



Pastor and First Lady Hackett

GREATER SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

# Good News Letter

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST- ONE HEART AT A TIME- ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

## LIVING IN AND EXPERIENCING THE PEACE OF GOD

Last month (January 2021 Good NewsLetter edition) the question was asked, “Do you have peace with God”? If the answer is yes, now it is imperative and a blessed opportunity to live out and experience the peace of God as it is defined and explained in [Philippians 4:7](#) which refers to “the peace of God which transcends all understanding.” Most of Paul’s letters began with the words “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Peace is a state of tranquility or quietness of spirit that transcends circumstances. The term *peace* is described in Scripture as a gift from God and congruent with His character ([1 Thessalonians 5:23](#); [Galatians 6:16](#); [1 Peter 1:2](#); [Hebrews 13:20](#)).

If God is peace, then to know God is to bask in His peace. The closer we draw to Him, the more of His peace we can enjoy ([James 4:8](#)). God gives us clear instructions about how to draw near to Him. [Psalm 24:3-4](#) says, “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.” But Scripture is also clear that we cannot make ourselves clean enough or pure enough to earn the presence of the Lord ([Romans 3:10, 23](#)). So how do we draw near enough to experience His peace? Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” ([John 14:27](#)). We come into the presence of the Lord through His Son ([John 14:6](#)). When we allow Jesus’ death and resurrection to purchase our forgiveness from God, we are counted as righteous ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). Our sins are forgiven because Jesus already paid the price for them. Only then can we have peace with God ([Romans 4:5](#); [5:1](#); [1 John 4:10](#)).

The initial peace that comes from having our consciences wiped clean grows as we get to know God better ([Hebrews 10:22](#)). [Second Peter 1:2](#) says, “May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord” (NLT). When we grow in understanding of the depths and riches of God’s

love toward us ([Ephesians 3:18-19](#); [Romans 8:38-39](#)), our minds and spirits begin to rest in His power and wisdom. We begin to understand that He really will make all things work together for our good ([Romans 8:28](#)). We learn that His purposes will be accomplished ([Psalm 33:11](#); [Proverbs 19:21](#); [Isaiah 45:9](#); [46:9-11](#)).

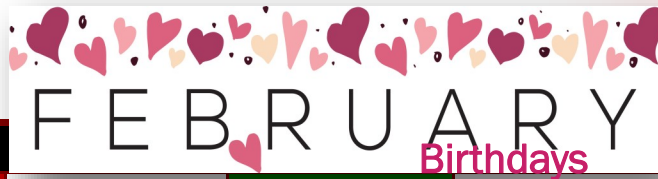
Certain attitudes can destroy the peace of God. When we equate trust with the assumption that God will give us whatever we want, we set ourselves up for disappointment. The Bible is filled with examples of the opposite happening to God’s people ([2 Corinthians 12:7-9](#); [Hebrews 11:13](#); [Psalm 10:1](#)). Trust means we have set our hearts to believe God, whatever may happen. When we insist on being in control, we sabotage God’s desire to let us live in peace. When we choose to worry rather than faith, we cannot live in peace. Jesus warned us often about fear and worry ([Matthew 6:34](#); [Luke 12:29](#); [Philippians 4:6](#)). Worry is the enemy of peace. God invites us to cast our cares upon Him and then let go of them ([1 Peter 5:7](#)).

Living in peace can be compared to the petals of a flower unfolding in the morning sunlight. The petals of peace in our lives unfold as we learn more about God. We discover that His character is always faithful. We experience His continual goodness. We read more of His promises ([Psalm 100:5](#); [115:11](#); [Isaiah 26:4](#)). We learn to bask in His overwhelming love for us ([Romans 8:38-39](#)). We refuse to allow ever-changing circumstances to determine our level of contentment, relying instead upon the character of God that never changes ([James 1:17](#); [Malachi 3:6](#)). When we develop a lifestyle of making the Lord our refuge, we begin to live in the peace of God ([Psalm 46:1](#); [62:8](#)). [Psalm 91:1](#) holds the secret to living in the peace of God: “He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.” That secret place in our hearts is where we go to meet with God. When we choose to live there and hide away under His shadow, staying in constant communion with Him, we can remain peaceful, even when circumstances may not be. When we learn to cry out to Him in times of trouble, we find that His peace really does pass all human understanding ([Philippians 4:7](#)).

Submitted by:  
Pastor Keith Hackett  
Article from GotQuestions.org

## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH JOY!!!

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:** [PAGE 2](#) FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS/[PAGE 3](#) FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT A GLANCE/THE HILLS WE CLIMB [PAGE 4](#) BLACK HISTORY MONTH BY DOLORES JOHNSON [PAGES 5](#) HEALTH NOTES ON THE CORONA VIRUS VACCINE/[PAGE 6](#) HEALTH NOTES CONTINUED/YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS/ONELINERS [PAGE 7](#) IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED MEMBERS [PAGE 8](#) LAUGH EVERY NOW AND AGAIN BY DENISE ZELLARS [PAGE 9](#) ACTIVITY PAGE/CONCLUSION OF LAUGH EVERY NOW AND AGAIN [PAGE 10](#) WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE [PAGE 11](#) FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY: GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION [PAGE 12](#) CHURCH INFORMATION/MARCH 2021 GNL DEADLINE



FEBRUARY Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Max Riley	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Marlon Dunkley	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Ronald Green	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Marlon Wilkins	<b>12</b> Angela Cooper	<b>13</b> Trey Garrison
<b>14</b> Transfiguration Sunday & Valentines Day Cornelius Howard	<b>15</b> Presidents Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Wayne Smith	<b>20</b> Yolanda Jackson
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> William Harper	<b>23</b> Johnnie Mae Killebrew	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Stefan Dennison	<b>26</b> Tiffany Forbes	<b>27</b> Jacquelyn Austin
<b>28</b> Kennedy Ellis						

## Celebrating love

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovia Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio’s death last October, they were reportedly the world’s oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: “Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina’s beauty, her conversation, and her big heart.” Meanwhile, she found in him “a poet with a young spirit.” The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is “love + maturity + mutual respect,” as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul’s words, often read at weddings: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV).

### February Dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, 2021
- Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2021
- Presidents Day, February 15, 2021
- Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

## The Hill We Climb

Delivered by Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman  
At Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2021

When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.

We braved the belly of the beast.

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what "just" is isn't always justice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow we do it.

Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.

That even as we grieved, we grew.

That even as we hurt, we hoped.

That even as we tired, we tried.

That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.

It's the past we step into and how we repair it.

We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather than share it.

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.

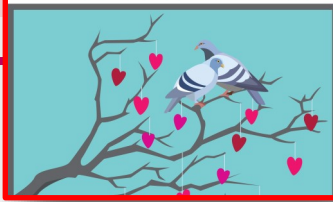
This is the era of just redemption.

We feared at its inception.

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.

But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

# FEBRUARY



## Sunday School Lessons At-a-Glance

by Mark S. Krause

The lessons for this quarter focus on God's calling individuals to specific ministries according to His plans. Those called included John the Baptist, the wise men, Jesus' parents, and (most of all) Jesus himself. The final unit focuses on women in the New Testament who were called to vocations of service to God's people. The New Testament sees a broad calling of all people to salvation and a narrower calling of certain individuals to specific ministries in the church.

### Unit 3: The Call of Women

- **January 31** - Called to Prophecy - Luke 2:36-38; Acts 2:16-21; 21:8
- **February 7** - Called to Testify - John 4:25-42
- **February 14** - Called to Support - Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40; John 20
- **February 21** - Called to Explain - Acts 18:1-3, 18-21, 24 Romans 16
- **February 28** - Called to Serve - Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Cor. 1:26-30

So, while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.

Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain.

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.

Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.

We will rise from the golden hills of the West.

We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution.

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states.

We will rise from the sun-baked South.

We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.

And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.

The new dawn balloons as we free it.

*For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.*

*If only we're brave enough to be it.*

## For Black History Month 2021

By Dolores Johnson

In 1619, the first Black slaves were brought to the United States. It has been over 400 years, yet today we still see blatant displays of racial injustice.

Habakkuk 1:2 says "O Lord, how long shall I cry and you will not hear? – Habakkuk 1:2 (NIV). The question is whether God has truly heard our cry during this pandemic season. We as African Americans feel that we have waited an exorbitant amount of time for freedom and justice.

As the rural crops such as cotton grew in America, African American slave labor was used as a cheap alternative to the labor of European indentured servants. The question of slavery continued in the United States and it even resulted in the war between the states. The northern states were opposed to slavery while the southern states used this cheap labor as a means for livelihood. The northern states eventually won the civil war. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, which freed all enslaved individuals in the rebellious states. This decision, however did not free people in the border states. Lynching or the killing of blacks became a way of life. It is speculated that this is a method of resolving much of the tension that the Southerners exhibited toward freed Blacks. From 1882-1968 it is estimated that 4,743 lynchings occurred in the United States, 3,466 of these persons were Black. There was an ever-present need to control the freed Blacks. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was called lynching and today it is called police brutality.

In 1917, the NAACP held a march in New York with signs reading: Make America safe for Democracy and -We march because we want our children to live a better Life. The same messages could ring true today.

In the 1960's local Blacks sought equal accommodations in the south. When I was a student at Central High School, we would assemble at Quinn Chapel Church after school. That was when Quinn Chapel was located down the street from Greater Salem on Chestnut Street. At these assemblies we would listen to leaders such as: Martin Luther King Jr.; Rev. A.D. King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s brother and pastor of Zion Baptist Church; Rev. W.J. Hodge, youth adviser and pastor of 5<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church; Rev. Arthur Smith and Raoul Cunningham, youth leaders from the NAACP. After leaving these meetings some would demonstrate in downtown Louisville and others would return home. Each person had to listen to the will of God in their lives. To some God gave the direction to march, and others chose to be silent. Meanwhile in the 60's national leaders were demanding justice in other areas of our lives. The persons that led these marches were not renegades:

◆ Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. went on

to become a martyr for the cause and we now hold a national holiday in his honor.

◆ Rev. Jessie Jackson was an associate of Rev. King and he went on to become a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

◆ Rev. Hosea Williams was arrested 125 times for the cause of civil rights and voter registration. He held a masters degree in chemistry and he went on to found the Southeast Chemical Manufacturing and Distribution Company.

◆ Rev. Joseph Lowery was a leader in the United Methodist Church and one of the co-founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

◆ Rev. Ralph Abernathy and his wife were constant companions and coworkers to Rev. Martin L. King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King.

◆ Rev. Andre Young went on to become United Nations ambassador for the United State and later the mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.

◆ John Lewis served many years in the United States Congress. until his death last Summer

I was in Washington D.C. along with Elaine Styles, a former member of Greater Salem, on the night that Barack Obama was first elected president of the United States. At this point it was thought that the Black population had made it. However, nothing could be further from the truth. In 2020, in the midst of the worst pandemic that the country had experienced in 100 years, we saw innocent Black people killed through police brutality. The death of Breonna Taylor and others caused many demonstrators to come to Louisville, Kentucky. They all demonstrated together; the homeless, the poor, racial minorities, medical and professional staff from University of Louisville and other organizations, religious leaders, Black sororities and fraternities all coming together in protest of racial injustices. We know not all people demonstrated for the right reason. Many in the Black community saw looters and other opportunists embark from Mega buses and Greyhound buses just to start trouble. For the most part these marches were attended by those that wanted to awaken the conscience of America. As a long-time member of the local NAACP board of directors, I knew that the local NAACP could not endorse the demonstrations without national approval.

*Today, we are patiently waiting on God's next move. I know God is in control, and one day the words of the Old Testament prophets will come to fruition:*

*"Let justice run down like water and righteousness as a mighty stream" Amos 5:24, and*

*"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5*





# HEALTH NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2021

From the Nurses Ministry

## THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) VACCINE

As the new year begins we enter another phase of managing the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The virus has been stressful and disruptive to our lives but we continue to have faith that God will see us through. Vaccines are now available to help curb the spread of the virus. Although some people have misgivings about taking the vaccine, it's important that you make the choice that's best for you. Below are answers to questions you may have:

### Will the vaccine protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?

A vaccine can prevent you from getting COVID-19 or prevent you from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 if you get the COVID-19 virus. Vaccines teach our immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Currently there are vaccines available from two manufacturers (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine). Both are intended to provide protection from COVID-19 and both require the individual to have two doses for maximum protection.

### How do I know that the vaccine is safe?

There are several steps that any vaccine must pass in order to be considered safe for the general public. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must approve the vaccine and clinical trials are conducted to test the effectiveness of the vaccine. Because of the ongoing pandemic and loss of life development of COVID-19 vaccines have been given the highest priority.

### If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. At this time it is not known how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19.

### Can I take the vaccine if I am in quarantine or hospitalized because of recent COVID infection or exposure to COVID-19?

No. You should not come out of quarantine to get the vaccine. Wait until your quarantine has ended.

### When and where can I get the vaccine?

Individuals 70+ can sign up to get the vaccine through Baptist Health, U of L Health or Norton Healthcare now. Go to <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/louisville-covid-19-resource-center/covid-19-vaccine-information>. You must make an appointment to take the vaccine and many sites fill quickly. At this writing Norton Healthcare Vaccine Clinic at 1720 W. Broadway has openings. To register online go to <https://nortonhealthcare.com/campaigns/covid-19-vaccine-west-broadway/> or call 502-861-4499.

Currently, Kentucky officials have identified the following four tiers of vaccine distribution:

#### Tier 1

**Tier 1a:** Long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, health care personnel.

**Tier 1b:** First responders, anyone age 70 or older, K-12 school personnel.

**Tier 1c:** Anyone age 60 or older, anyone age 16 or older with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highest-risk COVID-19 risk conditions, all essential workers.

**Tier 2:** Anyone age 40 or older

**Tier 3:** Anyone age 16 or older, or 18 and older if the Moderna vaccine is all that is available.

**Tier 4:** Children under the age of 16 if the vaccine is approved for this age group (estimated 18% of Kentucky population).

### What is the cost for COVID-19 vaccinations?

COVID-19 vaccines are free – the US Federal Government is purchasing vaccines on behalf of the American people. If you have insurance, it will cover any costs the providers charge for administering the vaccine; if you don't, the government will pay these.

### What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Some patients experience mild soreness at the injection site. There have also been reports of fevers and achiness after being vaccinated. Serious problems from vaccination can happen, but they are rare. If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leav-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

ing the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911.

**Do I still need to wear a face mask and social distance after receiving the vaccine?**

Yes. We need to use every tool we have to ensure that we and the people we love stay safe. We're working to ensure all of our residents can be vaccinated as quickly as possible, but until we're there we still need to help keep each other safe by maintaining at least 6 feet of social distance and wearing masks around others.

**I'm not sure what I should do. Who can I talk to?**

If you are high risk or have special circumstances be sure to talk to your doctor or nurse practitioner. Educate yourself - There is plenty of information online about the vaccine (see resources below). You may also listen to the Governor's daily briefing at 4pm on Monday through Thursday.

**Resources**

- <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/louisville-covid-19-resource-center/covid-19-vaccine-information>
- [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov)
- <https://nortonhealthcare.com/campaigns/covid-vaccine-faq/>
- [www.Kycovid19.com](http://www.Kycovid19.com)

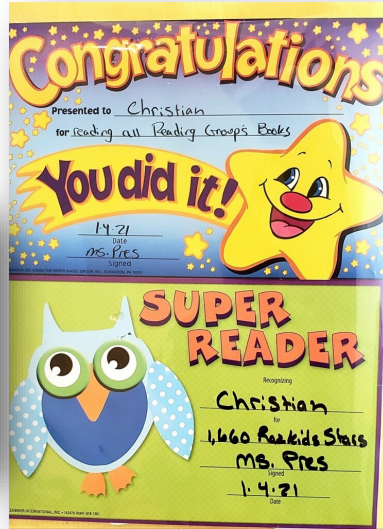
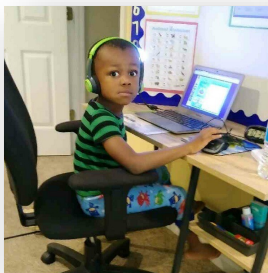


*Two of our own GSBC Nurses - Dr. Beverly Williams Coleman, nurse practitioner, and Brenda Hackett, MSN, RN - Testing residents for coronavirus at a local facility.*

## Youth and Family News

### Christian Fleming Earns Honors

Christian is the Grandson of Sis. Mona Fleming, A Super Reader and a student in the 6-8 Year Old Bible Study Class



### Pearls and Chucks

Sis. Lynn Fleming and her granddaughter Aria displaying their pearls and chucks in Honor of the Inauguration of Vice President Kamala Harris



### [One-liners]

"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it with another."

—Thomas Merton

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"I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

—Booker T. Washington

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"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

—Corrie ten Boom

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"Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday."

—Dale Carnegie





In Loving Memory of Rev. Jerry L. Wilson

SUNRISE February 15, 1936

SUNSET February 21, 2020



Thursday, February 27, 2020  
Visitation: 9:00 A.M.  
Service: 11:00 A.M.

Greater Salem Baptist Church  
1009 W. Chestnut Street  
Louisville, Kentucky  
Rev. Keith S. Hackett, Senior Pastor  
Officiant

Reverend Jerry Wilson

February 15, 1936 - February 20, 2020

*Mary Louise Hamblin*

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION



Sunrise: September 7, 1928  
Sunset: August 31, 2020

Service  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020  
1:00 P.M.

Greater Salem Baptist Church  
1009 West Chestnut Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

Pastor Keith S. Hackett  
Officiating

Mary Louise Hamblin

September 7, 1928 - August 31, 2020

*Eddie D. Parmer*



March 19, 1952  
August 13, 2020

Greenmeadows Service  
Saturday  
August 22, 2020  
2:30 P.M.

Green Meadows Memorial  
Cemetery  
3800 Shanks Lane  
Louisville, Kentucky 40216  
Rev. Keith Hackett-Pastor  
Greater Salem Baptist Church  
Officiating

Deaconess Eddie Dean Parmer

March 19, 1952 - August 13, 2020



In Loving Memory



Ramone Leontyne Stroud

Sunrise: October 28, 1969 - Sunset: November 21, 2020

Funeral Service

Friday, November 27, 2020  
12:00 PM  
New Jerusalem Baptist Church  
2973 Wilson Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40211

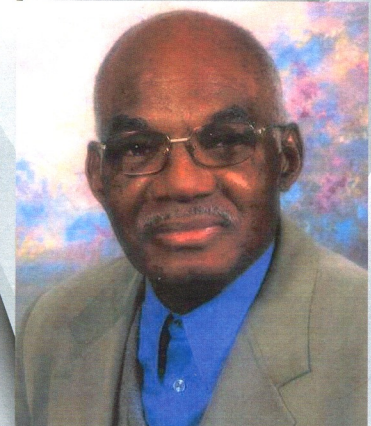
Officiant

Rev. A. Russell Awkard

Ramone Leontyne Stroud

October 28, 1969 - November 21, 2020

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
ALEX MATTHEW JONES  
March 17, 1937 - December 14, 2020



SERVICE  
Friday, December 18, 2020  
12:00 P.M.

GREATER SALEM  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
1009 West Chestnut Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

Reverend Keith S. Hackett, Pastor  
Officiating

Deacon Alex Matthew Jones

March 17, 1927 - December 14, 2020

Remembering Our  
Beloved Members  
who Left Us in 2020





## LAUGH

Every Now and Again....

By: Denise L. B. Zellars

I recently read a medical article on the many positive effects that laughter can have on our bodies. Apparently with a good belly laugh, we release endorphins (hormones) in the brain and therefore release stress and tension while leaving our muscles relaxed for a period of time.

No worries, I will not bore you with the scientific/physiological elements of laughter as I have only a little space to deliver some really Good News and hopefully, leave you encouraged.

The most embarrassing, humiliating and hilarious time in my life happened when I was a teenager at the old Broadway Roller rink, yes, right around the birth of Generation Y, the millennials. Many years have passed, and my cousins and I laugh just as hard today as we did the day it happened. It's amazing how the events seem to replay whenever we meet, and the laughs seem to come before hello is ever spoken. There are times when I reminisce this same event with only our Good Lord and me; I laugh out loud and thank Him that He brought me through that day. I know without a doubt, He is laughing, too. Now I realize the laughter on this particular event will never go away due to the Joy within that keeps it alive. Yes, *I'm glad...*

One of the shortest verses in the Bible is found in **John 11:35, Jesus wept**. But there is not one passage in all the Holy Bible that says Christ Jesus laughed. Although we do not see this written, we know that Christ Jesus laughed because we laugh, and we were made in His Image. Christ Jesus Incarnate (became man in flesh) while maintaining His Perfect Divine Self as our God. In the flesh He could relate to us and feel everything that man felt and would ever feel. He would laugh, cry, be tempted, feel pain, work, eat, drink and rest. He even got angry, but unlike us, He never sinned. **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)**. Wow, That's Power!

Our Heavenly Father prepares us for what is to come. So it makes sense that during His earthly ministry, *laughing* is not emphasized, but He would focus on our dire need for a Savior/His Word and the fact that only He can provide this need—sustain us for all of eternity.

Christ Jesus preached Joy as opposed to laughter. Joy is internal and everlasting, while laughter is an emotion that will come and go. So yes, Joy is definitely more important than going through life laughing. Real Joy can only come from the Holy Spirit and this is one distinguishing sanctified characteristic of every born again Christian. Everyone can laugh, and everyone can have Joy as Christ Jesus' offer of Joy is for everyone, but *unfortunately*, some will reject His Gospel Truth and therefore, not everyone will receive the gift of salvation that produces Joy.

It is difficult for me to think of Joy without having a good genu-

ine belly laugh every now and again. We can forget convincing anyone that we have joy deep within if we are mad at the world, complaining and whining about everything that happens in life, and nothing is ever funny enough to trigger the slightest smile. Even some marital disagreements can be discussed more objectively and resolved when couples share a laugh. I am not suggesting that we ignore important life issues and laugh, but remember the *aforementioned*, laughing eases tension, and relaxes us. If we think this laughter originated from the scientific description above, then we have indeed missed the point.

It is perfectly okay for Christians to laugh. One of my Spiritual gifts is to encourage. I am not limited on who and how I encourage. I just need to encourage in such a way that is acceptable to our Heavenly Father. There are many ways in which we can encourage one another. Such as, a simple phone call, text, smile, gift, and yes, a laugh. The most profound way we can encourage is through God's Word as His Word gives us confidence, forgiveness, strength, comfort, hope, **Joy**, healing and everything we will ever need (**Philippians 4:19**).

While my mission is to encourage others, my hope is that folks can read something in my articles of which one can relate and whether one will laugh, cry, scream, or shout, prayerfully one is moved.

The reader should see very little of my personality in my writing, though. And like all of Christ Jesus' disciples, I am pointing in *His* direction, our Awesome and Mighty God.

We can all relate to various characters in the Bible and we can learn a little of their personalities in their writings, too. We see the masculine and royal images of King David and King Solomon acknowledging and completely dependent on our Heavenly Father, the King of kings. We clearly see God's favor in their lives. We laugh from time-to-time at our brother Peter. Oh' and not to mention the big ministry split and reunion with the whole Paul, John Mark and Barnabas situation, *right?* This isn't to entertain us, but to show that we all have unique personalities that we can each appreciate, and we can learn and grow from one another as we share our Good Lord (**See Psalm 22, Psalm 39, 1Kings 8:22-61, Acts 15:36-41 and 1Corinthians 12:27-31, 2Timothy 4:9-11**).

Some have confused the scripture, **Galatians 1:10** when Paul speaks about pleasing God and not man. There are individuals who boldly state "they don't care what others think or say about them". This statement is worldly, if we are saying it for the wrong reasons. The world has no desire to care! We should know that there is a whole conversation that happens before Paul's direct statement. Some individuals were accusing him of not being an authentic preacher because he did not preach the Law. Paul was preaching the Good News of being saved by Grace, the Gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord. Some folks were off-track and they were wanting Him to preach the Mosaic Law (the Law of Moses)/Ten Commandments. So, because Paul was not preaching what they wanted to hear—they accused him of being a man pleaser and said he was preaching to appease certain others (**See the book of Galatians**).

Paul defending the faith stated as I paraphrase 'Hey, I'm

(Continued on page 9)





# A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O B U    B C E O    E E    E  
 J E A O    E C '    U N O    J Q U O B U  
 B C E O    N L U O B    E    J E A O  
 N L U O B '    B C E O B    N U E N O B U  
 J E A O    E W    F O  
 N U E N O B U    U N O  
 B C E O B    E E O  
 F O    E E O    ”

W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
N	S	P	M	

RUTH 1:16, NIV

Continued from Page 8 **LAUGH.....**

preaching the Word, I'm not trying to please you. If I were trying to please you by saying what you want me to say, I would not be serving God.' Some have even used this scripture as an excuse to be short/rude to others and not consider other's feelings.

Our purpose in life as Christians is to do what is good and pleasing to our Heavenly Father. He Is our First Love, and our First priority. Therefore, we are not to compromise His Word to please ourselves or others. If we compromise His Word, we are compromising Him, and this is a serious offense that He does not take lightly. He forewarns us of the consequences (**Revelation 22:19-20**).

Should we care about what other folks think of us? Absolutely!! Our walk should match our talk. In other words, we must practice what we preach. Our motivation should come directly from our relationship with our Heavenly Father. God wants us to live a life that is Holy because He Is Holy. What we say and do matters, therefore, our reputation matters! (**See Proverbs 22 & Ephesians 5:1**)

How we treat others matters, serving others, matters! My hope is that we will quit saying that we are serving God, only. As if that makes us holier than those of us who are serving others in obedience to God's Word. Christ Jesus came to serve, and He wants us to serve. This is how we serve God! How are we serving God, if we are not serving others? The Apostle Paul was serving others when he made the statement above, but he was not serving in the context of going against God's Word and neither should we.

Having said that; we don't want folks going around lying on us either. *Right?* Anyone that has ever been lied on can attest to the fact that it takes time and sometimes years to get over a bad reputation that stemmed from a lie. I can certainly attest and let me say—*But God!* In every instance, yes, more than once; our Good Lord has either brought the culprit to me face-to-face to retract, or the truth was revealed another way. Either way, the truth was always revealed and the lie, *resolved*. Praise God! **For nothing is hidden that will not be made**

## Bible Quiz

What was the name of Moses' wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah



Answer: (See Exodus 2:21.)

## Christian Symbol

# FOUNTAIN

—FOUNTAIN—

A fountain, or well, symbolizes Jesus, our living water. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that everyone who drinks the water he gives will never thirst again. It "will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life," Jesus said (see John 4:14, NRSV).



**manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light (Luke 8:17).**

We are the light in a dark world because of He Who indwells us. So if we have Joy—I'm just saying, we should show it and every now and again, *laugh*. Not at the expense of others, nor should we laugh at jokes about God that some non-believers tend to make on occasion when they know that a believer is around. Remember what offends God, should offend His children.

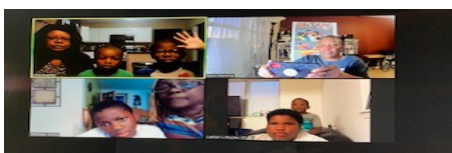
Lastly, what was this familial laughter all about on this particular, embarrassing event I mentioned? Again, my space is limited. In other words, the details are not important for this article. The point is, the bond we share and whether we are together or apart; as disciples in Christ Jesus, we each have the same Joy in common and **every now and again, Laugh!**

Blessings today....

*-Denise*

**Opportunities to Be in the Presence of God through the Study of His Word, Prayer, and with Regular Worship while maintaining Social Distance!!!**

- ⇒ Sunday Worship services are now streamed online on Facebook live at 11:15 A.M. and then made available for viewing later on the Greater Salem Website: [greatersalembaptist.org](http://greatersalembaptist.org) or the Greater Salem Facebook page.
- ⇒ The weekly Bible study led by Pastor Hackett continues on Facebook Live **each Wednesday at 6:00 PM** and can be viewed later on the Greater Salem website or Facebook Page.
- ⇒ Bro. LeRoy Winston & Sis. Rosa Battle will be leading the weekly Wednesday Prayer Service at 12 noon via conference call. The conference call information is as follows: Dial (978) 990-5000 and when prompted enter Access Code: 703263#
- ⇒ You can join in with Min. Kern Richardson, Sister Sara Toney and all classes for the weekly Sunday School lesson via conference call at 9:30 AM on Sundays. Just call 978-990-5000 and when prompted enter the access code 721799#
- ⇒ Sis. Tanisha Hackett is facilitating the Women's Ministry's Bible Study . *(Classes will resume February 13)* They will hold classes via Conference Call. They will meet on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 10:15 AM. For Audio only please call 978-990-5000, access code 703263# to be a part of the class. If you'd prefer audio and video go online at <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/tanishahackett> . All women, ages 18 and over, are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Sis. Tanisha Hackett at [tanisha.hackett@gmail.com](mailto:tanisha.hackett@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Pastor Hackett and Deacon George Johnson will facilitate Men's Bible Study by Conference call on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. The dial-in number is (978) 990-5432—The access code is 3331448#
- ⇒ Rev. Hall and Sister Mary Stoddard will be leading the weekly Friday Bible Study via conference call at 11:30 am. The conference call information is as follows: Dial (978) 990-5000 and when prompted enter Access Code: 703263#
- ⇒ Tithes and offering can be delivered to the church on weekdays between 10 AM and 2:00 PM. They can be given to the Deacons on duty (587-8869) or placed in the mail slot (after hours). You can also send them to Greater Salem Baptist Church at 1009 W Chestnut Street, Louisville 40203. Call 587-8869 if you need someone to pick-up your tithes and offerings.
- ⇒ If you'd like to take the Lord's Supper, you can do so on every first Sunday of the month. It will be served by the Deacons on the parking lot as well as in the Sanctuary. Please drive through to be served. (As always, remember to maintain a proper Social Distance)
- ⇒ You can get a paper copy of the GoodNewsLetter via mail by contacting the church at 587-8869 and leave your name and address.
- ⇒ Check with Youth Leaders Mona Fleming, Lynn Fleming are leading the 6-8 youth classes on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5993844666?pwd=QW9JTGprdzY10G12aXd0V202UW50dz09> Password: 8420 .
- ⇒ For Teens Bible study: Contact Renita Ennels regarding Zoom Meetings at TOPIC: Renita Ennels' Zoom Meeting, Time: 07:00 PM -Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4569077761?pwd=WjgveENIMmhNU25nempWRHQzWEZIUT09>, Meeting ID: 456 907 7761 Passcode: JY8LRQ



FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY—SHARE THIS PAGE

## God's Plan of Salvation

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:" Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."  
Roman 6:23

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."  
For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;" I Corinthians 15: 1-4

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" John 3:17

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the works of God abideth on him." John 3:36

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" John 1:12

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10: 8-10  
"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32

"And this the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this

life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5: 11-13

## God's Word to the Saved

"Jesus paid the full penalty for you:" I Peter 2:24; I Corinthians 15:3

"His righteousness now is placed to your credit;" I Corinthians 1:30; Romans 10:4

"Confess him as your Savior and Lord:" Romans 10:9; Matthew 10:22

"Follow Jesus in baptism:" Mark 1:9; Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:4

"Worship with his people:" Hebrews 10:25

"Contribute as God prospers:" Malachi 3:8; 2 Corinthians

"Study the Bible daily:" 2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15

"Work for him as the way opens:" James 1:22; Matthew 7:21

"Seek to win others to Jesus:" John 20:21; Matthew 4:19; Luke 19:10

With repentance toward God I receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, and relying upon divine help will endeavor to follow his example and obey his commands.

**Would you like to reply? Please submit the following information to the church.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by Deacon Marshall Merrill

**If you need to talk to someone about this, you can contact the Church office at 502-587-8869 and speak with Deacon Merrill or a member of the Evangelism Team!!!**



The GoodNewsLetter is available online at [greatersalembaptist.org](http://greatersalembaptist.org)



**Opportunities to be in the presence of God through the study of His word and In the Center of Prayer (See Pages 10 for updated schedule of online audio or video opportunities)**



**Greater Salem Baptist**

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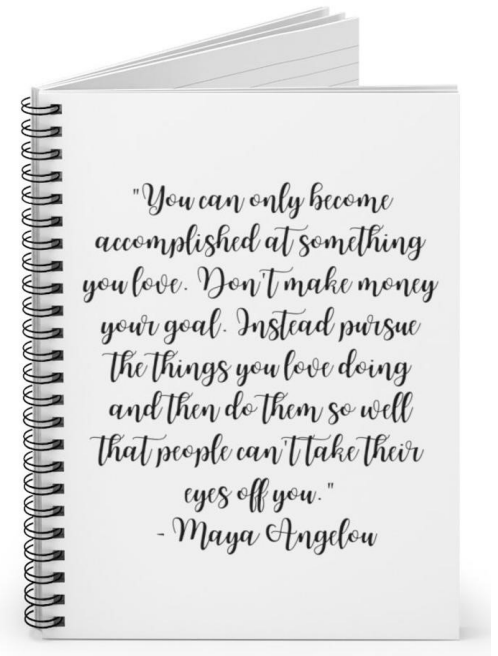
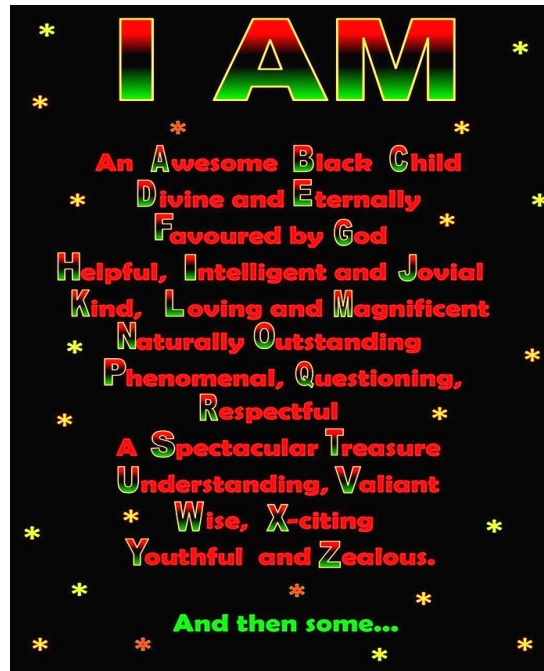
Email:

[aagsalem@bellsouth.net](mailto:aagsalem@bellsouth.net)

Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
09: 00 am to 02:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

See page 8 for online schedules



**MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST  
ONE HEART AT A TIME - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME**

From:

Greater Salem Baptist Church  
1009 West Chestnut Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

