

The Informer

Sunday, December 1, 2013

Pastor's Message

This is the day that the LORD has made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Now is the time for the people of GOD to come together and do the work of our FATHER in heaven: *"And He said to them, "Why did you seek ME? Did you not know that I must be about My FATHER's business?"*" Luke 2:49 **NKJV**) In the same way that JESUS recognized at 12 years of age that HE had a unique relationship with GOD and a responsibility that He had to uphold, so do we as the children of GOD. Here at St. Peter, we are striving to be in a continual state of pressing. We are pressing to further the development of the relationships between the children and the FATHER. Pressing to identify and utilize the unique gifts and talents that GOD has placed in each and every one of us. Pressing to go out and find the lost and downtrodden so that we may be able to help them and witness to them about the power and the saving grace that comes through CHRIST JESUS.

It is our intent and purpose that we as children of GOD understand that we will never arrive, for arriving happens once we see JESUS. Therefore, until we arrive we will continue to seek GOD's face as we work through the process of sanctification.

I encourage you to come see, witness, and become a part of the Mighty Work of GOD that will be performed in this ministry: *"Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.""* Matthew 9:37 **(NKJV)**

Yours in CHRIST,

Rev. Benjamin K. Sims, Sr.

Church Calendar

Usher Board Anniversary
Dec. 1, 2013, 2:30 PM

Church Newsletter Published
Sunday, December 1, 2013

Annual Christmas Program
Dec. 22, 2013, 3:00 PM

7th Episcopal WMS Retreat
January 3 - 5, 2014
Myrtle Beach, SC

7th Episcopal YPD Retreat
March 14 - 16, 2014
Columbia, SC

Sundays

Church School - 9:00 AM
Worship Services - 10:00 AM
Communion - First Sundays
Baptism - Third Sundays

Tuesdays

New Members Classes
9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Wednesdays

Bible Study - 6:30 PM

Welcome Rev. Benjamin K. Sims

Rev. Benjamin K. Sims, a native of Winnsboro, South Carolina, accepted the call into ministry in 1998 and received his Deacon ordination in 2001. He was ordained Elder in 2003 in the Columbia Annual Conference.

Reverend Sims served as an associate minister of St. John AME Church in Winnsboro, SC from 1998 to 2001. He also served as an associate minister at Pine Grove AME Church in Columbia, SC from 2001 to 2007. He pastored New Hope AME Church in Pinewood, SC from 2007 to 2013. In 2013, Reverend Sims accepted the appointment to pastor St. Peter AME Church, North, SC, where he currently serves.

Rev. Sims married the former Shantay McFadden in 2003. They have two sons, Jalen and Benjamin Jr. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

Pastor Sims is thankful for the many blessings that God has allowed him to experience and remains willing and open to share his gifts to advance God's mission of winning lost souls for Christ.



*God Bless You
at Christmas*

Kitchen Committee's Corner

2013 Thanksgiving Dinner: A Big Success

by Sister Bernice Pinckney



Rev. & Mrs. Benjamin K. Sims and son, Benjamin, Jr. along with the members of our St. Peter AME Church Family enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner after church services on Sunday, November 24, 2013.

The menu included baked turkey, fried turkey, rotisserie turkey, stuffing, dressing, cranberry sauce, sliced ham, baked chicken, collard greens, lima beans, green beans, corn, rice, gravy, homemade biscuits, sweet potato pies, red velvet cake, lemon pound cake, chocolate cake, banana pudding, punch, and lemonade. Every item on the menu was very tasty!

I would like to thank the St. Peter Church Kitchen Committee, church members, volunteers, and friends for the delicious menu items they donated. Our Thanksgiving Dinner fellowship was a big success. We greatly appreciate Pastor Sims, Co-Captain of the Kitchen Committee, for his approval to go forth with the Thanksgiving Dinner.

We did not forget about the church members who were not able to be a part of our Thanksgiving feast at church. Rev. Sims, our First Lady, Sister Shantay Sims, their son, and several St. Peter Church members delivered the Thanksgiving spirit and plates of delicious food to our sick and shut-in members.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1 (NIV)

Again, thank you all for your generosity!



It's that time of the year again. December is here and Christmas joy is in the air. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets?

Let us all look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Remember: Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Rejoice! Source: www.cbn.com

Pastoral Care Corner

Pastor's First Anniversary

by Sister Zareatha Harley



The Pastoral Care Ministry held its First Anniversary celebration for St. Peter AME Church's former pastor, Rev. Wanda Rapley, on Sunday, November, 10, 2013.

Rev. Rapley was escorted by her daughter, Waneisha Aull. Vera Harley served as the program's Worship Leader. Special greetings were provided by The Honorable Russell Ott, SC House of Representatives. Rev. Rapley received gifts from friends and church organizations for which she was very appreciative.

We thank our guest speaker, Rev. Larry Nelson, pastor of Shiloh AME church, North Charleston, SC.

The Pastoral Care Ministry would like to thank everyone for coming out and for your participation. May God continue to bless and keep each and everyone of you.

Welcome to Rev. Sims and Family!



We would like to welcome Reverend Sims and Mrs. Sims to the St. Peter Church Family. It is our duty to be a blessing to the Sims Family throughout the upcoming year. Let's stay focused on the plan that we put before God by following through allowing Jesus to guide us. Welcome to the Sims Family from the Pastoral Care Ministry.

Sexton's Corner



*Thanks for Your Donations
by Sister Bernice Pinckney*

First of all, I'd like to thank God for His love, for His grace, and for His mercy. Thanks to the Pastor, the Culinary Staff and volunteers, traffic directing staff, and everyone who made donations of money, bathroom tissue, paper towels, can goods, etc.

Please feel free to make a donation of your choice to the Culinary Committee at any time.

I am pleased to announce that we have purchased a new vacuum cleaner. Thank you all, and God Bless!

Male Chorus's Corner Happy Birthday Corner

*A Day of Thanksgiving and Praise
by Brother Michael Buckson*

We are in the period of Thanksgiving and Praise; however, everyday ought to be a day of thanksgiving and praise. As we rapidly move towards the end of this year and look back at all that God has blessed us with, we give Him thanks for our former Pastor, Reverend Wanda Rapley, as well as thank God for our new Pastor and First Lady, Reverend Benjamin K. Sims and Mrs. Shantay Sims! Even as we receive our new Pastor and "First Family," we can see the hand of God moving in the life of our Church Family!

As we move forward, the work of the ministry and our response to the "mission and commission" of the Church by Jesus Christ, let us remind others to praise God in the highest through the words of this great hymn of the Church for He is certainly worthy to be praise.

I know He has been good to the Male Chorus and we are sure He has been and is good to each of you! Therefore, let us encourage others, not just to be happy, but to experience Joy that only God in Christ Jesus can bring!

So sing to the highest with all that is within you: "Joy to the World!"



JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD IS COME,
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING,
LET EVERY HEART, PREPARE HIM ROOM,
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,
LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,
LET HEAVEN OH HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!

JOY TO THE WORLD THE SAVIOR REIGNS,
LET MEN THEIR SONGS EMPLOY,
WHILE FIELDS AND FLOODS,
ROCKS, HILLS, AND PLAINS,
REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY,
REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY,
REPEAT OH REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY.

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW,
NOR THORNS INFEST THE GROUND,
HE COMES TO MAKE HIS BLESSING FLOW,
FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND,
FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND,
FAR AS OH FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND.

HE RULES THE WORLD
WITH TRUTH AND GRACE,
AND MAKES THE NATIONS PROVE,
THE GLORIES OF - HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE,
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE,
AND WONDERS OH AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE!

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

*Alexis Felder - 16th
Waymon Stewart - 20th
Jamilah West - 21st
Dorothy Mintz Martin - 24th
Jesus Christ - 25th
Shantikea Moorer - 26th*

JANUARY

*Ramon Lopies - 7th
Isabella Way - 8th
Gerod Scott - 18th
Stephon Scott - 18th
Keyshawn Wright - 31st*

Congratulations Corner

Brooke A. Mitchell



Brooke A. Mitchell and Major W. James Robinson, Calhoun County NAACP President/Retired Major

Congratulations to Brooke Mitchell, who was the recipient of the Calhoun County Annual Academic Achievement Award. Brooke qualified for this award based on her excellent standing at Calhoun County High School as one of the top ranking academic achievers at the school for the 2012 -2013 school year.

The Calhoun County NAACP Branch #5499 invited Brooke to be present as their guest and student honoree at the 22nd Annual Calhoun County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on Friday, November 1, 2013. A table was reserved for Brooke and all the student honorees. The speaker for the event was Senator John Matthews, House District 33.

Brooke is currently enrolled at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College taking English 101 and Psychology. Brooke's ambition is to become a Psychiatrist, specializing in diagnosing and treating prison inmates with mental disorders. Brooke is the daughter of Sister Teretha and Brother Mark Mitchell.



Brooke A. Mitchell and Representative Russell Ott, House District 93

Daniel Bonnette, Jr.



Congratulations from the Harley Family to Daniel Bonnette, Jr. who was promoted to Sergeant in the Army. Daniel is the son of Margaret and Daniel Bonnette, Sr. and grandson of Brother Willie and Sister Jessie Harley.

Quahshema Bonnette



Congratulations to Quahshema Bonnette who received her Associate's Degree in Occupational Science October 26, 2013, from Frotis College. Quahshema is the daughter of Margaret and Daniel Bonnette and granddaughter of Brother Willie and Sister Jessie Harley.

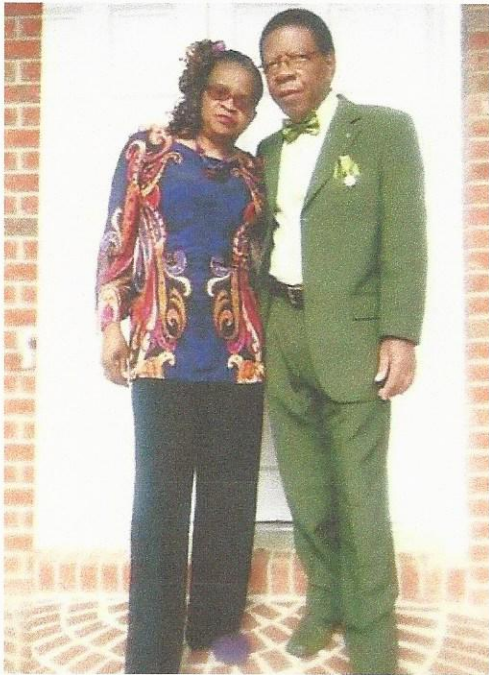
Seasons Greetings



Congratulations to high school senior, Dominique Scott, who was honored at O-W High School Awards Day Program on Monday, November 25, 2013, for making the Principal's List. The Principal's List award goes to students receiving all A's for the grading period. Dominique is the son of Brother Gerod and Sister Mildred Scott and the grandson of Sister Delphine Scott.

Congratulations Corner

Happy 44th Anniversary to Willie & Jessie Harley



Willie and Jessie will celebrate their 44th anniversary on December 27, 2013.

We've shared our brightest hopes;

Our darkest fears;

Our loudest laughs;

Our softest tears;

Our sweetest dreams;

Our most bitter woes;

Our highest highs;

Our lowest lows;

A growing love forever.

*The more we share,
the more we love.*

Willie and Jessie Harley

Forever and Always

Destinee Scott 🎓

Congratulations to first grader, Destinee Scott, who was honored at Sheridan Elementary School for earning all A's and making the Principal's List first nine weeks quarter. The school also awarded Destinee passes to attend the Orangeburg Fair everyday. Destinee is the daughter of Brother Gerod and Sister Mildred Scott and the granddaughter of Sister Delphine Scott.



George Esaw, Jr. 🎓

Congratulations to high school senior, George Esaw, Jr., who was honored at O-W High School Awards Day Program on Monday, November 25, 2013, for being a First Quarter Honor Roll student. George is the nephew of Sister Mildred and Brother Gerod Scott.



Shalonya Knotts-Holiday, NBCT

Congratulations to Sister Shalonya Knotts-Holiday, who has earned National Board Teacher Certification. National Board Certification is a rigorous process that ensures that Board-certified teachers have proven skills to advance student achievement. National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. As part of this process, teachers must analyze their teaching context and students' needs, submit videos of their teaching, and provide student work samples that demonstrate growth and achievement. National Board Certification means Shalonya is certified to teach in all states.

Shalonya was also elected as the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year at her school, Killian Elementary, in Columbia, South Carolina. A kindergarten teacher with ten years teaching experience, Shalonya holds a Master's of Arts Degree in Teaching (M.A.T.) and is certified in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Shalonya is the daughter of Brother Calvin and Sister Mary Knotts. Shalonya is married to Doug Holiday.



Merry Christmas



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Happy New Year