



**The Anvil** A Quarterly Publication  
of the St. Paul AME Church Lay Organization

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter February – April 2022

*Moving from Church to Ministry -  
"...for the people worked with all their heart." –  
Nehemiah 4:6*



Reverend Robert L. Hodges, Sr.  
& First Lady Delores Hodges

Message from our 1<sup>st</sup> Lady  
Season's Thoughts from our Lay President

Upcoming  
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Preparedness Pop-Up!

- St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC [www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org](http://www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org)
- St. Paul AME on Facebook [www.facebook.com/stpaulamearaleigh/](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulamearaleigh/) for video sermons
- Western North Carolina Lay Organization <http://wncclay.org/>

**Message from our First Lady, Sis. Delores Hodges** *"Living a Deeper Life"*



Happy New Year!

As we go into a new year let us resolve to live a deeper life. Life moves on two levels – a surface level where we are fixated on culture, work, money, buying, selling, and gaining. We are alert, eager and active and the days are few and too short.

Then there is a deeper level. The surface level is still there but here we experience death, inner confidence, hope, faith and dreams become real. The book of Job and the words of Jesus speak to that deeper life.

What we are in our deeper life decides what we do with the days as they come and

go. If we have inner peace in our deeper life, storms may come but they do not shake us, sorrows do not crush us, and time has no power over us.

What are you going to do with this New Year? Add another year to our life or add a new life to a new year. Don't overload your future. Let us trust God who knows nothing of time but whose mercy endures forever; let us live each day as a gift from heaven.

## *Sister Delores Hodges*

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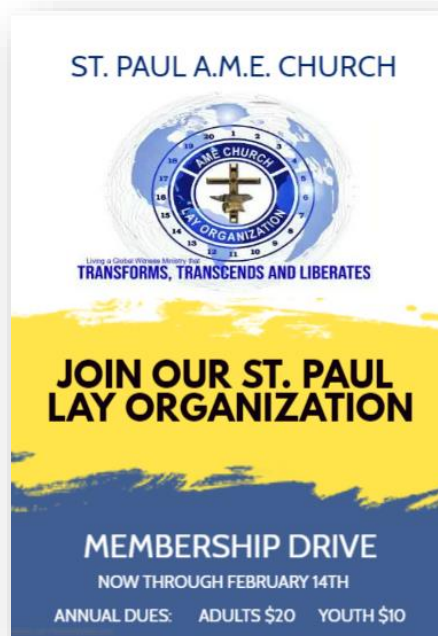


### **Message from St. Paul AME Lay President Carol Davenport**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, on behalf of the Lay Organization, I greet you with the joy of Jesus. I pray you and your loved ones are well.

St. Paul AME Church Lay Organization is in the midst of our membership drive. In this message, I want to remind you why it is so important for you to be a member of the Lay.

The purpose of the Lay Organization is to organize and train the lay members of the A.M.E. Church, so that each member may utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God, in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's kingdom, and creating happiness, peace, harmony and fellowship among its members. The Lay Organization provides greater leadership opportunities for the members. This means, membership is open to all Trustees, Stewards, Class Leaders, Missionaries, Ushers, Stewardesses, Choir Members, Sunday School Workers and Students, Young People's Division, Members of all Church Clubs and Church Organizations. This simply means, any and all members of the Church, with the exception of the Clergy, should be a card-carrying member of the Lay. Our monthly meetings include study, worship,



fellowship and service at the Local, Conference, District and Connectional Levels. Our aim is to be Christ-centered and to help strengthen the Church. Our concern is for the total Church and to maintain a happy working relationship between the Pastor and Lay.

Membership Dues are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under the age of 18. You may include your dues when you pay your tithes and offerings. Make sure you put Lay Dues in the Memo section. St. Paul AME Church Family, please consider joining. You are wanted, but most of all, you are needed.

Blessings and Love to You,

*Carol Davenport, Lay President*

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Send content in MS-Word, or images files in .jpg or .png

to Pam Kelly [pamkellyrtpnc@gmail.com](mailto:pamkellyrtpnc@gmail.com) or Cecilia Johnson [crj3227@gmail.com](mailto:crj3227@gmail.com)

### Lay Organization News

**The St. Paul AME Lay Organization**, of Raleigh, NC, is comprised of the laity (non-clergy) of the church. It operates on all levels of the church: local church, conference, district, and connectional levels. The local activities include A.M.E. training at monthly meetings, coordinating the local effort for [AME-V Alert](#), which includes A.M.E Public Service Announcements, and sponsoring Voter Education Webinars.

### **THE LAY ORGANIZATION MONTHLY MEETINGS** 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at 6:30 P.M.

Via St. Paul's Zoom Room [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) or call 929-205-6099

ID: 9199190001 Access: 518051

Annual Dues are \$20.

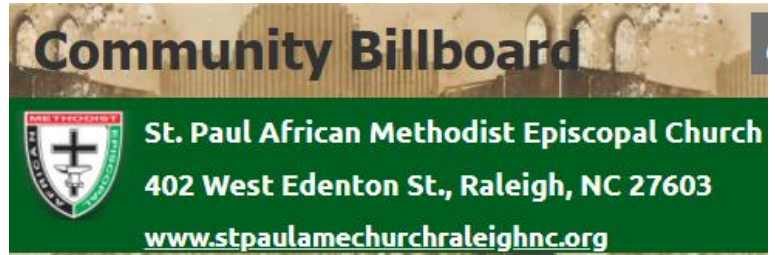
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### YPD

"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

The YPD performs community service at the Food Bank and delivers food to Seniors. They meet on the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Upcoming youth training programs and opportunities for leadership experiences will be announced. Please contact Mrs. Lola Houston Hager, YPD Director for more information. She can be reached at 704.305.9101 or by email at [lyhousto@yahoo.com](mailto:lyhousto@yahoo.com)

Visit our [Community Billboard](#) often for updates on St. Paul AME events and other events of community interest.



### Upcoming Events

**February 13, 2022 - SOUPER Bowl of Caring** is a National Initiative of youth to raise funds in the fight against food insecurity. The YPD is kicking off its efforts to raise dollars to support a Soup Kitchen. Funds can be mailed or dropped off at the church through February 13, 2022. Please support our YPD!

**Monday, February 21st.** AGS WMS meeting at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. All members are being asked to wear red. A group zoom picture will be taken in recognition of our support for National Go Red Day! Please view the attached flyer.



**Sunday, March 20, 2022 - Addie G. Stroud WMS Annual Day.** Missionaries will be in charge of the order of service. We would love to have a Missionary Choir again. If you would like to participate as a pulpit participant or sing in the Missionary choir, please let me know. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Faye Hooker, 919-673-5614

BIBLE Knowledge contributed by Cecilia Johnson.

### JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

1. Who were Joseph's parents?
2. Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other children?
3. Which of Joseph's brothers urged that his life be spared?
4. Where was Joseph taken by the traders who removed him from the pit?
5. How did Joseph's brothers try to deceive their father about

Joseph's disappearance?

6. How did Joseph answer the seductive advances of Potiphar's wife?

7. Joseph impressed Pharaoh by interpreting his dream that seven years of plenty would be followed by what?

8. What did Joseph put in the sacks of grain purchased by his brothers in Egypt?

9. Which brother was held hostage in Egypt until Benjamin arrived?

10. What did Jacob say upon being reunited with Joseph at Goshen? *Answers on last page*

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### The Fresh Start Effect

*[Put] on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its*

*Creator. Colossians 3:10*

When Bryony turned thirty, she was sad to still be in a sales job she'd never liked. She decided it was time to stop procrastinating and find a new career.

#### **READ Colossians 3:1–10**

For David, New Year's Eve had him looking in the mirror vowing this would be the year he lost weight.

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And for James, it was watching another month pass without his angry outbursts decreasing. Next month, he promised himself, he would try harder.

If you've ever vowed to change at the start of a new month, new year, or a major birthday, you're not alone. Researchers even have a name for it: the fresh start effect. They suggest that at calendar points like these we're more prone to assess our lives and try putting our failures behind us to start over. Wanting to be better people, we long for a fresh start.

Faith in Jesus speaks powerfully to this longing, offering a vision of what our best selves can be (Colossians 3:12–14) and calling us to leave our past selves behind (vv. 5–9). It offers this change not by decisions and vows alone, but by divine power. When we believe in Jesus, we become new people, and God's Spirit works in us to make us whole (v. 10; Titus 3:5).

Receiving salvation in Jesus is the ultimate fresh start. And it doesn't need to wait for a special calendar date. Your new life can start right now.

By **Sheridan Voysey** – courtesy of **Our Daily Bread**



## Featured Recipe

### Cameroonian Mixed Vegetables Recipe.

In recognition of African & African American Heritage month, here's a great recipe courtesy of [Precious Core](http://www.preciouscore.com). Visit her YouTube channel for other delicious, nutritious recipes.

- One small cabbage or half of a large cabbage
- 4 tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- About 1 inch of ginger
- A couple cloves of garlic



[www.preciouscore.com](http://www.preciouscore.com)



- 2 cups of mixed vegetables- carrots, green beans and bell peppers
- 1 pound of cooked protein: beef/chicken/fish/shrimps
- 2 [Maggi](#) cubes – available from Walmart or Amazon
- A quarter cup vegetable oil
- 2 stems of fresh herbs (celery and parsley) also known as green spices and green onions
- Salt to taste
- Hot pepper (optional)

Prepare your ingredients. Start by chopping the cabbage into small strips. Boil some water, put a little salt in it then you put the cabbage in it to blanch for about five minutes. After that, remove it and drain in a colander. Rinse, squeeze and set aside. Chop the other veggies and set aside. Chop onions and green spices. Peel garlic and ginger. Grate, grind or blend them. Now heat oil in a pot and sauté the onions. Add in tomatoes and fry until acidity is gone. Add in garlic and ginger with shrimps and stir for about a minute. Now add in the rest of your vegetables and mix everything together well let them cook together for about two minutes. If you want the veggies softer, let them cook for a longer time. There you go! You can serve this deliciousness with boiled/fried plantains, boiled Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes or even rice!



## Parents & Youth

Be sure to check out our [Scholarships & Internships](#) page on the St. Paul AME Website for opportunities for students and graduates.

### **Preparedness Pop Up!**

January - February are [Ready.gov](#) Winter Safety Months, followed by North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week (March 6 - 12, 2022). Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, Mar 9<sup>th</sup> [Download the Ready 2022 Preparedness Calendar \(PDF\)](#)

### **Space Heaters**

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Place only on the floor— Use no other surfaces
- Keep 3 feet away from anything flammable and designate a 3 foot "Child-free and Pet-free zone" around it
- Use no extension cord
- Unplug the cord after it is turned off
- NEVER leave unattended

### **Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

- Carbon Monoxide alarms should be placed on every floor of your home, especially near sleeping areas
- Test alarms every month
- If warming your vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents to your dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow buildup
- A generator should only be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors, away from windows, doors and vent openings

### **April is Financial Preparedness Month**

WASHINGTON - Throughout the month of April, FEMA, in partnership with the [Financial Literacy and Education Commission](#) (FLEC), is celebrating National Financial Capability Month. Personal financial planning helps individuals and families prepare for disasters both big and small.

For ...helpful financial preparedness tips, download the **Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK)** to get started planning today.

*“Live by faith, today. Prepare, by faith, for tomorrow.” – Pam Kelly*

ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH  
INVITES ALL MEN FOR  
**Men's BIBLE Study**  
9:30 AM  
SATURDAY MORNINGS  
Host  
Rev. Wilmot Taylor  
Dial: 609-393-5911 Access: 80059  
Video: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/mensbiblestudy>

*Women's Bible Study*  
SATURDAYS at 10:40 a.m.  
TELECONFERENCE  
712-775-7061 Code: 506451  
Presiding Elder Ella Mae Samuels

zoom ST PAUL AME CHURCH  
*Women's Ministry*  
LEARN FROM THE TRIALS, JOYS, AND THE TRIUMPHS OF WOMEN IN THE BIBLE!  
WE'RE STARTING A NEW SERIES  
- GET YOUR OWN OIL -  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US.  
Every 1st & 3rd Thursdays,  
06:30 PM-07:30PM  
ST Paul Zoom  
Meeting ID: 919 919 0001  
Paulette D Motley  
Women's Ministry Leader  
SisterToSisterJASA@gmail.com

Tuesdays  
6:30 p.m.  
ONLINE  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
Rev. Ronald Ivey  
Zoom: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Call In: 253-215-8782  
ID: 84191580014  
Code: 214306  
ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH  
402 W. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27603 - 919-932-2708  
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

## BIBLE KNOWLEDGE ANSWERS

1. Jacob and Rachel. (**Genesis 35:22,24**)
2. He was the son of Jacob's old age. (**Genesis 37:3**)
3. Reuben (**Genesis 37:21**)
4. Egypt (**Genesis 37:28**)
5. They placed goat's blood on Joseph's coat. (**Genesis 37:31-32**)
6. "Thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?". (**Genesis 39:9**)
7. Seven years of famine. (**Genesis 41:29-30**)
8. Each man's money. (**Genesis 42:25,35**)
9. Simeon. (**Genesis 42:19,24**)
10. I'm ready to die now that I've seen you. (**Genesis 46:30**)

**Stay safe, well, and blessed! Our next issue is in May 2022**