



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

To the members, family, friends, and visitors of St. Peter, I greet you in the name of our LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, for we have all been blessed to witness the start of a new year 2014. As we look back over 2013, we can see many situations where we faced times of great joy as well as times of great sorrow. These life experiences have played a part in shaping us into the people that we are today. In light of this, I believe that in this New Year we should use Paul as our example: "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

As children of GOD, in order for us to achieve the goals that GOD has purposed for our lives, we must forget all of the awards and accomplishments that we may have achieved. Our accomplishments often stand as pillars of pride that build a house of content for what we have already achieved, thus impeding us from continuing to pursue with the same passion the things that GOD has for us to do. We must also forget all of the failures that we have had, for they act as hindrances towards our success when we allow them to place a stranglehold on our future endeavors. This being said, let us continue to forget those things behind us and press on towards those things that GOD has set out for us to do in the 2014.

Yours in CHRIST,
Rev. Benjamin K. Sims, Sr.

LOVE FROM GOD ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

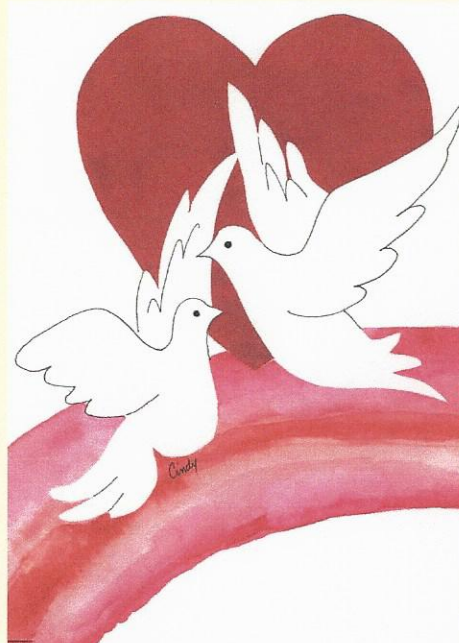
My Children,

I know everything about you.
Psalm 139:1

I knew you even before you
were conceived. Jeremiah
1:4-5

I knit you together in your
mother's womb. Psalm 139:13

You were not a mistake, for
all your days are written in
my book. Psalm 139:15-16



I am not distant and angry,
but am the complete
expression of love. 1 John
4:16

And it is my desire to
lavish my love on you.
1 John 3:1

Simply because you are my
child and I am your father.
Matthew 7:11

STEWARDS' CORNER

Steward Board 2014: Spiritual
Leaders of the Church
by Gloria K. Moore

The St. Peter A.M.E. Church Steward Board members for Conference Year 2014 are Brother Londrae Knotts, Pro Tem, Brother Christopher Harley, Sister Teretha Mitchell, Sister Gloria K. Moore, Sister Nannette Sabb, and Brother Gerod Scott.

We strive to be the spiritual leaders of our church. It is our spiritual prayer to direct and ensure there is spiritual harmony within the body of St. Peter A.M.E. Church. It is our charge to open our hands and hearts wide to our fellowman and the needy and to comfort the distressed.

We, the steward board members, will help our pastor, Rev. Sims, in carrying out his duties and will make sure he has what he needs to effectively and efficiently handle the needs of the church.

This is our prayer for the new conference year: God of new beginnings, you wipe away tears and call us to care for one another. Give us eyes to see your gifts, hearts to embrace all creation, and to serve you every day of our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

CHURCH CALENDAR

February 1 - 28, 2014
Black History Month

Sunday, February 23, 2014
Black History Program

March 14 - 16, 2014
State YPD Retreat, Columbia, SC

Sunday, April 6, 2014
Welcome Home Celebration

Saturday, April 12, 2014
Male Chorus Anniversary

Sunday, April 20, 2014
Easter Sunrise Service

Congratulations Corner

BIANCA L. STEWART



Congratulations to Bianca Stewart who was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Biology on Friday, December 13, 2013, from the University of Georgia. Bianca has also been accepted into Medical School and will be attending in the fall of 2014.

Bianca is the daughter of Deacon Waymon and Sister Ruby Knotts Stewart and granddaughter of The Late Cecil and Gracie Harley Knotts.

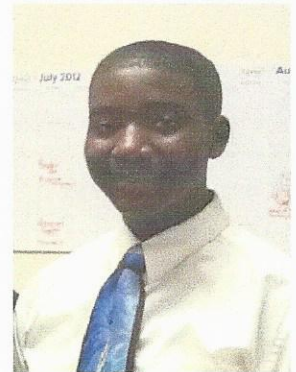
The St. Peter Church Family is very proud of Bianca. May God continue to bless her as she strives to do His work.



DESMOND HARLEY

Desmond Harley, a junior at Calhoun County High School, and a member of the school choir auditioned for the South Carolina All-State Chorus on November 7, 2013. Desmond competed among 1700 students statewide and among 112 students from his voice class. He was willing to stay after school to prepare for a very challenging audition which included college level music. Desmond audition song was Pergolesi's "Alleluia" which was composed in the 16th century. Desmond only missed All-State by two points.

We congratulate Desmond for his hard work and commitment to being the best he can be. Our St. Peter AME Church family is very proud of him and encourages him to keep up the great work. Desmond is the son of Brother Isadore and Sister Vera Harley and the grandson The Late Brother Isadore and Pearl Harley.



Happy Birthday!!



FEBRUARY

Desinee Scott - 2nd
Tiffany Harley - 7th
Daniel Bonnette - 10th
Culene Jones - 14th
Rhuebell Jones - 15th
James E. Harley - 16th
Amariya Wright - 27th



MARCH

Otis Harley - 1st
Tangula Hook - 5th
Vernon Hampton - 8th
Shonda W. Backmon - 9th
Rhonda Williams - 9th
Shanese Kelly - 9th
Mary Knotts - 20th

Troy Moore - 22nd
Quashema Bonnette - 23rd
Foster Moore III - 26th
Ann Jenkins - 27th
Pauline Jones - 27th
Ann Hampton - 30th

Congratulations Corner

 *is in the air!*



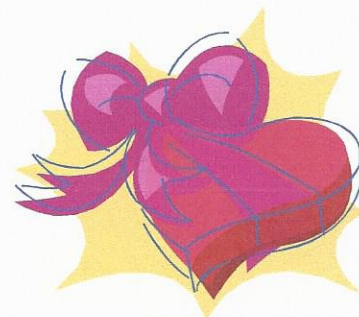
Troy Moore and Silver Barnett

Congratulations on the engagement of church member, Brother Troy Moore, and Silver Barnett. Troy, a Junior Trustee and member of the men's choir, is the son of Rev. Foster and Sister Gloria Knotts Moore and the grandson of The Late Cecil and Gracie Harley Knotts. Silver, a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the daughter of Mr. Gregory Barnett and Ms. Carolyn Howard. Troy and Silver met while attending Winston-Salem State University.



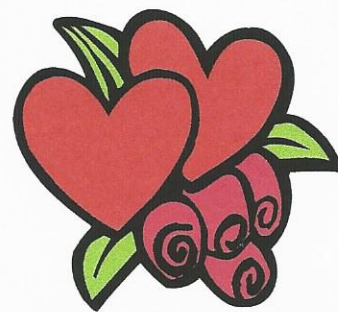
Bernard Harley and Angela White

Congratulations on the engagement of church members, Brother Anthony "Bernard" Harley and Sister Angela White. Bernard, one of our church musicians, is the son of Sister Toisy Mae Howell and the grandson of Sister Clottie Harley. Angela, a Junior/Senior choir member, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William and Annie White of St. Matthews, S.C. Bernard and Angela were high school sweethearts who found their way back to each other after 30 years. They view their reuniting as a true fairytale.



Steven Wallace and Tanya Mintz

Congratulations on the engagement of church member, Sister Tanya Mintz, and Brother Steven Wallace, Sr. Tanya, lead singer of the Anointed Expressions Choir, is the daughter of The Late Christine Mintz Hampton and the granddaughter of The Late Nathaniel "Tootney" and Vernell Hook Mintz. Steven is the son of Colonel Lewis and Gladys Wallace of Columbia, S.C. Tanya and Steven met at South Carolina State University three years ago.



May God bless these couples as they plan for their future together.

TRUSTEES' CORNER

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

LOVE FROM GOD ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

Trustees Off to a Great Start!

by Ruby Stewart



Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand.

James 1:17

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope Jeremiah. 29:11

For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10

And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:31-32

I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15

Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7

Love,
Almighty God



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

The Trustee Board is a group that is responsible for the supervision and care of the entire property and equipment that belongs to the church. The group sets policies for the maintenance and administers all bequests to the local church.

The Trustees are happy to report that we are off to a great start this New Year. We have lots of projects that we will be completing. We are only waiting for the weather to warm up a little. We will keep you posted.

Remember, if you see any problems around the church, please report it to one of the Trustees.

The members of the Trustee Board are Brother Curtis Harley, Brother Isadore Harley Jr., Brother Willie Harley, Brother Leroy Jones, Brother Cecil Knotts, Sister Ruby Stewart, and Sister Isabella Way.



Brother Michael Buckson



Sister Angela White

Welcome and congratulations to Brother Michael Buckson and Sister Angela White for attaining full membership status at St. Peter AME Church. They were officially welcomed by our church family on Sunday, January 26, 2014. Brother Buckson is a member of the Men's Choir, and Sister White is a member of the Junior/Senior Choir. May God bless them as they continue to work as disciples of Christ.

CORRECTION: BROOKE MITCHELL



We would like to correct the educational information about Brooke Mitchell from our December newsletter: Brooke is a junior at Calhoun County High School and also attends the Middle College program at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College where she is taking college level psychology and English. We are very proud of Brooke and her advanced academic accomplishments. We encourage her to keep up the great work.

DESTINEE SCOTT



Congratulations to Destinee Scott, first grader at Sheridan Elementary. She has again made the Principal's List for having all A's on her report card the second nine weeks. Destinee was awarded with a Principal's List Award Certificate, a Super Star necklace, a Principal's List pencil, and a Sonics sundae coupon. Destinee is the daughter of Brother Gerod and Sister Mildred Scott and the granddaughter of Sister Delphine Scott. We are proud of her working hard to be best she can be.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. The 2014 national theme is "Civil Rights in America." As our church recognizes and celebrates Black History Month, we would like to pay special tribute to this year's theme in this newsletter by spotlighting an African American who has been described as one of the most influential civil rights leaders in our history, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968) was an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs. He was born Michael King, but his father changed his name in honor of German reformer Martin Luther.

A Baptist minister, Martin Luther King, Jr. became a civil rights activist early in his career. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957, serving as its first president. With the SCLC, he led the struggle against segregation in Albany, Georgia, in 1962, and organized nonviolent protests in Birmingham, Alabama, that attracted national attention following television news coverage of the violent police response. Martin Luther King, Jr. also helped to organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. There, he established his reputation as one of the greatest orators in American history.

On October 14, 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence. In 1965, he and the SCLC helped to organize the Selma to Montgomery marches and the following year, he took the movement north to Chicago to work on segregated housing. In 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee by James Earl Ray.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a holiday in numerous cities and states beginning in 1971, and as a U.S. federal holiday in 1986. Hundreds of streets and a county in the U.S. have been renamed in honor of the Civil Rights Leader. A Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial statue on the National Mall was opened to the public in 2011.

Internet Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.

We invite you to our Black History Month Program on Sunday, February 23, 2014, here at St. Peter AME Church as we salute Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as other civil rights leaders and African Americans who have made difference.



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