

Beacon of Light

December 2019 • Volume 2 • Issue 4

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Pastor's Corner



Following the Jesus Star

From the wise men who searched for a king, to Harriet Tubman and those who navigated the Underground Railroad, stars have played an important role in pointing the way forward for those in search of the favor of God. Polaris, otherwise known as the "North Star", which sits in the sky directly above the North Pole, served as a tangible nighttime guide through fields and swamps for slaves seeking to find their way north to freedom. It also served as a symbolic beacon of hope for Tubman who was being led by the Spirit of God to find a glimpse of heaven here on earth. Upon reaching free territory for the first time in the state of Pennsylvania, Tubman is quoted as saying, **"I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything. The sun came up like gold through the trees, and I felt like I was in heaven."** Glenn McNatt, *"Following a star to the North and Freedom"* (Baltimore: Baltimore Sun, January 26, 1997)

Likewise, wise men from the East, during the time of Jesus's birth, were being led by the light of God through a star to a special place of meaning. **"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,**

asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'" (Matt. 2:1-2)

These wise men, Persian astronomers trained in the arts of celestial interpretation and navigation, knew that something truly wondrous and unique was unfolding on the scene, and wanted to be fully present to witness it. As God would have it, they would be counted among the first eyewitnesses of a newborn king. **"...they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."** (Matt. 2:9-10)

Inside Issue

Inspirational Thoughts and Encouragement	Page 3
Honoring Our Veterans	Page 4
Ebenezer in Pictures—Notable Events	Page 7
Celebrating and Remembering the Lives	Page 11
Keeping You Informed—	
• National Diabetes Awareness	Page 12
• H.I.V. Is Coming to Rural America	Page 13
• Cancer Patients	Page 16
Planning Your 2020 Vacation?	Page 17
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Page 19
Holiday Greetings	Page 21

Pastor's Corner (Continued)

Like Harriet Tubman two millennium after them, they too would experience a glimpse of heaven here on earth. Indeed, this will always be the story of those who allow themselves to be captured by the light of God, and follow where it leads them. While the wise men and Harriet were, in the flesh, literally being guided by the light of stars; the light of God in Jesus Christ, was the true light guiding them in the Spirit. So, wherever there is the prospect or evidence of hope anywhere around us, we ought to pay close attention to it; because, it may very well be the star of Jesus showing us the way.

This is the light we pay special homage to in this holy season of Christmas, and this is the light that promises to guide us all the year through.

"All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
(John 1:3-5)

May the light of Christ shine brightly everywhere around you in this Christmas season and throughout the new year!

Merry Christmas & Season's Greetings to All,

Pastor Mark D. Venson



Inspirational Thoughts and Encouragement

To Be Productive, You Must Be Connected

Source: *Daily Hope with Rick Warren, August 2019*

“A branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5 NLT).

In the Bible, the vineyard is a picture of the church. It's a metaphor describing how a church family helps you grow like fruit on a tree or grapes on a vine.

Fruitfulness in Scripture revolves around being productive. No one wants their life to end and feel like it was unproductive. We want our lives to count. To be productive, we must be connected.

In God's garden, in his vineyard, our lives become productive when we are connected.

God has all kinds of fruit he wants you to bear during your lifetime. But your calling will not happen until you're connected to God's family, the church.

If you really want the life God created you to live, you need the power to live on, the people to live with, the principles to live by, the plan to live out, and the purpose to live for.

God created the church to meet all of those needs. You won't find that outside of the church.

The Bible says, *“A branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5 NLT).*

Sometimes getting connected means taking a step (or two) of faith and being uncomfortable at first. It's not always the easiest thing to do. But it's one of the most important things you'll do with your life.

It's time to plug in. It's time to get connected. Take a step forward today!

- What does it mean for you to be fruitful and productive?
- How has your participation within the church made you more productive in your God-given calling?
- What keeps you from being better plugged in to your church family?



HONORING OUR VETERANS—VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019



Within our Ebenezer family, are several veterans who have served in various branches of the armed forces. We celebrate and honor you for your service and the tremendous sacrifice you have given to your country.



Curtis Bell



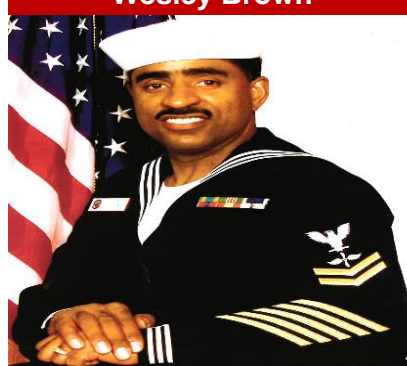
Vernon Bell



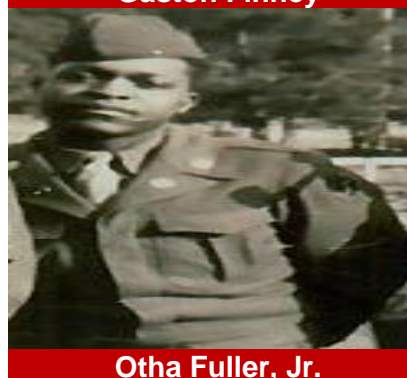
Thomas Brown, Jr.



Wesley Brown



Gaston Finney



Otha Fuller, Jr.



John Grantham



Jardea Jenkins



Harry Laury



David King



Barbara McIntosh



Franklin McIntosh



Bernadette Miller



Reginald Miller



James Pickett



Carolyn Winbush



Lynn Pittmon



Boyd Poole



James Trent

Thank You

They walk the line
so that we can be free
Some stay on US soil
some go overseas
All to defend our freedom
and everything that freedom means
They do it without hesitation
and while giving up their dreams
When their time has come
they leave to go far away
They do it to to keep
all of the "monsters" at bay
They give up their time
they give up their lives
They give up their families
and say "goodbye" to their wives
We see them every day
and walk on by
Many without a "thank you"
most without a "hi"
Many protest against what they do
and all they fight for
Many hold up signs
as the soldiers fall to the floor
You have the right to demonstrate
because of all that they give
Due to all they give up
you have the right to live
The next time you walk by a soldier
and don't even give it a thought
Think of all that they did
and all the battles that they fought
Please make sure to say, "thank you"
and make sure you are sincere
Because they don't give it a second thought
and they do it all without fear

by Collen Davignon

Ebenezer In Pictures—Notable Events



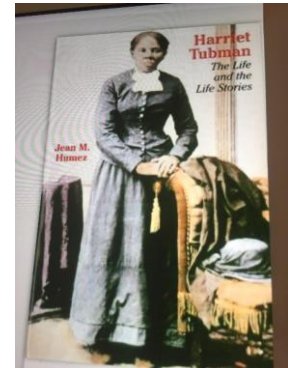
Pics from the Travel Ministry River Boat Trip, September 18, 2019



A Day at the Movies—Friday, November 1, 2019



On November 1, several Ebenezer family members and friends viewed the movie Harriet at Xscape theatre, Brandywine, Maryland. This movie was a beautiful portrayal of Harriet Tubman's life. The film showed how fearless, intelligent, bold, resilient and utterly selfless Harriet was. As leaders of the Underground Railroad wrestled with fear and confusion over how to free the slaves, Harriet declared, "I will give every last drop of blood in my veins to free them." A movie worth seeing.



For more information on the life of this remarkable woman read *Harriet Tubman: The Life and the Life Stories* by Jean M. Humez.



Ebenezer's 2019 Man of the Year

Bro. Thomas Scott Brown, Sr., was selected as Ebenezer's Man of the Year. A few facts about Bro. Brown.

- A devoted and faithful member of Ebenezer for more than 40 Years and has served on many ministries at Ebenezer including:
 - ♦ Administrative Board, Chairperson
 - ♦ The Trustee Board
 - ♦ United Methodist Men
 - ♦ Liturgist
 - ♦ Men's Bible Study
 - ♦ Older Adult Ministries, Co-Chair
 - ♦ The Adult Sunday school class
 - ♦ Wednesday Bible Study
- Served as Chairperson of Men's Day.
- Participating in Ebenezer Church Plays.
- Holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration and an Associate Degree in Computer Science. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.
- Is a Charter Member and Past President of the Virginia State University Alumni Chapter in Maryland.
- Was a Captain in the United States Army and a Member of the Green Beret.

Bro. Brown is married to Sis. Joan Brown. He has 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

The Ebenezer Church family Congratulates Bro. Brown as our 2019 Man of the Year.



Ebenezer's Son Showcased His Art Designs

Jeffery Miles, Jr., son of Bro. Jeffery Miles, displayed his paintings and prints at the Filmore Silver Spring, Maryland on October 24. Some of our Ebenezer family were in attendance to support Jeffery. His work can be viewed and available for purchase at www.themilescollective.com.



Celebrating and Remembering the Lives of Sis. Pearl Patricia Smith-Jones and Sis. Dorothy King

Death is not a tragedy for those who have faith. There is a finer and much better place where peace, love and joy abides. Since the last newsletter, Ebenezer has lost two of its members.

Pearl Patricia Smith-Jones (February 28, 1935–September 28, 2019)



Pearl Smith-Jones joined Ebenezer in 1992 shortly after marrying one of Ebenezer's members, Charles Jones. Sister Pearl attended church regularly, always setting in front near the piano with her family. Family was very important to Sister Pearl and she enjoyed spending family and worship time with them. She served on the Pastoral Parish Relations Committee and served a term as Chairperson. She actively participated in Bible Study classes and was a Certified Lay Speaker.

Sister Pearl had a zest for life; God's word, the Bible, was very dear to her. She was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. She never hesitated to tell her Ebenezer Church family of the miracles God had bestowed upon her and her family. She often testified how grateful she was for the many blessings they had received.

Pearl's celebration and tribute to life was held at Heritage United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland on October 5th with Rev. Venson delivering the eulogy.

Sister Pearl leaves behind Ebenezer Church members Charles Jones (husband), Harold Smith (son), Jocelyn and Joyce Smith (daughters), Joilyn (granddaughter), and Joelle (great granddaughter).



Dorothy King (February 14, 1944–October 13, 2019)



Dorothy King joined Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Lanham in the very late 1980's under the pastorate of Rev. Conrad D. Parker. She loved her church and attended regularly until recent years when her health began to decline.

Sister Dorothy served on the Ebenezer Senior Usher Board. Her friendly spirit connected with people instantly. She always greeted her church members with a warm smile while at work in Hecht's/Macy's Department Stores. Dorothy had an immense love for plants. She loved working the soil and seeing things grow and would not hesitate to share with others.

Sister Dorothy had a lot of love for her family. She was a woman of faith and had a quiet strength that allowed her to endure the illnesses she faced during her earthly journey. Over the past couple of years, being unable to attend church regularly became more difficult due to her illness. God saw Dorothy was getting tired and a cure for the cancer in her body was not to be, so He put His arms around her on October 13th and called her home.

Her celebration of life was held at Lanham United Methodist Church with Rev. Venson officiating with a packed audience. The immediate family members she leaves includes her husband, Ebenezer Church member David King, two daughters, two granddaughters, and eight great-grandchildren.

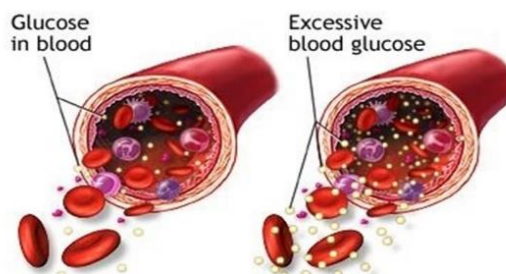
Submitted by Sis. Gabrielle Patrick



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

National Diabetes Awareness

Your goal is to maintain normal blood glucose levels



This year, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institutes of Health 2019 have formed a partnership to focus on the link between diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The theme is *"TAKE DIABETES TO HEART - Linking Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease."*

The connection between diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease is the most prevalent cause of morbidity and mortality in people with diabetes. Risk factors such as obesity, hypertension, genetics, family history and dyslipidemia are common in persons with diabetes mellitus. These factors place them at an increased risk for cardiac events.

The connection between diabetes and heart disease starts with high blood sugar levels. Over time, the glucose in the bloodstream can damage the arteries, causing them to become stiff and hard. Fatty material, called atherosclerosis, builds up on the inside of the vessel. These deposits can reduce or block blood flow to the heart or brain causing a lethal heart attack or stroke.

Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases in school aged children, usually attributed to by obesity and poor diets made up of junk food with high sugar content. One in ten Americans have diabetes; approximately 30 million people. And another 84 million adults in the U.S are at high risk of developing Type II diabetes. Frequent signs and symptoms of diabetes include excessive urination, excessive thirst, excessive hunger, sudden weight loss and fatigue. Diabetes is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the U.S. Long term complications of diabetes include blindness, nerve damage in hands and feet, and kidney damage; cardiovascular disease to include peripheral vascular disease, hypertension, stroke and heart attack; renal failure requiring dialysis.

You can lower your risk of developing Type II diabetes by more than 50% if you make healthy lifestyle changes. These changes include healthy eating, getting more physical activity and losing weight. Know your health-related numbers which include your weight, body mass index, blood glucose level, waist-line circumference, and cholesterol levels. Awareness is the key to preventing diabetes.



H.I.V. Is Coming to Rural America And Rural America is Not Ready

By Steven Thrasher, Professor at Northwestern University, *The New York Times*, December 1, 2019

While there are still about a million people living with H.I.V. in the United States, in some of America's largest cities, the news about H.I.V. and AIDS is surprisingly positive.

"New H.I.V. Diagnoses Fall to Historic Lows," the New York City Department of Health announced on Nov. 22, reporting that the largest city in the United States had fewer new diagnoses of H.I.V. in 2018 than during any year since statistics were first kept in 2001. This was just a few weeks after Philadelphia's Department of Public Health reported a 14 percent drop in the number of newly diagnosed H.I.V. infections overall, and a drop of more than one-third among black men who have sex with men – an especially vulnerable population. San Francisco and Chicago have also seen their rates of new H.I.V. infections falling.

But while robust municipal health campaigns are creating downward H.I.V. trends in some of America's largest cities, in much of rural America, an opposite trend is emerging. There have of course always been cases of H.I.V. in sparsely populated parts of the country, but in these places far from cities, the conditions that lead to H.I.V. transmission are now intensifying -and rural America is not ready for the coming crisis.

Indeed, in Appalachian West Virginia, the crisis has already arrived. A cluster of 80 new H.I.V. infections has been diagnosed since early last year in Cabell County.

As A. Toni Young, an AIDS activist, puts it, the "epidemic of opioid addiction -fueled by drug companies' promotion of pain medications beginning in the 1990s -is a crisis for

rural regions in part because these regions are completely unprepared to deal with the magnitude of the problem." Ms. Young founded what is now called the Community Education Group in Washington, D.C., in 1993, originally to address H.I.V. and AIDS in women. An African-American lesbian, she has spent most of the past 30 years working to help members of the black, gay and urban communities it affects.

But since her recent move to West Virginia, near the Appalachian coal fields, she's seen the crisis take a different shape. Unlike large urban areas that have dealt with similar health and substance crises in the past, and that have networks of service providers and consumers in place, small rural health jurisdictions often lack the infrastructure to confront the crisis and have little history of dealing with comparable health issues, she explained.

And it's quite a crisis. Between 2006 and 2016, The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported, nearly 21 million opioid pills were sent to a single West Virginia town of 2,900 people. For years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, West Virginia has had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths of any state in the country. By 2017 in Jefferson County, one in four people had a controlled-substance prescription. And when prescription highs can't be sustained, people often turn to using – and sharing – needles to inject heroin and then fentanyl, leading to hepatitis C and H.I.V. This avoidable crisis has been exacerbated by unemployment, declining coal mining production and economic pressures on regional press to act as effectively as a watchdog.

At the same time, health care is relatively inaccessible. "It's not so easy to get to the nearest town to see a doctor;" Dr. Judith Feinberg, professor of medicine at West Virginia University, explained, pointing to a lack of transportation and stigma as the biggest barriers to testing and care. People living with H.I.V. are stigmatized everywhere, but those who live in large cities can get tested while feeling relatively anonymous in a clinic in ways rural dwellers cannot.

What's happening in West Virginia shouldn't be a surprise. After a hepatitis C and H.I.V. outbreak in Scott County, Ind., in 2014 and 2015 that was fueled by deindustrialization and opioids, the C.D.C. released a list of 220 counties similarly vulnerable to such outbreaks among people who use intravenous drugs. The densest concentration of those counties is along the Appalachian Trail, with 28 of them in West Virginia—more than half of the state's 55 counties.

"There is no way that doesn't wind up as an H.I.V. outbreak in the state;" Ms. Young says. Yet unlike in places like New York—with its comprehensive sex education; efforts at queer- and trans-specific public health; embrace of public syringe exchanges; and what its health commissioner, Oxiris Barbot, describes as a "sex positive approach" — when it comes to confronting its H.I.V. epidemic, rural America is ill-prepared at best and antagonistic at worst.

For instance, despite research showing that syringe programs are effective at limiting transmission of H.I.V. and encouraging people to enter drug treatment, two cities in West Virginia – Clarksburg and Charleston – have recently moved to close or limit their needle-exchange programs. Negative press, business worries and conservative approaches are among the reasons the programs have been reduced when they urgently need to be expanded (along with statewide testing and education about preventive H.I.V. medication).

I have seen such tragic, avoidable public health policies unfold in a suburban setting in my own research in America's heartland. Since 2014, I have been reporting and researching in St. Charles County, Mo., a "white flight" suburb to the west of St. Louis, where the local prosecuting attorney charged Michael L. Johnson with multiple felonies for transmitting H.I.V. (Mr. Johnson's conviction was overturned on appeal in 2016.). Even though criminalizing H.I.V. is not effective in decreasing rates of H.I.V., one of the reasons the county wanted to prosecute and imprison Mr. Johnson was likely to prevent him from transmitting the virus to others in order to protect the public health. Yet in 2017, St. Charles County closed its only clinic for sexually transmitted infections, which provided nearly 1,000 exams a year. With fewer people getting tested -and with fewer people living with the virus taking medication that can prevent transmission to others-- more people in this area could become H.I.V. positive.

While it's true that people who are black, queer, transgender, homeless, incarcerated or poor, or who use injection drugs, are disproportionately affected by H.I.V. and AIDS, the misguided impression that members of these groups are the only ones affected has unfortunately contributed to the media's choice to deprioritize coverage of H.I.V. and AIDS in recent years.

Meanwhile, the rural, heterosexual white Americans who have been the subject of countless national profiles because they're imagined – incorrectly – to represent all of President Trump's supporters, are more at risk all the time. But while we're bombarded by analyses of many aspects of their plight, we don't hear about this crisis facing them.

It's time for that to change, and for policymakers to address the root conditions that allow H.I.V. and AIDS to flourish in rural communities. In West Virginia this includes increasing access to health care, supporting all workers hurt by deindustrialization and undoing the stigma tied to sex and drug use.

These changes will, of course, provide much-needed help for the people in urban cities where H.I.V. rates are dropping as well. But the new major terrain of the crisis right now is in rural America, and it can't be ignored any longer.

Steven W. Thrasher (@thrasherxy) is an assistant professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and is on the faculty of the Institute of Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing at Northwestern University.

Submitted by Ebenezer Parish Nurses



Cancer Patients need to avoid diseases when taking chemo or radiation. CDC provides tips. – Cancer Treatments and Infection, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By Erin Blakemore, *The Washington Post*, November 15, 2019

About 650,000 cancer patients receive outpatient chemotherapy every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although chemo and radiation can extend cancer patients' lives and help stamp out the disease, the treatments can put their lives at risk.

Chemo and radiation kill cancer cells, but they can also wipe out patients' immunity. As a result, even seemingly benign infections can become threats to people being treated for cancer.

Up to 75 percent of our body's white blood cells are neutrophils, and they play a major role in helping fight infection. When they're needed, neutrophils are among the first cells to respond. They gobble up microorganisms and release enzymes and other substances to kill bacteria and stop infections in their tracks.

But chemotherapy and radiation can reduce the number of neutrophils in the blood and lead to a condition called neutropenia. Usually, patients are particularly susceptible between seven and 12 days after getting chemo. During this time, even minor infections can quickly become serious, leading to sepsis or death.

As a result, cancer patients who get one of the treatments should be extra careful. Frequent hand washing, glove use when gardening, regular bathing, fastidious food safety, and saying no to sharing food, utensils or cups with others are just a few ways to keep infection at bay.

Don't have cancer or have a chemotherapy patient in your life? You can still help protect people with compromised immune systems by staying up to date on vaccinations such as the flu shot. Since people with weakened immune systems usually have to avoid live vaccines, they often must wait months to get routine vaccinations.

Meanwhile, their only protection is the community immunity that comes from others who are vaccinated.

Another easy way to help chemo patients is to wash your hands regularly and well. This helps stem the spread of disease and protect those whose immune systems can't defend them against common infections.

The CDC offers a site for cancer patients, caregivers and healthcare providers about infections and neutropenia. It's at <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections>.



The Big Number: 6 to 8 feet—that’s how far germs can fly after you sneeze or cough

Linda Searing, *The Washington Post*, November 18, 2019

The distance germs travel when someone sneezes or coughs may be farther than you think. The average uncovered sneeze sends droplets about six feet, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But for smaller-size particles, it’s more like eight feet or farther because of a gaslike cloud that keeps them airborne, according to videos of sneezes, recorded and analyzed by scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. What’s more, a hearty sneeze can spew forth droplets at speeds of up to 100 mph, according to research from the University of Bristol, in England.

Particles expelled in a sneeze or cough can carry germs for an array of infectious diseases – colds, the flu, chickenpox, measles and more. To keep from spreading germs this way, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue whenever you sneeze or cough. If you’re caught without a tissue, health experts suggest using the crook of your elbow. That will keep the germs from becoming airborne and will keep your hands from getting germ-y. If you do sneeze or cough into your hands, wash them immediately with warm water and soap. Rinsing with water alone won’t kill germs. Or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Bottom line: To prevent the airborne spread of germs, avoid close contact with anyone who’s sick. If you’re ill and likely to cough or sneeze, stay home until you’re healthy.

Submitted by Sis. Gloria Pickett



Planning Your 2020 Vacation?

5 Breathtaking Black-Owned Hotels Around the World

Source: *Black Businesses.com*, June 19, 2019



Spice Island Beach Resort in Granada

If you've got travel fever, plan a vacation! Figure out your destination, plan it out, and jet off to reconnect your body, mind, and soul. While you're at it, you can even support various Black hospitality entrepreneurs - here are five beautiful Black-owned hotels around the world.

1. The Henderson

Destin, FL

A Salamander Beach & Spa Resort, The Henderson is perfectly placed on beautiful white sand and turquoise waters. BET co-founder Sheila C. Johnson has opened various locations across the States and constantly outdoes herself with the luxurious amenities and beautiful views. This location was named one of the South's Best Resorts of 2019, according to *Southern Living*.

2. La Créole Beach Hotel

Gosier, Guadeloupe

Here you'll find 211 bedrooms spread around a stunning garden on the edge of the sea. This hotel has become one of Guadeloupe's most prized possessions as it consistently brings in guests who are eager to experience true relaxation. Choose to stay by the garden or by the sea - either way, you'll have a breathtaking view of paradise.

3. Jnane Tamsna

Marrakesh, Morocco

Take your much-needed vacation to one of the most mesmerizing countries in Africa. The Jnane Tamsna resort showcases the owner, Meryanne Loum-Martin's, interior design skills. There's so much beauty throughout the property - from the five clear pools, nine acres of gardens, and the 24 wondrous guest rooms. This is where Moroccan traditions meet luxurious Western modernity.

4. Spice Island Beach Resort

Grande Anse, Grenada

This bewitching Black-owned luxury resort and hotel is one you won't be able to resist. Grenada itself is home to tranquil beaches and clear waters - it has everything you need for a relaxing vacation. The family-owned, all-inclusive resort constantly has people raving about its lavish property and Diamond Star ratings. It might be on the pricier side, but you'll be so glad you splurged on this perfect resort.

5. Soweto Hotel

Soweto, South Africa

Another gorgeous Black-owned hotel found in Africa is the Soweto Hotel. The hotel seamlessly blends style with history—people from all over the globe have come to stay in a room; ask to stay in the room that Michelle Obama stayed in during her visit! You'll be right next to everything you need for the ultimate South Africa vacation.



BIRTHDAYS

October	
Maria Eric-Williams	1
Pershail Young	2
Peggy Dearing	2
Rev. Evelyn Manson	4
Ellen Watkins	13
Marilyn Davis	17
Ellalene Barnaby	18
Jasmine Barber	18
Earleen Johnson	20
Cylestine A. Laury	22
Boyd Poole	23
Thomas Brown	25
Asha Douglas	28
Helen Jackson	30

November	
Cynthia Clark	3
Charles Blackburn	4
Steven Gbelee	5
Kaleb Gray	6
Ina Fells	8
Anne Peterson	13
Emma Murdock	13
Larry Wilson	13
Tusani Jackson	13
Sally Parks	13
Manson Riley	14
Ebenezer A. Davis	14
Janay McIntosh	22
Joshua Stokes	24
Phil Clark	26
Angelo Brown	30

December	
David King	3
Olive Graves	9
Chinagirl Gbelee	10
Teta Neal	11
Christina Fashion Gamble	12
Ethel Barnard	13
Andrew Kamara	15
Pearl Stemley	21
Shirley White	21
Barbara Boone	23
Maxine Scott	29
Cleveland Jones	30
Franklin McIntosh	31



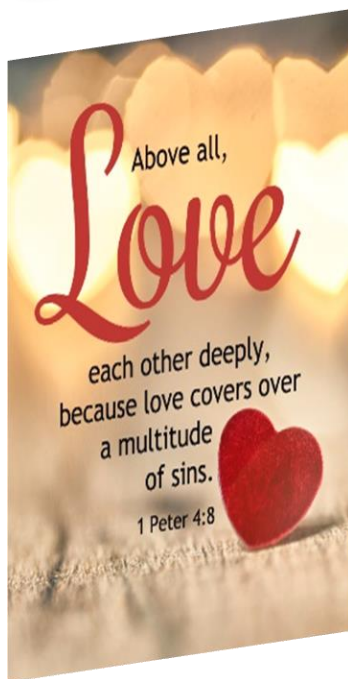
ANNIVERSARIES

James &
Pearl Stemley
October 26, 1950
[69 years]

Curtis &
Jobie Bell
December 28,
1955
[64 years]

William &
Winnifred Butler
October 22, 1966
[53 years]

Phil &
Cynthia Clark
December 3, 1977
[42 years]



Aaron & Terri
Ware
November 2, 1985
[34 years]

Franklin & Barbara
McIntosh
December 24, 1988
[31 years]



✦ JESUS ✦
— IS THE —
Reason
✦ FOR THE ✦
SEASON



*Indeed we have a great reason to be joyful. As we celebrate the miraculous gift of Jesus, may we remember to share with others the joy that knowing Him brings. May the true gift of Christmas remain forever in your heart.
Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe, and Prosperous 2020!
Sis. Ellalene Barnaby*



Ebenezer United Methodist Church
4912 Whitefield Chapel Road
Lanham, MD 20707
Phone: 301-577-0770
Email: church896@verizon.net
www.ebenezerunited.org

