

WELCOME TO

The Height's Informer



you to incorporate an energetic will in building your relationship with God so that we will become the community, the church, and family that God is calling us to be. Let us exercise God's given DNA for our life to enhance the growth and vibrancy of our church which He is equipping to do His Will.

Shalom

Rev. C. Atkinson



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In God's magnificence He created this wonderful land that we call earth. He created man (male and female). He created creatures of the sea, the air and those on the ground. Every creation is touched with the character of God. We must begin to use His lens to look at life's circumstances; we must use His lens to see beyond and be empowered to touch others.

Just remember at all times – from the cross, to the grave; from the grave to the sky, God's Son had you on His mind. Today, Jesus has you on His mind. You are His creation with His character embedded into your DNA. It is up to you to exercise and exemplify the character you have already.

There is no need to build a foundation for this character. God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit have done that. As Christ desires for the church, I invite

THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION SEASON

Written by Minister Kawanna Jackson

To the world, Easter may mean the celebration of the spring season, egg hunts, bunnies, jellybeans and candy. In fact, many scholars trace the word Easter as an Old English word pre-Christianity referring to the goddess Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. In the Jewish community, Easter is known as Pascha. During the same season, in the Jewish community is the celebration of Lent, a 40-day time of fasting and prayer and the Passover commemorating the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. In the Christian community however, Easter represents the celebration of Jesus Christ, his crucifixion



and resurrection which is the foundation of the Christian's faith. Because Judaism is the foundation on which Christianity is built, we also acknowledge and celebrate Pascha (lent, Passover, etc) because this is exactly what Jesus did during the time he walked the earth and how he also celebrated just days before he ultimately went to the cross, died for our sins and resurrected from the grave. We now have access to the Father and to eternal life through His ultimate sacrifice. Easter or Resurrection Day is that time when we celebrate what Jesus has done for us in giving us access to the free pardon of our sins, access to the Father through his shed blood and the right to eternal life by believing on Him

THE RESURRECTION SEASON 2025 AT THE HEIGHTS

Written by Minister Kawanna Jackson

At The Heights this year, celebrating Christ's resurrection has been a time of intentionality, reflection and celebration. During the 40 days of Lent, Pastor Atkinson called for a time of 30 minutes of silence. This was a time of intentionally sacrificing 30 minutes of the day to sit in silence, to alleviate all distractions and to discipline ourselves to focus on God and hear

from Him. This time of silence with God was not only sacrificial but also created what should become a discipline in our daily Christian walk. Whether 30 minutes, 15 minutes or an hour of silence, the intentionality of us disciplining ourselves and seeking to hear from God births in us humility and greater sensitivity to God's voice as we enter our next season individually and corporately.

The Easter season at The Heights this year brought about a time of reflection. This was a time of reflection on our individual relationships with Christ and well as God's guidance for us corporately. During this season, Pastor Atkinson has preached messages like "What Are You Going After?" on Palm Sunday and "Who Are You Looking For?" on Resurrection Sunday that challenged the congregation to do an introspection on our relationship with Christ, motivated us to greater pursuit of Christ and to share our faith with others. We have also heard other messages like "What's Going On?" from Rev. Noble of Seigle Ave. First Church of God that reminded us of how Jesus went to the cross on our behalf, shook off death and how we must share this good news with others. The rhetorical questions raised during some of the Holy Week services both challenged and

motivated us in our walk with Christ as part of our reflection process and spiritual growth. The Heights had the pleasure of celebrating Holy Week and Resurrections Sunday this year with the sister churches Seigle Ave. First Church of God and First Church of God Concord this year! This time of celebration of our faith in Jesus with fellow believers ignited for some, renewed for others, and fanned into flame our passion for serving our risen Savior! Celebration is a discipline that allows us to rejoice together and to gain strength in our faith.

This year all three churches took part in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Children's Celebration and Resurrection Sunday. The Maundy Thursday service reminded us that we should serve one another as Jesus showed us through foot washing. The educational part of what the Last Supper looked like for Jesus and His disciples helped us to gain a deeper understanding of the Passover, the meal, the symbolism of the food. Good Friday allowed us to listen to speakers from all three churches as we homed in on Jesus' last words and what that means for our Christian Walk. The children even had a chance to celebrate with games, music, and food with the overarching theme as Jesus being the reason for the season. This Resurrection season at The Heights Ministries was not only about intentionality, reflection, and celebration but it was also all about learning together, celebrating together, and encouraging one another in the faith. We can now continue our Christian journey with renewed passion, strengthened faith, deeper understanding, and greater evangelism. We look forward to what God has in store for us in our next season and we look forward to celebrating again all that the Lord has done and is doing in our lives next Resurrection season!

MARY & MARTHA WOMEN'S MINISTRY LUKE 10:38-42

Written by Rev. Audra Atkinson

Mary and Martha Women's Ministry was birthed



during The Woman Evolve Conference. The Lord gave the name and the focus to Lady Audra at that moment and she began to seek the Lord for the vision. You see what the Lord revealed in that moment was that we need both Mary and Martha! Sometimes Martha gets a bad wrap because many believers think that she was focused on the wrong things, but the Lord showed me that she took on the role of the servant. So we need both! Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to his teachings, while Martha was preoccupied with preparing and serving the meal. Jesus praised Mary's choice to listen and learn, while acknowledging Martha's diligent service. We need Mary and Martha in Ministry! One who focuses on prayer and one who serves! The Kingdom needs both! And sometimes the roles reverse! We began the launch of Mary and Martha Ministries at our Women's Conference held on March 22nd, where we discussed the importance of focusing on the mind body and spirit of a Woman! We must be whole! How are we feeding each of these at the same time!!!

We will continue to nurture all of these for the Women in the Kingdom! Plan is to gather quarterly and just enjoy being A Woman who is thirsty to get closer to God and our sisters in Christ!

Our next gathering will be June 7, 2025 from 11AM to 1PM at The Heights Ministries! We hope to see you there! Love You All!

Lady Audra

MEETING OUR GOALS: THE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER INITIATIVES

Written by Rev. Adrian Lanett Harper

The Heights Community Development Center is dedicated to identifying and addressing disparities that create gaps within our community. Our mission is to foster a supportive environment that enhances the well-being of residents in the Northwest Corridor. In collaboration with the "Taking It To The Streets" outreach initiative, we continue to be committed to providing vital services to our unhoused community members. Once a month, we offer food, healthcare resources, and everyday living essentials to help improve their quality of life. To get involved with Taking It To The Streets, please reach out to Sharae Williams and Rev. Drucilla Steele. Your involvement can make a significant difference in the lives of many.

Thanks to the church's and the CDC valuable partnerships, we proudly supported The Heights Mary & Martha Women's Ministry Women's Conference on March 22nd. The conference focused on "The Mind, Body, and Spirit of a Woman" providing a holistic approach to women health and well-being.



Additionally, we hosted two virtual workshops centered around Diabetes Awareness and Heart Disease. These workshops aimed to educate and empower individuals with knowledge to take control of their health and make informed lifestyle choices.

We are excited about our "empowerHER Day: Unleashing Your Potential" event on May 24, 2025 at The Heights. This event is in support of single women and singles mothers ages 18-40 by providing mental, physical and financial awareness information! Each participant will have access to immediate food pantry vouchers and swag bags!



To take advantage of our Food Pantry, fresh fruits and vegetables from our community garden, referrals forms may be found at our website: www.theheightscdc.org



GETTING TO ZERO!

Written by Rev. Adrian Lanett Harper

The Heights' CDC and its partnerships continue to grow stronger as we address issues that affect our community. This year, we started by co-hosting the Mecklenburg County Public Health National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7th, in collaboration with The Connecting Place at Greater Salem in Charlotte, NC. The event was held at The Connecting Place, with Getting To Zero Mecklenburg County taking the lead. It marked the first time the event was hosted at a house of worship, highlighting the significant role the Christian church can play in reducing HIV/AIDS cases in the Black community. A panel of speakers shared their insights on how the church has historically addressed HIV/AIDS awareness, what it should be doing currently, and strategically toward reducing future cases.

The momentum continued with our Praise & Paint: HIV/AIDS Interactive & Awareness event on April 5th at The Heights Ministries.

The event featured the guest speaker, Shante Wilkerson, who led a group of young adults through a skit that presented a real-life situation. The scenario explored what actions someone should take if they are informed about potential exposure to a partner's current or past HIV diagnosis. The day concluded with creative painting projects, food, fellowship, and onsite testing, that resulted in six individuals being tested.

For further information on free testing, at-home test kits, and other resources, please visit <https://gettingtozeroclt.org>. We are committed to continuing our efforts to educate and support our community in achieving the goal of getting to zero new HIV/AIDS cases. Together, we can make a difference!





THE HEIGHTS CDC AT THE BLACK FAMILY WELLNESS EXPO: PROMOTING HEALTH, EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

Written By Minister Earica Wall

On Saturday, March 29, 2025, The Heights CDC had the honor of taking part in the first-ever Collaboration for Equitable Health, a joint initiative by the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association. This groundbreaking partnership aims to address health disparities in communities of color. The Heights CDC was proud to be part of it.

The highlight of this effort was the Black Family Wellness Expo, held at The Park Church (Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC). The event brought together an incredible variety of health-focused vendors and service providers—all dedicated to the wellness of Black families from all walks of life. Whether it was pregnancy resources or elder care support, there was something valuable for everyone.

It was truly a powerful sight to witness the community coming together in support of better health and wellness. One of the most impactful parts of the day was the wide range of free health services offered, many of which people didn't

even know were available to them. These included screenings, educational resources, and direct access to health professionals.

As a community, we must remember the importance of regular checkups, dental visits, and essential screenings like mammograms and colonoscopies. Early detection saves lives. Let's continue to take care of ourselves and each other ... mind, body, and spirit. Minister Greta and Minister Earica, who served with joy and compassion, spoke with attendees and highlighted the wealth of information and resources available represented The Heights CDC. We thank everyone who came out to support and uplift this vital mission. Together, we can create a healthier and stronger future for our families.

Have the day you deserve!





UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS: HOPE IN THE MIDDLE OF AFFLICTION

Written by Rev. Adrian Lanett Harper

Each quarter, our Young Adults group, led by Brittany Stratford, comes together to engage in meaningful conversations that, although sometimes uncomfortable, are crucial for their age group. The main objective of these gatherings is to ensure that every participant feels seen, heard, and supported.

The theme for the March 23, 2025 session was "Hope In The Middle of Affliction" with Lamentations 3:22-23 serving as the foundational scripture. This verse, from the New Living Translation (NLT), states: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

The session opened with an icebreaker where participants shared scriptures that keep them

close to God and guide them through challenging times. This activity set a reflective tone for the day. Throughout the meeting, there were opportunities for prayer requests, sharing praise reports, and enjoying games like "Pick It Up and Preach It" which made the day both engaging and enjoyable. The group took time to break down Lamentations 3:22-23, focusing on key concepts:

- Faithfulness: Remaining loyal
- Mercy: Compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone
- Cease: Come to an end

Their discussions emphasized that the Lord's mercies never end, and He demonstrates this by granting us life each day through His grace. Even in difficult times, God remains faithful. When we falter or fall into sin; His unwavering love lifts us up. When we are weak, He is strong, and every morning brings a fresh outpouring of His grace. This session was a powerful reminder of the hope and strength that can be found through faith, even amidst life challenges.



Participants were encouraged to set three types of goals:

1. Faith Goals: Things you believe God will do that can't be achieved on your own. (Reference: Matthew 17:20)
2. Habit Goals: New behaviors you will adopt that reflect the person you are becoming. (Reference: Luke 14:28)
3. Achievement Goals: Accomplishments God has established for you to reach on your path to destiny. (Reference: Proverbs 13:4)

Stay tuned for more information about their Praise On The Lawn (for ages 18–40) event, scheduled for June 2025. This event promises to be a joyous celebration of faith and community.



To get involved with the Young Adults Ministry, contact Sister Brittany Stradford

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