



# The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



"A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of ALL"

**Conference Year 2016-2017**  
**MAKING THE "SHIFT" FROM**  
**"SERVE US" TO "SERVICE"**  
**Matthew 28:19-20**  
**Building a Viable And Sustainable**  
**Ministry 2020 And Beyond**



**Carl's Garden**

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

*(Garden on page 8)*

**Mrs. Marie Louise Clay Clinton**  
(1871 – 1934)

Mrs. Marie Louise Clay Clinton was the Organizer and First Superintendent of

*(Clinton on page 9)*

**January / February 2017**  
**Volume 21, Issue 01**

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**7 Day Church Wide Prayer & Fasting**  
**from Tuesday, January 3 – Tuesday, January 10**  
 (Sunday not included)  
 See page 12 & 13 for more information

## A Memo From God

**Effective immediately,** please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines, also.

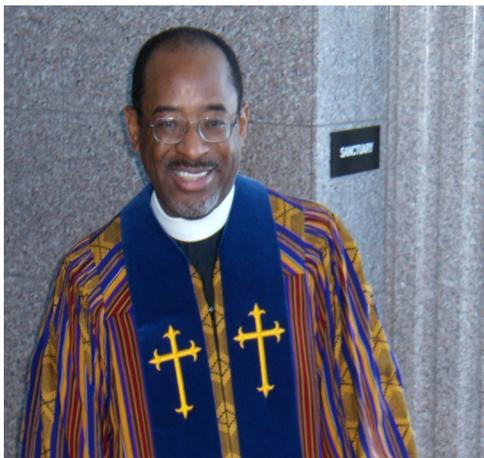
**1. QUIT WORRYING**  
 Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

**2. PUT IT ON THE LIST**  
 Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME

*(Memo on page 10)*



Visit our Facebook page



**Dear Church Family,**

**Greetings In the Name of Our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ!**

I pray you and yours are enjoying all that is holy and blessed. It is only by the grace and mercy of the Lord that we have the privilege to finish strong to a New Beginning. Thank God we will make the Shift to 2017.

**Year-end Review:**

The year was filled with changes, challenges, and constant blessings. We started the Year with developing strategies for 2016-2020. The Men's Ministry took the Leadership and blessed us with Men's Fashion Show & Dinner and a dynamic Men's day. The New Men's choir made its debut with spirit-filled singing and shouts of joy. The Men's Health conference was a great success.

The Women's Health conference featured national personality as guest speaker. The Women's Ministry led us with prayer breakfast, women's shut-in, Spa Day for young ladies, and a dynamic Women's Day Worship Experience.

The Annual Cultural Bazaar & Back to School Community Day was filled with entertainment, vendors, and special hour of prayer. We had a national personality as guest speaker. We gave over 600 backpacks filled with school supplies to children and young people of Middletown and surrounding areas.

The 3 night Revival came at a most needed time in our community and for the good of the country. We were energized, restored, renewed, and revived by the Word and Worship Experience

The Cross Street Millennials led us in an extraordinary and exciting Homecoming & Family & Friends Day (provided gift cards to five families of the community). We look forward to Homecoming 2017.

The CSTAC /S.A.T. - (After School Program is expanding activities and is growing) Hallelujah

**We hosted many exciting Events:**

- Eastern Region AME Zion CED Conference
- Ministerial Health Alliance Conferences
- National Housing Conference
- NACCP Freedom Fund Dinner
- United Way Training Session
- Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Conference
- Hartford District Lay Council Awards Luncheon
- Christmas Gala
- And Others

**The Missionaries and Social Outreach Activities:**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Monthly Food truck on the church parking lot (served over 1500 persons)
- Partnered with Community Group in providing over 1,000 Thanksgiving Baskets for families of the community
- Partnered with Snow School in providing Christmas toys for 14 families
- Provided and served food at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen
- Provided food for the Amazing Grace Food pantry
- And helped with many other projects for church members and the community

**This has been a year of "Making" the Shift:**

**The Church**

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor is the New Assigned Bishop of the New England Conference North Eastern Episcopal

District  
Missionary Supervisor D. Diane Proctor

We added 25 new souls to the church  
We had 8 deaths  
We continue to have members relocating to other States

**The Country**

Donald Trump of the Republican Party is President-Elect of the USA

**The Community**

3 African-American Women serve on the Board of Education  
Deborah Cain, Anita Dempsey-White, Marilyn S. Dunkley

New NAACP President – Faith Jackson

Please join me and others as we "Make the Shift" to transform our communities into a beacon of light and hope. These next four years as we write a "New Book" will require God's people partnering with God to give full commitment of our time, gifts, talents, treasure (tithes & Offerings) and all resources entrusted to us to build a viable and sustainable church, community, and country. Ready or not the Shift is taking place. Together we can make the impossible possible.

It is because of your love gifts and others that we are able to fulfill the Vision of Serving others with a smile. Please remember you can give financially on-line [crossstreetamezion.org](http://crossstreetamezion.org) or mail to Post Office Box 223 Middletown, Ct. 06457. God is faithful to bless us as we bless His Church, His People, and His Community.

***Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible Matthew 19:26.***

**Much Love to you and yours as we take this journey together.**

**In God we Trust,  
Pastor Harvill**

**The fruit of the Spirit** abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LOVE**

One definition for Love can be found in 1 Corinthians 13. Read this chapter every day for a deeper understanding. Other scriptures are found in John 3:16; Romans 5:5-8; Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 4:2, 3; Romans 12:9, 10, to name a few.

"If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and in earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to the poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever. Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him and always stand your ground in defending him. All special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. There are three things that remain faith, hope, and love and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:18, 13) The Living Bible.

Some signs that will help you recognize LOVE in action and will help you begin to cultivate the Fruit of LOVE in yourself: showing concern for others, obeying God's commandments, saving kind words, helping someone with their homework, obeying parents, being patient, being loyal to a friend or to your faith not irritated easily, not envious, not boastful, reading to a small child, visiting the convalescent homes, visiting the sick and shut-ins, sending cards to the sick and shut-ins, hello by serving meals, forgiving someone, doing good deeds, encouraging others, helping an elderly person, being unselfish and sharing with others, being happy when the truth is revealed, letting others get the praise, not rude, not jealous, not proud, reading to an elderly person, visiting the prisons, calling the sick and shut-ins, going on errands cheerfully, helping someone understand God's word. The list can go on. Use your own good judgment and the words found in scriptures to help you identify other deeds of LOVE.

Catch someone showing LOVE this month and let someone catch you being LOVING!!!!



**God's Provision Prayer**

Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

You are Jehovah-jeer, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met. Thank you for the delight you experience as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me

and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen

### Giving God First Place

**Key Scripture:** "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

**Key Thought:** You belong to God.

**Prayer:** Dear God, I realize I am not my own. I have been bought with a price - the price of the precious blood of Jesus.<sup>1</sup> I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live; yet it is not I, but it is Christ who lives within me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.<sup>2</sup> I embrace your Word which tells me that I am dead to sin, and my life is hid with Christ in God.<sup>3</sup>

Because of your great love, I am risen with Christ, and I will seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at your right hand.<sup>4</sup> Father-God, I commit myself to giving you first place in my life at all times. I will seek first your kingdom, and your righteousness, and I thank you for taking care of me.<sup>5</sup>

Your Word declares that my heart will be found where my treasure is. Lord, I want you to be my treasure.<sup>6</sup> You are the one God, the Father of all, and you are my Father. You are above all and through all, and in all believers.<sup>7</sup> Help me, Father, to keep you first in my life, and to keep all the priorities of my life in line with yours.

Father, I am so honored to be your child, and I appreciate the presence of your Holy Spirit both with me and within me.<sup>8</sup> Lord, it thrills me to know that you have first place in my life in the here-and-now, and I rejoice to know that this will continue throughout all eternity, and we will be together forever.<sup>9</sup>

You are my love, you are my life, you are my breath, you are my all in all.

**References:** (1) 1 Corinthians 6:20, (2) Galatians 2:20, (3) Colossians 3:3; (4) Colossians 3:1; (5) Matthew 6:33; (6) Matthew 6:21; (7) Ephesians 4:6; (8) John 14:17; (9) Revelation 19:6.



### God's Blessing Upon Your Home

**Key Scripture:** "The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand" (Prov. 12:7).

**Key Thought:** Through wisdom, a home is built. (See Prov. 9:1.)

**Prayer:** Father, your Word declares to me that a home is built through wisdom, and by understanding it will be established. By knowledge all the chambers of my home will be filled with precious and pleasant riches.<sup>(1)</sup> Therefore, I ask you for the wisdom, the understanding, and the knowledge your Word promises to me.<sup>(2)</sup> As for me and my family, we will serve you, <sup>(3)</sup> and walk continually in the wisdom you have granted to us. <sup>(4)</sup>

Thank you for all the promises of your Word which declare to me that your blessing will be upon my family and home. I choose to obey you, Father, and in so doing, I know you will

command your blessing upon my home.<sup>(5)</sup> I greatly rejoice in your blessing, Lord, because you are establishing my home.<sup>(6)</sup> You are prospering,<sup>(7)</sup> protecting,<sup>(8)</sup> and blessing <sup>(9)</sup> my home because of your mercy<sup>(10)</sup> and your everlasting love.<sup>(11)</sup>

Father, you have filled my heart with gladness. I am able to sleep peacefully in my home, because you are keeping my home safe.<sup>(12)</sup> I put my total trust in you, and this gives me tremendous joy. Your blessing and your favor protect me and my home like a shield.<sup>(13)</sup> Because of this, I know that my home will be blessed and remain standing.<sup>(14)</sup>

Fill our home with your loving presence.

**References:** (1) Proverbs 24:3-4; (2) James 1:5-6; (3) Joshua 24:15; (4) Proverbs 2:6-7; (5) Deuteronomy 28:8; (6) Proverbs 24:3-4; (7) Proverbs 15:6; (8) Psalms 91; (9) Genesis 22:17, (10) Psalms 107:1; (11) Jeremiah 31:3; (12) Psalms 4:7-8; (13) Psalms 5:11-12; (14) Proverbs 12:7.

*Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy. Psalm 99:9*



## Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103  
 New Members Class meets at the same time.  
 (For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

### Come Grow with US!

#### WORD AND WORKS

**Devotional Reading:** Psalm 146

**Scripture:** Psalm 33:1-9

**Key Verse:** *By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. Psalm 33:6*

**Central Thought:** We praise and glorify God for every aspect of creation.

**Lesson Objective:** To acknowledge God as the just and loving Creator of heaven and earth.

#### Lesson Introduction

Today begins Unit II of the Quarter, containing five lessons under the theme, **“Praise from and for God’s Creation.”** In this unit, we employ five Psalms, several of which emphasize praise for God that emanates from creation itself, and others that invite us to praise God for creation. We praise others for their achievements and expect to receive accolades for our own accomplishments. Our praise, however, does not stop with ourselves and our fellow humans. What about our Creator, the Giver of all good gifts and the source of our achievements? The psalmist teaches us that the word and work of God the Creator are worthy of our praise. The Scripture reminds us that ultimately our praise must be for the One who brings all things into existence and orders and preserves every created thing. God’s love, gentleness, and goodness deserve our highest praise.

#### Lesson Outline

- I. Rejoice in the Word and Works of God: Psalm 33:1-6.
- II. Honor and Revere Our God for the Divine Power and Might: Psalm 33:7-9.

#### Lesson Comments

- I. Rejoice in the Word and Works of God: Psalm 33:1-6.  
<sup>1</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. <sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33 affirms several key elements of the Old Testament theology, including worship, creation, and the word/counsel of God. The psalm begins by inviting rejoicing through celebratory praise of God through the use of musical instruments and melodious singing. The psalm also supports the important New Testament theological concept that God’s work is done by divine decree, by the power of God’s word. God’s word is honorable and trustworthy. The very love of God is expressed in the divine creation, which is well-ordered according to God’s justice and righteousness. Therefore, we can love and trust our God for all the righteous

works in both heaven and earth. God’s word goes out to all creation with love and faithfulness. As the song, **“O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”** says, *God “speaks, and listening to His voice, New life the dead receive, The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe, “ (#20, A.M.E. Zion Bicentennial Hymnal).*

- II. Honor and Revere Our God for the Divine Power and Might: Psalm 33:7-9.  
<sup>7</sup> He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

One of our songs says, **“What a mighty God we serve! Angels bow before Him, heaven and earth adore Him, What a Mighty God we serve!”** this psalm illumines the mighty acts of God in great and glowing detail and invites us all in all creation to honor and revere God for the great goodness and might with which God designs and controls all in both heaven and earth. The repetition of the word “all” in verses 6, 8, 13, 14, and 15 reflects God’s sovereignty over creation, nations, individuals, and all human authorities and powers. We are reminded that we can actually do nothing simply on our own, but by the power and might of God, we are able to accomplish great deeds. God is the One who can be trusted in every way; we can rely on God’s steadfast love and support.

*(Word on page 11)*

**Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God’s hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God’s children.**

# THE ARMOR OF GOD

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18**  
 "... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

**The Shield of Faith** (Eph. 6:16)  
 Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

**Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace** (Eph. 6:15)  
 The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

**The Helmet of Salvation** (Eph. 6:17)  
 Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

**The Breastplate of Righteousness** (Eph. 6:14)  
 Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

**The Belt of Truth** (Eph. 6:14)  
 Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

**The Sword of the Spirit** (Eph. 6:17)  
 which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

### Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,<sup>[a]</sup> against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

## Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

### JANUARY

- 01) Genesis 1-2
- 02) Genesis 3-5
- 03) Genesis 6-9
- 04) Genesis 10-11
- 05) Genesis 12-15
- 06) Genesis 16-19
- 07) Genesis 20-22

- 08) Genesis 23-26
- 09) Genesis 27-29
- 10) Genesis 30-32
- 11) Genesis 33-36
- 12) Genesis 37-39
- 13) Genesis 40-42
- 14) Genesis 43-46
- 15) Genesis 47-50

- 16) Exodus 1-4
- 17) Exodus 5-7
- 18) Exodus 8-10
- 19) Exodus 11-13
- 20) Exodus 14-17
- 21) Exodus 18-20
- 22) Exodus 21-24
- 23) Exodus 25-27

- 24) Exodus 28-31
- 25) Exodus 32-34
- 26) Exodus 35-37
- 27) Exodus 38-40
- 28) Leviticus 1-4
- 29) Leviticus 5-7
- 30) Leviticus 8-10
- 31) Leviticus 11-13

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Leviticus 14-16
- 2 Leviticus 17-19
- 3 Leviticus 20-23
- 4 Leviticus 24-27
- 5 Numbers 1-3
- 6 Numbers 4-6
- 7 Numbers 7-10

- 8 Numbers 11-14
- 9 Numbers 15-17
- 10 Numbers 18-20
- 11 Numbers 21-24
- 12 Numbers 25-27
- 13 Numbers 28-30
- 14 Numbers 31-33
- 15 Numbers 34-36

- 16 Deuteronomy 1-3
- 17 Deuteronomy 4-6
- 18 Deuteronomy 7-9
- 19 Deuteronomy 10-12
- 20 Deuteronomy 13-16
- 21 Deuteronomy 17-19
- 22 Deuteronomy 20-22
- 23 Deuteronomy 23-25

- 24 Deuteronomy 26-28
- 25 Deuteronomy 29-31
- 26 Deuteronomy 32-34
- 27 Joshua 1-3
- 28 Joshua 4-6

### MARCH

- 1 Joshua 7-9
- 2 Joshua 10-12
- 3 Joshua 13-15
- 4 Joshua 16-18
- 5 Joshua 19-21
- 6 Joshua 22-24
- 7 Judges 1-4

- 8 Judges 5-8
- 9 Judges 9-12
- 10 Judges 13-15
- 11 Judges 16-18
- 12 Judges 19-21
- 13 Ruth 1-4
- 14 1 Sam. 1-3
- 15 1 Samuel 4-7

- 16 1 Samuel 8-10
- 17 1 Samuel 11-13
- 18 1 Samuel 14-16
- 19 1 Samuel 17-20
- 20 1 Samuel 21-24
- 21 1 Samuel 25-28
- 22 1 Samuel 22-24
- 23 2 Samuel 1-4

- 24 2 Samuel 5-8
- 25 2 Samuel 9-12
- 26 2 Samuel 13-15
- 27 2 Samuel 16-18
- 28 2 Samuel 19-21
- 29 Samuel 22-24
- 30 1 Kings 1-4
- 31 1 Kings 5-7

**Epiphany or The Season After Epiphany** (4-9 Sunday, January 6 – March 4, 2017) is a time for remembering the various times and ways Jesus was revealed to humans, particularly to the Gentiles (non-Jews) through the Magi (Wise Men) who represented other nationalities. It is a reminder of the universality of Jesus, the Savior of persons in every land.

The first Sunday after Epiphany Day is known as Baptism of the Lord referring to Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:29-34. This is an excellent time for baptism and renewal of the baptismal covenant. Appropriate symbols are water, the baptismal shell or font, a descending dove, and a cross standing in water. The emphasis for the remainder of the season is on the beginning of Jesus ministry, the miracles performed, and Jesus' works and teachings.

**Color:** Green is the liturgical color for Kingdomtide. Green is symbolic of the freshness of nature, hope, life, and growth. It is used during The Season After Epiphany and Kingdomtide.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
<b>JEHOVAH</b>	"I AM", The One Who Is The Self-existent One	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful. We need to obey Him.
<b>JEHOVAH- JIREH</b>	The Lord Will Provide	Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. God will meet all our needs.
<b>JEHOVAH- MEKADDISHKEM</b>	The Lord Who Sanctifies	God sets us apart as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy unto God, a people of His own. He cleanses our sin and helps us mature.
<b>JEHOVAH-NISSI</b>	The Lord is My Banner	God gives us victory against the flesh, the world and the devil. Our battles are His battles of light against darkness and good against evil.

*(Garden from page 1)*

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in W.W.II. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived W.W.II, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened.

He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, Would you like a drink from the hose? The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, Yeah, sure, with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt? The minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday. His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water.

Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, Carl, what are you doing? I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately, came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time. The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. What's this? Carl asked. It's your stuff, the man explained. It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet. I don't understand, Carl said. Why would you help me now? The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. I learned something from you, he said. I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing

love against our hate. He stopped for a moment. I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back. He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess. And with that, he walked off down the street. Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden.

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: Person needed to care for Carl's garden. The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. I believe this is my job, if you'll have me, the young man said.

The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him. The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his

*(Garden on page 9)*

*(Garden from page 8)*

promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it. One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday.

Well, congratulations! said the minister,

as he was handed the garden shed keys. That's wonderful! What's the baby's name? Carl, he replied.

The Best Mathematical Equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

That's the whole gospel message simply stated. Take 60 seconds give this a shot! Let's just see if Satan stops this one.

All you do is: 1. Simply say a small prayer

for the person who sent you this, (Father God bless this person in whatever it is that You know he or she may be needing this day!)

2. Then send it on to five other people. Within hours five people have prayed for you, and you caused a multitude of people to pray to God for other people. Then sit back and watch the power of God work in your life for doing the thing that you know He loves.

**Buds Information**

**Motto:** "Blooming All For Jesus"

**Colors:** Green (*growth*) & White (*purity*)

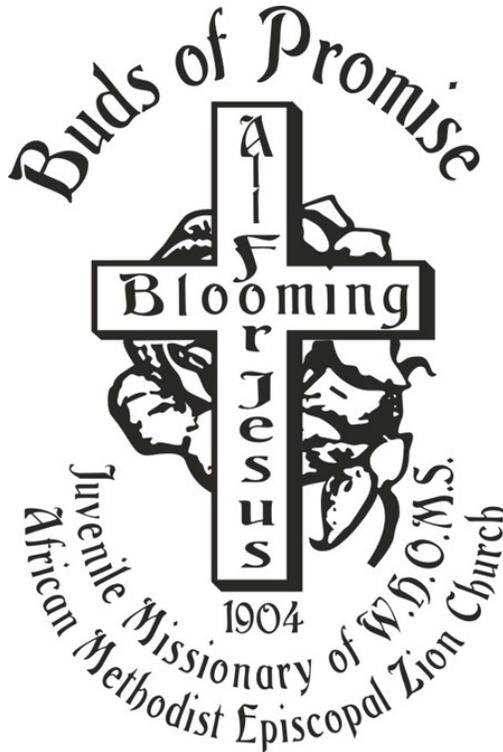
**Slogan: The Three B's:**

We **Build** with Zion,  
We **Belong** to Zion,  
We **Believe** in Zion.

**Pledge:** To be reverent to God, useful to man, do God's will and strengthen my faith with prayer.

**Buds Hymn:** "I Would Be True"

**Buds Theme Song:** "Blooming All for Jesus"



*(Clinton from page 1)*

the Buds of Promise Juvenile Missionary Society. She was born in Huntsville, Alabama in 1871.

Mrs. Clinton was the wife of Bishop George Wylie Clinton. She loved children and having none of her own she dedicated her life to children's work. She understood the importance of Christian training for very young children. Mrs. Clinton worked diligently to see that children be included as part of the General Missionary Society. In 1904, her request to include the children as an organized department of the Missionary Society was taken to the General Conference at St. Louis, Missouri. It was

then that the department was adopted and through her efforts became permanently known as the "Buds of Promise" department in 1908. Mrs. Clinton served as the General Superintendent for 28 years (until 1932) and remained an enthusiastic worker until her death in 1934.

In 1951, the Missionary Convention in Wilmington, North Carolina voted that a day be set aside in our denomination to honor the founder of the Buds of Promise department. Because of Mrs. Marie Louise Clay Clinton's love and devotion to children and work of missions the fourth Sunday of January is recognized as "Marie L. Clinton Day."

**GOD'S GRACE IN FULL FORCE**

By Rick Warren

Your circumstances cannot change the character of God. God's grace is still in full force! -Rick Warren

*"Now that the worst is over, we're pleased we can report that we've come out of this with conscience and faith intact, and can face the world — and even more importantly, face you with our heads held high. But it wasn't by any fancy footwork on our part. It was God who kept us focused on him, uncompromised" (2 Corinthians 1:12 MSG).*

Regardless of your circumstances and how you feel, hang on to God's unchanging character.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 1:12, *"Now that the worst is over, we're pleased we can report that we've come out of this with conscience and faith intact, and can face the world — and even more importantly, face you with our heads held high. But it wasn't by any fancy footwork on our part. It was God who kept us focused on him, uncompromised" (MSG).*

Your circumstances cannot change the character of God. God's grace is still in full force. He is still for you, even when you don't feel it.

Remind yourself what you know to be eternally true about God: He is good, he loves you, he is with you, he knows what you're going through, he cares, and he has a good plan for your life.

Raymond Edman, one of Billy Graham's mentors, once said, "Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light."

So, what has God told you in the light that you now doubt in the dark? Why do you think you doubt God now? Remember, your circumstances cannot change the character of God.

*(Memo from page 1)*

be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all ... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

**3. TRUST ME**

Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it in My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster?

For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

**4. LEAVE IT ALONE**

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.

**5. TALK TO ME**

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the

worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me. I want to be your dearest friend.

**6. HAVE FAITH**

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

**7. SHARE**

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

**8. BE PATIENT**

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse

experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

**9. BE KIND**

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

**10. LOVE YOURSELF** As much as I love me for one reason of Love. Love Me. heart ache when I are very precious you, how can you not love yourself? You were only ... to be loved, and to love in return. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. see you so angry with yourself when things go to me. Don't ever forget that!

created by I am a God It makes My wrong. You

**With all My heart I love YOU ... God**

**G**reat is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

You are Jehovah-jeer, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met.

Thank you for the delight you experience

as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me

and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen

(Word from page 5)

### Lesson Sidelights

We as Christians make the praise of God a major focus of our lives. Therefore, we frequently begin our worship services with what we call **"Praise and Worship,"** focusing on praise alone before any formal program starts. We believe heartily that **"when praises go up, blessings come down!"** in life, seeing evidence of God's love, faithfulness, and righteousness in all the God has created, we put trust in God rather than in human power, wisdom, or virtue. We realize that God is the proper object of worship and not human idols. We understand that in worship, God and the **"word of the Lord,"** (33:4) shape and renew us daily. We have unswerving faith that life and the things that sustain life come from

the gracious, just, faithful, steadfast, and loving hand of God. We give honor and praise to God for all that God has done and rely on God for everything we need in life. God will not fail or forsake us; therefore, our trust is firmly anchored in God.

### Lesson Applications

We have varying ideas and concepts about creation in general. Although we appreciate the beauty of creation and marvel at the delicate balance of the universe, we have questions about how the earth and the universe came to be. Some of us recognize that God is in charge of all creation, while others take a different, more naturalistic view that does not involve the hand of a creator. We are aware of the ongoing debate between those of us who believe in

evolution and those of us who support creationism, to which there seems no final answer or common agreement. Some of us tend to think that the things that support and sustain life are the result of our own efforts or of sophisticated educational and economic systems which have been devised by the genius of human agents. On a different note, some of us view the creation as an environment that needs to be tamed, subdued, and subjugated, while others view nature as needing to be appreciated and preserved. Where do you stand on issues such as these?

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly  
(Ages 18 and up)  
International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

### Jerry's Story

This is a short story that I had to share. It is one of those simple truths that we all have a hard time remembering, when we are in the thick of it.

JERRY, A story to share.

Jerry is a restaurant manager in Philadelphia. He is always in a good mood and invariably has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would' always reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins! " Many of the waiters at his restaurant quit their jobs when he changed jobs, so they could follow him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was always there, telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and

asked him, "I don't get it! No one can be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, I have two choices today. I can choose to be in a good mood or I can choose to be in a bad mood. I always choose to be in a good mood.

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I always choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I always choose the positive side of life."

But it's not always that easy," I protested. "Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. It's your choice how you live your life."

Several years later, I heard that Jerry accidentally did something you are

never supposed to do in the restaurant business: he left the back door of his restaurant open one morning and was robbed by three armed men. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found quickly and rushed to the hospital. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Want to see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, after they shot me, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or could choose to die.

(Jerry on page 13)

## 7 Day Church Wide Prayer & Fasting from Tuesday, January 3 – Tuesday, January 10 (Sunday not included)

Notes: To help you prepare for the 7 day Consecration Prayer & Fasting. It's okay if you have to eat certain foods for your health. Just do your best to eat as much as much vegetables, fruit, and nuts that you can and drink plenty of water. And the most important element is prayer.

### Praying and fasting for Healing, Healthy Lifestyle, Spiritual Growth, Financial Growth, and Numerical Growth.

Adapted from the book "Fasting For Spiritual Breakthrough: A Guide to Nine Biblical Fasts" by Elmer L. Towns, published in 1996 by Regal Books, Ventura, California.

Our body is designed to heal itself. When a disease enters our body from bad dietary habits or from the outside, our bodies begin to fight it. Doctors, surgery, or medicines are most often designed to remove the source of the problem, but the healing is done by the body itself. Many common diseases are easily prevented with basic good nutrition and exercise habits.

#### STEP ONE: BE SPECIFIC

Daniel was not vague in his objection to the Babylonian diet. He defined the problem immediately.

1. The king's food was against dietary laws.
2. Daniel and his friends had vowed against wine.
3. The king's food had been offered up to idols/demons.

#### STEP TWO: FAST AS A SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT

The Daniel Fast involves a spiritual commitment to God. "Daniel proposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Dan. 1:8).

#### STEP THREE: REFLECT INNER DESIRE BY OUTER DISCIPLINE

Many people have an inner desire for better health, but they can't discipline themselves to avoid junk food, and other foods that were not good for health. The physical health you seek from God may be more than an answer to prayer. Your physical health may be linked to any of the following factors:

- a. Your food choices.
- b. The level of your spiritual commitment as reflected in constant prayer during the fast.
- c. Your time commitment. If you determine to fast for a certain time, keep it. For example, if you determine to fast 10 days, don't stop on Day 9.
- d. Your testimony commitment. Your fast is a statement of faith to God that you want Him to heal your body.

Faith is foundational to the Daniel Fast.

#### STEP FOUR: PRAY TO PERCEIVE SIN'S ROLE IN POOR HEALTH

Notice James 5:13-16:

- Sin is something related to the cause of sickness.
- Lack of health/healing may be the result of spiritual rebellion.
- Lack of health/healing may be due to sin of wrong intake, i.e. drugs, pornography.
- Repentance is linked to health according to James.
- Elders have a role in healing both spiritual and physical health.
- Sick people must desire to be well
- The anointing oil could mean
  1. medicine for healing,
  2. symbolic of the Holy Spirit, or
  3. it could be baptism
- Prayer alone may not gain healing, faith is the major factor.
- In Greek there are several words for "sick". James uses "Kanino", which not only includes disease, but also means weak or weary.
- Attitude is important. James said, "are

there any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms."

#### STEP FIVE: FAST AS A STATEMENT OF FAITH TO OTHERS

Daniel was making a statement of faith when he asked for only vegetables to eat and water to drink, then dared the overseer to compare the appearance of the four sons of Israel with the young men who ate the king's food.

#### STEP SIX: LEARN THE EFFECTS OF THE FOOD YOU EAT

Why are some foods good for us, and other foods not? What does certain food do to your body? If we really knew, there would likely be some things we would never eat again.

#### STEP SEVEN: YIELD ALL RESULTS TO GOD

Daniel said, "as you see fit, deal with your servants" (Dan. 1:13).

#### REMEMBER:

- The Daniel Fast will lead to spiritual insight. "to those four young men God gave knowledge".
- The Daniel Fast is longer than one day. These young men fasted for ten days.
- The Daniel Fast is a partial fast. They ate, but only vegetables and water.
- The Daniel Fast requires abstinence from party or junk foods.
- There is no indication that they ever began to eat the king's food.

#### GUIDELINES FOR DANIEL FAST

(Foods We May Eat)

**Whole Grains:** Brown Rice, Oats, Barley

**Legumes:** Dried Beans, Pinto Beans, Split Peas, Lentils, Black Eyed Peas

**Fruits:** Apples, Apricots, Bananas, Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries,

*(Fast on page 13)*

*(Fast, from page 12)*

Cantaloupe, Cherries, Cranberries, Oats, Figs, Grapefruit, Grapes, Guava, Honeydew Melon, Kiwi, Lemons, Limes, Mangoes, Nectarines, Papayas, Peaches, Pears, Pineapples, Plums, Prunes, Raisins, Raspberries, Strawberries, Tangelos, Tangerines, Watermelon

**Vegetables:** Artichokes, Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chili Peppers, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant,

Garlic, Gingerroot, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Mustard Greens, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Scallions, Spinach, Sprouts, Squashes, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Yams, Zucchini

Seeds, Nuts, Sprouts

**Liquids:** Spring Water, Distilled Water, 100% All-Natural Fruit Juices, 100% All Natural Vegetable Juices

**(Foods to Avoid)**

Meat  
White Rice  
Fried Foods  
Caffeine  
Carbonated Beverages  
Foods Containing Preservatives or Additives  
Refined Sugar  
Sugar Substitutes  
White Flour and All Products Using It  
Margarine, Shortening, High Fat Products



IT DEPENDS ON WHOSE HANDS IT'S IN!

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.

A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.

A baseball in Mark McGwire's hands is worth \$19 million.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.

A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands is a Wimbledon Championship.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.

A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.

A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

Nails in my hands might produce a bird-house.

Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

**As you see now it depends on whose hands it's in.**

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because –

**It depends on whose hands it's in.**

WHEN WE PUT  
OUR PROBLEMS IN  
GOD'S HANDS,  
HE PUTS HIS PEACE IN  
OUR HEARTS.

*(Jerry from page 11)*

I chose to live." "Weren't you scared" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the Emergency Room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the physicians and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, read 'He's a dead man.' I knew that I needed to take action." "What did you do?" I asked. "Well, there was a big nurse shouting ques-

tions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything." "Yes," I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Please operate on me as if I am alive, not dead." Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude.

I learned from him that every day

you have the choice either to enjoy your life or to hate it. The only thing that is truly yours that no one can control or take from you -is your attitude, So if you can take care of that, everything else in life becomes much easier.

Now you have two choices to make: 1. You can delete this message or 2. You can forward it to someone you care about. I hope you selected #2. I did.

### THANKS LIVING

READ: Psalms 23

*Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. Psalms 23:6*

**W**anting to mature in her spiritual life and become more thankful, Sue started what she called a Thanks-Living jar. Each evening she wrote on a small piece of paper one thing she thanked God for and dropped it in the jar. Some days she had many praises; other difficult days she struggled to find one. At the end of the year she emptied her jar and read through all of the notes. She found herself thanking God again for everything He had done. He had given simple things like a beautiful sunset or a cool evening for a walk in the park, and other times He had provided grace to handle a difficult situation or had answered a prayer.

Sue's discovery reminded me of what the psalmist David says he experienced (Psalm 23). God refreshed him with "green pastures" and quiet waters" (VV 2-3). He gave him guidance,

protection, and comfort (VV 3-4). David concluded: "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life" (v.6).

I'm going to make a Thanks-Living jar this year. Maybe you'd like to as well. I think we'll see we have many reasons to thank God-including His gifts of friends and family and His provisions for our physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. We'll see that the goodness and love of God follows us all the days of our lives. -Anne Cetas

**Dear Lord,** You bless me in more ways than I can count.  
Thank You for Your love for me.

*When you think of all that's good, give thanks to God.*

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
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**Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606**

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

**CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY**

*We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?*

**Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way**

For more information contact:  
Church office 860-344-9527.or  
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

<p><b>Sunday</b>  <b>8:30 a.m. Church School</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</b></p> <p>2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service)                  Youth Meeting 1st &amp; 4th Sunday's (following service)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday <i>Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill</i></b>                  6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and bible study.</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b>                  6:00 p.m. Zumba                  6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)                  7:00 p.m.. Praise &amp; Worship Choir rehearsal,                  8:00 p.m. Men's Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>Friday <i>Day of Fasting</i></b>                  6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd &amp; 4th of month)                  6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p>
<p><b>Monday</b>                  7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter                  6:00 p.m. Zumba                  7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b>                  6:00 p.m. Steward Board                  7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)                  7:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b>                  10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd)                  11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month)                  12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p>

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**January Events**

**Making the SHIFT Members Sessions** with the Pastor  
**Lay Council Sunday**—more info to follow

Sunday, January 1 ☞ 10:00 a.m.  
**New Year's Day Service**

Tuesday, January 3 – Tuesday, January 10  
**7 Day Daniel Fast for the New Year 2017**

- Sunday, January 8 ☞ 10:00 a.m.
- **Men's Ministry Day Kick off**
  - **First Fruits Sunday** - Bring Tithes, Double Tithes, Sacrificial Offering, or a seed of your choice for the blessings of the New Year.

Saturday, January 14  
**Check-up meeting.** All members required to give \$50.00 annually General Claims to support the AME Zion World-wide Church. Thanks for your gifts of love.

January 14 ☞ 8:30 a.m.  
**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

Wednesday, January 18 – Sunday, January 22  
**Bahamas Annual Conference**

January 28 ☞ 8:00 a.m.-12 noon  
**John Maxwell Simulcast Conference Live2Lead** at the Cross. Pastor requesting all members to attend. More info to follow.

**February Events**

- **Marie Clinton Day**
- **Missionary Tea**
- **Men's Fashion Show & Awards Dinner**

**Doxology**

*Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

Jude 24-25



**CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**  
Organized in 1823

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**Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.**  
**Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,**  
Pastor  
Email: mharvill@snet.net

**The Rev. Timothy Howard**  
Presiding Elder

**Mrs. D. Diane Proctor**  
Missionary Supervisor

**The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor**  
Presiding Prelate

**Ministerial Staff**

- Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
- Rev. William D. Wilson
- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Jennifer Cherry-Woods
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



**"I am a Christian"**

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."  
I'm whispering "I was lost,  
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble  
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed  
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches  
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not holier than thou.  
I'm just a simple sinner  
Who received God's good grace, somehow!

**The Lord's Prayer**

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:  
Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,  
that he may run who reads it.  
Habakkuk 2:2

**The Jabez Prayer**

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,  
**"Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!"** So God granted him what he requested.  
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

**"God's Word**

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"*  
Hebrews 4:12

**Prayer:** Forever, O Lord, your Word is settled in heaven. I bless you because you have given me rest according to all that you have promised to me. Not one word of all your good promises has ever failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in your Word at all times. I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. All of your words are pure, O God, and you are a shield to me. Lord God, your way is perfect, and

your Word is tried. You are a shield and a mighty buckler to me as I trust in you. With your Word you made the heavens, O Lord. all of your promises are yes in Christ, unto your glory, O God. You have spoken through your Word since ancient times, in order to give light to those who sit in darkness, and you guide my feet in the way of peace.

Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to the dividing asunder of my soul and spirit, and of my joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of my heart.

Father, I am thankful for your Word, and I will endeavor to walk in the light of your Word all the days of my life.

**If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???**

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. If you have an article or information for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office with Verna Boyce Or, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him **Praise God!!!**