born in the month of
February to the following.*

Brother Fred Williams, Jr.
February 3

Brother Marcus Bell
February 7

Brother Roscoe Satterwhite
February 10

Brother Wesley McCoy
February 14

Sister Cheryl Grinston-Ford
February 23

Sister Gloria Johnson
February 28



***Submitted by
Sister Royale
Ledbetter***



*To All Who Celebrate their
Wedding Anniversary in the
month of **February**!*



***Love Beyond
Measure: A
Valentine's
Reflection***

As we approach Valentine's Day, our thoughts often turn to expressions of love through heart-shaped cards, flowers, and sweet messages. It's a time to celebrate the bonds we share with those closest to us. However, amidst these celebrations, it is essential to reflect on a love far greater and more profound than any worldly affection—the love of God.

Valentine's Day, with its romance and affection, offers a beautiful glimpse of what love can be. It's a day that reminds us to appreciate the special people in our lives and to show them how much we care. Yet, as beautiful as these gestures are, they are but a shadow of the divine love that God extends to each of us daily.

God's love is unfailing and everlasting. It surpasses all human understanding and is not confined to a single day or fleeting moment. John 3:16 reminds us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." This ultimate act of love is a testament to the boundless grace and mercy God bestows upon us.

You are invited you to join us for our Bible Study sessions. Come and deepen your understanding of God's Word, share in meaningful discussions, and grow in faith together with our church community. Whether you're new to the Bible or a seasoned reader, everyone is welcome. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and your heart for fellowship. Let's explore the scriptures and discover the timeless truths that guide our lives. Looking forward to seeing you there.

For login information, please refer to the details previously shared in this newsletter, our Sunday bulletins, or visit our website at odbc5600.com.

The True Essence of Love: A Biblical Perspective

In our quest to understand love, the Bible provides profound insights that transcend time and culture. True love, according to the scriptures, is deeply rooted in selflessness, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 beautifully encapsulates the essence of love: **"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not**

dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no..., always hopes, always perseveres."

These verses highlight several key principles of true love.

Patience and Kindness:

True love is enduring and gentle, even in challenging times.

Humility: It is free from pride and self-promotion, always valuing others.

Forgiveness: Love does not hold grudges; instead, it forgives and moves forward.

Honesty and Integrity:

Rejoicing in the truth, true love thrives on trust and transparency.

Perseverance: It is unwavering and steadfast, standing strong through trials and tribulations.

Moreover, **John 15:13** reminds us of the ultimate expression of love: **"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."** This sacrificial love is exemplified by Jesus Christ, who gave His life for humanity.

Romans 12:9-10 further elaborates on genuine love: **"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love."**

Honor one another above yourselves." This emphasizes the importance of sincerity and devotion in our relationships.

In addition to these, **1 John 4:7-8** highlights the divine nature of love: **"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."**

This passage teaches us that love is not just a virtue but the very nature of God.

Colossians 3:14 instructs us on the binding power of love: **"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."** Love is the glue that holds all other virtues together, creating harmony and unity.

In embracing these principles, we reflect God's love in our lives and relationships. Let us strive to love one another with the same depth and sincerity, following the example set forth in the Bible. True love is not merely an emotion but a deliberate choice to act in ways that honor and uplift others.

May we all seek to embody this divine love in our daily lives, bringing light and hope to those around us.