

# Open Door Voice

## *Open Door Baptist Church*

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

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**Deacon Mark Leach**  
Chairman, Deacon Ministry

**Deacon Fred Walker**  
Deacon Emeritus

**Deaconess Montez D. Taylor**  
President, Deaconess Ministry

**Trustee Bernodette Melton**  
Chairperson, Trustee Ministry & Treasurer

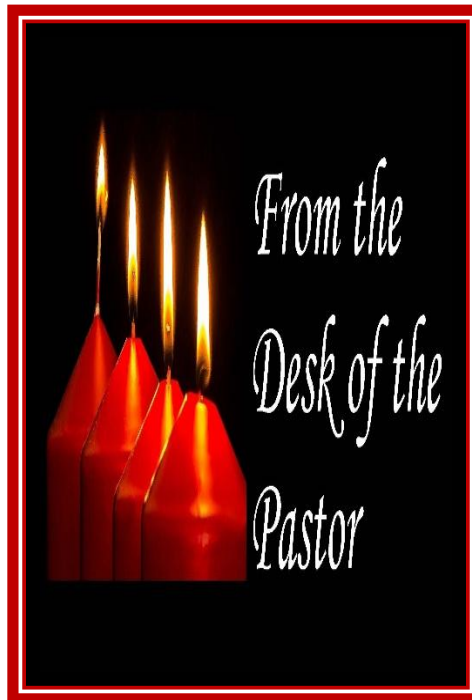
**Trustee Romell McCoy**  
Financial Secretary

**Trustee Tomika Holmes**  
Coordinator – Budget Ministry

**Sister Margaret Jackson**  
Church Clerk

**Sister Shamia Ross**  
Assistant Church Clerk

**Trustee Michelle McCord**  
Date Clerk  
Email: [mmccord24@yahoo.com](mailto:mmccord24@yahoo.com)



Greetings,

I want to take the opportunity as we approach the 34<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration date. The time has gone by rather quickly and for me it has been a great time of service. This has been an extraordinary journey and I feel very humbled for being allowed the privilege of being on it with each and every one of you.

The other day I saw my image in a reflection and it was almost as if a stranger was looking at me. As I took note of the visible changes in my physical form and appearance, I was able to see in myself the marks or scars that

the journey has inflicted over the years. No longer present was the younger more fit version of myself that started this journey almost 35 years ago. The person I saw in the image was different, changed, not just older but wiser and stronger in many ways. Made stronger and wiser by the journey and filled with a greater desire to follow the Lord and to serve Him!

It has been a wonderful experience to serve as your pastor these many years. I truly would take nothing for my journey. I thank the Good Lord for the gift of a Pastor's Heart. This has allowed me to serve you all with joy and gladness! It has not always been easy; however, the work has been personally rewarding and worth it. I have been blessed for the efforts and hopefully I have made a difference in someone's life along the way.

I want to thank all of the church leaders and officers for your willingness to work with me while we have been on this journey. Each of you has made contributions of time and service that will never be forgotten. Most importantly, The Lord has promised to reward you for you

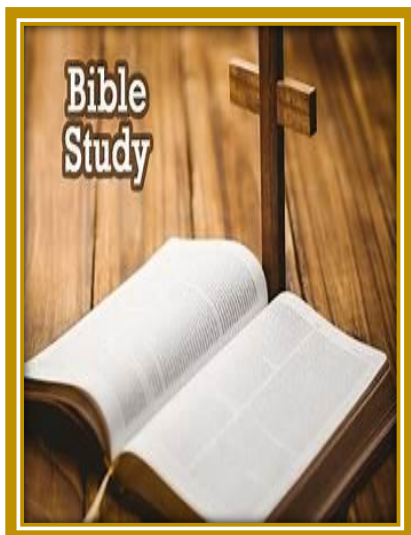


faith and faithfulness. Our entire membership, those who are here now as well as those who have gone on, have made many significant contributions to the ministry. You will forever have a testimony in heaven and a witness on earth of your faith and courage!

My thoughts now and my prayers are for Deacon Frederick R. Walker who as we write this has seen better days. I'm asking you all to keep him and his wife Delores in special prayer. His contribution as a faithful servant to our Lord and gift of friendship to me will never be forgotten!

Thanks to my family and every one of you, be continually Blessed. Keep me in your prayers. Amen!

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](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).





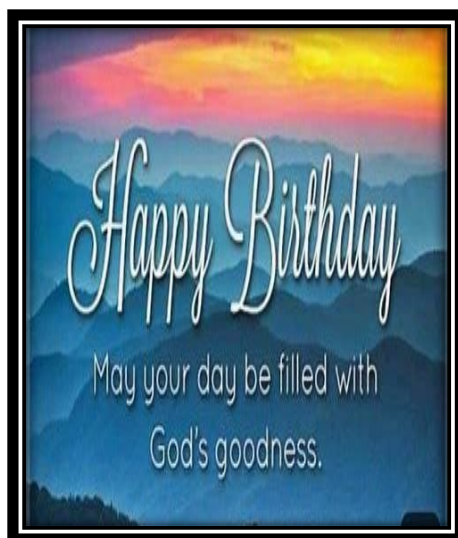
When you pray  
for others,  
*God listens to you and  
blesses them,*  
**SO WHEN YOU ARE  
SAFE AND HAPPY,**  
*remember that someone  
is praying for you...*

**Please Continue  
to Pray for:**

Bother Mike Christ  
Brother Luke Allsbrook  
Brother Marcus McCoy  
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  
**March** to the following.*

Sister Cynthia McDuffie  
**March 3**

Sister Debra Jones Spriggs  
**March 8**

Deaconess Kandace Taylor  
**March 11**

Deaconess Beverly A. Williams  
**March 20**

Sister Gloria Calhoun  
**March 27**

Brother Curtis Walker  
**March 29**

Sister Chita Taylor  
**March 29**



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



Once a man was asked, "What did you  
gain by regularly praying to God?"  
The man replied, "Nothing... but let  
me tell you what I lost: anger, ego,  
greed, depression, insecurity, and  
fear of death. "Sometimes, the answer  
to our prayers is not gaining but  
losing, which ultimately is the gain.  
If you believe prayer has power,

~ Amen ~



# **Honoring Our Pastor and First Lady**

## **A Celebration of Service and Love**

Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, we will gather in faith, and fellowship, filled with gratitude and admiration for the extraordinary leadership of our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor and First Lady, Deaconess Montez D. Taylor. Their unwavering dedication, compassion, and spiritual guidance have been a beacon of hope and inspiration not only for our church family but to all that have been granted the pleasure of knowing them.

With a heart full of love for God and His people, Pastor Taylor has led us with wisdom, humility, and steadfast faith. His powerful sermons, rooted in the Word of God, have nourished our souls and encouraged us to grow in our walk with Christ. Through times of joy and trial, Pastor Taylor's comforting presence and insightful counsel have been a source of strength for all of us. We are grateful for his commitment to shepherding our congregation with grace and integrity.

First Lady, Deaconess Taylor has been a pillar of support and a shining example of God's love in action. Her kindness, empathy, and dedication to serving others have touched countless lives within our church and community. She embodies the Proverbs 31 woman, a virtuous and noble example for all to follow. Her leadership and her tireless efforts to uplift and empower those around her have made a lasting impact on our hearts. Together, they exemplify the beauty of a Christ-centered partnership, inspiring us all to pursue a deeper relationship with our Savior.

We are blessed to have Pastor Taylor and First Lady Deaconess Taylor as our spiritual leaders, and we honor their tireless service, unwavering faith, and boundless love. As it is written in Hebrews 13:7, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Let us cherish their example and strive to match their dedication to God's Kingdom.

In celebration of their remarkable contributions, let us continue to build a strong, united, and loving community, shining the light of Christ for all to see. May God's abundant blessings be upon them now and always.