

The Voyager

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A Salute to C. Edward Rhodes, II

*You show that you are a letter from Christ ...written not with ink
but with the Spirit of the living God..*

II Corinthians 3:3 NIV



We are so thrilled that you answered the call and became the twenty-third pastor of Mount Helm Baptist Church. Your messages are Biblical, inspiring, spirit-filled, thought-provoking, and filled with wisdom that sustains us throughout the weeks and months. You are indeed a compassionate inspiration. The gift you are and the love you demonstrate are all received with an appreciation that only the heart knows. We sincerely appreciate you for making an eternal difference in our lives. The tenacity with which you approach each task is evidence of the strength of your calling by God to win souls for Christ.

Pastor Rhodes,

Encourager.

Counselor.

Teacher.

Preacher.

Leader.

Comforter.

*Thank you for being
all God called you to
be--*

*You are appreciated
more than you'll ever
know.*

*Members of the
Trustee Board*

On this memorable day, the membership of Mount Helm Baptist Church express thanks and appreciation. Moreover, we are eternally grateful to you for your leadership, guidance and love. Your ministry is a unique expression of God's grace and mercy. As preacher, counselor, teacher listener and friend of this flock, we look forward to your navigating us to higher heights.

The Brotherhood Bible Class Honors Pastor Rhodes

The Brotherhood Bible Class salutes Reverend C. Edward Rhodes, II on your first anniversary at the helm of Mount Helm Baptist Church. During this year you established the "Odyssey Life Institute," a faith voyage from membership to discipleship that encourages the membership to embellish Christian discipleship. In addition, you formed a

viable committee to develop a Five Year Strategic Planning Program. The Church's web site can now be viewed with information on Mount Helm on line. Moreover, your insightful, spiritual and articulate sermons have inspired members to examine their Christian commitment. Moreover, your thoughtful prognosis of how Mount Helm can

develop in the future within this neighborhood and district highlights your vision of how the Church can become more of the beacon it needs to be. For such moves and more, we envision a God inspired future. Continue to navigate us forward, whereby we will be anchored in God's inspired word.

Charles Holmes, President

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Congratulations from The Inspirational Choir

Pastor Rhodes:

The Inspirational Choir salutes your year of service to Mount Helm Baptist Church. We are likened unto Psalm 13:6: *I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me (NIV).*

We thank you for your continued support of our ministry and pray God's continued blessings on you and your ministry at Mount Helm. We pledge to obey and support you as we continue to spread the Gospel to every creature.

Catherine Harris, Directress





TOUCHED BY YOUR MESSAGES

by Jessie Lampley

I remember the very first sermon Reverend Rhodes preached as a visiting minister when we were seeking a pastor. The date was December 27, 2009. The title was "The Word that Changed the World". The scripture for the sermon was John 1:1-14. The highlight of the message: God is the word that came to change the world. He came into our world with all our issues to remind us who we are. We are nothing without the word (God).

We continue to be touched and inspired by your ministry. The Lord works in wondrous ways through you. We thank you for your dedicated service in His name. The inspiration I gain from your sermons compels me to chronicle meaningful thoughts on a weekly basis. I humbly share these thoughts which may serve as an inspiration to others:

Learn to pray before things happen.
Prayer is our weapon against the enemy.

As humans we will be tempted, but we must be focused on God.

God allows Satan to test us. But God has prayed for us.

How do we start living after failure? God sees the best in us.

God shines His light so we can see what is in our lives that need changing. He sees beyond our mess. God can transform us.

We must be in a position to receive what God is going to do for us. We must wait on the power of the Holy Spirit. We must say, "God, let your will be done."

Sometimes we feel all alone. There are moments when we praise Him and moments when we are in pain. Faith sustains us. The Lord is my Shepherd.

What does it take to be a good shepherd? A good shepherd has a relationship with his sheep.

The Lord's Prayer is a model of ACTS:

- A--Adore Him; Worship Him.
- C--Confess our faults and sins.
- T--Thanksgiving: a resume for what God has already done.
- S--Supplication: God is a relationship God. He doesn't want our words; He wants our worship.
- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. Jesus
- L--Liberates us (frees us). He came to set the captives free.
- O--Orders our lives (steps).
- R--Repositions our lives from the kingdom of darkness to light.
- D--Deserves our worship. Worthy is He.
- Our lives must be a testimony to others. We must want to be like Jesus. Our light must shine.
- God gives us everything we need to succeed in the wilderness. God is faithful.
- In the midst of storms, God will bring us through, God can change financial storms to financial victories. God allows us to weather the storms.
- We all have a calling. God created us on purpose. We are here on assignment. We must ask ourselves what are we doing with our lives?
- Are you doing what God has anointed you to do? You were sanctified in your mother's womb. The ability to do beyond yourself is being anointed. No one can affirm it but God.
- God uses the burning bush to show up in the life of Moses. Somehow, someday God will show up in our lives.



Pastor Rhodes, I am touched by the message you bring each Sunday.

YOUTH TRIBUTE:



Pastor Rhodes, the early years.

Pastor Rhodes, you are . . .

- R Righteous.**
Proverbs 20:7 states: The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.
- H Helpful.**
Ephesians 4:29 says: Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- O Obedient.**
I Peter 1:14 tells us: As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance
- D Devoted.**
2 Chronicles 17:6(a) sums this word up: His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD
- E Expectant.**
Psalm 5 has this to say: In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.
- S Saved.**
We believe what Psalm 80:3 says: Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Pastor Rhodes: Thank you for being an observant example of God's Word. Keep walking in God's path and showing us, by example how God and you want us to live our lives.
We appreciate your care and concern for our physical and spiritual well-being.

We Love You!!
Congratulations on your Anniversary!



We Salute...

MEMBER PROFILE:

Pastor Rhodes,

Thank you for a wonderful and joyful year of engaged, committed leadership as our Spiritual Shepherd. The Clothing and Pantry Ministry looks forward to many years of great guidance, teaching and preaching as we travel our earthly Christian journey.

Thanks again. May God richly bless you in leading Mount Helm to the highest level of Christian fellowship and community involvement.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Maxine White Harkless, Chair

Members *Celebrate* Pastor Rhodes . . .

Reverend Rhodes,

We thank God for assigning you to Mount Helm Baptist Church as the 23rd Pastor of this Historic Church. When we recall the events that took place during our search for a pastor, we are convinced that God sent you here for such a time as this. So today we pause to say, "To God be the glory for the things He has done."

We thank you for being obedient to HIS call to become pastor, leader and shepherd of this flock on April 4, 2010. We salute you today for a job well done, for you have faithfully preached the Word so that souls may be won for Jesus Christ. Additionally, your preaching, your spiritual influence, your teachings and your leadership skills are among your outstanding attributes that continue to challenge those who are already Christians to press on and reach for higher plains. Each Sunday as you enter the pulpit and kneel before His presence, through our spiritual eyes we see a young minister, OUR PASTOR, who is totally committed to serve to the best of his ability. We see a servant of God who truly recognizes and silently says to us, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Proverb 16:3).

An unknown writer once observed that "...a true minister is God's man/woman doing God's work in God's way for God's glory." TO US, REVEREND RHODES, YOU ARE A TRUE MINISTER. WE APPRECIATE AND HONOR YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO AS OUR LEADER. WE JOIN YOU IN GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER IN THE LOVE OF JESUS AS EXPRESSED BY THE REVEREND CHARLES PRICE JONES:

*Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus
Daily let me go;
Higher, higher, in the school of wisdom
More of grace to know.
Deeper, deeper, blessed Holy Spirit
Take me deeper still,
Till my life is wholly lost in Jesus
And His perfect will.
Deeper, deeper! Tho it cost hard trials,
Deeper let me go!
Rooted in the Holy love of Jesus
Let me fruitful grow.*

*Deeper, higher, every day in Jesus,
Till all conflict past,
Finds me conqueror,
and in His own Image
Perfected at last.

Chorus:
O deeper, yet I pray,
And higher every day
And wiser blessed Lord
In thy precious, Holy Word.*

From the Ollie Love Bible Class

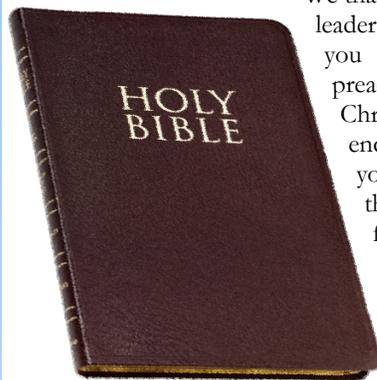
—Pastor Rhodes,

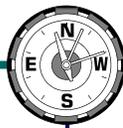
Congratulations and blessings from God our Father. We are truly blessed to have you as our leader.

The Ollie Love Bible Class wishes you continued success and God's richest blessings as you continue to "stir" up the gift that is in you as you present the Message of the Cross to us with confidence and assurance.

May God continue to bless you as we launch out into the deep--going deeper, and deeper.

Valiera Fluker,
President





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**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY EDITION
APRIL 25, 2011**

To be good stewards of our resources we are seeking to keep printing/reproduction costs for the newsletter to a minimum.

The newsletter will be available online at www.mthelm.org as a downloadable pdf on the Monday following the first Sunday of each month. Printed copies will be made available to our sick and shut-in members and to those who do not have internet access. Please inform Sis. Hilliard if you require a printed copy.

Articles, photographs and notices of special events may be submitted to Sister Hilliard or to Sister Olivia Thomas. We look forward to expanding and increasing *The Voyager* and we thank you for your assistance and support.

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 **Mount Helm**
Baptist Church
www.mthelm.org

On the Horizon: APRIL EVENTS

- 9 Women's Day Brunch: 12 noon
- 10 Women's Day Celebration: 11 a.m.
- 11 Brotherhood Bible Class Monthly Meeting
- 17 Palm Sunday
- 19 First Day of Passover (begins at sundown the day before)
- 22 Good Friday
Earth Day
- 24 Easter
Orthodox Easter
- 29 Arbor Day

A Kitchen Shower

For Mt. Helm Baptist Church

April 1-30, 2011

Hosted by the April Birthday Club

Please purchase items from our suggested list for the April Kitchen Shower or make your donations to the church and specify Kitchen Shower on your envelope. We will then purchase needed items for our kitchen to make it more efficient for persons using it for our many church functions. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



Mt. Helm to Celebrate Women's Day

by Brenda Davis, 2011 Women's Day Committee Chairperson

The women of Mount Helm will celebrate their **Annual Women's Day on Sunday, April 10, 2011**, during the 11:00 a.m. church service. The theme is "Launching Deeper into Our Faith as Christian Women." The scripture is Mark 15:28. Sister Thea Thomas Faulkner, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and coordinator of the Parent Advocate/Parent Leadership Institute for Parents for Public Schools, is the speaker.

While still in high school, Sister Faulkner came in contact with individuals who demonstrated what a real relationship with God looked like. Throughout college at Dillard University, she was blessed to meet people who valued the word of God. These

experiences inspired her to seek the Savior, and she received Jesus Christ as Lord in January, 1981. For many years, our speaker and her family were members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. She was active in many of the teaching ministries of the church, under the leadership of Pastor Fred Luter, Jr. These experiences birthed a love for God's word and Godly integrity that have served as a foundation for ongoing spiritual growth and development.

Sister Faulkner believes to know truth, one must know Jesus Christ as Lord. John 1:1-14 is the scriptural passage which guides her beliefs. She and her



husband, Minister Larry L. Faulkner, and their three children, Daniel, Jonathan and Mikayla, are members of New Hope Baptist Church, pastored by Dr. Jerry Young.

The Annual Women's Day Celebration will begin on **Saturday, April 9, 2011, with a brunch at 12 noon.** Members and friends are encouraged to please join the women of the church for both events.