

G.T.A.H.

Great Things Are Happening

February 2012 - Volume 3, Issue 2

Helmet of Salvation

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church



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Warner Robins, GA 31088

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Senior Pastor
David Anthony Clarke, Sr.

Helmet of Salvation A Testimony by Deacon Jerome Stephens

The most appreciative and grateful thing that I am happy about in my life as a believer, is the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. On February 3, 1973, at the Warner Robins Houston County Medical Center, at around 5:30 in the early morning, I was so glad that Jesus took me in, after being so rebellious for such a long period of time. This was the time when Ephesians 6:10-18 began to take place in my life. I did not know anything about this particular scripture at that time; however, I do now, and I try very hard to apply it to my life everyday I live.

God's salvation has kept me in the midst of a storm I did not see coming. My oldest son, Jerome "Jay Jay" Stephens Jr., was involved in an automobile accident that occurred on Interstate 16 eastbound at 5:30am on October 6, 2005. My son stayed in the hospital for a total of 55 days. He passed away on November 29, 2005. Not a day goes by that I don't think about him. In fact, some days I think about him several times during the course of a day.

The helmet of salvation keeps me from depression, being frustrated or doing something crazy or stupid. I am able to go about the challenges that face me daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly with ease and comfort. When the accident first happened, I asked God very solemnly to be with me and my family through this ordeal, and guess what, He has been right there every step of the way. My goodness! What awesome protection and loving kindness He gives to His believers! To this day I have not questioned God – "Why did you

take my son?"

Jay Jay, as he was passionately known to many, was a giant of love and he loved his family and friends. He never gave my wife and I any serious trouble and never had to really get on him for a discipline problem. The household consisted of a lot of praying, teaching, and occasionally, the belt for our kids. The beginning of Ephesians 6 speaks about children and their relationship with God and their parents.

If you pray, have faith, trust God, and use the helmet of salvation, you will not fail. The helmet, it keeps evil thoughts out and soothes pain and agony. It keeps the mind in touch with the Master (Jesus Christ). It guards the mind, the thought process, and the inspiration of God's love. The helmet is the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

No matter what came up during our ordeal with my son and even today, God has been there for my family and me. You might ask, "Why do you talk about your son so much?" As I said, Jay Jay never gave me any serious trouble. Therefore, we were able to go through rough times. It is also an indicator of what God can do if you put on the helmet of salvation, pray, have faith and trust God in your everyday life. You have to KEEP ON GOING!



Mission Statement

To draw people to Christ, maximize our potential, and creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community.



February Happenings

2/2	GTAH Meeting, Conf Room	6:00 p.m.
2/4	PLACE Workshop, VC	8:00 a.m.
2/4	Community Garden, LCC	9:00 a.m.
2/8	90 Day Health Care Challenge, CC	5:45 p.m.
2/10	Valentine Gala, RAFB Officers Club	7:00 p.m.
2/11	Black College Expo, Atlanta	TBA
2/11	LUV, S	10:00 a.m.
2/11	Genuine Praise	12 noon
2/18	Ministers' Meeting, CC	8:00 a.m.
2/20-21	President's Day, Office Closed	
2/26	Pearl Stephens Elementary Day, S	2:00 p.m.

This fallen world can be a hostile environment in which to live, but salvation from Jesus can protect us, and provide for us that which we need to live.

HELMET OF SALVATION

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:8 NIV

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CHURCH SERVICE HOURS

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER
8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Mid-day Manna Noon
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

RADIO BROADCAST
980AM, 1400AM, 100.5FM
Clarkehouse Leadership Moment
Sundays: 1:15pm—1:30pm

Union Grove Broadcast
Sundays: 1:30pm—2:00pm

Learn ~ Serve ~ Give ~ Connect ~

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
Administrative Assistant





“... JUST AS THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME
TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.”
MATTHEW 20:28 NIV

PLACE MINISTRY INVITES YOU...

PLACE WORKSHOP
VISION CENTER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
8:00AM – 4:00PM

Workshop Dates

January 7
February 4
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2
August 4
September 8
October 6
November 3

Ways to Register

- 1) Email placeatthegrove@gmail.com
- 2) Sign up sheet in the annex
- 3) Contact Min. Leo Finkley



January Workshop Attendees

LUNCH, SNACKS, AND MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED

Leadership Consecration

On January 29, 2012, Pastor David A. Clarke preached a powerful sermon aimed at the Union Grove leaders titled, "Let's Expect More Baptisms this Year." He led the congregation to the book of Matthew, chapter 28, verse 19, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

In the beginning of his sermon, Pastor Clarke mentioned that 89 water baptisms took place in 2011. He then challenged Union Grove to increase that number in 2012. But how do we achieve that goal? It starts in our leaders.

If we are going to expect more baptisms in 2012, Union Grove will need leaders who are looking for God, seeking Him, picking up on Him, seeing His Word being fulfilled, and being aware that prayers are being answered. The leaders will need to be more sensitive to



random encounters, listening when the Spirit is calling them, and moving to the heart of Union Grove members.

As Pastor Clarke continued preaching, he pointed out that any member of our church family should be able to go to a leader with questions and that leader should be equipped to serve that person with a biblical explanation from a story in the bible and reach his heart. In the midst of the teaching, God can somehow move and

bring conviction for that person to be baptized. To conclude his sermon, Pastor Clarke invited any person in the Union Grove family, whether it was a member or a guest, who wished to be re-baptized, to come forward and it will be done. 43 souls walked up to the altar!

To hear the full version of the sermon from the Leadership Consecration worship service, contact Bro. Abraham Scott to purchase a CD.



Calling all college students!!!!
Applications for the
Pearl Stephens Memorial Scholarship
are now being accepted



Applications are due
Sunday, February 12, 2012
see Sis LaShondria Smith for
detailed information

IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Minister Rashee &
Sis. Lakeshia Ragin on the birth of their
baby girl. Born Thursday, January 12
6lbs and 6.67 ounces



The Black College Expo helping students across America get to College, Careers and Beyond!

Atlanta

SAT., February 11th, 2012
• 9am to 5pm •

Cobb Galleria, Atlanta GA

The Black College Expo helping students across America get to College, Careers and Beyond!

- Meet with colleges
- Live band Auditions for Scholarships
- Most application fees waived
- Get accepted ON-THE-SPOT
- Find out about internships

Free Seminars & Workshops • "How to Find Money for College"
 • "Don't Carriers" • "Why Attend an HBCU" • Don't Miss "REAL TALK!"

Cobb Galleria Two Galleria Parkway Atlanta, GA | 9 am to 5 pm All Students Welcome | Aftershow - 5pm to 6pm Hosted by Actor/Comedian Kai Mitchell

Admission: \$10 at the door, \$0 online • Special Group Rates
www.thecollegeexpo.org or call us at 877-427-4100

Scholarship Ministry

will host a trip to the
Black College Expo in Atlanta, Georgia
 on Saturday, February 11, 2012

If you are interested in attending please see
 Sis LaShondria Smith to sign up



Youth Appreciation: Tieboni Bradshaw



Tieboni Bradshaw is 16 years old and the daughter of Master Sergeant Justin Philips and Minister Latonya Philips. She is currently a junior at Warner Robins High School where she is an A/B student.

She loves to cheer and is a Cheerleader for football and does competition. Her hobbies are singing, dancing, gymnastics, and cooking. She has two younger siblings which she loves oh so much.

Tieboni has been attending Union Grove for a little over 4 years. She is a part of the Youth Ministry and the Puppet Ministry. She is also involved in Genuine Praise, LUV, and the UG Student Council.

LaDareon Copeland, Senior at Northside High School and William Cole, Pearl Stephens Elementary School student were named January Optimist Students of the Month presented by the Optimist Club of Warner Robins.

Article was featured in Macon Telegraph Sunday, January 22, 2012 edition





Benefits of the Music of Elder Mildred Endsley

The benefits of gospel songs can be many and specific to the individual. We all need different things in our lives to make us go, keep us motivated and on track. One of the most obvious benefits of listening to music is that it changes your mood. No matter what mood you might have been in when you entered Union Grove, it had to be uplifted when hearing the music of Elder Mildred Endsley.

Elder Endsley sung so that we all were motivated to praise the Lord. While she was singing, "He Got up from the Grave for Me," the crowd "got up." Another benefit of listening to music is that it can change your state of mind - you may imagine different things while listening to songs. While listening to Minister Endsley's songs no matter what state of mind you might have been in, one had to have a positive one while listening to her sing the soul inspiring song "Well Done."

For more information on Elder Mildred Endsley, go to her website <http://mildredendsley.com/>. It states her purpose and mission: John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

Music, the language of the soul, is as old as humanity. It's no secret that the Union Grove family love music. While taste in music might differ from person to person, it was quite obvious that everyone enjoyed the music coming from the Grove Zone on January 8, 2012 as Elder Endsley ministered.



Caribbean Queen's Catering Recipe of the Month:



Shrimp 'n Crab Boil

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. of crabs of your choice
- 2 pkgs. of 31-40 shrimp
- 6 limes
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 pack (12) small corn on the cob
- 2 packs of smoked sausage
- 10-12 white potatoes
- 1 med. bell pepper

Directions:

Cut potatoes in half with or without skin (your choice). Cut sausage into bite size pieces. Cut bell peppers into wedged size pieces

Cook sausage, corn, potatoes and bell peppers for 30 minutes, squeeze lime juice and garlic along crabs and shrimp. Cook for 15 minutes. Remove from broth and enjoy!

*For a little spice in your life, add red pepper!



Not just decisions, but disciples for Christ.

Union Grove Men's Ministry Mountain Top Retreat

WHO: All Brothers, 16 years and older

WHEN: Depart 23 March Depart 8:00 AM - Return 25 March 6:00PM

WHERE: Cedine Ministries, Spring City, Tennessee

THEME: "Making My Brother Better!"

SPEAKER: Brother Robert Anderson,

WHY RETREAT: To get away; to reflect and refocus on living out your faith; at work, school, in family life, and in relationships with others.

COST: Early Bird Discount \$120.00 paid by 22 Feb / \$140.00 after. Includes lodging, meals, teaching, workshops, and activities. (See more details at: cedine.org)

More information to come.

For Registration information contact: Bro. Jimmy Oglesby (478) 397-3704,
Bro. Leroy Frazier (757) 334-3768, or Bro. Eugene Swinney (478) 978-2269

Ministry Highlight: Security Ministry



Vision Statement: To assist every member towards the great commission while keeping a watchful eye for their well being and safety, prayerfully.

Scripture: "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

1 Chronicles 9:21-24 ESV enlightens us that a Security Ministry is needed and biblical. Zechariah, the son of Meshelemiah, was the gatekeeper at the entrance of the tent of meeting. "All these, who were chosen as gatekeepers at the thresholds, were 212. They were enrolled by genealogies in their villages. David and Samuel the seer established them in their office of trust. So they and their sons were in charge of the gates of the house of the LORD, that is, the house of the tent, as guards. The gatekeepers were on the four sides, east, west, north, and south."

According to Christian Security Network, 1,783 total incidents in 50 states, 7 homicides, 40 other violent incidents, and \$22,817,431.00 in estimated property losses were reported in 2010 against religious organizations. That is a reason for a Security Ministry. Proverbs 22:3 says, "...foresee danger and plan ahead."

Brother Henry Zeke (Hank) Allen has been the ministry leader of the Security Ministry at Union Grove for over 12 years and been attending Union Grove for 32 years. Bro. Hank says, "The security ministry is important to Union Grove because society, as a whole, is changing daily and we get all types of people who come to this church who are not always looking to be saved."

Members of the Security Ministry are trained to handle people in a godly manner and strive to always give them the benefit of the doubt. Training involves teaching it's ministry members to never initiate violent behavior. If violence does occur, it must come from the person being handled. The ministry will take control of the situation and manage to handle it in the best possible manner and always keeping in mind that prayer is the first option.

The ministry is growing and learning. For the past three years, the ministry has patrolled Union Grove during service hours. This involvement has been very successful and the ministry plans to continue patrolling in the future.

In 2012, the Security Ministry will continue to grow and learn throughout the year and will continue to patrol the church and keep it safe. The safety of the church is essential and taken very seriously to keep our pastor, his family, and the church family out of harm's way. Most members in the Security Ministry are involved in other ministries at Union Grove where they help with other activities in the church. This does not hinder them in keeping the church safe.

The Security Ministry meets monthly at the church and is always looking for godly people to join. If you have an interest in taking part in the ministry, contact Bro. Henry Zeke Allen at 478-397-3706; or by email: hankallen9@cox.net.



Brother Hank Allen

90 Day Healthcare Challenge “A Kitchen Makeover”

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT).

The Grove Zone kicked off its 90 day challenge with an eye opening presentation by Dr. Cheryl Young. Dr. Young “remodeled” our kitchen by exposing those in attendance to the dangers of foods and items that we consume daily.

Microwave cooking is thought to be one of the most important causes of ill health. Instead of this so called “radiation box,” she suggested food be heated or reheated on the stove top or in the oven. Dr. Young also stated when cooking in the oven, aluminum foil should not be utilized for it competes with minerals necessary for bone health. There is a little known fact where numerous scientific studies have proved time and time again that certain food items that are commonly consumed in our modern, fast living diets are detrimental to our health.

“Some food items that should be eliminated from our diets are white regular salt, white bread, dairy milk, iceberg lettuce and canned/processed meats,” says Dr. Young. One of the most shocking information that was received during the session was tap and most bottled water should also be eliminated from our daily diets. Critics believe problems associated with bottled water far outweigh the benefits. In place of this, it was suggested by Dr. Young that we should drink filtered pure water.

For further information, please contact Sis. Annie Lester.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.* 1 Cor 10:31

Cholesterol Screening

Each Sunday after church
in the Health Care Office

“You must fast 8 hours prior
to being tested.”

-Sis. Annie Lester

Heart-Healthy
Christians

Romans 8:12-17

*Lord Jesus
Christ
Shield my
head in battle;
I fix my
thoughts on
your mercy and
strength.*

Helmet of Salvation



Your mind is the battleground of your life. It is because of your thinking that you may become depressed or anxious, give over control of your life to a demanding person or to alcohol, or be oppressed by Satan and his demons.

We talk with ministry leaders and Christ-followers of all kinds who without realizing it, open the door of their heart (which is their thinking) to Satan, who is the father of lies (John 8:44) and the accuser of God's people (Revelation 12:10). They need to learn how to put on the helmet of salvation.

Do you wear the helmet of salvation as you go about your daily life? Do you keep your mind renewed in God's words?

Renewing your mind in Scripture is like breathing. You have to do it *continually* to stay alive! Memorizing scripture and turning it over and over in your mind is fundamental to living in the abundant life of God that Jesus brings.

*Lord Jesus
Christ
Put on me
your
helmet of
salvation;
I live
uprightly
before you.*

Search for God's Armor

God tells us to put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, we may be able to stand our ground. Use this Word Search to familiarize yourself with the different pieces of God's armor

The words can be across, down or diagonal. See if you can find them all!

Q S H Q A J W V Y G L S S V I
E X A D L E I H S P H S M T G
I V D L B T G L K D E N I X P
Q P N R V X R Y O N L P D I L
S H O E S A F U S V M B X X I
H J J R E E T U T R E E X J K
W X U S I P O I W H T L M G J
Y G H O A E N H O L W T O P D
E V K C T F E K M N L S R N H
E P Q H B R E A S T P L A T E
J C G Z H D C Q I I L F F H V
D I A T G R T C R Z G O L V I
R R I E F O L I U O Z Z S F V
A A A H P W T Z U O L N R S X
F P A X P S T F V A J S G W Q

- Belt
- Salvation
- Sword
- Shield
- Righteousness
- Shoes
- Helmet
- Spirit
- Peace
- Breastplate
- Faith
- Truth



You are cordially invited to
A NIGHT 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

If you would like a copy of your tithes & offering contributions, please sign the list located on the bulletin board in the rear of the church.

Pick Up Only!!!

Tuesday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

You must sign the list. No call-in request will be honored.

-Sis. Margie Tuck

Year End Contribution Statements

If you made contributions to the Union Grove Community Enhancement Group Life Changers Center and would like a tax statement please sign up on the roster on the church bulletin board.

-Slater Thorpe



Have you been prayerfully contemplating joining a ministry? Become an usher and let your light shine by serving the congregation. Monthly meetings are held the Thursday before the first Sunday at 7:00 pm at the church. Bro. William Jackson is the president and his contact number is 929-4918. BE THANKFUL!!!

USHERS
Needed
VOLUNTEER TODAY

Volunteers Needed



128 Orchard Way

If you are interested in volunteering for The Toval Family home please contact [336-338-3388](tel:336-338-3388)

Married Couples

Sunday School Class

“Love Busters” by William Harley, Jr.
Overcoming Habits That Destroy Romantic Love.

Contact Min Tommy Gray @ 218-0482 for more information.

Sunday School Senior Class

“Back to the Bible” series
January 15 thru February.
Genesis to 2 Chronicles.

All teens and their parents are invited to attend. If you have any questions, you may contact Sister Patrice Smith (478 218-0106) or Deacon Jerome Stephens (478 929-1476).

Information

~ Ministerial Staff ~

Senior Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr.
 Minister Milo Bradley, Jr.
 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

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

Looking for a place to host your wedding, reception, banquet, or conference? Call the UGMBC Vision Center with over 7500 sq ft and full commercial kitchen to accommodate your crowd. 478-929-4022

Great Things Are Happening

And the Best is Yet to Come!

The GTAH Staff

Jairee Williams

Carolyn Jackson

Shirley Jackson

Ashley Whitehead

Mawusi Kambui

Jackie Powell

Willie Smith

Leo Finkley

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 Newsletter Ministry would like to thank everyone who contributed to the February issue. Your support and assistance have truly been a blessing to the ministry.

THANK YOU!

G.T.A.H. Mission Statement

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