

"Put on the Armor of God"

high places" (Eph 6:12).

God-because He is God-has to tell us the truth. He cannot do otherwise. Therefore, God reveals to us a fact that is clearly evident as any other single fact on earth: there is an evil force that has access to the Spirit of man and can influence and enslave man to do evil. He is called Satan, who rules over the darkness and spiritual wickedness of this world. The only hope for the believer is to put on the whole armor of God.

The GTAH theme for 2012 is based on the spiritual armor of God. Our staff asked Deacon Slater S. Thorpe to provide a personal testimony on how he responds to the war raging between the powers. This is what he had to say:

"How do I respond when confronted with the principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness? I can't stop trials and temptations, but I can stay prepared for them with a close relationship with God. Maintaining a healthy prayer life is essential. It's easier to fight what you can see, than what you can't see. Satan knows that and uses the cover of darkness to trap us. But isn't it good to know that God gives us a plan to protect ourselves?

How do we counteract Satan's snares? By putting on the WHOLE armor of God and not being partially protected because Satan is sneaky. When we think we have it all together, he slips in

"For we wrestle not against flesh and from another direction. Peter was commended blood, but against principalities, against by Jesus because he recognized who Jesus was powers, against the rulers of the darkness of when he said 'Thou art the Christ' and then five this world, against spiritual wickedness in verses later, Jesus rebukes Peter saying 'Get thee behind me Satan.' That means to stay protected with the 'whole armor' of God all the time.

> What is the whole armor of God? The Lord prepares us for war against Satan by protecting our loins with truth. 'You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.' Then we put on the breastplate of righteousness. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Even our feet must be protected and God does this with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Studying to show ourselves approved helps prepare us to fight the enemy. Our Father protects our head by giving us a helmet of salvation, a shield of faith, and the sword of His Holy Spirit.

> Before I put on any armor, I pray. I pray when I get up in the morning, before I go to sleep and all throughout the day. I believe it's important to talk with God while things are going good. That way, when I am confronted by the powers of darkness, I know that God is listening and will answer in His time. I know that no weapon (seen or unseen) will prosper against me because God has a hedge of protection around me. Amen!"



Deacon Slater S. Thorpe Jr

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Pastor David Clarke, Sr.

G.T.A.H. Page 2

January Happenings			
1/2	OFFICE CLOSED—NEW YEARS HOLIDAY		
1/5	PLACE Workshop, VC	8:00am	
1/11	90 Day Health Challenge, CC	5:45pm	
1/12	2 Vision Leaders Meeting, Conference Room	6:30pm	
1/16			
1/26		7:00pm	
1/27		7:00pm	
1/28		9:00am	
1/29	Leadership Consecration	10:30am	

When you're armed with the truth, you can stand up to the devil when he tries to steal your blessing.

BELT OF TRUTH

A Joyful toon by Mike Waters



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

- EPHESIANS 6:13-14 NIV

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CHURCH SERVICE HOURS

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

NEW TIME: 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Mid-day Manna Noon

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



U.G.M.B.C. OFFICE

HOURS

Tuesday—Friday

8:00 a.m.— 4:30

Monday

Office Closed

Additional Church Hours

Tuesday — Friday

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Janice Scott





2012 PLACE Workshop Dates

January 7, 2012

February 4, 2012

March 3, 2012

April 7, 2012

May 5, 2012

June 2, 2012

August 4, 2012

September 8, 2012

October 6, 2012

November 3, 2012



Health Care Ministry



Evangelism Corner

Greetings Family,

The Evangelism Team, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is thankful to report that we exceeded our soul-winning goal of 20 souls to 23 souls. Hallelujah!

This has been a blessed year. We thank God for Brother Leroy Frazier, who was the facilitator of a different approach to soul-winning. This new approach allows the introducer to focus on the memorized scripture, while the Holy Spirit does the work.

We have begun again to alternate 3rd & 4th Sunday Nursing home visits, with visiting the sick and shut-ins that are home bound and hospitalized.

We will continue to take the Gospel to the streets every 4th Saturday of the month. We meet at 9:45am and head out at 10:00am until noon. Only redeemed sinners can tell lost sinners about Christ.

And the Lord said unto the servant, go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

-Luke 14:23.

Yours in Christ Evangelism Ministry



Pastor's Anniversary

We celebrated the 9th anniversary of Pastor David Clarke and First Lady Michelle Clarke on Sunday, December 11, 2011 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The theme was: "A Man and Woman of Excellence." The scripture: Colossians 3:23, "Work willingly at whatever you do as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." The theme represented the evidence of God's call through the accomplishments of God's vision as a result of the obedience of Pastor and First Lady Clarke. The guest speaker was Bishop Brian K. Hodges from The Gathering of Champions International Cathedral in Marietta, GA.

The program began with the prelude followed by the call to worship by Minister Cornelius Thorpe. The Celebration Music by the Music Ministry, the Welcome and Occasion by Sister Lenora Jones and the baptism of new members followed. Next, there were special words of encouragement from Brother Justin Phillips and celebration in giving. Minister Charles Frye introduced the speaker, Bishop Brian Hodges, who brought the message following a special tribute in song by Tiffany Jones – "We Shall Behold Him."

Bishop Hodges' celebration message was "What God Has for You Cannot Be Stopped!" coming from 2 Samuel 3. He told us a few things about David – he is a shepherd, he is faithful, he is a psalmist, and he is a soldier. Bishop Hodges also offered these words of advice: 1) Don't ever let anyone discourage you, 2) Don't ever take advice from a coward, 3) Whatever you do, give it your best, and 4) Whatever is entrusted in us, we ought to be faithful. Bishop Hodges reminded us that "You are somebody's replacement."

The invitation to discipleship and video announcements followed the celebration message. The service concluded with remarks from Pastor David A. Clarke Sr. and First Lady Michelle Clarke, who both expressed their love and appreciation for each other, their children, and for the members of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. A celebration dinner was held immediately following the service at the Vision Center.

The Anniversary Committee consisted of the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church Armor Bearers and Pastoral Support Ministry: Minister Charles Frye, Coordinator, Brother Justin Phillips, Assistant Coordinator, Brother Keith Lambert, Secretary, Minister Leo Finkley, Brother Dewayne Corbett, Brother Terrence Slocumb, Sister Rhonda Salone, Events Coordinator, and the First Lady Armor Bearers, Sister Linda Gray and Minister Tammy Carpenter.

"What God Has for You Cannot Be Stopped!"



Pastor & First Lady Clarke

100 Women in Red



Four Members from the Union Grove Youth Ministry participated in a 2011 Christmas Piano Recital held at the Heritage Hall on Robins Air Force Base on December 19, 2011.

All four did an outstanding job!







Lindsey Ogelsby

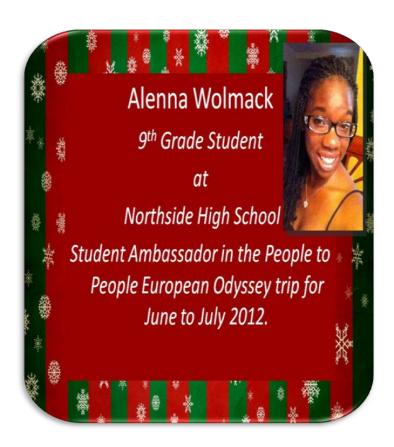


Leo Finkley Jr.

ZETA PHI BETA



Sydney Ogelsby





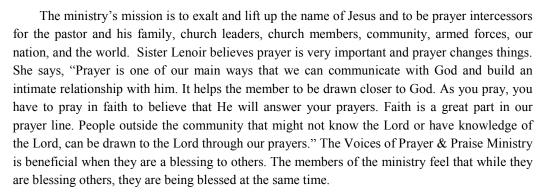
Became a member of Blue Prezumptuouz the quad of the four indestructible doves of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Thanks to the church and my two special Zeta sisters for all the support and prayers. College life at Georgia Southwestern State University is amazing and I'm enjoying my

CARISMA COLLIER

Ministry Highlight: Voices of Prayer & Praise



The Voices of Prayer & Praise Ministry has been around for 20 years. The ministry originally started due to members of Union Grove going off to war and The Voices of Prayer & Praise was their support system. The ministry would get together and pray for the soldiers and send them care packages for encouragement and as a means of letting them know that they had a backbone at home. Originally, the ministry was named Desert Shield, changed to Desert Storm, and now it evolved into Voices of Prayer & Praise.



In 2012, the ministry plans to continue living by its mission and lifting up Jesus by praying and giving God all the praise and glory. The goals for the new year are:

- (1) Pray every week for a special prayer request that is located in the church foyer in the prayer basket
- (2) Pray every week for the sick and shut in name by name
- (3) Visit or call the sick and shut in on a regular basis
- (4) Pray for the pastor and his family, church leaders, church members, community, armed forces, our nation, and the world
- (5) Pray and study God's word daily, individually, and every time the ministry meets.

The Voices of Prayer & Praise Ministry meets and has bible study at the church every Thursday at 12 noon in the Children's Church area. The ministry is always looking to grow. If you feel that you are called to praise God and pray for others, this is the ministry for you.



Sister Mary Lenoir

"Prayer is one of our main ways that we can communicate with God and build an intimate relationship with him. It helps the member draw closer to God."

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men." - 1 Timothy 2:1

Youth Gala

The Youth Gala had a tremendous turnout! Held on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the Vision Center, the Youth Department along with Minister Ragin, did an upright job in coordinating the event for the youth. The theme for 2011 was "A Blast from the Past."

The youth and team leaders arrived at the Vision Center ready to get their groove on dressed in their 70's attire. To top the night off, the artist, Chosen, came out and performed hit songs, in which each and every one had a spiritual message about God to reach out to the youth. It was a great way to spread the knowledge to the youth that it is okay to be themselves and to still worship God, giving Him all praise and thanks.

Everyone danced, ate, laughed, and had a great time fellowshipping with each other at this year's Youth Gala. We're looking forward to what next year's gala has in store!



Guess Who?

With the information below, try to guess which Union Grove adult member we are describing. The first youth to guess the member correctly wins a prize from the Youth Ministry. Answers will be provided in next month's GTAH.

Submit your responses to Sister Ashley Whitehead or Sister Shirley Jackson.

High School Attended: Proviso East High School

College: University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana

Childhood dream: To be able to take care of myself.

Biggest fear: I don't have one now but when I was younger, I was afraid of dying

Married | Married

Birth City and State: Chicago, Illinois

Most embarrassing moment: I used the bathroom on myself in 3rd grade. That was very embarrassing. The

reason I did it was because my teacher would not call on me. Because I was being obedient, I waited. To add insult to injury, when I left to go home for lunch, my teacher told me to make sure I changed my clothes. Let's just say

she wasn't my favorite teacher :-)

Something you have always wanted to do,

but haven't yet:

Go to Hawaii and buy a convertible

Famous person you would love to talk to: Michelle Obama. If God was a person, it would be Him hands down. I have

lots of questions for Him.

If you were a car, what model and year

would you be and why?:

A Yugo or an electric/hybrid because they save you money

If you were a crayon what color would you be and why?:

Black. It's bold and goes easily with everything and/everyone

You are cordially invited to ANIGHT OF ROMANCE

Couples Valentine Extravaganza

SPONSORED BY:
UNION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MARRIED COUPLES MINISTRY

Special Guest:

Saxophonist Damon Brown and the Feedback Band

MENU

10oz Ribeye Steak or 16oz Cornish Hen Baked Potato or Wild Rice Vegetables or Tossed Salad

Rolls

Tea

DATE: Friday, February 10, 2012

TIME: 7:00 – 10:00pm

LOCATION: Robins AFB Horizon Club

ATTIRE: Formal COST: \$50 per couple

\$25 per person

For Ticket Information:

Tommy and Linda Gray @ 478-218-0482 Keith and Tanya Lambert @ 706-726-8959

New Member Profile: The Wheeler Family



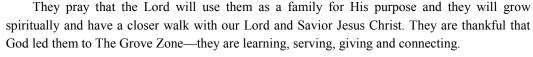
Steve and Salina were married on May 28, 2011 and blended their families consisting of Makayla (15), Jason (14), and Jasmine (11). They were all baptized in April 2011 and received the right hand of fellowship in August. Steve is originally from Chicago, Illinois and Salina was born in Norfolk, Virginia but raised in Pastor Clarke's hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Steve dedicated 25 years to the Air Force. During his career, he was stationed in Germany, Florida, Hawaii, California, and Louisiana. He made Warner Robins his home when he retired in 2009 and began his civilian career as a cost analyst. Salina has worked in the health insurance industry since 1993 for insurance companies, including Guardian,

Coventry, and United Healthcare. She spent ten years in Los Angeles, before relocating to the Atlanta area with her daughter, Makayla, in June 2000. She is currently a Senior Account Executive for an employee-benefit consulting firm in Atlanta (commuting two days a week). They enjoy hanging out with family and friends, going to the movies, listening to music, bowling, and "parents night out!" They have lived in several big cities and have come to love the slower-paced vibe in Warner Robins.

While engaged, Steve and Salina visited Union Grove as well as other churches in the area. Pastor Clarke's spirit-filled sermons and the church family kept them coming back for more – everyone was so sincere and loving. They knew they wanted to be a part of The Grove Zone after receiving pre-marital counseling with Pastor Clarke. His love for God, desire for the church to learn and strengthening of families, and sense of humor won them over.

Steve and Salina completed PLACE Ministry in September and are currently enjoying the Married Couples Ministry! They have met some wonderful couples and love hearing their tips to a successful marriage. Their children attend Sunday School regularly; they are also involved in other ministries: Makayla is in Genuine Praise, Jason is learning about the Media Ministry and Jasmine is in the Junior Choir. Steve and Salina are ready to serve in some capacity of the Men's, Women's and Youth Ministries.





Operational Support Fellowship

The Union Grove Operational Support Ministry held a dinner fellowship Thursday, December 15th at the Vision Center. The space was filled with the members of the ministry and their families as they gathered together for fellowship with delicious food catered by Caribbean Queens Catering. Entertainment was even provided on the piano by some of the youth. The fellowship opened up in prayer and followed with words of encouragement by Brother Abraham Scott as he announced he will retire his position as ministry leader in 2012. Special thanks go out to all who assisted in the coordination of the fellowship. The members and families had an awesome time talking, laughing, and eating!











GTAH theme for 2012: "The Battle is the Lord's" based on Ephesians 6:10-20.

Each month, the newsletter will focus on the Armor of God and how to apply it in our lives.

Armor of God

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

2012 GTAH Schedule The Battle is the Lords			
January	Introduction to the Armor of God and the Strategy of the Devil		
February	Helmet of Salvation		
March	Breastplate of Righteousness		
April	Shield of Faith		
May	Belt of Truth		
June	Sword of the Spirit		
July	Sandals		
August	Weapon of Prayer		
September	Relationship with God		
October	Relationship with Others		
November	Relationship with You		
December	Conclusion		

Dear Felix,

How have you been? I'm just trying to live and not be swatted. I must share something I learned from some people who go to a church called Union Grove. One day, I was in Kathleen trying to find a warm place. All of a sudden, I saw an opportunity to slide into a house. I planned on moving from room to room but got tired and decided to rest on a wall in the dining room instead. I'm so glad I did!

Those people who produce the newsletter called the GTAH were having Bible study. Considering I'm a fly, I thought I would not be interested, but was I wrong! They were discussing "The Armor of God." They were reading Ephesians 6:10-18 from a book called a Bible and looking at a thing called a tablet. I tried to look over a shoulder but they shooed me away. Considering we houseflies have no need of an armor, I thought I would be bored. Wrong again! One of the points that were discussed was the need for humans to have armor. Felix, just listen to what I heard as I rested on the wall.

In the Biblical text of Ephesians, chapter 6, there are six pieces of armor: the helmet, shield, loins, sandals, sword, and breastplate. These pieces have a description of what they are: helmet of salvation, shield of faith, loins girt with truth (belt of truth), feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, the sword of the Spirit/Word of God, and the breastplate of righteousness.

Now, Felix if you don't understand what I just told you, maybe you should be "a fly on the wall" and visit The Grove Zone on North Davis Drive.

Your sis,
Florence

Senior Citizen Banquet: A Charge to Keep

Although they may have walked a little bit slower than they walked in 2010, the seniors of Union Grove "had church" as they were honored on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at the Annual Senior Citizens' Banquet.

From the time the seniors entered the Vision Center, they and all others present, really emphasized the theme: A Charge to Keep. It made everyone feel good to see how the Deacons and Deaconesses honored the senior members of Union Grove. From the warm welcome to the delicious dinner, they had no choice but to feel special.

All present had something to think about while viewing the skit entitled, "My Cup Runneth Over." Those ladies did such a magnificent job that was recommended they should "take it on the road."

The highlight of the day was to see a former member of Union Grove, Minister Pam Booker, the daughter of James and Irene Booker. To see her all grown up and praising the Lord, the sight had all of us realizing that we should all maintain our joy as we fulfill our charge. After reading Isaiah 6:10-11, Minister Booker expressed why we had reasons to rejoice. One strong point that she emphasized was that we maintain our joy when we have the right relationship with the Lord.

At the conclusion of the program, I believe that everyone wants to "Hold onto God's Unchanging Hand."









Welcome Baby DJ

Dewayne Henry Corbett Jr.
Born December 14, 2011

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." ~ James 1:17 From KJV



Baptism Sunday: December 15, 2011





"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:23



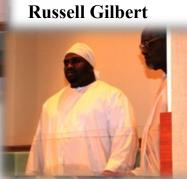
"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (belly) will flow rivers of living water.

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

John 7:38







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Information

~ Ministerial Staff ~

Senior Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr. Associate Pastor Lee McCants Minister Milo Bradley, Jr. Dr. Denise Byrd Minister Tammy Carpenter Minister Connie Dinkins Minister John Dukes Minister Leo Finkley Minister James Ford Minister Arie Freeman Minister Charles Frye **Minister James Gaines** Minister Tommy Gray Minister Rushia Jackson Minister Keith Perkins Minister LaTonya Phillips Minister Rashee Ragin Minister Antonia Simmons Minister Mary Ann Swinney Minister Cornelius Thorpe Minister Everand Woodard ~ In Training ~

Sister Dannie Dukes Sister Linda Gray Sister Mary Lenoir

~ Deacons ~

A-C	Deacon Jerome Stephens	929-1476
D-F	Deacon Slater Thorpe	218-8736
G-I	Deacon Donald Woodard	987-9865
	Deacon Louis Laney	329-0957
J-K	Deacon Robert Simmons, Sr.	
	Deacon Robert Simmons, Jr.	953-4290
L-N	Deacon T.C. Caldwell	293-8428
	Deacon Charles Lenoir	953-2350
O-R	Deacon Monroe Clark	953-2044
S	Deacon Alvin Myrick	788-5696
	In Training—Bro. William Jackson	
T-V	Deacon Edward Jarvis	923-5139
W-Z	Deacon Nathaniel Davis	923-7713

~ Where to Serve ~

Business Stewardship Ministry – Trustees, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Security, Wedding Coordinator— Contact Bro. Anthony Steedley/335-7838

Outreach Ministry – Evangelism, Missions, Prison Ministry, Recreation Ministry – Contact Min. Cornelius Thorpe

Worship Ministry – Ministerial Staff, Music Ministry, Ushers/Greeters Ministry, Surrendered Dance Ministry, In Door Reporter, Genuine Praise Step Team, 4-Him2, 4-Him—Contact Sis. Africa Porter/923-6770

Teaching Ministry – Sunday School, Bible Study, New Members Orientation, Training Ministry, PLACE Ministry—Contact Sis. Wanda Verrett/328-1483

Spiritual Enrichment Ministry – Deacons Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Single's Ministry, Married Couples Ministry, Golden Achievers Ministry, Glory Girls Book Club, Healthcare Ministry, Grief Support, Serenity/Addiction—Contact Dea. Donald Woodard/987-9865

Operational Support Ministry – Media Ministry, Computer Support Ministry, Floral Ministry, Public Relations, Bus Ministry, Food Service, Funeral Coordinator, Newsletter Ministry— Contact Bro. Abraham Scott/213-2263

Youth Ministry – Children's Church, Nursery Ministry, Puppet Ministry, Scholarship Ministry, Girl Power, D.E.T.O.U.R. Ministry—Contact Min. Rashee Ragin/322-1208

All announcements can be submitted by fax to U.G.M.B.C. at 478-923-6551. Direct all emails to uniongrov1@aol.com or complete a bulletin request form, and place it in the Administrative Assistant box no later than Wednesday at 5pm.

To schedule funerals at the church, please contact Sis. Wanda Verrett at 478-328-1483

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church

And the Best is Pet to Pome!

The G.T.A.H. Newsletter is published by the last day of the month. If you would like to see your ministry or event featured in the G.T.A.H., contact any member from the Newsletter Ministry or email us at GTAHNewsletter@gmail.com by the 3rd Friday of every month or place them in the Newsletter/G.T.A.H. box in the copy room.

Note:

Please limit all articles solely for the Great Things that Are Happening at Union Grove when emailing your submissions. Articles should be no more than 500 words in length, with Times New Roman Font, Size 12, single-spaced. While all submissions are welcome, the G.T.A.H. Staff has the right to make any necessary revisions and make the decision to exclude the article if it does not meet the above criteria or fit the theme of the newsletter

The GTAH Staff would like to thank everyone who contributed to the January Issue. Your support and assistance have truly been a blessing to the ministry.

G.T.A.H. Mission Statement

To aid others in spreading the knowledge of Christ and encouraging spiritual living through printed words