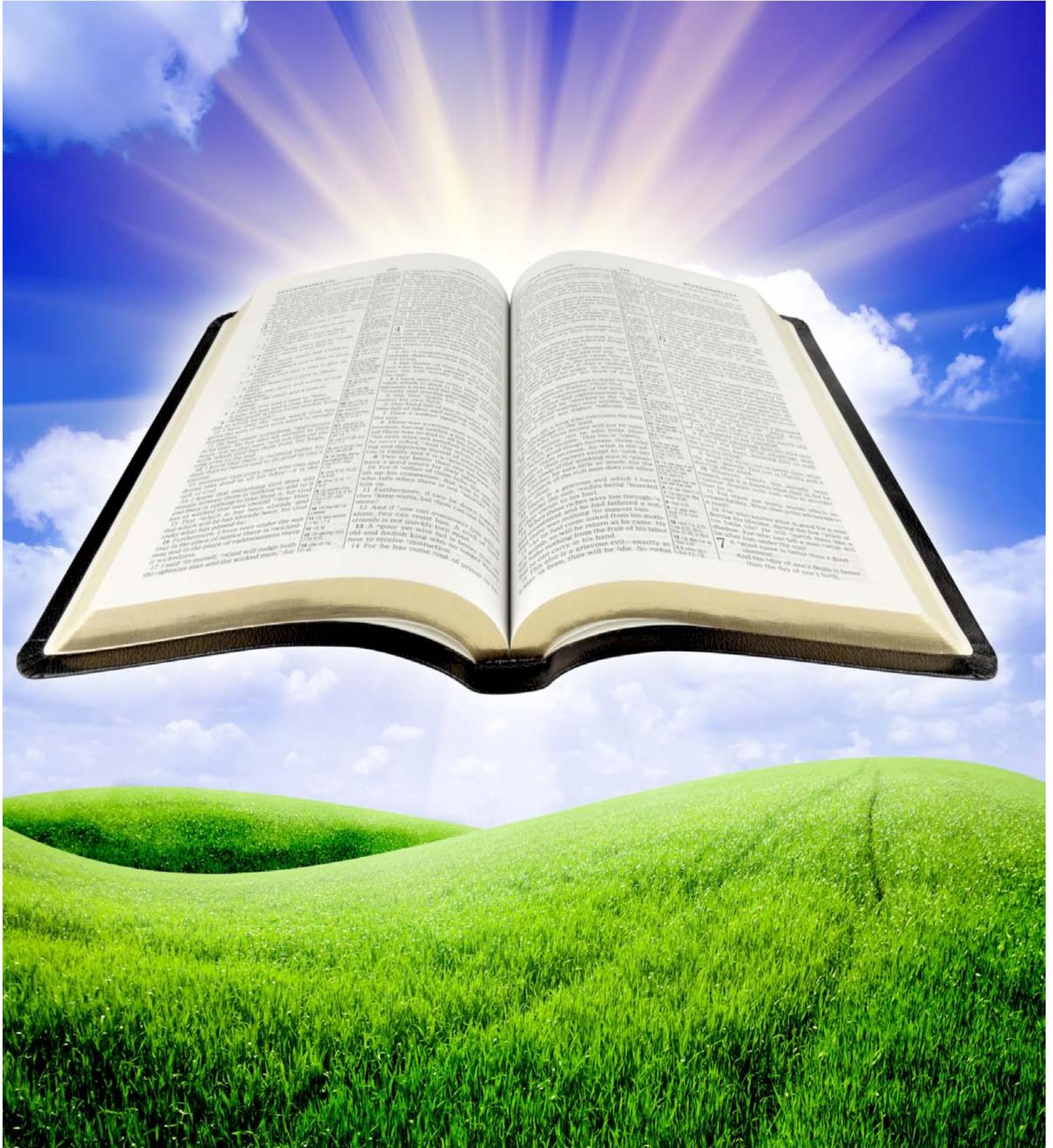


# CHRONICLES



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

**SPRING 2012**  
EDITION



*“Building Disciples To*



*Win the World for Christ!”*



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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:

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**Next edition deadline - June 30, 2012**

# ASBC CONDUCTS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HBCU FAIR

by Vance Davis

February 18, 2012 marked the 10th Anniversary of the ASBC HBCU College Festival. “It was an awesome, exciting, empowering and eventful!” according to one attendee. T.C. Williams H.S. in Alexandria, VA once again served as the venue, with the Howard University Bison Drum Line officially opening this most special occasion, and was closed by the Virginia State University Gospel Chorale.

the college festival committee gave a gift of \$1000 to the JOP Scholarship Fund.

This year, there were 2744 registered attendees present, though committee organizers agree there were closer to 3000 attendees, when the walk-ins were considered. Festival attendees represented schools from 19 states including Alabama,

anxious and excited students and parents. During the fair, 919 interviews were conducted, with 584 students receiving on-site admissions. “I Got In!” badges were given to such students who proudly wore them for the remainder of the day. Twenty-four major scholarships were awarded totaling over \$241,000, plus an additional six full tuition scholarships and multiple honors program scholarships.



The seminars once again proved to be empowering and a dynamic part of the festival activities. Mr. Jim Lewis was back to moderate the ever-popular “Black College Sports” seminar. The “STEM” seminar, moderated by Dr. Alton Wallace, was described by attendees as very inspiring. Also back by popular demand was “Your GPS to Success”, facilitated by Mrs. Juliette McNeil and “Show Me the Money”, which was moderated by Mr. Ron

This milestone year was dedicated to the memory of our beloved Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John O. Peterson. As a way to celebrate Rev. Peterson’s memory, a very moving and sentimental video of Rev. Peterson’s life focusing on his academic journey and ties to Virginia Union University was shown. Committee member DeRon Johnson was the producer of this most special video. Additionally,

Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York and Ohio. T.C. Williams High School and Mount Vernon High School were among the local schools that had more than fifty attendees at the festival.



College representatives from 57 HBCUs spent the entire day greeting

Blakely. The most popular seminar that has been offered for the past ten years was “Timely Tips for Parents”,

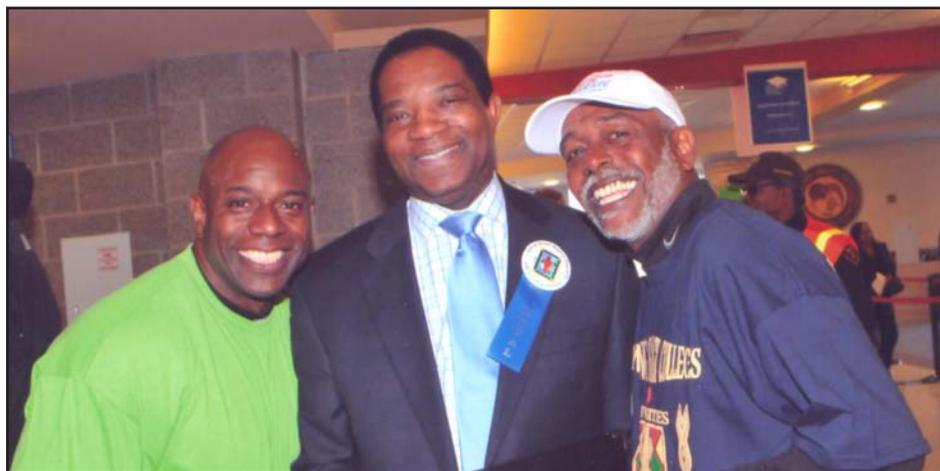


facilitated by Dr. Georgia Booker. The new featured seminar offered this year was “Mind Your Business” which was moderated by Mr. James McNeil, directed at students desiring to major in business.

For the first time, all of the Presidents of our HBCUs were invited to participate with the college festival. Representatives from six colleges attended, offering comments at the festival opening ceremony and attending a special luncheon with Pastor Wesley and representatives of the ASBC Leadership Initiative sub-committee. The focus of the luncheon was to discuss how the Black church and HBCUs could work together in efforts to increase support for HBCUs. Also in attendance was White House representative Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell (US Department of Education). The Director of the White House Internship Program (Christian B. Peele) also attended the fair, and talked to students and parents about internship opportunities at the White House.

This 10th Anniversary event yielded a couple of awards for the efforts of the ASBC college festival committee. On February 26, 2012, Ms. Vance Davis was presented with the ‘Ida B. Wells Organizing Youth for Greater Opportunities Award’ by M.O.M.I.E.’s Total Learning Center located in Washington, DC. Then on March 10, 2012, the Washington Metro Area Alumni of Alabama A&M University presented an award to committee members Ms. Vance Davis and Ms. Karen Croom on behalf of the church.

“Great!”, “This was awesome!”, “Keep on doing this!” were just some of the comments heard to sum up the 10th Anniversary HBCU College Festival. Festival organizers (Group # 13 and 19) pledge more of the same for the next 10 years.





## The NEW FACES of ASBC LEADERSHIP: The Expanded Trustee Board

by Karen Croom

As a result of the blessed, phenomenal and continued church growth in recent years, during a special call church meeting last winter, the church voted to expand the current Board of Trustees from 9 members to 15 members. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the church's legal, fiduciary, security and property matters and is the authorized agent for the church in all business transactions.

The expanded Board includes a group of church members from long-time members to those members of only a few years and, the expanse of several different generations and backgrounds-representing the diverse face of the current ASBC membership.

Elected at the December 2011 annual church meeting are these new members of the Board:

James Berry has been a member for 22 years and looks forward to using his many years of expertise in Building Management and Facility Operations to support continued growth and expansion for the church.

Charles Hawkins has been a member of ASBC for more than 20 years, serving on the Transportation Committee and Trustee Auxilliary.

Ronald Johnson is a former trustee where he served as Chairman of the Board. Under his tenure, the church completed its last building expansion in 1994.

Owner of an engineering consulting firm and a licensed

professional electrical engineer, Monte Richards has been a member since 1986.

Ed Robinson has been a member of ASBC since September 10, 2001. Prior to his joining the Board, Ed served as Church treasurer for two years. As a trustee, his goal is the increase of transparency and member understanding in Alfred Street's governance and financial decisions. Mia Ryder, a native of Augusta, Georgia, and active with AWANA and the Handbell Choir, has been a member for four years.

Lani Shaw, a six year member, brings her legal and banking skills to the Board.

Barbara Williams, a Certified Public Accountant, has been a member for over twenty years.

Lolita Youmans, a member since 2007, serves as an usher and past member of the church Personnel Committee.

Other new church financial officers are: Jeffrey Owens, Church Treasurer; Catherine Jan Jones, Financial Secretary; Teresa Johnson, Assistant Treasurer; and Delharty Manson, Assistant Financial Secretary.

Returning members of the Board include:

James McNeil, Chairman; Lisa Wilson, Vice Chairman, Shelvee Osborne, Secretary; John Brown, Jr., Facilities & Properties Chair; Walter Clarke, Finance Chair; Karen Croom, Programs and Ministries Chair.

# Christian Life Institute Offers Six Courses in Mini-Session

by Dr. Rita Womack

The Christian Life Institute offered six courses on April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2012. The spring three day session, Mini-Christian Life Institute provided an opportunity for disciples who would like to study more than one topic during the year to do so, and offers an alternative for found the regular five day Christian Life Institute held in November inconvenient to attend. At least one course is listed under each category of Christian Life Studies.

Two courses were offered under Faith Foundational Studies. With a background learned from lessons presented by Dr. Wesley in the series of sermons on What Baptist Believe, students who took the course “So Close, Yet so Far Away,” particularly were equipped to perceive and differentiate between the Baptist faith and the doctrines and beliefs of three familiar religious traditions in our community. This course, facilitated by Dr. Mark Olson, President of Leland Seminary, examined those traditions. Along the same lines, many Christians frequently are confused about practices and traditions that have no place in a Christian’s faith system. Doubts, anxieties and unrealized—and sometimes unrealistic—expectations often lead to misinterpretations that affect spiritual growth. The course, “Common Misconceptions about Christianity,” Rev. Joy Hill, Facilitator, explored some of the myths and erroneous explanations prevalent among many Christians. Ten Dumb Things Christians Believe, by Larry Osborne was the text used in this class.

In keeping with the current theme of Alfred Street Baptist Church, “Building Disciples to win the World for Christ,” one course under Evangelism and Missions was presented. “Becoming a Contagious Christian” helped participants acquire skills to effectively communicate Christian principles and practices to others. Additionally, students were challenged and, hopefully inspired to develop enthusiasm for this area of Christian responsibility. The text by the same title, Becoming a Contagious Christian by Mark Mittelberg was used, and Mr. Elijah Heyward, III facilitated.

Alfred Street’s magnificent music ministry, with offerings from anthems to spirituals, and contemporary gospel, the latest entry in the repertory, often is the motivation

for disciples and visitors to attend services at Alfred Street. Though highly complementary, the ministry wants to insure the congregation is knowledgeable and appreciative of the proper place of all music in worship and will focus on contemporary gospel in this course. Under the category of Christian Living Studies, Dr. Negleatha Johnson, facilitator for “Mary Mary Quite Contrary”, presented many of today’s artists and discuss their contributions to religious music that helped participants accept and appreciate this genre’ as a part of the sacred music program.

Reverend Samuel Nixon, Facilitator continued the study of “The Minor Prophets” under Biblical Studies. The Minor Prophets are the authors of twelve short books in the Old Testament of the bible that are grouped together historically, and considered a “collection” unified in language and purpose. This scripture is of no less importance and significance than other scripture and deserves serious study. Participants in this class will have an opportunity to understand the relationship of The Minor Prophets” to the rest of the bible.

Members who took Deacon Thomas Howell’s class were in for a real treat when “the Old Man of Alfred Street”—a role Deacon Howell often dramatized on church anniversaries—leads and directs them toward an understanding of the principles of “giving” that should be a part of every Christian’s life. An actor at heart, and as a hobby, Deacon Howell brought his own example of knowing what to do with the gifts that God has given him to the class. The title of this course is “STEWARDSHIP: The Lord Gave it to you. . . What You Gonna Do With It?”, and is under the Spiritual Growth of Disciples category of Christian Life Institute Studies.

Currently, the Christian Life Institute does not plan to repeat these courses in the November Institute. Course descriptions and further information were on line and on the monitors located throughout the building. Disciples could register for these classes on line.

# JESUS, THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FAITH

by Donna Scott

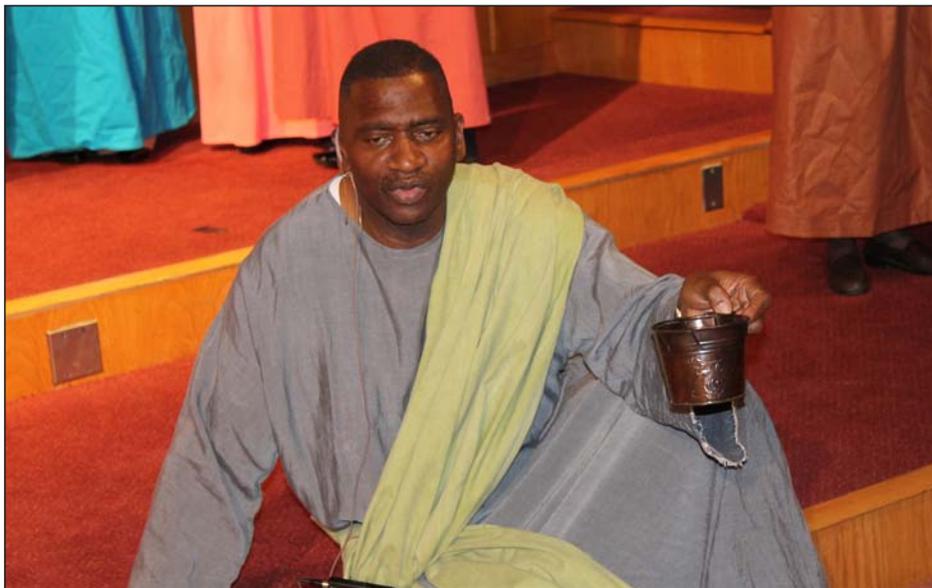


The amazing and endless talents of the dedicated ASBC family once again shone brightly as the members of the Drama, Music and Liturgical Dance ministries collaborated to present a special worship Service for all to witness. Their presentation of “Jesus, The Cornerstone of Our Faith” was created and celebrated during the Lenten season on March 31, 2012. As the ASBC family observed the Lenten season through periods of prayer, fasting and worship services, members of the Drama, Music, and Liturgical Dance ministries joined together and worked tirelessly to tell an ageless story. The production was another incredibly inspiring collaboration with over 50 participants from the various groups. They began preparing in early February for this dramatic and artistic depiction of the life and times of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of two of his disciples, Peter and John. The story begins outside the Temple at Jerusalem in the days following

Christ’s ascension and recounts some of the highlights of Christ’s ministry.

This collaborative effort is an annual Service at ASBC leading up to the celebration of Easter which marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Presenting a series of vignettes that highlighted Jesus’ ministry and how he touched and changed

the lives of those around him, the special Service show-cased the multi-talented members from the various ministries as they ministered through the arts to a packed audience. Co-Directors of the Drama ministry, Jean Davis and Louise “Cookie” Harrell worked together flawlessly as they coordinated the production from staging and lighting to music, props and scripts.



The script was written by Davis, who has been a member of the Drama ministry since 1988 and has served as Co-Director since 1998. It was an expression of her faith and a means of expressing her gratitude for what Christ has done in her life. Her hope was for the audience to recognize that the Gospel of Christ has an application in everyday life and that there is no one who is beyond the reach of Jesus. Jean believes that “no matter what you’ve done or where you’ve been, Jesus can turn your life around.” And as a testament to their divinely inspired work, it was obvious that many were spiritually moved by the emotionally charged presentation.

Another level of praise and worship was added to the Service by the Liturgical Dance Ministry. President of the Liturgical Dance ministry for the last 6 years, Melissa Montgomery, has over 13 years with the ministry and has been dancing since age 5. Director and Choreographer, Virginia Raye, has been dancing since she was 3 years old and has worked with the ministry for 12 years. Their combined talent and experience was evident as they worked with dancers of all ages to add another artistic edge to the performance. According to Raye, as a visual ministry, it is important that the dancers



have a connection to God because through dance “we are communicating to God through movement. It is deeper than just dancing. We hope to connect with the congregation and communicate praise, worship and adoration... Dance is so powerful you can touch people and draw them closer to Christ.”

And of course, no ASBC production would be complete without the accompaniment of the Music ministry. The talented singers and musicians worked seamlessly to enhance the Service, performing soulful solos and heartfelt renditions of timeless music. The Service was truly blessed and touched the hearts of many as it demonstrated how God worked through the ensemble, individually and collectively, to spread the word of his awesome grace and mercy.



by Tracie Jackson

Awana is in full gear; in fact the season is coming to a close soon. The kids involved have achieved so much since we returned back in September. The greatest glory is the number of children who have accepted Christ and been baptized. There was a particularly large number during March Madness and the month preceding, which further

solidifies the purpose of the Awana ministry. It is not only a fun time for the kids on Tuesday evenings during bible study, but it is a meaningful time for them in the Lord. There also is a competition component where our clubbers have an opportunity to compete in bible trivia and sports games against other Awana clubbers from different churches.

Our claim to fame is that our very own Sparkies won first place at the Awana games this past March, held in Waldorf. What a sensation! Closing ceremonies for the year were held in May. We will break for the summer and return in full force in the fall!

# Dollars and Sense: Sustaining Educational Opportunity through Alumni Giving

by Jameel A. Scott



On ASBC Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Sunday, which followed the 10th annual HBCU fair, the featured speaker for both the 8AM and 11AM worship services was Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr., Chancellor of NC A&T State University. Dr. Martin concluded his address by admonishing all HBCU graduates “to give back financially” to their alma maters.

As a graduate of an HBCU, I am often amazed by the responses I receive from my HBCU alumni peers when I pose the question “when was the last time you donated to your alma mater”? Rather than answering the question directly, their responses often begin with their rendition of the customary “how much I love my alma mater” speech. These conversations are replete with phrases such as: “I went to the real HU”; “You can tell a Morehouse Man, but you can’t tell him anything,”; “The proud Blue and Orange”; “FAMU... alright, alright, alright!” However, seldom do I meet an alumnus who has actually donated to their alma mater. Furthermore, those who have donated are not regular contributors and can rarely recall the date or amount of their most recent gift.

The truth is that national studies have indicated that African American alumni giving is embarrassingly low, with public HBCU alumni giving hovering around 5% and private HBCU alumni giving at 9%. Studies also indicate that HBCUs receive far less state and federal support for their institutions than predominately white colleges and universities. These statistics should motivate every

HBCU graduate to donate to their college. Additionally, as a means of embracing our communal responsibility for the education of all of our children and the preservation of our cultural institutions, we encourage those who may not be graduates of HBCUs to lend their support to this most worthy cause, as well.

A close friend of mine who attended the recent HBCU college fair indicated his surprise upon learning that the admissions requirement for one of the colleges represented was a 2.2 GPA and an 800 SAT score from high school. In response, I noted that many HBCUs have lower admissions requirements and accept students with lower grades than their white college peers. This is not because they do not promote excellence and achievement, but as an expression of their mission to provide educational opportunities for populations of students who may not otherwise receive those opportunities. Despite varying admission standards and diverse student bodies, these institutions are expected to compete on the same level as their majority counterparts even though they receive comparatively fewer resources than those more selective institutions.

HBCUs still graduate 20% of all African American college graduates in the United State while representing only 2% of our nation’s higher education institutions. This achievement is incredible and can only be sustained by our continued investment. In order for our HBCUs to survive they need YOU! So, as Dr. Martin requested, “please donate” to the HBCU of your choice.



# Here's to YOUR health!

by Lottie L. Joiner

The Health and Wellness Ministry of Alfred Street Baptist Church is committed to keeping the pulse of ASBC members with new programming that addresses the health concerns and health needs of our growing congregation. In the coming year, the ministry will work with church groups, community organizations, and health professionals to provide unique services and information to keep our ASBC family healthy.

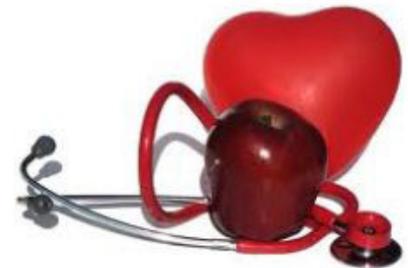
In March, the Health & Wellness Ministry held its Spring Blood Drive with the American Red Cross. Nearly 50 participants fought heavy traffic and a gloriously sunny day to donate blood. The Blood Drive was a success, yielding 31 units of blood for donation. Dawn Stafford, a nurse and director of the Health and Wellness Ministry, said the blood drive is an important part of

the ministry's outreach because the Red Cross is at an all-time low for blood donations. For those who were unable to participate in the spring event, there will be another blood drive in the fall.

The health ministry's next event was Women's Health Fair scheduled to take place at Alfred Street on May 5 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The health fair was for women of all ages. The American Heart Association, along with other health organizations, provided pertinent material to address the health needs of women. This important initiative offered education, resources and information about access to services. For example, the mini fair featured health screenings as well as booths with information on various issues ranging from breast cancer and ovarian cancer to depression and HIV/AIDS. The event

included a panel of cardiologists and nutritionists who discussed the importance of a healthy lifestyle and provide tips on how busy women can make healthy choices. The panel also included women who suffered from heart disease. They shared their personal stories of survival.

As the Health and Wellness Ministry continues to grow and be a resource for ASBC members, it would like to invite all medical doctors and registered nurses to become part of the ministry. We need your talent and expertise.



# IS THERE A PROPHET IN YOUR LIFE?

by Rev. Samuel Nixon, Jr.

It's a hazardous time that we live in! Dangerous events are unfolding every day. And no one knows where the next "shakeup", or "upheaval", or "disaster" will strike next! But everyone is potentially subject to what happens next!

Wouldn't you like for someone to give you a "heads up" when something is about to go down? It would certainly help to know somebody that could tell you what's coming next. Well there were those in "olden days" who did just that for whole tribes of people, even nations. And they were the folk that we know as the prophets! The "nabi" (in Hebrew) means "to call, to announce, to name". In the Greek, the term is "prophetes", meaning literally "one who speaks for another, especially for a deity".

Take, for example, the sixth century BC prophet, Haggai. Even though his name carried the meaning of "festive" or "festival", it wasn't too festive in his time of prophecy. He was one of the Jews in the crowd that was captured and carried away from Jerusalem by the Babylonians as part of the Babylonian captivity in earlier times. And when the Persian King Cyrus, later succeeded

by King Darius I, defeated the Babylonians and declared that the people of God could return to their homeland of Jerusalem, a remnant (small part) of the population who had been carried away returned to Jerusalem. And they had a mission -- to rebuild the Temple of God, the house of God, which had been destroyed in Jerusalem. This is where the prophet Haggai comes on the biblical scene. He was one of the prophets (along with Zechariah) who God called to declare to the remnant of the people that they were in trouble! They had begun to rebuild the Temple of God, but stopped because they didn't think it was time to finish it (Haggai 1:2), due to fear and the circumstances around them. They were seriously negligent with God's house, but were taking better care of theirs than they were God's. Something was "wrong with this picture" and around 520 BC Haggai was sent to speak a word for the Lord! As the Lord instructed Haggai to declare to the people, "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this [God's] house remains a ruin? Give careful thought to your ways . . ." (Ha 1:4-5 NIV)

It got so bad that God himself said, “In a little while, I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory.” (Ha 2:6-7 NIV) In short, the people were keenly aware that with all the challenges that were going on in their land and around them, the prophet was speaking on God’s behalf to let them know that He would be “shaking things up”! But the Lord reminded them through the prophet Haggai not to get so focused on their own situations and agendas that they put God less than first in their lives and their conditions! Sound familiar? Isn’t that similar to us sometimes when we hear one another in conversation saying things like, “I was so tired from that party, that game, that heavy schedule that I’ve been keeping, that I couldn’t make it to worship service on Saturday or Sunday. It doesn’t matter if I miss a week here or a week there. Nobody will notice with all those folks there. Besides, with this technology, I can just ‘stream the service’ and lay back in comfort! No problem!”

That’s why we may need a prophet in our lives, to remind us as Haggai did then, that you must make God’s business first and more important than any other matters in your life. Sure, we may not be able to assemble for worship sometimes due to physical health reasons or emergency circumstances. We’re not talking about that. We’re talking about what Haggai told the people, that we need to “Give careful thought to your ways . . . You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home I blew away. Why? . . . Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.” (Ha 1:7-9 NIV) In short, the people were not focused where God wanted them to be focused. Don’t we sometimes feel that way? Like we’re not quite in the “center” of where God wants us to be. But the role of the prophet was to: 1) call this to the attention of the people and their leaders, Zerubbabel and Joshua the priest, 2) encourage them to get to work on what the Lord declared for them to focus on - to build the Temple, and 3) to be obedient to His will in order to honor Him and bring forth fruit in their lives. God told them, through the prophet, to “Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored.” (Ha 1:8 NIV) When they did, the prophet delivered God’s message to the people, “I am with you.” (Ha 1:13 NIV)

In 2012 we can all strive to reach this point, where we can hear the response of God when we’re doing what He’s called us to do --- not only faithful participation in weekly worship, building God’s temple (our life in Him), but EVERY DAY in our walk with Him! Then we can hear that comforting message, from some unexpected prophet of our day and time simply reminding us, like a Haggai, that God says, “I am with you!”

## A POEM FOR A PROPHET

Prophetically speaking  
I dare not say  
It’s mine to declare  
God’s message today

Most people don’t understand  
Nor are they very clear  
That my singular role is  
To put God’s Word in your ear

Listen up you people  
Who have not taken heed  
The Lord is talking  
To His planted seed

The word of the prophet  
Must be declared  
Lest the lives of God’s people  
Fail to be spared

Don’t take me too lightly  
Nor cast me aside  
More than a many  
Have fallen in their pride

Walk with me now  
To the well of God’s speaking  
And turn an attentive ear  
To His will in us speaking!

--- samuel nixon, jr.

# The Keepers of the Doors

By Courtney McSwain

“Please open the doors of the church to allow the ushers to enter,” Joyce Davis, member of the Women’s Usher Ministry, said as she called the 2012 Annual Ushers’ Day at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va. to begin on Sunday, February 19. Guest ushers from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., opened the doors, as Alfred Street’s Women’s, Men’s, and Junior Usher Ministries two-stepped down the aisle with their signature “usher strut” to take their seats at the front of the sanctuary.

Ushers from surrounding churches and officers from the Interdenominational Church Ushers of Virginia, Inc., attended the Annual Ushers’ Day to “recognize the services of the ushers and pay particular homage to a male and female usher that have gone above and beyond the call of duty,” says John Rosenthal, president of the Men’s Usher Ministry. The service also featured music by Alfred Street’s Gospel Inspirers and the CAYA Praise Team. Rev. Dr. Faye S. Gunn, who recently retired as Alfred Street’s Assistant Minister, delivered the afternoon’s sermon.

Annual Ushers’ Day is a special time to recognize servants who normally try to stay out of the limelight. Ushers help parishioners focus on worship by handling logistical tasks, like seating and collecting tithes and offerings, all while remaining unobtrusive, explains Marsha Gilmer-Tullis, president of the Women’s Usher Ministry. “We don’t want to become the issue or point of interest for people who are in the church,” says Gilmer-Tullis.

Fulfilling the role of usher takes a special combination of humility, professionalism, and dedication—characteristics exemplified by Rosetta “Rose” Fuller and John Lawrence, who were honored at Annual Ushers’ Day. “When the church went to Saturday evening services, Rose, without being asked, took it upon herself to be there every Saturday evening. She saw the need,” says Gilmer-Tullis. Similarly, Rosenthal notes that Lawrence, “will do almost anything that you ask him to do, and he does it with such a level of professionalism.” Junior ushers ages 7-16, get an early lesson in professionalism and humility as they serve during Children’s Church services and on 5th Sundays with the Women’s Usher Ministry.

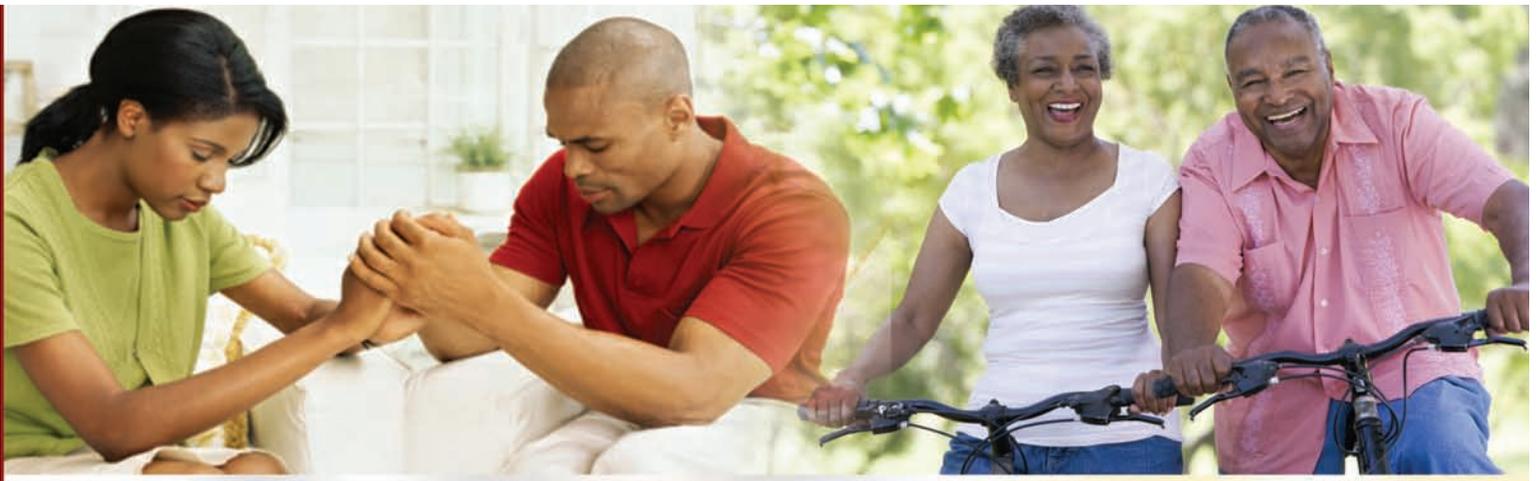
The role of usher is not without its challenges, particularly when trying to manage an ever-growing congregation like that of Alfred Street’s. Seating during the church’s 11:00 a.m. Sunday service can be particularly difficult. “We would love for everyone to come into the sanctuary,” Gilmer-Tullis says. But, with a limited seating capacity,



many are sat in overflow areas. It becomes especially difficult when parishioners decide to leave if they cannot sit in the sanctuary. You don’t want to be responsible for sending someone home and that person may need that message [on] that day,” says Rosenthal

In her message to ushers, Rev. Gunn acknowledged ushers’ challenges, but emphasized that the role is a calling. “Whenever you stand at the Lord’s doors, you minister where God has called you and placed you so that God can be glorified through your body,” Rev. Gunn said. “So be willing,” she continued, “to touch some life with the love and joy of Christ as you stand at the Lord’s doors.”

Alfred Street’s usher ministries are always actively recruiting. Those who are interested in joining the Women’s Usher Ministry can contact Marsha Gilmer-Tullis at [mgilmertullis@yahoo.com](mailto:mgilmertullis@yahoo.com). Men interested in joining the Men’s Usher Ministry can contact John Rosenthal at [jrosenthal@msn.gov](mailto:jrosenthal@msn.gov). Youth, ages 7-16, interested in joining the Junior Usher Ministry can contact Rachel Gregory at [rlgregory2@gmail.com](mailto:rlgregory2@gmail.com).



## Marriage Ministry

By Tracie Jackson

Marriage is a covenant bond between a man, a woman and God. It is a sacred union ordained first by the Lord. It can be joyful, but it can also be frustrating and difficult if we measure it against an honesty stick. Keeping God first, and remembering the covenant bond is essential. Surrounding yourself with other Christian couples is equally important, talking and fellowshiping with others who also are sojourning through the pleasures and perils of marriage can be both beneficial and fun. The married couple's class meets on Saturday afternoons at

4:30. The class began last fall and has grown tremendously. It has proven to be an awesome time of sharing, learning and spiritual connection. Both the class and the ministry are open to every married couple in the church. The marriage ministry has a variety of upcoming events, including a fall conference. So, although marriage has ups and downs, there can be far more "ups" when both people are willing to put the time and commitment in together to make it work. Look for further announcements regarding the ministry events, and come on out on Saturday afternoons to be a part of the marriage class.



# Alfred Street's 2012 Read-In honors Black Authors

By Courtney McSwain



On Sunday, February 26, 2012, the Alfred Street Baptist Church John O. Peterson Library and Children's Church Ministry joined together to host the 2012 Alfred Street Read-In. Since 2003, Alfred Street has held its annual Read-In as a way to promote the reading of books by Black authors.

Dr. Curtis Howard, chair of the annual Read-In and former director of the John O. Peterson Library, says the purpose of the event, which was sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the NCTE Black Caucus, "is to celebrate Black history by honoring Black authors and their works." "We have to make a special effort to know who the Black authors are," Howard says.

This year's Read-In began with an introductory program, after which youth and adults broke into age-appropriate sessions to hear from authors and play games. Gabrielle Moore, 13, attended the Read-In and enjoys coming back year after year. "I really like how different authors bring in their books. That's how I get ideas of other books to read," Moore says.

Gabrielle's mother Angela also attended and notes that all three of her children love to read. "I love for them to expand their ideas...reading is a door that opens the whole universe to them," Angela Moore says.



The event spotlighted the church's own published writers, like Deacon Al Hall who read from his latest compilation of poems Give Me My Forty Acres Because I know My Mule is Dead, a reflection on his experiences living in the segregated South. Hall remembers his start as a poet penning limericks as a small child, and once wrote a short jingle for a contest held by the makers of Joy dishwashing detergent when he was a boy. "Joy is gentle/Joy is fast/Joy makes suds that last and last," Hall recites his childhood limerick with a laugh.

Alfred Street member Jason Miccolo Johnson also attended the Read-In to talk about his book Soul Sanctuary: Images of African American Worship Experience, which documents the Black church worship experience. Soul Sanctuary opens with an image of Alfred Street's sanctuary as viewed from the balcony and includes several other images from the church. Johnson joined Alfred Street while writing Soul Sanctuary. "I came, at first, to work on the book. I liked it so much I stayed," Johnson says.

Other authors who presented their works at the Read-In include Charlotte Avery, Angelique Calloway, Mark A. Morris, Deborah L. Parker, Debra Ridgeway, Janice Rollins, and Monalisa Young.

Raquel Von Cogell, current director of the John O. Peterson Library, was pleased with the turnout and diversity of authors presenting at the Read-In. She hopes the event and other efforts like a new Twitter page and upcoming blog will help raise the visibility of the library, which houses prayer resources and books that can be used for ministries like Grief Share and the Men’s and Women’s ministries. Von Cogell is also available to help with in-depth research questions. “I hope the members, ministry leaders, church staff, ministers, and anyone connected with our church will see me as a resource,” she says. “As a librarian, I love connecting people with the information they need.”



The John O. Peterson Library is open throughout the year on Sundays between services and after the 11:00 a.m. service; on Mondays from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. during the months of October-June; and by appointment. To learn more about the library, you can contact Raquel Von Cogell at [rvoncogell@alfredstreet.org](mailto:rvoncogell@alfredstreet.org). You can follow the library’s blog, <http://jopllibrary.wordpress.com/>, or connect on Twitter @JOPLibrary.



Members of the Alfred Street Baptist Church Entrepreneurship Ministry were among more than 70 attendees at the Feb. 21 Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce After Hours Mixer held at the Fairlington branch of Burke and Herbert Bank.

From Left: John Rosenthal, ASBC Entrepreneurship Ministry president Joicelyn Nelson, Tshaka Cunnigham, Phyllis Cunningham, Lay leaders Al Hall and Burke and Herbert vice president Walter Clarke.



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**SPORTS MINISTRY**  
 Eric M. Willis  
 Memorial Golf Tournament

**For Men and Women Golfers!**  
 Friday, September 21, 2012



Provides Scholarships for physically challenged and low-income high school students

## Eric M Willis Memorial Golf Tournament



**Let's Roll!**

### ASBC Bowling League

Co-Ed Bowling Teams

May 26, June 23, July 28, Aug 25, Sept 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, & Dec 15



ASBC Basketball  
 Date - TBD



ASBC Softball  
 Coming Next Year



**Let's Ride!**

Bike Rentals Are Available  
 Saturday, October 6, 2012

## Let's Ride!



**YOGA HAS COME TO ALFRED STREET!!**

### ASBC Yoga

Yoga was created to keep you healthy and deepen your spiritual practice.  
 Session 2: June 23, July 14 & 21, and Aug 4/ Session 3: Oct 20 & 27, Nov 3 & 10



Baptist Cup  
 ASBC vs. Shiloh  
 Monday, October 1, 2012

# God, Can I Ask You Something?

Me (in a tizzy): God, can I ask you something?  
GOD: SURE.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?  
GOD: I PROMISE.

Me (FRUSTRATED): Why did you let so much stuff  
happen to me today?  
GOD: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Me: Well I woke up late,  
GOD: YES

Me: My car took forever to start,  
GOD: OKAY....

Me (growling): At lunch, they made my sandwich  
wrong and I had to wait  
GOD: HMMMM..

Me: On the way home, my phone went dead,  
just as I picked up a call  
GOD: ALL RIGHT

Me (loudly): And to top it all off, when I got  
home, I just wanted to soak my feet  
in my foot massager and relax, but it  
wouldn't work. Nothing went right today!  
Why did you do that?  
GOD: WELLETMESEE.... THE DEATH ANGEL  
WAS AT YOUR BED THIS MORNING AND  
I HAD TO SEND ONE OF THE OTHER  
ANGELS TO BATTLE HIM FOR YOUR  
LIFE. I LET YOU SLEEP THROUGH THAT.

Me (humbled): Oh...  
GOD: I DIDN'T LET YOUR CAR START BECAUSE  
THERE WAS A DRUNK DRIVER ON YOUR  
ROUTE THAT MIGHT HAVE HIT YOU IF  
YOU WERE ON THE ROAD

Me (ashamed): .....  
GOD: THE FIRST PERSON WHO MADE YOUR  
SANDWICH TODAY WAS SICK AND I  
DIDN'T WANT YOU TO CATCH WHAT  
THEY HAVE, I KNEW YOU COULDN'T  
AFFORD TO MISS WORK

Me (embarrassed): Oh.....  
GOD: YOUR PHONE WENT DEAD BECAUSE  
THE PERSON THAT WAS CALLING WAS  
GOING TO GIVE A FALSE WITNESS  
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID ON THAT CALL,  
I DIDN'T EVEN LET YOU TALK TO THEM  
SO YOU WOULD BE COVERED

Me (softly): I see God  
GOD: OH AND THAT FOOT MASSAGER, IT HAD  
A SHORT THAT WAS GOING TO THROW  
OUT ALL OF THE POWER IN YOUR  
HOUSE TONIGHT. I DIDN'T THINK YOU  
WANTED TO BE IN THE DARK.

Me: I'm sorry God.  
GOD: DON'T BE SORRY, JUST LEARN TO  
TRUST ME.....IN ALL THINGS, THE  
GOOD AND THE BAD

Me: I WILL trust you God  
GOD: AND DON'T DOUBT THAT MY PLAN FOR  
YOUR DAY IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN  
YOUR PLAN

Me: I won't God. And let me just tell you  
God, thank you for everything today.  
GOD: YOU'RE WELCOME CHILD. IT WAS JUST  
ANOTHER DAY BEING YOUR GOD AND I  
LOVE LOOKING AFTER MY CHILDREN

Scriptural References: II Samuel 22:31, Proverbs 3:5, Hebrews 2:13 "The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed...." (Proverbs 11:25) In all things give thanks. 1 Thes 5:18



## ASBC BAPTIZES Record Number of NEW MEMBERS

*“.. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire...” Matthew 3: 11.*

At the Maundy Thursday worship service on 5 April leading up to Easter, 36 persons were baptized into the fellowship of the Alfred Street Baptist Church. Let the church say, “Amen!!”

This record cohort consisted of persons who are new to Christ, and also many others who have been members of ASBC for several years, but felt compelled to submit to baptism by ‘full immersion’ after the recent series of sermons on ‘What Baptists Believe.’ Some members who came to ASBC from other denominations had previously experienced baptism by partial immersion such as simply a sprinkling of the head.

Full immersion baptism, understood as demanding immersion of the entire body, is required by Baptists, as enunciated in the 1689 Baptist Catechism: “Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, indicating that the whole body must be immersed, not just the head.

The persons baptized included several children who joined ASBC via the Children’s Church, held in the Lower Level. They were baptized by Rev. Marla Hawkins, minister for the Children’s Church. Others who had joined ‘Big Church’ which is held in the main sanctuary were baptized by Pastor Wesley, assisted by Rev. Ed Jackson. At the service, the newly baptized persons were given the Right-Hand-of-Fellowship, along with 72 others who had joined by Christian Experience, having already been baptized prior to joining. Thus on the night when we celebrate the Last Supper and the betrayal of our Savior, over 100 new members joined the ranks of ASBC.



**LET THE CHURCH SAY “AMEN!!”**



*Welcome*

## New ASBC Members JANUARY - MARCH 2012

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 1**

Jason Aiken  
Wendy Andrews  
Tamara Brown  
Joan Davion  
Kalin Locke  
Robert Taylor

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 2**

Maya Batts  
Alicia Biggs  
Kelly Brown  
Jordan Brown  
Chrissy Cooper  
Lorelle Langhorne  
Bruce Moody  
Chatonia Moody  
Maya Moody  
Marissa Moody  
Joanna Morrow

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 3**

Crystal Brown  
Karen Dorse  
Michael Duff  
Terrell Freeman  
Erica Kashiri  
Akilah Mikel  
Aprill Walden  
Sangina Wright

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 4**

Kwanita Brown  
Robert Brown  
Simone Chapman  
Tyi-Sanna Jones  
Tamatha Patterson  
Clifford Patterson  
Benjamin Patterson  
Betty Spencer-Chapman

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 5**

Amber Rodgers

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 6**

Lawana Edgerton  
Tameka Phillips  
Yvonne Syphax

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 7**

Duane Folmar  
Jon Iriarte  
Jacqueline Jones  
Brent McCants  
Lorraine Phelps  
Terrell Smith  
Marsha Taylor

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 8**

Renita Bivins  
William Heggs  
Farrah Holifield  
Bianca Powell  
Ron Tomlinson  
Donna Tomlinson

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 9**

Timothy Casey  
Pamela Casey  
George Dial  
Aqualyn Laury  
Breon Mitchell  
Cierra Mitchell  
Pamela Taylor

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 10**

Destine Cox  
Joi Dreams  
Deidra Lemons  
Jalin Phillips  
Kijana Richmond  
Shauna Wright

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 11**

Cayla Alexander  
Shaelia Hutchinson  
Marcia Norfleet  
Ruth Sharpe  
Shaneequa Spencer  
Kelly Woods

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 12**

Tamara Chinyani  
Hughey Newsome  
Jalonne Newsome  
Latrice Toney

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 13**

Bryan Nails  
Bria Nelson  
Javid Ricks

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 14**

Alicia Johnson  
Maua Karen  
Jared Mitchell  
Mina Mitchell  
Isaiah Mitchell  
Kishanda Oliver  
John Pullen  
Theresa Tindall

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 15**

Erika Brown  
Shelly Davis  
Michael Farrier  
Belinda Farrier  
Charles Glover  
Aisha Osborne  
Tahjir Taylor

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 16**

Stevie Brinson  
Demetri Daniels  
Stacey Jacobs  
Sommer Murphy  
Brittini Parris  
Thomas Southerland  
Janie Southerland  
Latiera Streeter  
Stacy Terrell

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 17**

Samuel Boyd  
Sabrina Boyd  
Robert Crosby

Robert Dillard  
 Sherice Dillard  
 Daniel Thompson  
 Camilla Woolard

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 18**

Rebecca Comfort  
 Damon Greene  
 Wendy Greene  
 Kevin Jenkins  
 Hope Kent  
 Anthony Kingsley  
 Yvonne Kingsley  
 Coy Lindsay

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 19**

Tanay Abrams  
 Denise Cruse  
 Pamela Dampier  
 Curvin Leatham  
 Angela Walker

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 20**

Robin Barrett  
 William Bryant  
 Shirley Bryant  
 Bradford Johnson  
 Aisha Simpson  
 Jamaal Smith  
 Rachelle Vann

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 21**

Chamorro Cox  
 Martin Hamlette  
 Darlene Johnson  
 Myron McNair  
 Alicia McNair  
 Kim Roland

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 22**

Fatimah Bangura

Muriel Croom  
 Wesley Graves  
 Christina Graves  
 Nile Marshall

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 23**

Melando Brown  
 Rosalynd Clayton  
 John-Paul Driessen  
 LaTina Driessen  
 Brittany Galloway  
 Chrissy Lawrence  
 Christopher Lenyon  
 Anna Manning  
 Evan Mynatt

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 24**

RJ Coleman  
 Ashley Johnson  
 Anthony Love  
 Julie Love  
 Brandon Oglesby  
 Sheila Oglesby  
 Christopher Randolph  
 Ja'Kyra Sweetenburg

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 25**

Shardey Mitchell  
 Patrese Roberts  
 Amanda Stephenson

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 26**

Terri Davis  
 Jelani Freeman  
 Jasper Hendricks  
 Yvette Jefferson  
 Olivia McMillan  
 Apera Nwora  
 Lorna Wisham

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 27**

Nicki Anderson

Jason Cannon  
 Junko Cannon  
 Alyse Newhouse  
 Richard Wair  
 Winston Wardlaw  
 Julian Wardlaw  
 Tycely Williams

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 28**

Robert Brown  
 Sonja Brown  
 Robert D. Brown  
 Christopher Godfrey  
 Jason Spear

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 29**

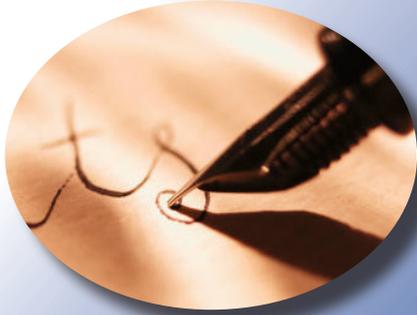
Marixa Edwards  
 Jordan Edwards  
 Jariatu Fofana  
 Shanel Howard  
 Courtney McSwain  
 Eboni Wimbush

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP 30**

Tonialyn Gavin  
 Monica Heyward  
 Anthony Jones  
 Tamika Jones  
 Tempril Moore  
 Carolyn Pearson  
 Dwayne Pierce  
 Dwayne Simmons  
 Taccara Williams

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

CHRONICLES



### HOW TO PLACE AN AD IN CHRONICLES

Chronicles is published quarterly. Submit detailed information in a Word document to the Chronicles Newsletter staff as soon as possible, but not later than June 30, 2012. Article size should not exceed 600 words. Please provide specifics (who, what, when and where), along with a viable point of contact (name, telephone number and email address). Provide your submission (Ad, Announcement, Article) via email to [Chronicles@alfredstreet.org](mailto:Chronicles@alfredstreet.org).

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY YOUR MINISTRY LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCE.

**July 7 - Historical Tour: ASBC in Old Town Alexandria, VA**

**July 15 - Father Daughter Odyssey Luncheon Cruise**

**July 21 - The Caya Cool Down - relax, relate and rooftop**

**July 23 - Praying With The Pastor**

**July 28 - Brother's Keeper Outreach Community Event**

**August 9 - 40 Days of Prayer for Fall Revival**

*“Building Disciples To*



*Win the World for Christ!”*