

Great Things Are Happening



March 2012 - Volume 3, Issue 3

Breastplate of Righteousness

Union Grove
Missionary Baptist
Church



Senior Pastor
David Anthony Clarke, Sr.



809 South Davis Drive
Warner Robins, GA
31088
Ph: 478-922-5514
Fx: 478-923-6551

www.thegrovewr.org
uniongrov1@aol.com

From Where Do You Get Your Answers?

David Anthony Clarke, Sr.

*The following article is adapted from Pastor Clarke's soon to be released book, *Are There Any Questions? Living and Leading With An Inquisitive Spirit*.*

Answers are nothing to play with. We live our lives and lead our organizations based on answers at our disposals. Answers to questions such as who am I; why am I here; what is right; what is wrong; is there a God; what can I achieve in life; do I have any responsibility toward the less fortunate and other pertinent life questions all come from somewhere. Our answers have a tremendous impact on our destiny.

From where do our answers come? What helps determine what we think and how we live and lead? Here are a few places to consider:

- **Upbringing.** The homes we're raised in, also called home of origin, has tremendous impact. What grooms and brides expect from one another, what pastors expect from the congregations they lead, how we see the world and our expectations of everyone in it often stem from how we were raised as children.
- **Education.** Many answers we embrace are the result of what we've studied. In fact, education can expose us to so much information we can become experts in a respective field.
- **Experience.** What we have gone through in life plays a big part in developing our answers. It has been said that experience is the best teacher. We allow it to teach us such things as who can or cannot be trusted

as well as what is worthwhile or worthless. From our experiences we get painful and pleasant memories that tremendously impact how we deal with current and future situations in our lives. From experiences, we have determined what we'd never do again; or what we can't wait to do the next time opportunity permits.

- **Religion.** Religion dramatically impacts whether we believe in God, life after death, relationships, war, how we administer justice, and many other life issues. Solutions drawn from religious teachings have shaped the world more than anything else throughout the history of mankind.
- **Ignorance.** Ignorance tends to breed assumptions that destroy dreams, marriages, ministries, and countless other realities. Too many destiny-destroying decisions have been made because vital information was lacking. Whereas, if the missing pieces to the puzzle were known, the outcome of situations would have been dramatically different.

Our answers to all of life's challenging questions must come from God's Word. The Word of God in our hearts empowers us to defeat the enemy by holding to kingdom values especially in times of intense temptation and warfare. As we focus on the breastplate of righteousness this month, we need to ensure our breastplates fit properly. Remain open to re-examining every notion we embrace so we can unlearn what must be discarded and embrace new insights that are more aligned with God's heart. Inquire your way to victory!



Mission Statement

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



March Happenings

3/1	Ushers, CC	7:00 p.m.
3/3	Clarkehouse, S & CC	9:00 a.m.
3/3	PLACE, VC	8:00 a.m.
3/5	GLORY Bible Study, VC	7:00 p.m.
3/7	Masterlife D1, CC	7:00 p.m.
3/8	Vision Leaders, CC	6:00 p.m.
3/8	Health Care Ministry, Conf. Room	7:00 p.m.
3/9	Equally Yolked Meeting, VC	6:00 p.m.
3/14	90 Day Challenge, CC	5:45 p.m.
3/25	Trial Sermons: Sis. Mary Lenoir & Sis. Dannie Dukes	10:30 a.m.
3/30&31	Youth Lock-In, Church & VC	5:00 p.m.

In 1773, the American revolutionaries resisted the British authorities and their tea tax by dumping the British tea into Boston Harbor.

As Christians, we are also in resistance against the evil spiritual rulers and authorities of Satan's kingdom

CHURCH TEA PARTY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
— EPHESIANS 6:12 NIV

Reprinted with written permission from joyfultoons.com

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 p.m.

Monday
Office Closed

Additional Church Hours
Tuesday — Friday
6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Janice Scott
Administrative Assistant



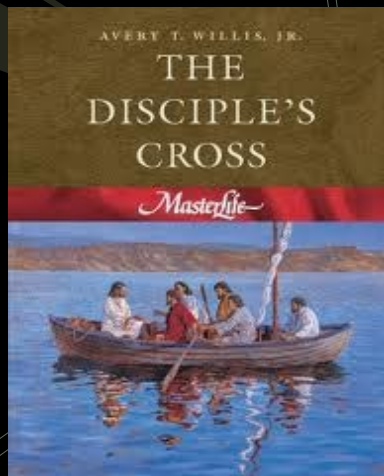
MasterLife Discipleship Series

As members of Union Grove, our pastor encourages us to do four things: learn, serve, give, and connect.

If you are looking for an opportunity to learn, serve, give, and connect, consider MasterLife Discipleship Series.

The MasterLife Discipleship Series is a 12-week Bible study course that focuses on six key aspects that are important to any Christian spiritual life.

- Spending Time with the Master- Learn to make Christ a priority.
- Living in the Word- Learn the importance of reading God's Word daily.
- Pray in Faith- Learn to develop a strong prayer life.
- Fellowship with believers- Understand the value of Christian fellowship.
- Minister to the world - Understand the great commission.
- Minister to each other- Understand the need and value of your spiritual gift.



Classes will consist of weekly study assignments, small group discussions, learning Bible verses, and fellowship. MasterLife Series 1, The Discipleship Cross started on February 29th (or every fall and spring season) at 7:00 pm (normal Bible study time) and will be held in the Children's Church area.

For more information, contact Deacon Wendell Simmons at 478-953-4290. Class space is limited so don't delay.

Deacon's Corner:

A Testimony by Deacon Nathaniel E. Davis

Stand therefore your lions girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. (Ephesians 6:14)

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head. (Isaiah 59:17)

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

Whenever the enemy tries to bring up the past and accuse you, the breastplate of righteousness is your trusty defense. If the Spirit of Christ dwells in you, then God receives you as His son or daughter no matter what the enemy says. *For he (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).* The righteousness of Christ in you is what matters, not your short comings and failures.

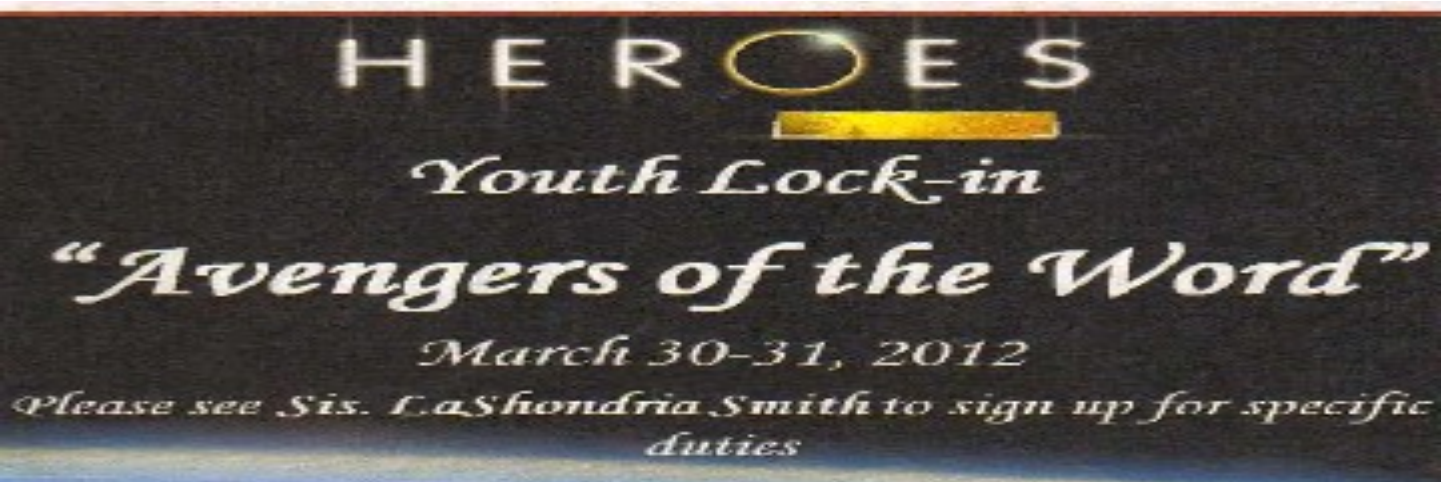
When I graduated from high school, the most important thing on my mind was to join the United States Air Force to make a good life for myself. My first assignment was Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) in Florida. I had plans to work hard and move forward in rank. My first battle appeared when I was faced with reality that because of the color of my skin, I would have to fight long and hard for the life that I wanted.

My assignments at Forbes AFB in Kansas, Offutt AFB in Nebraska, and the Vietnam War was when reality hit me. The first time I went to Vietnam, it was very hard to leave my family behind. The second time to Vietnam wasn't any easier for me either. There were thousands of people that lost their lives during this war. There were times where I was attacked by Satan. He would tell me that I would never make it out the war zone. The weapons that I carried included my breastplate that God provided for my protection. I walked wearing my faith, which served as my breastplate. I knew I had to be strong in the Lord and depend on His mighty power. The belt of truth was bulked around my waist. I walked depending on God with every move that I made.

I thank God for the breastplate of righteousness. God brought me home safely each time from Vietnam. Looking back over my life as a 30 year military veteran, who was promoted as Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) in the Air Force, I must thank God for my journey. There were hills to climb, mountains to overcome, dangerous roads and valleys to travel. I realize now that God's breastplate of righteousness was my trusty defense.



"My first battle appeared when I was faced with reality that because of the color of my skin, I would have to fight long and hard for the life that I wanted."



Girl Power!

Submitted by Dr. Denise Byrd

Girl Power, which is under the leadership of Minister Antonia Simmons, met with the girls on Sunday, February 19th for our monthly Bible study. We, who did not know who or how many would attend, or even if Sunday would be a good day to have the study; arrived excited and enthusiastic about our mission for the day. We were equipped with study materials that had been carefully and prayerfully selected which encompassed our theme: **"The Treasure Within."** The most awesome detail about our arrival was the presentation. Sitting just ahead on one of the fold out tables was a large treasure chest with beautiful pink satin material cascading down and around the chest which was breath-taking and it presumably justified the gift within each of us. There were little knick-knacks such as jewels and flowers on the table to remind us that we are girly. Lastly, there was the purpose in which we gathered – to spread the Gospel, the Word which signified the Spirit of God who lives within each of us. Sometimes I wonder if the whole idea for the girls is strictly for them and not for us adult women who pour out our souls for our daughters in Christ.

To demonstrate our theme of being and finding a Treasure Within, 17 boxes were donated and every girl received one to decorate as she would be pleased. We emphasized the idea of being a treasure sent directly from heaven as the Word says, "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" Genesis 2:7. To display the treasure within, we brought a large pot of dirt and asked volunteers to search the matter out, but before we allowed them to dig in or touch the dirt, we asked questions if whether dirt was a pleasant experience for them or not. Generally, when your parents or mostly your mom dresses you up, the last thing that she might say to you is, "Don't get dirty!" Well, although God created and formed our fore-parent (Adam) from the dust of the ground and breathed life into his nostrils, He also did that to our parents and us; with just a small twist: we came from the loins of our families who resided on the inside of Adam. And

although we are not beheld from the dirt, per se, we are dirt. Try not taking a bath for about a week or better still, just look at the collar of your shirt after taking off your shirt one day – what you will see is dirt even though you took a bath. We can't get away from it! We were created and formed from the dust of the earth.

After each girl began to identify her relation to dirt and its significance in her life, she was able to embrace what God placed on the inside of her. Scripture says that we have been established for His purpose before the foundations of the world but because life happens to all of us, we might become deterred and lose our way. Some of the reasons that we explained how a young girl might not know how very special she is to God are because of what she believes about herself based on what someone else has said about her. She could be misinformed by watching the wrong television show that does not depict what the Word of God says about her, or she could just be lost and aloof to her own significance, value, power, and beauty. The girls finally were able to recognize that without the Spirit of God residing on the inside of them that there would be no change for them for they will consistently believe how others define them and try their hardest to live up to that observation, but in order to believe what God says about them, they would first need to be "born again," second, allow the Holy Spirit to take up residence in them, and then third, they would need to hear the Lord speak to them.

All in all, the girls had a wonderful time together and it is no coincidence what God is doing in the lives of each girl that attends. The ironic thing is that each girl speaks freely and willfully. They enjoy our gatherings and we enjoy getting to know each of them for the purpose and sake of the Lord's will. Parents, we could not do this without your total buy-in so "thank you" from the bottoms of our hearts.

If you have a daughter, sister, cousin, friend who you think would benefit from attending Girl Power meetings, please pass the word. God bless.

Godly, Girly, and Gifted!

Longtime Member Profile: Sister Irene Booker

The longtime member featured this month is Sister Irene Booker, wife of James Booker and the mother of Vincent and Pamela Booker. She and her family relocated from Petersburg, Virginia when her husband was stationed at Fort Valley State College's Army ROTC Department. She became a member of Union Grove in 1984 under the leadership of Pastor Bobby Smith. "Pastor Smith would come to the Base Exchange where I worked inviting everyone to come to the 'Holy Ghost Headquarters,' as he fondly referred to Union Grove." After being a member for 28 years, Sister Booker still believes that she has found a church where love abides.

Her hobbies are working in the yard and taking care of her house plants. "I use to love playing softball until one year after the season ended in August, my knees were still hurting in December. I knew then my season was over for softball. I began devoting more time to my flowers, for it gives me joy to see how God makes them grow into something very beautiful."

Sister Booker's passions are the Ushers and Nursing Home Ministries where she has served faithfully for over 20 years. When visitors as well as members meet Usher Irene Booker, they immediately feel welcome in "The Grove Zone." She loves serving people by greeting them and making them feel welcome. She is also a member of the Voices of Prayer and Praise Ministry.

When asked what is the difference between the Union Grove of 1984 and the current church, Sister Booker states, "The main difference is the diversity of having several choirs. In 1984, we had a Youth, Gospel, Senior and Combined Choir. Later, the Sacrifice and Men's Choirs were formed. The deacons led devotion every Sunday and it was always a very high spirited worship service. We sang from our hymn books in Sunday School or worship service. I do appreciate that we are getting back to a well rounded worship service where we are singing from our hymn books and singing some of the old songs as well as the new. I like variety. I believe we can reach more people when we offer diversity in the songs and style of music during the worship service."

The advice Sister Booker would give to new members is one that she applied to her life when she joined Union Grove in 1984. "New members should embrace the love that is present at Union Grove." She also states that new members should finish their New Members Orientation class. There is so much to learn especially for a new Christian. She also recommends that new members go through the PLACE Ministry Workshop. She emphasizes, "Going to the workshop can be a real eye opener in helping you find your place in ministry."

Sister Booker's final encouragement to new members is, "Enjoy the journey by staying on the path the Lord placed you on to accomplish His greater works."



"I like variety. I believe we can reach more people when we offer diversity in the songs and style of music during the worship service."



Attention Youth!

Leave a Note...

Guess Who? is back! With the clues listed below, guess which member of the Union Grove church congregation is being described. The first person to provide the correct answer to Minister Rashee Ragin will receive a prize.

- Her regular seat during Sunday worship service is in the fourth pew.
- She teaches Sunday school.
- She never remembers your name or can say it correctly.
- She is a committed Northside High School fan.
- Her granddaughter's name is Sa'ni.

Minister Cornelius Thorpe is away at Seminary School.

His address is:

North Greenville University
Cornelius Thorpe
Student Box # 2784
Tigerville, SC 29688

His email is: Thorpe871@ngu.edu



Ministry Highlight: Deaconess Ministry



Sister Maxine Woodard
Ministry Leader



The mission for the Deaconess Ministry is to assist the pastor, ministers, deacons, and members as we strive together to fulfill the vision of the Pastor. As a Deaconess, we value this role and we are willing to serve. It is very important that we understand the work God has for us through knowledge, wisdom, and help; 1 Corinthians 12:8-12, 28 and Romans 6:1-2. Our judgment must be sound; we should have a strong character and be benevolent in spirit, sympathetic, and tolerant of weakness of others.

The Deaconess Ministry makes sure the communion table is prepared for first Sunday service and after each baptism. It also makes sure each candidate is properly dressed for baptism. Our mission does not end at church; it is extended into the community. Sister Maxine Woodard, ministry leader of the Deaconess Ministry since 2009, states, "Overall, I believe God has called us to be the Titus women that we are."

The ministry meets regularly the Tuesdays before the first Sunday. For more information on the Deaconess Ministry, contact Sister Maxine Woodard.

Quarterly Ministry Worker Training

Pastor Clarke led the Quarterly Ministry Worker Training Session on Saturday, January 28th. With the focus on "**The DNA of Winning Ministry Teams,**" Pastor Clarke explained winning ministry teams are those that are effectively doing their part to destroy the works of the devil. Their DNA is *fleau* (faith, love, expectations, adoration and unity).

- **Faith** is necessary to please God. Faith without works is dead. It gives us the audacity to venture into uncharted territory, helps keep morale high, and is part of our spiritual armor in which we must wear at all times.
- **Love**, one of the fruits of the Spirit, must be shown toward others on the team, throughout the church family and community. Specific ways that relational team members demonstrate love for one another are: praying, listening, respecting, sharing experiences, trusting, enjoying, forgiving and forbearing, exhorting, serving and holding one another accountable. An important thing to know about love is that it impacts the decisions that we make.
- **Expectations** – winning ministry teams serve with high, specific expectations. They expect to make a difference and provide and generate excitement. Team leaders need to know if ministry teams 1) are committed to

excellence, 2) never settle for average, 3) pay attention to detail, 4) execute with consistency and 5) serve strategically. Winning teams can elevate their expectations through exposure – curiously seeking out possibilities to ensure they don't dream too small.

- **Adoration** – we adore Christ and serve in ministry ultimately to please Him. Pleasing Christ is in the DNA of those who are born again. The best ways we can express our adoration toward Him is to aggressively strive to become like Him, persistently serve Him after failure, and consistently spend time in His presence.
- **Unity** – winning teams are united. They are on one accord and serve in agreement. They work with common vision, values, goals and strategy. They guard against what brings division, but aren't afraid to embrace diversity. There is one leader, one vision, one purpose, one understanding and one strategy.

Pastor Clarke concluded by stating winning ministry teams have *fleau* and they are well-equipped to wage victorious warfare against the adversary. His prayer was each ministry team be blessed with the DNA to advance God's kingdom in the earth. Each team then got together and spent some time praying with and for each other.



Breastplate of Righteousness



On February 2, 2012, the GTAH Ministry held a bible study on the Breastplate of Righteousness and discussed things most Christians need protection from. I'm sure some of us are familiar with Flip Wilson and his phrase, "The devil made me do it." The following anecdote illustrates how Satan diverts our love from God:

In March 2009, a 62-year-old woman was charged with stealing more than \$73,000 from her church in the state of Washington. When the detectives interrogated her, she told them: "Satan had a big part in the theft." It sounds like she was saying that the devil made her do it.

Satan may have played a role in her choices, but she also has some faulty thinking about temptation and sin. Because we live and work in the world, Satan is constantly working to divert the heart of mankind from the things of God to the things of this world. Matthew 15:19 gives us a clear picture, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." When our hearts are wounded, the usual response is to harden our hearts and begin to avoid interaction with others. We can even hurt so bad that we harden our heart towards God. So how do we protect our heart so that we can be a man/woman after God's heart? We put on the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate will keep our hearts away from the lust of possessions, position, power and status, self-importance, boasting and gloating over real or pretended virtues and achievements while disdaining others much better than ourselves, and keeping up with the "Joneses."

Our breastplate is made not of iron but of righteousness. In fact, the ingredients of our righteousness are as follows:

- Colossians 3:2 (KJV) – Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth.
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 – So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
- 1 John 2:17 – The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.
- 1 Peter 3:3-4 – Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.
- 1 Samuel 16:7 – The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.
- Matthew 16:26 – Jesus said, "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"
- 1 Corinthians 7:31 (NLT) – Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them, for this world and all it contains will pass away.

A soldier with his breastplate goes boldly into battle full of confidence. Righteousness allows us to stand before God, men and demons. To put on the breastplate of righteousness, Christians must learn to live without sin and to know who they are in Christ. They should be bold in asking God for help, protection and provision. When temptation comes upon us, we should do what James 4:7 says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Believers should pray and intercede for themselves, on behalf of others, and be willing to take off worldly layers and replace them with the good things of God. In doing so, the breastplate of righteousness will keep hearts pure and spirits alive.

It makes sense that the breastplate of righteousness is not something seen, but an attitude and a holy lifestyle that every Christian must personally enact.

Attention Parents!

Beginning March 7th, the Elementary & Teen Wednesday Bible study classes will be held at the Vision Center. Please drop your children off no earlier than 6:45 p.m. The Nursery Class, ages 3-5, will remain at the church. The new Faith Weaver Friends Curriculum will be used and more space is needed.

Masterlife classes previously held at the Vision Center will be moved to the classroom area at the church.

If you have any questions, contact Sister Verrett at 478-328-1483

“Let’s Expect More Baptisms this Year”

In response to Pastor Clarke’s sermon during Leadership Consecration Sunday, in which he invited any person in the Union Grove family, whether it was a member or a guest, to be re-baptized, soul after soul walked up to the altar to become candidates of baptism. Baptisms were held during Wednesday night Bible study and Sunday morning Worship service.

Minister Keith Perkins
Marion Mathis
Margaret Willis
Mary Ann Hunter
Jairee Williams
Veronica Betz
Sarah Ricketts
Angie Nalls
Gloria Defreitas
Ronald Defreitas
Linda Davis
Dekosha Frazier
Angela Johnson

Charlie Tuck
Robert Strickland
Fannie McLean
Bridgette Ogelsby
Trinyette Finkley
Sharla Frazier
Clara Smith
Christine Bradley
Tanya Lambert
Terri Kendrick
Africa Porter
Rhonda Salone
Barbara Jackson

Rashanda Dorsey
Allison Jones
Gloria Tillman
Arthur James
Carolyn James
TyShanta Lewis
Carmen Fulton
Shirlene Beasley
Ann Henderson
William Bowden
Keith Lambert



Pearl Stephens Memorial Scholarship Program Ceremony

On February 25, 2012, Union Grove hosted the 31st Pearl Stephens Memorial Scholarship Program Ceremony. The Pearl Stephens Scholarship Foundation was initiated in 1988. The mission of this scholarship is to provide monetary assistance to students who are committed and trying to better themselves by obtaining education through college or technical school. Whenever there is a need in the Middle Georgia community, the foundation responds to the situation. More than \$9,000 has been donated to Pearl Stephens Elementary School. \$4,900 was donated to purchase musical instruments for the school’s orchestra and fifty children were supported to complete child safety with the Sherriff Department of Bibb County. Most recently, contributions were made to the Haiti Relief Fund.

Since 1988, the Scholarship Foundation has awarded 298 scholarships to area students. The recipients range from high school graduates to post-graduate higher education candidates. On February 25, 2012, seventeen additional students were added to the list. Qualifying applicants must maintain a 3.0 to 4.0 grade point average. Applicants must also demonstrate hard work and determination in all areas of their lives.

Proceeds that were collected from local churches, sponsorships, personal donations, and benefit programs all supported the Scholarship Foundation. Union Grove members may contact Deacon Jerome Stephens (one of Pearl Stephens Grandsons) to learn how to make donations to the Pearl Stephens Memorial Scholarship Program.



Pearl Stephens

“...TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE,
SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP.”
EPHESIANS 4:12 NIV



A Good PLACE to Start

Submitted by Minister Leo Finkley



Philippians 2:1-7 (GWT) says, *So then, as Christians, do you have any encouragement? Do you have any comfort from love? Do you have any spiritual relationships? Do you have any sympathy and compassion? Then fill me with joy by having the same attitude and the same love, living in harmony, and keeping one purpose in mind. Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited. Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others.*

We need to have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although He was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross. **Having the attitude of Christ and know what Christ did is a good PLACE to start.**

In John chapter 5 verses 19 and 20, Jesus tells us in the NKJV, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

A good PLACE to start will be to see what Jesus is doing. One way to see what Jesus is doing is to believe in Him. Jesus says in John chapter 14 (GWT), verses 10-13, "Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? What I'm telling you doesn't come from me. The Father, who lives in me, does what he wants. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe me because of the things I do. I can guarantee this truth: Those who believe in me will do the

things that I am doing. They will do even greater things because I am going to the Father."

Another good PLACE to start is abide in Jesus. John chapter 15 NKJV says verse 1-8. "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. Having the attitude of Christ, believing in Christ and also **abiding in Christ will ensure that you are in the right PLACE.**

Do you want to know what is happening in that PLACE? Paul explains to us again in 1 Corinthians chapter 12, how the various ways God's Spirit gets worked into our lives. Paul says its complex and often misunderstood. God's various gifts is handed to us but they originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere but they all originate in God's Spirit. Each one of us is given something to do that shows who God is. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

A good place to find your **PLACE** in life and in ministry is at Union Grove PLACE workshops. The PLACE workshop will help you discover your **Personality**, **Learn** your spiritual gift, see how your **Abilities** come into play, **Connect** your passions with ministry and see how your **Experiences** makes you. Believe in, have the attitude of, and abide in Christ is the only PLACE that matters. Ask yourself this, "Is it for God or for me? If it's for God, I do it. If it's for me, I don't." Jesus said, "it's not about Him but God." So, that's all He is doing. Jesus knew His PLACE.



Valentines' Gala: Horizon Club, Robins AFB



Hosted by Equally Yoked Marriage Ministry





Healthcare Ministry: Heart Disease

Heart disease includes a number of problems affecting the heart and the blood vessels in the heart. Among all U.S. women who die each year, 1 in 4 dies of heart disease. African American and Hispanic American/Latina women tend to have more risk factors for heart disease than white women. Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the most common type of heart disease. With CAD, your arteries become hard and narrow, which can lead to chest pain and heart attack.

Take steps to lower your risk of heart disease:

1) Know your blood pressure, 2) don't smoke; if you smoke, try to quit, 3) get tested for diabetes, 4) have your cholesterol and triglyceride levels tested; your doctor may advise you to lower them, 5) maintain a healthy weight, 6) limit alcohol to no more than one drink a day and 7) find healthy ways to cope with stress

Heart disease often has no symptoms. But, chest or arm pain or discomfort can be a warning sign of a heart attack. Other signs include shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea, abnormal heartbeats and feeling very tired. If you think you, or someone else, may be having a heart attack, wait no more than a few minutes - five at the most – before calling 911.

Americans at Risk

Below is the percentage of U.S. adults with heart disease risk factors in 2005 - 2008.

Risk Factor	%
Inactivity	53
Obesity	34
High Blood Pressure	32
Cigarette Smoking	21
High Cholesterol	15
Diabetes	11

In 2003, approximately 37% of adults reported having two or more of the risk factors listed.

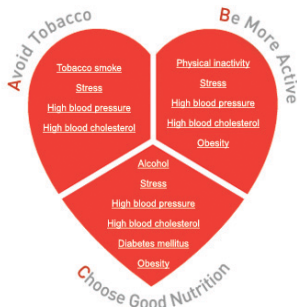
Deaths Vary by Ethnicity

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for people of most ethnicities in the United States, including African Americans, Hispanics and whites. For American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians or Pacific Islanders, heart disease is second only to cancer. Below is the percentage of all deaths caused by heart disease in 2008, listed by ethnicity.

Race of Ethnic Group	% of Deaths
African Americans	24.4
American Indians or Alaska Natives	17.9
Asians or Pacific Islanders	23.2
Hispanics	20.7
Whites	25.1
All	24.9

Early Action is Key

In a 2005 survey, 92% of the respondents recognized chest pain as a symptom of a heart attack. Only 27% were aware of all major symptoms and knew to call 9-1-1 when someone was having a heart attack. About 47% of sudden cardiac deaths occur outside a hospital. This suggests that many people with heart disease don't act on early warning signs.



Information

~ Ministerial Staff ~

Senior Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr.	478-988-9358
Minister Milo Bradley, Jr.	478-971-3346
Minister Tammy Carpenter	478-334-8997
Minister Connie Dinkins	478-335-1790
Minister John Dukes	478-953-8789
Minister Leo Finkley	478-953-7625
Minister James Ford	478-929-0577
Minister Arie Freeman	478-333-3110
Minister Charles Frye	478-273-9884
Minister James Gaines	*deployed*
Minister Tommy Gray	478-218-0482
Minister Rushia Jackson	478-923-1350
Minister Keith Perkins	478-227-2509
Minister LaTonya Phillips	404-849-1502
Minister Rashee Ragin	478-960-6180
Minister Antonia Simmons	478-953-4290
Minister Mary Ann Swinney	478-918-4311
Minister Cornelius Thorpe	478-955-0126
Minister Everand Woodard	478-319-0619

~ In Training ~

Sister Dannie Dukes	478-953-8789
Sister Linda Gray	478-218-0482
Sister Mary Lenoir	478-953-2350

~ Deacons ~

A-C	Deacon Jerome Stephens	478-929-1476
D-F	Deacon Slater Thorpe	478-218-8736
G-I	Deacon Donald Woodard	478-987-9865
	Deacon Louis Laney	478-329-0957
J-K	Deacon Robert Simmons, Sr.	
	Deacon Robert Simmons, Jr.	478-953-4290
L-N	Deacon T.C. Caldwell	478-293-8428
	Deacon Charles Lenoir	478-953-2350
O-R	Deacon Monroe Clark	478-953-2044
S	Deacon Alvin Myrick	478-788-5696
	In Training—Bro. William Jackson	478-929-4918
T-V	Deacon Edward Jarvis	478-923-5139
W-Z	Deacon Nathaniel Davis	478-923-7713

~ 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 for the bulletin, screen, and website can be submitted by email 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

Vision Center Scheduling/Viewing. Please contact Sis. Latonya Phillips at 478-929-4022 to schedule events at the Vision Center.

For a ride to Sunday services, please call 478-922-5514 by Thursday, 5pm

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 March 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