



The Voyager



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1



JANUARY 2012

Martin Luther King: Honor the Legacy with Service

By Sister Barbara Hilliard

An American clergyman, prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement, Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1964 and a great orator, Martin Luther King is revered for being an iconic figure in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world. His achievements and honors are too numerous to list. However, among his most notable accomplishments are his leading the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott; his help in the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech; posthumously, the



awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a U.S. federal holiday in 1986 and will be observed this year on Monday, January 16.

As we prepare for the national celebration honoring Dr. King, we reflect on some of his most memorable sayings which give meaning and hope to each of us. These are quotes from his sermons, books and speeches.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

(Continued on page 4.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Message	2
We Salute: Member Profile	3
Birthday Greetings	3
Events On the Horizon	4

Yesterday & Tomorrow

On New Year's Eve 1916, a chaplain spoke to a gathering of British Commonwealth soldiers in Cairo, Egypt. Standing before men whose lives had been turned upside down by World War I, Oswald Chambers talked to them about yesterday and tomorrow.

Chambers said, "At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise from remembering the yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace is apt to be checked by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them in order to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual culture for the future. God reminds us of the past lest we get into a shallow security in the present. . . . *Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ. Leave the irreparable past in His hands, and step out into the irresistible future with Him*" (*My Utmost For His Highest*).

God promised Israel, "The Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard" ([Isaiah 52:12](#)). We too can take comfort in knowing that our God will never leave us nor forsake us ([Hebrews 13:5](#)).

As we begin a new year, we can place ourselves—and all our yesterdays and tomorrows—safely in His care.

What's Your Resolution for 2012?



Numerous individuals sit down with pen/pencil to write their resolutions for the New Year. A New Year's Resolution is a commitment made to personal goals, projects, or the reforming of a habit. Some refer to it as a lifestyle change for the coming year. At watch night services, many Christians prepare for the new year by praying and making resolutions.

If you have not decided on your 2012 resolution, the following suggestions for making effective resolutions were listed on [eHow.com](#) and may prove valuable. They are as follows: (1) Be realistic by setting achievable goals. (2) Describe your resolutions in specific terms. Instead of saying "I don't want to be lazy," say "I want to exercise regularly" or "I will cut down on my television watching." (3)

Break down large goals into smaller ones. (4) Find alternatives to a behavior that you want to change, and make this part of your resolution plan. (5) Above all, aim for things that are truly important to you, not what others expect of you.

Several church members are sharing their resolutions with us.

"My aim for 2012 is to keep God as the head of my life and continue to serve Him and praise Him for His grace and mercy and let Him lead me in all aspects of my life."

-- Sister Mamie Brownridge

"Be a better servant for the Lord and love my fellow servants."

-- Sister Jeffie Bowman

"To be a faithful church member; to become more visible in my outreach ministry and to let God lead me on my spiritual journey."

-- Sister Barbara Catchings

"I hope the New Year will bring me better health, peace, joy, love and happiness throughout the year. I hope to come back to church and participate in the church's activities."

-- Brother Willie Mosley

(Continued on page 3).

LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP

Reprinted from *Our Daily Bread*, January 1, 2002.
Excerpt from *My Utmost For His Highest* by Oswald Chambers©
Renewal 1963 Oswald Chambers Publication Association, Ltd.



Continuing Our Fantastic Voyage



Though my pastorate began April 2010, I shared many sacred moments with you as far back as December 2009. Still working at Mission Mississippi, I received a call from Deaconess Kelly in the late fall inviting me to serve as a supply preacher following Rev. Spann's untimely yet noble resignation. I was not the first choice; members of Mt. Helm desired for my co-worker Dolphus Weary to consider an interim pastoral position with this historic congregation. I later learned that Dolphus declined the offer, but that I was well recommended to fill in while the Search Committee discerned who God was calling to helm this old ship of Zion.

When Sis. Kelly called me, I was leaving a Jackson pastors luncheon, sponsored by Mission Mississippi, and tried to mentally identify the location of Mt. Helm as I traveled from South Jackson back to the office downtown. I had only heard of the church in my seminary studies, specifically its relationship to the histories of both the Church of Christ (Holiness) USA and the Church of God in Christ. Beyond that, I knew very little of Mt. Helm's rich legacy.

I soon discovered that richness. Though several clergy and lay folk in Jackson admonished me not to go down to that "bougie Negro," "preacher-hating" church, I was up to the challenge of learning you from firsthand knowledge—not ecclesial gossip. Though I had no intentions of pastoring Mt. Helm in 2009, I hurriedly became intimate with the history in all its wonderful complexity. I traced the congregation's connection to First Baptist, several daughter Baptist churches, Jackson State University. I listened to intimate stories about the membership and the role myriad saints played in the Farish Street District and all around the capital city. I mourned historic church fights, church splits, and celebrated those golden moments in the life of the congregation that still bring many members joy.

I did all this as a church nerd, as someone simply interested in the real lives of the real people who are called to be the church. Though several members came to me after every Sunday service over which I presided and in which I preached, I was reluctant because, unlike some of my colleagues, I wasn't looking for a church to pastor. I was grateful for the opportunity to share my gifts that have been shaped and tested for now more than a decade in the ministry. However, I was okay with simply being in your presence from time to time, preaching the Gospel, and inviting you into deeper reflection on your faith. Nevertheless I remained open to the Spirit's leadership, prayed for discernment of God's will, and well, the rest is history. April 2010 was a beautiful surprise.

God has a way of doing that; a way of moving your life in unexpected and inexplicable ways. But like Bishop TD Jakes says, *nothing just happens*. I believe in providence, that God's will and way makes all things work together for good. I am a witness that if you trust God, He will do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think." (Eph 3:20a)

As this new year opens, I am thankful that God blessed me with you. It has been my joy to pastor you, and I'm standing in tip-toed anticipation for what God has in store for us in 2012. As we continue to launch deeper into life-changing ministry, I pray that we will do so enthusiastically, recognizing that our Captain is about to take us further on this fantastic voyage.

Thank you for letting me ride with all of you. Let's stay open to the beautiful surprises God has for us in 2012.

Pastor C. Edward Rhodes, II

WANTED: YOUR IDEAS

I will be hosting a Sunday radio show on 97.7 FM beginning February 2012. It'll be Good News radio, inspiring and empowering Jackson (and whoever else listens) with captivating, challenging, and courageous conversations about everything from spirituality to sexuality. It'll highlight people and places making a difference, topics that make you think and feel and encourage YOU to be your best self. What are some topics, people, issues you'd like for me to discuss. Contact me and share your ideas.





We Salute Bro. Jason Thompson

MEMBER PROFILE:



Since he became a member of Mt. Helm Baptist Church, our January honoree has been very visible and actively involved in various church activities. Whether he is teaching the Brotherhood Bible Class Sunday School class, or mentoring young people, or leading the SAIL Team, this young, gifted, energetic, passionate young man approaches each task with fervency.

A native of Clarksdale, he and his family moved to Crystal Springs where he received his early education. He began developing his leadership skills as a student leader in the Crystal Springs School System. He and Reverend Rhodes, a student leader in the Hazlehurst School System, became acquainted. They continued their education by enrolling at the University of Mississippi and working together as student leaders. This honoree received a degree in Marketing and was active in several student organizations and activist movements.

Once disengaged from religion and the Church, he has become a serious disciple of Jesus, seeking to connect his faith in Christ to the amelioration of suffering and injustice. He believes the Church is called to be an agent of transformation, and that Christians must get beyond the four walls to serve and improve. He is a constant encourager that the Church be the Church.

One of his favorite books is *Radical* by David Platt, an in-depth look at how Christ's disciples can be delivered from America's perversion of Christianity and how we can be salt and light in a fallen society.

We are all touched and blessed by God's placing Jason Thompson in our midst. WE PROUDLY SALUTE BROTHER JASON THOMPSON.

Member Resolutions for 2012?

(Continued from page 1.)

"To work toward a better spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional healthy 'me'".
-- Sister Maudell Smith

"That my health will improve so I can attend church more often. I seek the prayers of my pastor and church members."
-- Sister Ethel Lawson

"Improve on my health habits: proper diet and sleep habits. Be cautious in spending. Be kind and friendly to everyone. Keep the Lord in my presence; in all of my undertakings, seek His guidance."
-- Sister Alin Herd



January Birthday Greetings

Sis. Donna Johnson	04
Bro. Bill Cooley	05
Sis. Sharon Mitchell	11
Sis. Linda Adams	13
Bro. Tony Davis	15
Sis. Sharon Hurley	16
Sis Phyllis Hammond	22
Sis. Naomi Sams	22
Sis. Jeffie Bowman	24
Sis. Nickey Branson	25
Bro. Charles Evans	26
Sis. LaShondra Griffin Verser	27
Sis. Mary Lou Brown	30



Sick & Shut-In Members

Sis. Magnolia Brown
Forest Hill Nursing Home
601-373-6297

Sis. Mattie Rundles
710 Watson Street
601-354-8948

Sis. Bernice Warden
1120 N. Lamar Street
601-354-2450



Special Prayer Requests

Military personnel and their families

- Bro. Mario Lewis (U.S. Army)
- Bro. Carey Holmes (U.S. Air Force)
- Bro. Joseph Bowman and family
- Bro. Barry Hubbard
- Sis. Cybrathia Hubbard
- Bro. Alderwin Jordan
- Sis. Ethel Lawson
- Sis. Joyce Morris Prior
- Bro. Robert Lee Thomas

President Barak Obama
"Prayer for those in authority over us"
(2 Chronicles 1:10-11)

FELLOWSHIP NOTE: Take a few moments to wish a fellow member "Happy Birthday" or call or write one of our "Sick and Shut-In" members. Offer a prayer for those who have made special requests. Remember your prayer has power!

Martin Luther King

(Continued from page 1.)

- *Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*
- *Life's most persistent and urgent question is "What are you doing for others?"*
- *The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.... Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education.*
- *I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land.*
- *Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.*
- *The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*
- *An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.*
- *Man is man because he is free to operate within the framework of his destiny. He is free to deliberate, to make decisions, and to choose between alternatives. He is distinguished from animals by his freedom to do evil or to do good and to walk the high road of beauty or tread the low road of ugly degeneracy.*

STAFF

Sister Barbara Hilliard, Editor

Sister Olivia Thomas, Associate Editor

Sister Arva Fuller, Writer

Brother Charles Holmes, Writer

Sister Angela Norwood, Writer

Brother Jason Thompson, Writer

The *Mt. Helm Voyager* newsletter will be available to our members on the first Sunday of each month. Members are encouraged to visit www.mthelm.org to access a downloadable pdf on the Monday following the first Sunday of each month.

Articles, photographs and notices of special events may be submitted to Sister Barbara Hilliard. We thank you for your support.

The Voyager is a monthly newsletter published by Mount Helm Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi. All rights reserved in all media.©

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 11098, JACKSON, MS 39283-1098

STREET ADDRESS:

300 E. CHURCH STREET, JACKSON, MS 39202

PHONE: 601-353-3981 FAX: 601-353-7411

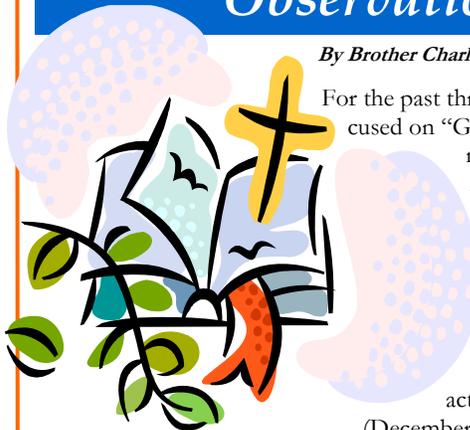


www.mthelm.org



Observations on Faith

By Brother Charles Holmes



For the past three Sundays, our Sunday School lessons focused on "God Establishes a Faithful People." They primarily centered on the faithful journey of Abraham many centuries ago. However, these lessons are applicable to us today--we Christians of faith.

In the first lesson in December entitled "The Lord Calls Abraham", we might ask ourselves what are some "basic calls" that come to all Christians--calls to behaviors, activities, and values? The second lesson

(December 11th) was "The Lord Gives His Promise".

The question for us today that could apply --"What was a time when focusing on God's promises helped alleviate your fun? Was it a health issue, a financial issue, a work place issue or a family issue." The third lesson (December 18th) was "The Lord Provides". Abraham was thinking of sacrificing his promised son Isaac. The question for us -- How have tests helped stretch your faith: tests of obedience, tests of patience, test of endurance or tests of God's saying "no" in answer to our prayers.

In his latest book, *The Journey*, the Reverend Billy Graham indicated five lessons he learned on his journey to faith in God. They are as follows:

- *Make it your goal to live at peace with others.
- *Treat others as you want to be treated,
- *Guard your tongue; use it for good instead of evil.
- *Never repay evil for evil.
- *Avoid revenge. Don't be a captive of the past.

On the Horizon: January Events

1 COMMUNION SUNDAY NEW YEAR'S DAY

4, 11, 18, 25

Odyssey of Life
Youth Meeting/Activities
Intercessory Prayer

9 Brotherhood Bible Class Meeting (6 p.m.)

11 Colley Missionary Society Meeting (10 a.m.)

15 Youth Sunday

16 Martin Luther King Day Observance

26 Trustee Board Meeting (6 p.m.)

29 Early Church Service

Sunday School: 8 a.m.

Church Service: 9:20 a.m.

Music provided by the Youth Choir

1st, 2nd, 4th Sundays: Children and Youth Services (11 a.m.)

Each Saturday: Choirs practice at 9:30 a.m.