

CHRONICLES



The official newsletter of Alfred Street Baptist Church
REVEREND DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY, PASTOR



Great Joy Comes to Alexandria

by Joyce Putman

January 2012
WINTER EDITION



Photo By: Jason Miccolo Johnson



Photo By: Lois Kebe

Alfred Street Baptist Church has been giving the community the gift of a Christmas festival for a several years and each festival told the story of Jesus Christ's birth through song, dance and drama. Each one has been unique in its own way and sought to portray the story with meaning and praise to the Lord. This year, Great Joy... a Gospel Christmas, came to Alexandria, and Alfred Street gave the birth of Jesus Christ the homage it deserves.

Our festivals have always been held at the ASBC campus, but this year we moved to T.C. Williams High School. We needed the feel of Broadway and a facility large enough to make this festival come alive.

Great Joy... a Gospel Christmas is a compilation of 15 contemporary arrangements of Christmas carols and new music. One of the composers, Joseph Joubert, was the guest artist and we were certainly blessed by his presence. Mr. Joubert is a celebrated pianist, composer and director with great success on Broadway (The Color Purple, Billy Elliot: The Musical; Five Guys Named Moe). This wonderful compilation of music was meshed with drama and dance as the stage at T.C. Williams came alive with the birth of Jesus Christ.

From the uplifting opening song, Joy to the World, to the finale of Go

Continues on page 9



Photo By: Jason Miccolo Johnson

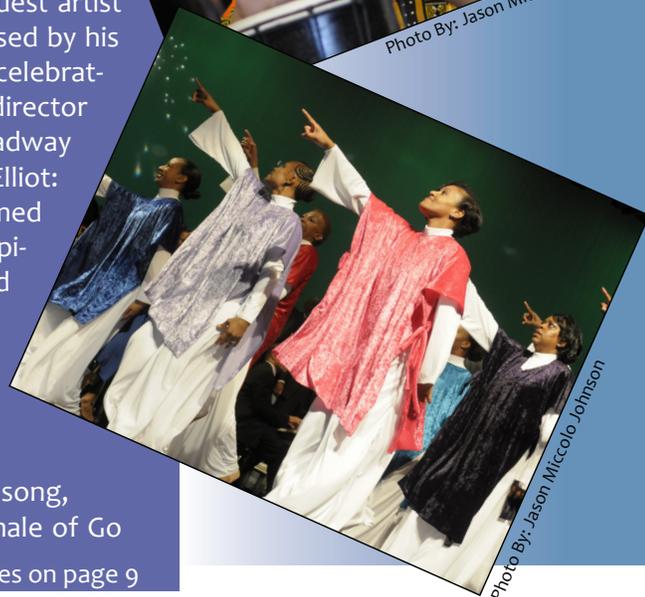


Photo By: Jason Miccolo Johnson

“Building Disciples To



Win the World for Christ!”



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Great Joy Comes to Alexandria | Cover story |
| Christian Life Institute | page 1 |
| Thank you Lord | page 2 |
| Building Relationships through Missions | page 3 |
| ASBC Honors Their Veterans | page 4 |
| ASBC's Own Spend Thrift | page 5 |
| Men's Ministry Mentoring at TC Williams | page 6 |
| A Family Jewel | page 7 |
| ASBC Hosts 10th Annual HBCU Festival | page 8 |
| Great Joy Christmas Concert Photos | page 12/13 |
| Brothers Keeper | page 15 |
| Sanctified Symphony | page 17 |
| ASBC Fall Historical Tours | page 18 |
| AWANA | page 19 |
| Bell Choir | page 20 |
| Health and Wellness | page 21 |
| Girls Mentoring | page 21 |
| Womens Ministry: Unsung Hero's | page 22 |
| WOW Small Groups Bible Study | page 22 |
| SYM -Take Over NYC | page 23 |
| Sports Ministry | page 24 |
| Sharing the Good News JDC Style | page 26 |
| FALL Revival | page 27 |
| New Members Meet & Greet | page 27 |
| Welcome New ASBC Members | page 28 |

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The Chronicles Newsletter is published quarterly. It is an extension of the pulpit, teaching and informational ministries of Alfred Street Baptist Church. The Chronicles seeks to inform, inspire, and exhort disciples to a closer walk and sinners to a life in Christ.

Comments and contributions are welcome and may be placed in the newsletter mailbox at the church or email to: Chronicles@alfredstreet.org

The Christian Life Institute—What Is It?

The Christian Life Institute (CLI) is the sustaining and principal force for Christian education here at Alfred Street and has been for many years. Its overarching purpose is to help the Pastor “Build Disciples to Win the World for Christ.” The CLI helps disciples build the background, gain the knowledge and develop the stamina to do the work required to accomplish the task. Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of Director, Reverend Doctor Faye Savage Gunn, the Institute provides educational opportunities and experiences necessary for disciples to move from sincere and dedicated believers to ardent, informed and committed followers. This advanced step—maturity in faith—requires continued education at a level and quality that is “meat” for the Christian. Disciples who take advantage of CLI offerings potentially become disciples who can work in the church to carry out the goals of witnessing, leadership, and effectiveness in their Christian walk. In summary, the Institute works to deliver strong, solid “food” that the disciple who wants to be a follower of Christ can take advantage of and benefit from in their quest to contribute to the building of the Kingdom.

January 5 – March 29, 2012,
Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University
Facilitators—Mr. and Mrs. Tommy and Erica Walker

January 14, 21, 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. –12:00 noon
Facilitator: Dr. Eric Michael Dyson

The Institute sponsors courses, seminars, workshops, and other educational activities that are open to the entire congregation. It works closely with the Sunday school that provides weekly studies for all age groups, and upon request, with ministries that focus on particular audiences. Facilitators include outstanding members of the clergy or scholars who bring unique expertise to their presentations, as well as gifted members of the Diaconate, ministerial staff, or general membership.

The CLI offerings are next in line after the Pastor’s sermons and teachings in Bible Study in helping disciples grasp the significance of their relationship to Christ, as mature Christians. Daniel Aleshire says, “The believer does not abandon his first understandings of the gospel. Rather, those first understandings are supplemented by more mature appreciation for the magnitude of the God of the universe and the salvation God offers through Jesus Christ. Maturity in faith requires the continuing influence of education”.

In keeping with its goal of offering disciples opportunities for spiritual growth, the following are the upcoming CLI offerings for the first quarter of 2012:

February 25, 2012, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Can I Get a Witness?
Facilitator: Rev. Samuel Nixon, Jr.

March 10, 2012 (Time to be announced)
Doing Missions with a Mission-Minded Heart
Facilitator: Rosette Graham

Please remember to check the website for specific information concerning registrations, additional offerings, and changes.

Thank you, Lord

by Rev. Dr. Linda DeLaine

Every day is a great day to thank God. This season of our lives; where we anticipate Christ's coming, ruling, and governing our world, we give thanks to God for such unselfish love. The enormity of God sharing someone as valuable as Himself with us; just sets the mood for giving God thanks, adoration, and love. It shows how proactive God is. God has strategic plans and many backup plans, created on behalf of our stubborn disobedience. God plans far ahead. Before any of us were ever thought of, God had created a plan for each of us. God proves over and over again that He truly is Emanuel - God with us. He never leaves us and does not forsake us. God is with us through the good times, the bad times, the sad times, and all times. God holds time in the palm of His mighty hands. Nothing happens that catches God off guard. It is amazing how God works through us, with us, and in spite of us. While we are trying to calculate and figure out how we are going to make it, God has already helped us to make it. To see God work in our lives is an amazing revelation. Each encounter with God is a new and greater experience.

God affirms each year that He really is the beginning of everything and everyone. God is the beginning and

the end; the Alpha and the Omega; the January through the December. It is God who brings us through each year. Regardless of every challenge, any obstacles, or disappointments that we may face during the year; we are never alone. God continuously shows us that He is greater than our little bitty problems. No problem exists that God cannot handle. Our relationship with God is based on trust. We must believe that God is who the Bible tells us that God is. Allow the Spirit of God, our heart, our soul, and faith to convince us that God really can be trusted; from day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year. (God is not like people. God tells no lies. God is not like humans. He doesn't change his mind. When God says something, he does it. When God makes a promise, he keeps it--Numbers 23:19, God's Word Translation).

God's love is constantly working in our lives. His love goes beyond boundaries, borders, and expectations. As a consequence of enjoying God's tremendous love, we try to express our appreciation and gratitude to God by spending time with God. Our goal is to get to know this God who loves us so much that He willingly sacrificed His only son for us to be in a loving relationship and

to live with them throughout eternity. That is some amazing love. How do we even try to return such love? We return the love by getting to know what pleases God. Then, we ask God to help us to live our lives pleasing God. At the moment of total surrender to God, we enter into a life that we have never known. We experience brand new joy. We encounter every day as a beautiful spring day. We are refreshed with nice walks through the gorgeous flower gardens of life. We take the time to listen to birds singing sweet soft melodies. We linger to allow the gardener (God) to talk with us about the splendid things that He has created; just for our pleasure.

There is nothing better than experiencing new life with God. Life becomes meaningful, purposeful, and delightful. The cold lifelessness of winter, isolation, loneliness, and wilderness wondering are times gone by. Jesus takes the time to shape us into the mold of his image and likeness. Every day becomes a new adventure with God. Our springtime is enjoying salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you God for, not only sharing but giving your Son, Jesus Christ, to all who believe that Jesus is ONE with you, just as He said. Thank you Lord.

Building Relationships in Sierra Leone Through Missions

by Donna Scott

One of the ASBC Missions Ministry's objectives is "to unite the disciples of Alfred Street Baptist Church in a fuller understanding and participation in the responsibility for worldwide witness and ministry." We accomplish this in many ways, both tangible and intangible. As we promote prayer as a priority for mission concerns, we cultivate relationships and create an environment that allows us to reach across continents to spread the word of the grace of God and the glory of Jesus Christ. Now, we have an opportunity to engage in missions in a locale where God planted the seed hundreds of years ago in Sierra Leone.

The mission focus of ASBC has always extended beyond its neighboring communities. In an effort to be a blessing to others and continue God's work, our church has commissioned a missionary to water the seeds planted at the oldest Baptist Church in Africa, the Regent Road Baptist Church in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The opportunity to enhance the relationship between our two historic churches and develop stronger ties with RRBC is also an opportunity to reconnect two communities with roots in Virginia. RRBC was established in 1792 by David George, a native of Virginia.

Leading our efforts in Sierra Leone is Janeen Roscoe, a 1995 graduate of Howard University. Working daily alongside RRBC's leaders, she is spiritually enriched and motivated by the prospect of partnering two historic Churches in a community where the religious make up is 60% Muslim and 20% Christian. Janeen sees this mission as "a wonderful opportunity for ASBC to steward the development of the

Baptist community in Sierra Leone. "...We get to mirror being our brothers keepers not only in the Americas but in concert with our brothers and sisters in Christ [in Sierra Leone]... God is allowing us to be a voice to encourage and to come alongside our brethren." Working with the church leaders at RRBC, she has witnessed first hand the impact on the community and the spiritual and physical growth of the Christian community through study, Baptisms, and prayer. She embraces her role in Sierra Leone and sees engaging and possibly expanding ASBC's work as fitting "...let's be who God has called us to be as Baptists... God is just opening the borders and allowing us to spread in our foreign missions ministry." When asked how ASBC could help in Sierra Leone, Janeen replied "this is an opportunity to explore new frontiers in a region where we are already engaged (referring to our partnership in Liberia)," and she encourages us to come visit and see this fertile ground for ourselves.

As ASBC continues to explore the viability expanding Sierra Leone as a Mission's project, we are sending a small team to Sierra Leone in January 2012 to assess what has been accomplished and to prepare for a larger visit later in the year. In June 2012 a larger group will accompany Pastor Wesley as they make this historic journey to Sierra Leone and then to Liberia. It is hoped that during this visit, ASBC will bridge a historic relationship and plant more seeds for the growth of the Baptist community. To learn more about Missions at ASBC or to see how you can become involved, contact Rosette Graham at rcgraham@alfredstreet.org.



ASBC Honors Their Veterans

by Sandra Barrett



On Sunday November 6, 2011, more than 125 veterans marched into the sanctuary to the singing of the Battle Hymn of Republic by the McVets Choir from Baltimore, MD. The celebration was ASBC's special recognition of all veterans. Retired Air Force MSgt Liz Deneke gave a tearful prayer of invocation, and retired Air Force Col Ethel Underwood welcomed everyone to the glorious occasion.

During the remarks by Retired Air Force Major Sandra L. Barrett, Director of the Military Ministry, family members were applauded for their love, understanding, and support of their military family member. She also dedicated this portion of the service to Deacon Welton Quander, a WWII veteran who recently passed away. Deacon James Gladden was welcomed back after a long illness, as well as Army Warrant Officer 3 Elgin L. Funches who recently from Afghanistan.

After the morning service, the veterans, their families and

friends were treated to refreshments while the ministry lay leader, Deacon Alton Wallace provided information on the formation of the Military Ministry, its mission, and upcoming events.

A visit to the Old Soldiers Home in Washington, DC is in the planning stages, as well as a letter writing project and plans to extend special invitations to single servicemen and women to your homes during the holiday season. Two of these events are in partnership with other Discipleship groups.

A special thank you to J.R. Dunaway, Beverly Ferguson, Verna Payne, Carol Bolding, Rev. Marla and Charles Hawkins, Sheila Miller-Satterwhite, Barbara McDowell, and Bro. Henry Thompson for their support in making the honoring of ASBC Veterans a success.

For more information on joining this ministry, we encourage all veterans to go to the church website.

ASBC's Own Spend-Thrift

by Pamela Casey



Celeste Aaron Steele (DG12-in the white jacket)

We all remember the jubilation we felt on January 20, 2008 when President Barak Obama took the oath of office and became the 44th President of the United States of America. One of our own, however, Ms. Celeste Aaron Steele, had an opportunity to take her jubilation to a higher level as well. On November 9, 2011, she, along with several other government employees, was able to join the President at the signing of an Executive Order entitled “Promoting Efficient Spending.” This Executive Order is President Obama’s way of emphasizing that his admin-

istration is committed to building a more “efficient and effective government.”

Ms. Steele’s suggestion was for the Department of Homeland Security to leverage the purchasing power of the entire Department, rather than use multiple smaller contracts. According to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, her proposal will save the Department tens of millions of dollars. “God will take you places no man thought you could go,” responded Ms. Steele. Saving is certainly of the utmost

importance during this current economic downturn, so this proposal was no doubt welcomed.

Ms. Celeste Steele, who is a member of Discipleship Group #12, has worked for the Department of Homeland Security since 2004 and has more than 30 years of federal experience.

Congratulations, Ms. Celeste Aaron Steele—Alfred Street is very proud of you! What a welcome addition to the Kingdom!

Male Mentoring Program at T. C. Williams High School

by Al Hall

The Alfred Street Men's Ministry is continuing its partnership with the Shiloh Men's Ministry in the Male Mentoring Program at T. C. Williams High School. On December 1, 2011, mentors met with the students for Session Three of the nine sessions planned for the 2011-2012 academic year. The topic for discussion was Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Dr. Tshaka Cunningham and Mr. Carl Leonard gave presentations on the importance of being responsible with technology. Students were able to ask questions and were given strategies to help them accomplish this task. Future sessions include:

- Emotional Intelligence (Knowing when and how to control emotions)
- Maintaining a Balanced Life Plan (Balanced approach to 5-year plan)
- The Law of Environment (Respect self and friends)
- Am I Mentally Fit? (Knowing how to protect personal mental capacity)
- Understanding Public Policy and Public awareness (Concentration on public speaking/social intelligence)
- Skills-Building Session (Concentration on business planning and resume writing.)
- Mentors and mentees will worship together during the 11:00 service February 19, 2012.

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

Approximately one year ago, Pastor Wesley encouraged the men of the church to join him in a Saturday morning Bible study. Approximately 70 men attended and became involved in Bible study, as well as discussions about issues and concerns related to everyday life. The group still meets the first Saturday but will not meet in January, 2012. This will allow everyone to attend the church-wide Saturday Bible study being held in January. The regular Men's Bible study will resume on the first Saturday morning in February with fellowship and Bible study, followed by the Men's Ministry monthly meeting. The February and March sessions will be led by Alfred Street's own The Reverend Joseph A. C. Smith, M. Div. and Dr. Sedric Roberts. All sessions have been planned through December 2012. Pastor Wesley will teach some and all others will be taught by Rev. Smith and/or Dr. Roberts. Men of Alfred Street, please attend!

SUIT Yourself Project

Twenty-five men are participating in the SUIT Yourself Project (SYP), established earlier this year and sponsored by the Men's Ministry. They donate menswear which the Ministry provides to brothers in need. Thus far, they have donated approximately 75 suits, 40 sports jackets, 115 dress shirts, 35 pairs of slacks, 100 ties, and 20 pairs of shoes.

Through this project, the Men's Ministry also provides menswear, including general clothing and clothing for job interviews, to military veterans and brothers recently released from incarceration. Four ASBC teenagers are the beneficiaries of new suits purchased by officers of the Men's Ministry. If 25 members can make an impact like this, just imagine what impact could be made by 250 or 500! This project will continue throughout 2012. The goal is to eventually establish an ASBC Clothing Closet open to the ASBC flock and local community. Anyone may donate clean slightly-used men's apparel.

The Family Jewel

By Deacon Alton Wallace



Photo By: Jason Miccolo Johnson

Alfred Street uses the term “The Family Jewels” to refer to a collection of church artifacts covering over 200 years that capture who we are as a church family. This collection of documents and artifacts was first displayed publicly during the Bicentennial Year (2003) most recently displayed in the lower level on the church’s 208th Anniversary in November 2011.

These artifacts maintained by the Church Historian and Records Committee include a record of the baptism of our first member (a young lady named Black Susan) who was baptized in May 1803. The collection includes a letter from our former pastor, Rev. Samuel Madden, to President Abraham Lincoln in the fall of 1863 requesting and receiving a commission as an officer in the Union Army during

the Civil War. The collection also includes the application letter of our current pastor, Rev. Howard-John Wesley, when he first applied for the position of pastor in October 2006.

While most of the items among “The Family Jewels” are documents, some of our ‘Jewels’ are living beings. In addition to the display of documents, the church honored one such Jewel, Senior Deacon William Mitchell Willis.

Will as he is affectionately called, was born on February 25, 1923 in Alexandria, Virginia, to Coulter and Pearl Willis. After graduation from Parker Gray High School in Alexandria, he attended Virginia State University for 2 years before, being drafted into the United States Army and deploying to Europe a few days after D-Day. After the war,

Will continued to serve his country as a civil servant with the Central Intelligence Agency beginning in 1947. After 34 years at the CIA, he retired in 1981.

After returning from the war, Will was introduced to the love of his life, Emma Cooke. After a two year courtship, Will and Emma were married on December 24, 1948 and they were blessed with three children, sons Eric and Robert and a daughter, Carol.

Will was also serious about serving his community through outreach efforts. After retirement he began what is now a 20 year journey of service to ALIVE and the Carpenter Shelter. For his efforts, he has received recognition from Fannie Mae for his charitable contributions, and received the Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Service Award from the City of Alexandria.

Will was baptized at ASBC in August 1936 and has 75 years of service here. He was ordained a deacon in July of 1963 and was elected Chairman of the Board of Deacons a few months later. Upon the death of Rev. Andrew Atkins in November of that same year, the responsibility for running the church fell to him. Currently, Will sings in the Senior Choir and the Male Chorus, helps with the Missions Ministry’s program to feed the homeless and leads Alfred Street’s Christmas Basket Outreach. He serves as Senior Deacon and is not about to slow down even as he nears his 89th birthday.

For his efforts, the entire ASBC family salutes its first living ‘Family Jewel’.

HBCU College Festival

Alfred Street Baptist Church will be celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary of the HBCU College Festival on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 9 am to 2 pm. Join us as we dedicate this festival to the memory of our beloved Pastor Emeritus Rev., Dr. John O. Peterson. It was while under the leadership of Rev. Peterson, a strong supporter of HBCUs, that this event got started.

Ms. Vance F. Davis founded the HBCU College Festival in 2002. The initial idea for the college festival came from HBCU Sunday, which has been an Alfred Street tradition for over 40 years. HBCU Sunday was started by Rev., Dr. John O. Peterson as a way to recognize HBCUs. It was a combination of being inspired by HBCU Sunday, being passionate about having attended an HBCU and being grateful for the support given to her son by the church

that eventually led Vance to propose such an event.

The first college festival was held in February 2003 with approximately 150 people in attendance. Last year, the number of attendees reached just under 3000. Under Vance's leadership, the HBCU College Festival has had far reaching effects drawing attendees from all over the country. Hundreds of students have been admitted on the spot to various schools and millions of scholarship dollars have been awarded to deserving students. The White House Initiatives on HBCUs recently described the Alfred Street Baptist Church HBCU College Festival as being "one of the most successful and comprehensive events if this kind in the country". Organizers of the event (Discipleship Groups 13 & 19) expect more of the same for 2012.

Here is some of what you can expect at the upcoming 2012 HBCU College Festival:

HOWARD UNIVERSITY BISONS DRUM LINE

To open up the college festival again this year will be the Howard University Bison drum line. If you missed it last year, you don't want to miss it this time around.

MEET THE PRESIDENT

All HBCU Presidents and Chancellors have been invited to come out to meet and greet prospective students and parents. Encourage your HBCU President/Chancellor to come out and represent.

EMPOWERMENT SEMINARS

Featuring various topics including sports, STEM, preparing for college, what to expect out of the college experience, financial aid, and other related topics.

ON SITE ADMISSIONS

High school seniors and recent graduates will have the opportunity to interview with college recruiters during which onsite admissions are extended and scholarships are awarded on the spot in some cases. Onsite admission guidelines are found on the college festival website at www.asbchbcu.org.

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY GOSPEL CHOIR

The festival finale will consist of an arousing performance by the Virginia State University Gospel Choir.

HOST HOTEL

For the first time, the college festival will have a host hotel for the convenience of all attendees and participants of the event. Holiday Inn National Airport - \$89/night. Call 888-465-4329 and mention Group Discount Code: ASBC-HBCU College Festival Spread the word!

COLLEGE FESTIVAL LOCATION – TC WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302
Plenty of convenient and free parking

HBCU SUNDAY

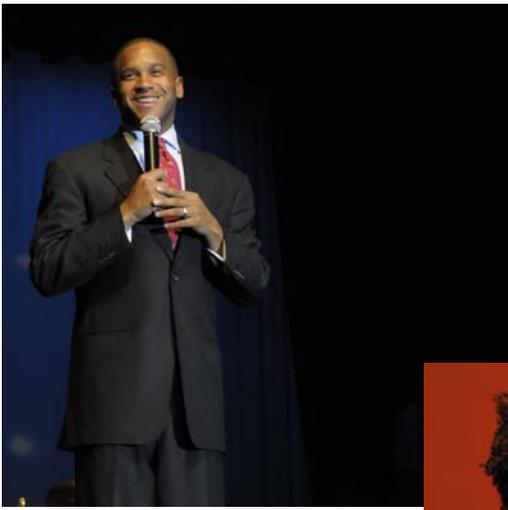
Aggie Pride will abound on Sunday, February 19, 2012, as Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr., Chancellor of NC A & T State University will serve as the guest speaker for HBCU Sunday services.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Those interested in volunteering may sign up after each service during the month of January. Volunteer opportunities include recruiter assistant, seminar monitor, security and other. Training sessions for volunteers are mandatory.

Additional information is available on the college festival website at www.asbchbcu.org. Or contact Ms. Vance F. Davis (Founder/Chairperson) at (202) 584-1208.

Great Joy Christmas Festival 2011



Music Ministry, Liturgical Dance Ministry and the Drama Ministry

By Joyce Putman

Photography by
Jason Miccolo Johnson

Continued from cover -

Tell it on the Mountain, we transformed T.C. Williams' auditorium into a fine arts feast with orchestral music played by over 40 musicians, dynamic singing by two choirs, inspirational liturgical dance and outstanding drama. All of



this (as if this wouldn't have been enough) enhanced by hand bells and the sounds of our children's voices.

The songs were phenomenal, including the African-Caribbean infused *Away in a Manager*; the spiritual-influenced *Have You Heard About the Baby?*; *Infant Lowly*, *Infant Holy*, with its classical gospel sound; and an upbeat arrangement of "Some Children See Him." This was definitely one of our most unique festivals.

I decided to sit down with Sister Joyce Garrett, Director of ASBC's Music Ministry, a couple of weeks before the production, to get some insight on how this wonderful gift to our community came about:

Sister Garrett, how did the idea for this year's festival come about?

I first heard about "Great Joy" from my cousin, Shelton Becton, a New York composer whose a cappella song, "Have You Heard About the Baby," is on the original recording. He stated that members of a phenomenal



singing aggregation, the Broadway Inspirational Voices, current or former Broadway cast members, came together to record these contemporary Christmas arrangements. The songs were composed in 2003 by an amazing trio of composers/arrangers: Joseph Joubert, Michael McElroy, and Buryl Red. The recording became the talk of the town.

What were the challenges that you identified at the beginning of the planning stages of this project?

As music ministry staff members began planning for this year's Christmas Festival in January, we were motivated to take our presentation to a higher level to reflect the needs of our growing congregation. We debated whether to present a more traditional Classical work, "The Messiah," or something more contemporary. We decided upon "Great Joy," because this year's Artistic Director, Theodore "T" Thorpe, III, also a New Yorker, loved the music. Since this year's project would involve the whole church and numerous ministries, Alma Sanford accepted the leadership role to become the Production Coordinator and liaison between the music ministry and all other participating entities, from parking attendants to greeters, from audio specialists to ushers, from kitchen staff to media team and many others. This will be a production like no other in Alfred Street's history.

This is a very ambitious project. Have you had any days when you thought this was more than you had anticipated? How have you maintained momentum to pull it all together?

In order to learn and memorize 15 selections, T knew that a choir would have to be selected and rehearsals begun during the summer. This early date was unprecedented at ASBC, however, when the call for singers went out, almost 50 disciples accepted the challenge, and rehearsals began the first Friday in August, and have continued each Friday since that date. A second choir of music ministry members, the "Celebration Choir," began rehearsals in November. The drama ministry and the Liturgical Dance ministries began rehearsing at the end of summer. One of the composers, Joseph Joubert, a renowned pianist with much Broadway experience, will be performing with the orchestra as pianist for the production. "T", the Assistant Director of Royal Priesthood, has earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Choral Conducting from Morgan State University. He is the perfect person to serve as Artistic Director because he has extensive experience directing choirs as well as orchestras. "Great Joy" will feature two choirs, Liturgical dance and drama, and be accompanied by a 40-piece orchestra plus rhythm section. The Hand Bell Choir and the Kings Kids and Jr. Gospel Inspirers will play as guests enter the T.C. William High School auditorium and lobby.

The beauty and genius of the musical arrangements has made the extensive rehearsal schedule a labor of love. Since T was totally committed to this project, his energy and musical skill has been the glue to keep the project moving forward. There was no turning back!

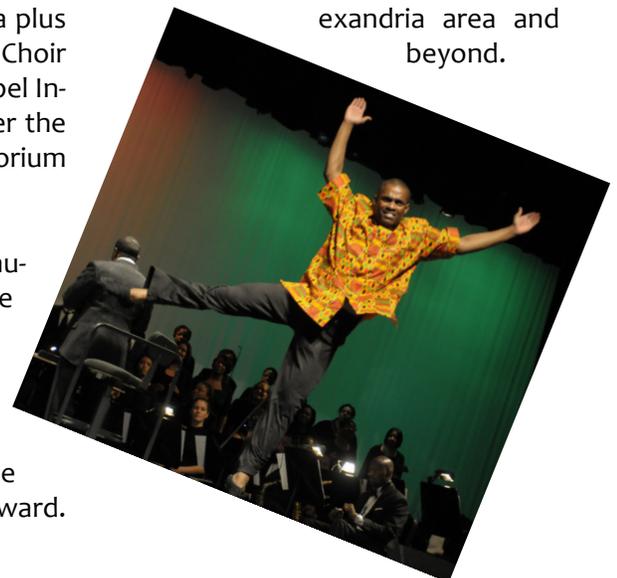
What is the most satisfying part of this process?

The most satisfying part of the process has been watching all of the elements of artistic production – music, drama, and dance – come together as the rehearsals have continued. It has also been gratifying to see the cooperation of other teams of media, lighting, audio personnel, and church staff. All meetings have begun with prayer, and this spirit of Agape love has allowed for suggestions to be received and discussed in a Christ-like manner.

It sounds like this was a blessing to all who participated. Where do you see the festival going next year?

The presentation of "Great Joy" will tell the story of Christ's birth using modern choral and orchestral arrangements, accompanied by drama and Liturgical dancing. Because of the large investment of time and resources in "Great Joy," we plan to repeat the production next year. We expect that this production to become one of the most anticipated

Christmas events in the Alexandria area and beyond.





And **IT CAME TO PASS** in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Photography by: Jason Miccolo Johnson

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth
peace, goodwill
toward men!”



Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.



Psalm 90:2



Hand in Hand, We Give and We Get

by Amanda L. Stafford



Brother's Keeper (BK) community outreach began in 2003 and originated from ASBC's bicentennial celebration. It was so well received that it became an annual event. August 13, 2011, marked the ninth year of church-wide outreach to our community. Our theme this year, "Hand in Hand, We Give and We Get," was based on 1 Timothy 6:18, "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share..." We were blessed with a team of volunteers who were ready to do good; a steering and core group who were rich in good works; a church body ready to give of their time, talents, and treasures and underserved families ready to share.

The awesome steering committee looked to expand our vision and think outside the box. We asked the questions: "What will prepare our underserved families for the challenges to move them in the direction of a new age" and "What could we

do to make a difference." We wanted the impact of Brother's Keeper to extend beyond one day.

Our church family is abundantly rich in good works, for not only did they volunteer, but they also sponsored families with monetary donations. Additionally, for the first time, seven state of the art Laptops were donated, for the upcoming school year, to graduating and rising seniors in the community.

In keeping with the church's mission, our youth and steering group distributed over 700 flyers in the 22314 zip code to low income and affordable housing tenants to announce our first walk in registration for our local community. Our underserved families were referred by social service agencies, area schools, shelters and ASBC members. We were able to assist 1200 children many residing in Old Town West.

Due to the overwhelming interest

this year and to adequately service all of the children, we again implemented onsite and offsite registrations. For our onsite families we incorporated 2 staggered sessions to manage crowd control. Offsite families' items were picked up by agency coordinators or delivered by BK volunteers.

This year, BK put forth a new effort "Fill the Barrel," where our underserved families were asked to bring personalized items to give to African children who are less fortunate than they. They brought pictures of hope, cards of inspiration, drawings and monetary gifts to share with others, even as we were sharing with them. These gifts will be delivered to Sierra Leone by our ASBC Missionary, Jennifer Roscoe in January 2012.

A major highlight was the participation of our youth and young adults as volunteers. The morning worship workshop praise team was led by our amazing Kings Kids. The Youth Ministry presented a skit on the day to day challenges and struggles they face. It was a riveting depiction of the pulls of good and evil. Our Liturgical Dance team presented an exuberant rendition of "Smile" by Kurt Franklin, leaving everyone with happiness on their faces.

Our featured speaker, Elijah McDavid, a student at Morehouse College, captured the congregation with his speech titled: "Oh, The Places You'll Go." He challenged young and old to rise above the challenges in life and dream because great things are in store for them. He ended his presentation with his personal guarantee: "Out of your struggles, God is

going to mold you and prepare you for greatness. Your suffering is going to give you a perseverance that will help you fight all of the battles ahead. That perseverance is going to produce character that will help you stand above the temptations of the world. And that character is going to give birth to a hope that will make you believe that anything is possible with God on your side. And I can only imagine the places that you will go.” Mr. McDavid truly planted a seed that will impact the young for generations to come.

In addition to families attending workshops together, children and parents received blood pressure screenings.

Sunday school classrooms were filled with book bags, loaded with school supplies as even coats for over 550 children. The book bags contained supplies to start each child on their way, allowing them to start school on the same playing field as their peers. Inside every book bag was a grade level scholastic book to ensure that each child would have one school required book in their personal library.

Alfred Street’s annual Brother’s Keeper event is more than coats, and book bags. It is opening the world of possibilities to a child, a family, a group, a generation. It begins from the first hello to the last hearty embrace as they depart. Everyone who participated played a vital role in this outreach. We served as role models to a generation of children who are looking for something or someone to hold on to. Many of the organizations, parents and children said “Thanks,” with cards, calls and emails to all who shared in this outreach effort. Mark your calendars for July 28th, 2012 for next year’s Brother’s Keeper Annual Day. We expect even greater things.



Eighty-one children were examined by the Alexandria Lyons Club Sight and Hearing Mobile. The Healthy Eating Workshop, led by Teleshia Delmar, provided nutritional tips on how to eat and live right on a budget. An educational workshop was led by Barbara Driggins and Amed Evans. They presented information on how to navigate through the school system. Our final workshop was called “Blessings.”



The Sanctified Symphony

by Geri Coleman Tucker

From the sanctuary to the lawn of the White House, Alfred Street's Sanctified Symphony is making its presence known. In less than a year, the new ensemble has become a staple of the worship experience for the church's nearly 5,000 members.

Alfred Street and its choirs, of course, have performed occasionally with orchestras throughout its recent history – usually for special occasions such as anniversary concerts and the church's historic Bicentennial Concert at Hylton Memorial Chapel in 2003. The late Jacqueline Henry-Green, a longtime member of Alfred Street and legendary director of the Senior Choir, envisioned an expansion of the church's music ministry that led to the formation of the Jacqueline Henry-Green Orchestra in Spring 2003. That group has evolved into an important training ground for young musicians of the church, thanks to its director, Keith Perkins. But the vision for the music ministry, under the direction of Minister of Music Joyce Garrett, was even greater. And it coincided with a desire by Handbell Choir member Jamal Lee to deepen his involvement in music at Alfred Street. Bro. Lee, a University of Maryland graduate and music education major, had traveled the U.S. and abroad playing the euphonium and conducting bands, orchestras and other ensembles. The Lord had a plan for his talents at Alfred Street. "After last year's performance of the Hallelujah Chorus, it just came to me what I needed to do. Things just clicked," Bro. Lee said.



The combination of Dr. Garrett's vision and Bro. Lee's enthusiasm was kismet. A series of conversation between them left both with the



conviction that there were enough talented musicians within the Alfred Street family, who had at one time played a musical instrument, to form an adult orchestra. It would not be a group of professionals, they knew, but willing members who, with time and the right leadership, could be molded into a harmonious symphony of sound. That conviction became reality last February with the formation of the church's first adult orchestra, directed by Bro. Lee. Some members hadn't played their instruments for more than 30 years. Others had instruments so old and in disrepair that violins had to be re-

strung, trumpets repaired and clarinets recorked. But with six weeks until their first rendering of music for Easter Sunday Services 2011, spirits were willing. Among the glorious pieces on which the orchestra accompanied the Music Ministry Mass Choir were To God Be The Glory and an Rachmaninoff-inspired arrangement of Richard Smallwood's The Resurrection. A few weeks later, the orchestra – simply known then as the Alfred Street Adult Orchestra -- adopted the name Sanctified Symphony Orchestra. Since then, the ensemble has played for a number of worship services, including Rev. Howard-John Wesley's pastoral anniversary in September and the church's 208th anniversary in November.

The amateur orchestra, comprised of members and common-law members of Alfred Street, is now 29 musicians strong and eager to recruit more people who at one time played instruments in their school bands or orchestra and want to recapture the joy of playing with a dedicated group of non-professionals who love the Lord and love music. Of particular need are woodwind and brass players. "It had been years since I played, and the violin I hadn't used since grade school needed hundreds of dollars of work," said Sis. Angela Richards, who eventually replaced her instrument. Saxophonist Jason Clark says, "I've always wanted to play my saxophone in church, so the orchestra provided me a real opportunity to do so. That, and the chance to get back to using this tal-

Continues to next page



ASBC Holds Fall Historical Tours

In October 2011, ASBC held Fall Historical Tours for the first time. The tours paralleled the summer tours held earlier in July covered over 25 sites within Old Town associated with ASBC.

The fall tours were held as a result of increased interest expressed during the summer tours. The tours were filled to capacity shortly after being advertised. Because of the increased interest, the fall tours are now being integrated into the church calendar as an annual event. The church began historical tours during the Bicentennial in 2003, and has held them each summer in July.

The tours began in the 'Old Church' and proceeded with a four-block walk to the corner of Washington and Prince Street where ASBC worshiped before moving to the Alfred Street site. There, participants boarded an air conditioned motor coach for the rest of tour. The tour stops at Bat-

tery Rodgers near the foot of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge where ASBC baptized before purchasing an indoor pool in the 1930s; the church's parsonage, built in 1916 with funds paid by the U.S. government for use of the Old Church during the Civil War; and at Bethel Cemetery, where many early church members are buried, including three former pastors and members of the Quander family first brought to America as slaves around 1684. Also included on the tour are several African-American sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the church itself and the homes of two former deacons.

If you are interested in assisting with the tours, please contact Deacon Alton Wallace at patal-wallace@aol.com. All Aboard!!



Continued: The Sanctified Symphony

ent God gave me on a more regular basis." Erica Lopez still plays the same horn her home church in East St. Louis gave her while in high school. "God has given me the gift of music," she says. "It means the world to me to be able to share that The Sanctified Symphony



while musically ministering to others alongside my brothers and sisters in the Sanctified Symphony.

Bro. Lee, marketing and sales director for Berkshire Property Advisors, continues to guide the orchestra to ever higher levels while juggling a full-time load in gradu-

ate school and remaining active with the Handbell Choir.

The string section, anchored by Jeneane Jones, was invited to play on the lawn of the White House this December. Plans for 2012 include an expanded role for the orchestra during regular worship ser-

VICES and smaller chamber groups for special programs. "Eventually we hope that the orchestra will play for most worship services," Sis. Garrett says. "I can't imagine how dynamic this ensemble can be if more members who know they can play will join us." Rehearsals are Saturdays mornings. For additional information, contact Bro. Jamal Lee at jamal2523@gmail.com

Awana - Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

By Tracie Jackson

Tuesday nights are on fire at Alfred Street! Not only because of the dynamic Bible study teaching led by our own Pastor Wesley, but also because of our children who are a part of the Awana ministry! Since its inception three years ago, Tuesday evenings have not been the same.

The halls are riddled with giggling children moving from room to room, from their small groups where they recite memorized bible verses to the large group (featuring music and a Bible message), to game time. An array of activities keeps the children invigorated. Perhaps you've heard one or more of the many announcements made on Sunday mornings encouraging parents to involve their children in the ministry? Or maybe you've read the announcement on a "week at a glance" in the weekend bulletin? Yet somehow you missed what Awana is all about.

If you have wondered at all, wonder no more. Alfred

Street is one of 12,000 U.S. churches participating in this ministry. Awana is an international ministry serving children ages 2 to high school with the primary focus on developing spiritually strong children and youth to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. In addition to the regular schedule of activities each week, there are also special theme-focused nights throughout the year. For example, we recently held "Can of Coins" night where the purpose was to educate our children on the importance of mission work. The children brought in decorated cans filled with coins they collected throughout the prior month and left them as donations for various charities. The kids love theme nights because they also have an opportunity to earn prizes and Awana dollars that can be used at the Awana store to buy great gifts.

So if you didn't know, now you know! Awana is for the kids, it's fun, it's educational, and above all, it's Christ centered.

UPCOMING SPRING REVIVAL

March Madness

Our Spring Revival promises to have us waiting in Christian anticipation with dynamic preachers from across the country.



Rev. Otis Moss, Jr.
Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL



Rev. Dr. John Adolph
Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Beaumont, TX



Rev. Dr. Charles Goodman, Jr.
Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Augusta, GA



Rev. Dr. Jasmin Sculark
Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, York, PA

Behind The Music – The Handbell Choir

By Donna Scott

Unlike any other holiday season, this season is one of the most joyous of the year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As the holiday season takes hold, warm thoughts of peace on earth and good will towards men fills our mind and spirit. But more so than any other holiday season, the hallmark of this period is music.

The variety of music offered at ASBC provides something for everyone. Yet at this time of year, it is not surprising that the beauty and soft melodic sounds of the Hand Bell choir takes center stage. The Hand Bell choir has always been associated with Christmas music, but unbe-

riety Smith, has been a member since its inception. Along with the Hand Bell Choir, the Hand Bell Ensemble plays for special events throughout the year at ASBC and at churches, nursing homes, and other events in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The Choir performed at the “Great Joy” Christmas Festival and recently performed at a special Advent season service at Bethlehem Baptist Church. According to Harriet, “we are a ministry and we ring to the glory of God. We want to make it meaningful so that when we finish, there is an aura around the room that ministers to the congregation.”

Harriet’s passion for the choir is

not surprising since she has been a strong presence in the ASBC Music ministry since 1972 when she joined the church. Equipped with a B.S. in Music Education from Norfolk State University, she brings a wealth of talent and enthusiasm to the Music Ministry. Since joining ASBC, Harriet has been actively involved in just about every aspect of music from director to accompanist to performer. During her nearly 40 years at ASBC, she has been associated with the Young and Adult Choir (now known as the Psalms of Praise) as an accompanist and then Director; the Children’s Choir (now the King’s Kids) for 11 years; and Director of the Male Chorus for 10 years. She was recently recognized as one of ASBC’s “Unsung Heroes” for her over 39 years of dedicated service.

The Hand Bell Choir has collaborated with many of the other choirs at ASBC and would like to work with more! They have conducted clinics with the English Hand Bell Association and local conductors. And of course, new members are ALWAYS welcome. Anyone interested in joining the Hand Bell Choir is welcome to come out on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 for rehearsal. And the

best part is you don’t have to read music... it’s a lot easier than it may seem and the choir will teach you how to play. Anyone with a desire to play is welcome. Come out and let’s explore your gift!



knownst to many, it so much more. The Hand Bell choir is a year-round choir, just like the other talented vocal and instrumental musicians that perform regularly at ASBC.

The Hand Bell Choir was established at ASBC in 1981 and its Director, Har-



Health and Wellness

To Give ...(Blood) Or Not To Give ...(Blood) THAT is the Question!

by Gaynell Pearson and S. Miller Satterwhite

The Health & Wellness Ministry (H&W Ministry) has coordinated annual blood drives at Alfred Street Baptist Church for more than 20 years.

“For many years, we collaborated with the Red Cross Blood Donor Services and then we changed to INOVA Blood Donor services,” recalls Director Darhyl Jasper, RN and President Gaynelle Pearson, RN. “Globally, we coordinate blood drives so that others might live and believe that ‘we are indeed our brothers’ keeper.’ There are many biblical reasons of course, but we also coordinate blood drives so that we can contribute to the health and welfare of our community.”

We always hear “it is more blessed to give, than to receive,” which is so true when you give the life saving ‘gift’ of blood. But there are other benefits derived from giving blood as well!

DID YOU KNOW:

- ONE unit of donated blood can benefit three people?
- With each donation you are really getting a mini-physical. Your blood pressure, temperature, and iron levels are checked by professional, courteous, licensed, and registered medical personnel, thus reducing your risk of cardiovascular (heart) disease – the #1 killer of Americans.
- Regular blood donations reduce iron levels in the blood stream which can have a protective effect on the heart.
- Acts of altruism (kindness) make you feel good! The feel good “feeling” can reduce your stress levels!
- Your body will replace the blood you donated within one week of giving blood.
- Each blood donation takes about one hour! One hour of donating blood can add years to the life of others!!

SAVE THE DATE for the next upcoming church and community blood drive Saturday, March 17, 2012 (8 am to 2 pm.) Look for other ASBC H&W Ministry events -- such as FREE blood pressure readings by ASBC medical personnel after our 11 am worship service every third Sunday of the month, and the Community Health Fair - September 29, 2012.

The Women’s Ministry

Girls Inspiring Relationships, Leadership & Success (G.I.R.L.S.) Mentoring Program

The Women’s Ministry has partnered with T.C Williams High School to develop a girls mentoring program. Its mission is to empower, increase self esteem, nurture career/college awareness and facilitate positive peer relations among female students. Women from the Women’s Ministry volunteer their time to mentor young ladies on a weekly basis. The mentors and mentees meet and participate in thoughtful and engaging discussion on various topics that have included: The Secret of Self Worth, “I Cherish My Body”, and “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste.” Future topics include, “I have a Bright Future GPS – Goal/Plan/Succeed, and Money Management.

The Women's Ministry Salutes 'Unsung Heroes'



have worked behind the scenes for many years without fanfare.

At the morning services, the ASBC Women's Ministry Unsung Heroes awardees were Mrs. Harriett Westbrook Smith, Ms. LaShaunda Ford, Ms. Keisha DeSandies and Barbara McDowell. Harriett was recognized for her outstanding service with the Music Department, in particular for her many years of service as Director of the Male Chorus, as church organist and now as Director of the Bell Choir. LaShaundra was recognized for her efforts with the Singles Ministry and other ministries and activities. Keisha was recognized for her work with the Missions Ministry and the Women's Ministry, especially as the Small Group Bible Study Coordinator. Barbara McDowell was recognized for her involvement in many activities such as the Pastor's Aide, Missions, Decorating Committee and the Psalm of Praise Choir (formerly Young & Adult Choir of which she is a charter member). The entire church salutes our Unsung Heroes!!

Women's Day in mid-October is always a special affair at ASBC. It is the culmination of a weekend of activities designed to celebrate the women of ASBC. For the past 4 years, in addition to the retreat, the wonderful music and the warm fellowship, the Women's Ministry has saluted some of their 'unsung heroes'. The practice was started in 2007 to highlight the work of women who

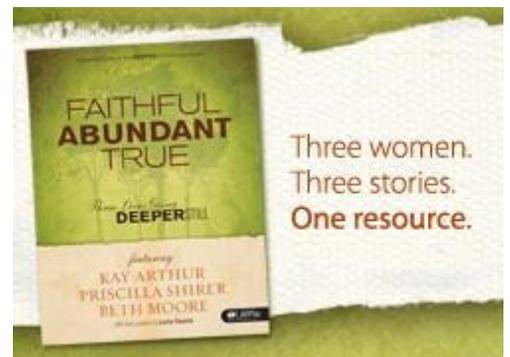
The Women's Ministry WOW Small Groups Bible Study

Are you a WOW (Woman of the Word)? Are you seeking after God with all our being? Are you reading, studying and meditating on God's Holy Word every day? As Christians we continuously strive to live a life that is in the complete Will of God and an influential witness for Christ.



WOW Small Groups meet weekly on various days at different times during the week in homes or at the church. These groups consist of 10-15 women and focus on growing through studying the Bible, discussion, prayer and fellowship. The seven-week Spring Session starts March 3 and online registration will start January 23. We will study Jonah by Priscilla Shirer and Faithful Abundant True by Priscilla Shirer, Beth Moore, Kay Arthur.

So, check the church website to sign up to one of the WOW Small Groups so you can build your personal relationship with Christ and learn how to serve as an effective disciple with family and friends, in the Church, as well as in the community. This year, our prayer is that each woman will take her spiritual walk to the WOW level. If you would like more information, contact the WOW team at wowsmallgroups@gmail.com.





Senior Youth Take Over The Big Apple

by: Danielle Lowe

Honestly, when I found out that the Senior Youth was going to take a trip to the glamorous Big Apple in the beginning of December, I wasn't as enthusiastic as the rest the group was. I had visited New York City many times before, for school field trips and seeing some of my family, and the idea of going again for the umpteenth time didn't necessarily make me want to jump for joy. But I signed up to go on the trip anyway, since I had enjoyed every trip to the city and all have been memorable. I mean, who's going to turn down a chance to go shopping in New York?

To my surprise, the trip with the Senior Youth was one of the best visits I have had to New York. The experience was far from dull and provided with memories that I will cherish for

the rest of my life. Our first destination when we arrived to the big city was at Carmine's for a nice Italian five course dinner. The food was delicious and satisfying and although it felt like forever between the servings of courses, the time spent with my fellow Alfred Street peers was pleasurable. I had the wonderful opportunity to interact with new people and make new friends. The atmosphere around the dinner table was filled with love as we sat together like a family. Following the dinner, we were able to fit in some



shopping and site seeing in Times Square. We marveled at the flashing lights of the area and visited some of our favorite stores. After we had the delightful privilege to see the Spiderman show at the Foxwoods Theatre, which was a show that astonished me beyond my imagination. The plot of the play was in-



triguing and the action of the show had me at the edge of my seat, especially when Spiderman flew into the audience. Once the show ended, we headed to the Hilton hotel for some sweet slumber.

The next day was just as exciting. After a yummy continental breakfast at the hotel, we headed back to the city for some ice skating in Central Park, where both the youth and the chaperones enjoyed the activity with

both laughs and smiles. We then proceeded to Nike Town and Forever 21 to complete our shopping experience before we headed to our final destination of the trip, the SONY Wonderland Exhibit. There our curiosities were aroused at the various workstations that demonstrated the many components of SONY's technology, which, in my opinion, was the best part of the trip.

in it. I would have regretted not coming and missing out on all the fun and all the friends and memories that I wouldn't have made if I didn't. What was different about this trip to New York than the other ones is that I had the opportunity to bond with my fellow Alfred Street family.

Reflecting back on the trip, I'm glad I chose to participate



ASBC Sports Ministry

The ASBC Sports Ministry held the 15th Annual Eric M. Willis Memorial Golf Tournament on September 16, 2011 at Andrews Air Force Base. This year's event was a huge success, as over 70 golfers enjoyed great weather, competitive golf and fellowship with a delicious, hot-buffet lunch! With support from numerous sponsors, participants and volunteers from the ASBC church family, the Sports Ministry raised approximately \$7,500 for the Eric M. Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships and laptops to two college-bound students.

Eric M. Willis was a devoted member of the ASBC church family and founded the ASBC Sports Ministry in 1982, serving as its first Director until his premature death in 1990. The annual golf tournament was established in 1996 as a tribute to Eric, as well as a reflection of one of his lifelong goals: to reach out and help those in need through Christian athletic fellowship.

The Eric M. Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund administers two scholarship programs: The Preschool Scholarship program provides tuition assistance for low income chil-

dren to attend the Alexandria-based Hopkins House, and the College Scholarship program which provides support for physically challenged high school students to pursue higher education.

The Sports Ministry already has begun planning for the 16th Annual Eric M. Willis Golf Tournament. Consistent with the past several years, next year's tournament will be held at Andrews Air Force Base in mid-September 2012.

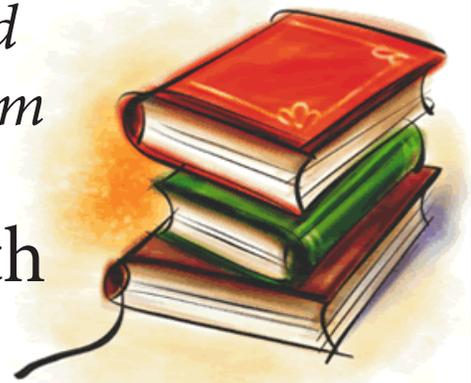
In addition to coordinating next year's tournament, the Sports Ministry is also planning for next year's 3rd Annual Christian Walk in the spring, 3rd Annual Bike Ride in the summer and on-going sport activities, including softball, bowling, basketball (new) and yoga (coming soon)! If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Deacon Charles Monterio, by phone or email at, 703.974.6650 or cjmonterio@gmail.com; or Michael Sanders, 703.470.8630, michael.sanders@intra-mail.com.

ASBC 2012 READ-IN
SHOWCASE OF BLACK AUTHORS
Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 p.m.

*Join the JOP Library and
the Children's Church team*

*Ages 3 to 110
are welcome!*

AS WE CELEBRATE
Black History Month
by honoring
black authors and their works.



Contact Dr. Curtis Howard (choward@alfredstreet.org)
or stop by the JOP Library for additional information.

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR USHERS FOR

Ushers Day



February 19 at 4:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room

Ushers from across the state and the district
come to salute the Usher Ministry.

*There will be a guest speaker and a catered reception
for all guests following the program.*

Sharing The Good News JDC Style

Minister Sylvia Dayton-Jones, PhD

Every 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, volunteers from the Alfred Street Baptist Church's Jail and Prison Ministry conduct a one-hour Bible study class at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) in Alexandria, Virginia. The JDC youth population is racially and ethnically diverse, male and female, and range in age from 12 to 18 years old. Typically, these youth are involved with legal matters that fall into three categories including: (1) criminal matters; (2) abuse and neglect cases; and (3) truancy or delinquency cases.

ASBC volunteers use creative Bible study lessons to help these youth understand that the Word of God is for them, at this time, and in this place. And, just for them, the ASBC volunteers have given their Bible Study lessons some different packaging...but the Word is the same as it's always been. Here are a few examples of this different packaging:

On November 6, 2011, in conjunction with the Bible study lesson on advertising and what the Bible says about advertising, the JDC youth formed a corporation responsible for preparing an advertising campaign to promote their new hat line. Each youth was given a plain white hat to create their unique design and the class was responsible for designing the campaign slogan. The youth used the Bible study lesson in their campaign slogan and designed colorful hats with Scripture messages of empowerment for other youth. Other Bible study lessons combine real world events with Biblical principles and interactive activities for the youth. For example, in conjunction with a Bible study lesson on making decisions regarding what we read in books/magazines, what we watch on television, in videos, or at the movie theater and what the Bible says about making decisions, the youth participated in the Oscar JDC style. The youth had an opportunity to review four short films/ testimonials produced by Christian youth and nominate the best short film/testimonial based on the Bible study lesson.

March madness for the JDC youth consisted of a Bible study lesson about "Lent" combined with an invitation for the youth to participate in the Lent Challenge. The

Lent Challenge provided an opportunity for the youth to read each day specific Bible verses followed by a prayer for a period of 40 days. In celebration of Easter, the youth played the board game "Easter Story Bingo" and the winners had to shout "Jesus" if they had all the correct answers. In May, the Bible study lesson focused on choosing friends and what the Bible says about choosing friends. Each youth was given \$25 dollars (monopoly money) to buy a new friend based on a list of characteristics derived from the Bible study lesson.

Each characteristic was assigned a monetary value and the youth learned how important it is to use lessons from Scripture when choosing a friend. The spring time Bible study lessons focused on how to win over struggles, such as, low self esteem, making time for God, and jealousy. The Summer months involved Bible study lessons focusing on the Christian walk, such as, handling conflict, work well—work good, real power, caring and faith. In fact, in conjunction with a Bible study lesson on caring and what the Bible says about caring, the youth created T-shirts with Scripture messages of empowerment and encouragement for homeless youth. The T-shirts were given to a community based organization in Alexandria that works with homeless families. Also, the youth sent post cards, with Scripture messages, to friends who were traveling down the road leading to delinquency.

For many years, the ASBC Jail and Prison Ministry team members have attempted to show the JDC youth God's way by comparing what the World says and what the Word says about anger, trust, the love of money, music, beauty, profanity, what to wear, religion, authority, peer pressure, and other deep issues relevant to these youth. This dynamic ministry team has attempted to help the JDC youth understand, the Bible is the living Word of God and it is supposed to be studied and gnawed on and rapped about and wrestled through. This dedicated team of volunteers has attempted to help the JDC youth understand the importance of seeking God. They remind the JDC youth that if you ask the questions, God will answer them.



Fall Revival: Revive Our Faith

Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr., Guest Fall Revivalist hails from Columbus, Ohio, and has served since 1990 as the fourteenth pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Morristown, New Jersey. During his tenure there, numerous ministries have been initiated, and many lives have been changed and committed to Christ.

Rev. Carter's influence extends beyond Calvary. A lecturer at the Hampton Ministers Conference, he served as an adjunct professor of preaching at Drew Theological School and an instructor of homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary's Summer Institute. Hundreds have attended his "How Shall They Hear" preaching conference, which is designed to impact preachers, who impact churches that impact the world. Indirectly, he has inspired others through his published works in the *New Interpreters Handbook of Preaching*, *Oxford Sermons Volume III*, *Evangelizing the Black Male in the 21st Century* and the *African American Pulpit*. Locally, he serves on various community and clergy boards.

Rev. Carter received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and completed the Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. Continuing his education, he earned a Ph.D. in liturgical studies with special emphasis on homiletics from Drew University.

Dr. Carter commenced the revival with a word from Joshua 1:1-6, The Next Move. The scripture says, that God said, as I was with Moses, I shall be with thee. God

was speaking to the Israelites, who had lost Moses and had started to wonder what their next move would be. Even in these modern times, with the loss of Steve Jobs, the inventor of Apple Computer, IPOD, IPAD and I-Phone, we wonder what and where our next technological guru will come from and what the next technological advancement will be. The Word tells us that we should not concern ourselves with what and when and where because God's Purpose is bigger than God's people- which God has already taken care of it.

After loss, trauma, transition, there is always a next move-All we have to do is wait on God. To experience God's grace requires an attitude adjustment. Christian Growth is not about adjectives- how we feel, but verbs- what we do. No matter how we feel, get up and stop saying no to yourself. For God's promise in Joshua 1: 5, No weapon formed against you will be able to prosper. God always has another move.

The last revival night we heard "A Yet Praise-Declarations of Faith" Habakkuk 3:17-19, Dr. Carter reminded us of what faith means to us as a people and as Christians. The genius of faith is not what it does in prosperity but what it does in adversity. It not about what we go thru, it's about how we respond to what we go thru. The economy is bad--as bad as its been in recent times. Christians should have a different reaction and response to the economy because we know who is in control.

To give God praise in these times- we must have a God focus. A child of God can survive in a bad economy because God is our strength. When tribulations come, people tend to doubt and question God and where God is in the midst of troubles. But Christians know that God is always in the midst and our tribulations are just a prelude to elevation. My faith was revived. How about yours?

New Member's Meet & Greet Luncheon and Ministry Open House

Our Next New Member's Meet & Greet Luncheon and Ministry Open House will take place on March 24, 2012 from 11 am to 2 pm. All new members who joined after October 2011 are invited to attend. This is a special time to visit our various ministries, meet fellow new members, interact with our wonderful office staff and spend an afternoon with Pastor Wesley. There will be ample time to tour our beautiful complex, explore the JOP Library and enjoy a wonderful luncheon. Look for updates on alfredstreet.org and in your bulletin.



September 2011

December 2011

Discipleship Group #1

Michelle Browne
Clarissa Claiborne
Kai Frazier
Ashli Johnson
Margaret Turner
Bryce Washington
Patricia Washington

Discipleship Group #2

Alexandria McBride
Kaye Guidugli
Rachael Shackelford
Sharon Wilbon

Discipleship Group #3

Samuel Bell
Richard Carter
Danielle Carter
Karen Chisolm
Sydney Potter
Brittany Rogers
Tiffany Watson
Aaron Watson
Clarence Dillahunt
Jennifer Dillahunt

Discipleship Group #4

Jeremiah Fletcher
Jeffrey Jackson
Anthony Middleton
Darlene Middleton
Irving Washington

Discipleship Group #5

LaSonya Corns-Johnson
Anyanime Ekpo
Tawana Feimster
Kassandra Haley-Fields
Rob Watkins
Tiffany Williams
T. Chanel Winston
Keisha Easley

Discipleship Group #6

Kristin Abernathy
Tracy Anderson
Vernon Davis
Crystal Paultre
Pierce Paultre
Crystal Plunkett
Carlene Reid
Shaina White

Discipleship Group #7

Talisha Clark
Anwar Dunbar
Jimmy Edwards
Ramon Grimaldi
Andrea Grimaldi
Ralph Johnson

Discipleship Group #8

Roberta Booker-Fauntroy
Valda Dial

Discipleship Group #8

Eunice Dixon
Colleen George
Nicole Gillespie
Simone Gillon-Wright
Synarus Green
Tiffany Montgomery
Brittney Montgomery
Thomas Shoulders
Harry Washington
Angela Washington
Alexus Washington
Brandon Washington
Ron Williams

Discipleship Group #9

Brittany Dawson
Mason Farlough
George Gwinn
Antony Haynes
LaTasha Houston
Katrice Jenkins
John Peck
Jonathan Peck
Erin Young

Discipleship Group #10

John Ball
Christy Ball
Courtney Cook
Albert Edgecombe
Pamela Harrison
Craig Harrison
Kimberly Springle
Tamara Torain
India Torain

Discipleship Group #11

Melissa Baptiste
Zainab Kamara
Katelyn Moore
Katherine Ntiamoah
Kendrick Summers
Marc Willis
Keshia Willis

Discipleship Group #12

Dawn Baker
Melvin Moore
Shea Oliver
Amy Pugh
Jordan Pugh
Eugene Rollins
Kathryn Rollins
Damion Smith

Discipleship Group #13

Kenneth Williams
Delvin Jones, Jr.
Hubert Pegues
Greta Williams
Kennedi Williams
Kenya Williams

Discipleship Group #14

Allyn Brooks-LaSure
Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Angela Drummond
Johnnie Frazier
Keyonte Hicks
Jenny Jackson
Cassandra Kemp
Pamela Lewis
Cheryl Lovinsky
Ara Thomas-Brown
Miranda Watson
Mia Watson
Shiana Williams

Discipleship Group #15

Stacy Hammond
Oluchi Okidegbe
Roslenn Richardson
Royce Shark
James VanBuren
Yulonda VanBuren
Jacqueline Winters
Michelle Wright

Discipleship Group #16

Kellye McKenzie
Sandra Garnett
Justine Maxwell
Jamila Minus
Bernard Richards
Terri Webber

Discipleship Group #17

Haywood Barney
Rachel Barney
John Brunt
Sidney Haynes
Aisha Haynes
David Stevens
D’Juan Thomas
Alfreda Walker
Samone White

Discipleship Group #18

Brookita Braxton
Teresa Carpenter
Leamora Frye
Addo Lomotey
Lakisha Pegues
James Reeves
Mary Reeves
Willie Reeves
Stefanie Watson

Discipleship Group #19

Naomi Garvin
Jamila Lewis
Olubunkola Ojeifo
Heather Horton
Lisa Jones
Anthony Simmons
Ariel Simmons
Anthony Simmons

Discipleship Group #19

Candace Wise

Discipleship Group #20

Kristy Arnold
Gregory Barrett
Cynthia Barrett
Rekel Darden
Channda Dunbar
Jonathan Green
Tara Holmes
Aresha Smith
Donna Thomas
Roger Vann

Discipleship Group #21

Devin Abrom
Kevin Breckenridge
Bruce Chatman
Marilyn Chatman
Rashema Collins
Lisa Dismond
Ashley Garvin
Brittany Jacob
Reginald Jones
Robin Jones
Kimberly McCoy

Discipleship Group #22

James Green
Anthony Adam
Gwendolyn Adams
Shelby Adams
Sydney Adams
Jamesia Green
Carla Hillery
Anthony McGlone
Maika McGlone
Patrice McLeod
Joyce Nixon
Lisa Powell

Discipleship Group #23

Trenton Allen
Andrea Birmingham
James Carroll
Shari Carroll
Shennan Goodman
Angela Jordan
Duronne Walker

Discipleship Group #24

Barbara Covington
Terrence Favors
Letra Dennis
Veronica Hall
Alicia Rodrigues
Charlitta Rodrigues

Discipleship Group #25

Ronald Atkinson
Telisha Davis
Yvonne Freeman
Kineshia Irby

Discipleship Group #25

Diane Johnson
Risa Lander
Ashley Owens
Veronica Rock
Richard Turner
Catrina Turner
Erica Stallworth
Brian Wilkins
Douglass Bryant
Kiesha Bryant

Discipleship Group #26

Audrey Gray
Quinton Gray
Natasha Inniss
Linda Rivera
Daancia Robinson

Discipleship Group #27

Reginald Abreu
Rudy Chounoune
William Grubbs
Mivicia Howard
Latoya Jones
Clifton Light
Justin Buford

Discipleship Group #28

Mardochee Chery
Tameka Collier
Darrell Fletcher
Nadine Lyons
Natalie Lyons
Walter Lyons
Walter Lyons, Jr.
Devanie Johnson

Discipleship Group #29

Carita Parks
Phillip Boyd
Tyler Spaulding
Thomas Ellis
Christina Hardaway
Janae Johnson
Evan Jones
Kendall Jones
Margienell Kirk
Brittany Thompson
Jennifer Thomas
Brandon Vinson
Keona Wiggins

Discipleship Group #30

Karen Alston
Jared Atkinson
Charren Brooks
Sheila James
Bretrand Jones
Valencia Jones
Kimberly Patrick
John Saunders

“Building Disciples To



Win the World for Christ!”