



Pearlie Grove News

The Color of Christmas

by Sis. Shermeka Haynes

Greater Pearlle Grove's annual Color of Christmas program is one of the loveliest musical events you might ever attend. However the event is not just a concert. It is truly a worship service.

On December 23, 2015, our terrific choirs lived up to every expectation. The congregation was moved through songs, dancing and instrumental music. The service began with our beautiful Soprano, Priscilla Edwards, proclaiming "Hallelujah, Worthy is the Lamb".

The True Grace Children's choir reminded us we should "Celebrate" the birth of Jesus and our very own, Sis. Olivia Vanerson gave a resounding rendition of "Ave Maria".

Our male choir explained the

"Real Meaning of Christmas" and the surprise of the evening was organist Barry Bolden setting the tone for the word with "O Come All Ye Faithful".



Pastor Mason offered a brief Christmas Insight regarding the Color of Christmas. His message stated that colors were of great significance. God used colors to represent

Jesus in the Old Testament. Colors suggest possibilities, and Jesus being born gives us hope. Christmas is all about the possibilities that are only found in Jesus Christ. All the

colors of the Old Testament are encapsulated in the crimson blood of Jesus. The Color of Christmas is red. The Blood of Jesus is the only color that matters.

The night culminated with all the choirs encircling the congregation and singing "Joy to the World".



“Pearlie Grove’s Very Own: Making Black History!”

by
Sis. Glean James

Mississippi’s first African American woman to serve as President of the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters is Greater Pearlie Grove’s own, Sister Karla Hooten. The historic moment happened in March 2015. She represents Mississippi and broadcasters (television and radio) on national, state and local levels. According to Sister Hooten, her leadership role will be to assist members with broadcast industry and general business.

“We knew GPG was home the first time we visited,” is how Sister Hooten describes her family’s excitement about church. The Hooten’s have now been members for three years. Her call to serve extends beyond the field of communication because she is



much bigger plans for her and it led to the Holy Matrimony to her high school sweetheart, Hamp, on March 6, 1990. They moved to Jacksonville, Florida. The Hooten’s have four beautiful children and they are Jhermi (26), Tony (23), Jada (18) and Khanyla (9). Sister Hooten enjoys reading and spending time with her family whenever her time allows.

very active at Greater Pearlie Grove. Sister Hooten proudly sings in the alto section for the Praise Team and Mass Choir. She is also a Christians Under Construction (CUC) teacher for Zion Girls who range in ages from 13-to-17 years old. Plus, Sister Hooten works with the Jesus Using Sisters/TWEENS Ministry.

“In all you do, trust God. There is no better friend than He. If you allow Him in, He will be everything you need,” are words Sister Karla Hooten shares with readers. She expanded her wings to attend the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) to work on a degree in Biology. Sister Hooten says God had

She leaves us with these humbling words, “as the cliché goes, what God has for me is for me. Sister Hooten’s favorite Scripture is Romans 14:12-13 “So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.” Not only do I practice this, I teach my kids this. We have to focus on ourselves and strive to be better Christians.



Seatbelt Safety Sunday

by Sis. Shermeka Haynes

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of injury-related deaths in the state, and Mississippi has one of the highest per-capita motor vehicle fatality rates in the nation.

On November 28, 2015, GPG presented Seatbelt Awareness Sunday with a special guest, Nikki Johnson, from the Mississippi Department of Health. Ms. Johnson spoke to the congregation about the importance of child restraints in vehicles. She provided a wealth of information regarding car seat guidelines, installation, maintenance and proper use. Below are some of the points she discussed.

Children under the age of 13 should remain in a back seat.

- Use a rear-facing seat until at least the age of 2.
- Use a front-facing seat until your child outgrows its recommended height or weight. (Weight and height



limits can be found on the car seat itself).

- A booster seat for children until seat belts fit properly and the child weighs at least 65 pounds (usually 8 to 12 years old).
- Do not use old car seats as they have expiration dates.
- Always follow the manufacturer guidelines for your particular seat.

Buckling children in age- and size-appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts reduces the risk of serious and fatal injuries: Car seat use reduces the risk for death to infants (aged <1 year) by 71%; and to toddlers (aged 1–4 years) by 54% in passenger vehicles.

Booster seat use reduces the risk for serious injury by 45% for children aged 4–8 years when compared with seat belt use alone. For older children and adults, seat belt use reduces the risk for death and serious injury by approximately half.

We encourage adults to wear their seatbelts at all times as well. Our children learn by example, so BUCKLE UP! It's the law.

For more information on how to install your car seat properly, contact: Mississippi State Department of Health: 601-206-1559



CUC Featured Teacher: Sis. Sharon Harris

The CUC Featured Teacher for this quarter is **Sis. Sharon Harris**. Sis Harris has created an innovative method for keeping her students engaged in the class and holding them responsible for keeping up with their materials and being prepared for class. Sis. Harris shared her successful methods below.

Before the class transitions for promotions in September of 2015, I posed a question to the Teens for Christ exiting class, "What can we do as teachers to make our CUC class more interesting and fun?" A student replied, "Give us some type of reward sometimes!" From that suggestion, "Teens for Christ Bucks (T4C)" were created. This is a reward system that allows students to earn up to \$20.00 T4C bucks each Sunday for attending CUC. At the beginning of every quarter,



the students are given a folder, which has 3 months (ex: December-February) of information on the upcoming Sunday school lessons. The information consists of the lesson date, the lesson title, the lesson scripture, the lesson focus and a memory verse. The folder also contains a T4C Buck Sheet. Each student is responsible for bringing their folder to class every Sunday in order to collect T4C bucks. Students who do not bring their folder do not earn bucks for that Sunday. The rubric for the bucks earned is: \$5.00 for attendance, \$2.00 for bringing a Bible, \$3.00 for class par-

ticipation, \$5.00 for reading lesson, \$1.00 for bringing a guest and \$2.00 for reciting the memory verse. Students are also given the opportunity to earn bonus bucks at the teacher's discretion. At the end of each quarter, the students tally up their weekly totals and are given an opportunity to turn in their T4C bucks for prizes. The student who earned the most bucks is allowed to choose the first prize and then the other students follow in the order of the amounts earned. The prizes are donated by the Teens for Christ teachers.

This reward system has increased our class attendance, class participation and has taught our students about being responsible. It has also motivated us as teachers to be more creative with our lessons and teaching styles. Our goal as CUC teachers of Teens for Christ is to keep with the motto of GPG; we want to prepare our students to learn the word of God, grow spiritually and serve as productive citizens of society!





CUC Corner



The Christians Under Construction Ministry (*formerly Sunday School*) will help Christians of all ages by providing bible-based curriculum in classes that encourage group discussion on how to apply the teachings of the Bible to our individual lives and to our world. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

Class Times

Each Sunday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(unless otherwise noted)

1st – 3rd Sunday Regular Classes & Locations

Ages	Class Name	RM	Location
0-3	Nursery	Nursery	Back Hall
3-4	Little Lambs	CHRD 1	Behind Sanctuary
5-6	God's Little Helpers	CHRD 2	Behind Sanctuary
7-8	Crusaders for Christ	CHRD 3	Behind Sanctuary
9-10	Junior Christians	CHRD 4	Behind Sanctuary
11-12	Pathfinders	TNRM 1	Behind Sanctuary
13-14	Teens for Christ	TNRM 2	Behind Sanctuary
15-17	True Followers of Christ	ADLR 5	Front Hall
18-24	Truth Seekers	ADLR 3	Back Hall
25-30	Growing in Grace #1	ADLR 1	Back Hall
31-36	Growing in Grace #2	ADLR 2	Back Hall
37-44	New Direction	Multipurpose	Upstairs
45-50	Legacy Builders #1	ADLR 4	Front Hall
41-60	Legacy Builders #2	TNRM 3	Behind Sanctuary
61 +	Class of Wisdom	Multipurpose	Downstairs

4th Sunday Classes & Locations

Ages	Class Name	RM	Location
9-12	God's Girls (Girls)	CHRD4	Behind Sanctuary
9-12	Young Disciples (Boys)	TNRM1	Behind Sanctuary
13-17	Zion Girls (Girls)	TNRM 2	Behind Sanctuary
13-17	Growing into Men (Boys)	TNRM 3	Behind Sanctuary
18 +	Women of the Word (Women)	Multipurpose	Downstairs
18 +	Disciples of the Cross (Men)	Choir Room	Back Hall

Associate Ministers' Corner

“Learn, Grow & Serve in 2016”

In the book of Psalm 107:2 the Bible proclaims, "let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy." The scripture references God delivering his people from Egypt. In modern times we can equate this scripture in our personal lives. We can equate our deliverance from those things that do not consume us anymore. The redemptive power of God that does not allow us to do the same things that we used to do or frequent those places that are unhealthy for our spirit. God has brought us through another year, so we who have been changed by the cleansing of His blood **SHOULD SAY SO!**

As we enter into the second month of 2016, we notice how quickly time passes! It seems not very long ago we were saying "Merry Christmas" and now before you know it; the summer season will be here. So it is true "time waits for no man."

But as the New Year approached, many of us have made resolutions, many of us committed to eating healthier and getting more exercise. Some have even resolved to become better stewards with their finances and start to SAVE!

All of these things are fine..... but we have to stay focused, committed and have a "desire" to stay committed to them! In the reality of life things happen many times and we abort our resolutions to become healthier or get in shape. Financial crisis may cause us to abort our plans for saving up money; but I encourage each of us to keep our "desire" to do those things. Because what I have learned in my brief time on this earth, is that if you have a desire.....no matter what comes up or what issues surface, you will remain focused on your goal!!! But you must retain the desire!

I can remember when I left JSU in 1992 without receiving a diploma. I started to work for a company for a law firm as a runner. I was living the "good life" if you asked me. I had an apartment; a car.....life was good. But I didn't have my college degree. I went years and years working and doing fairly well at my job downtown. I had a son; he grew and finished high school. My son wanted to follow in mom & dad's footsteps and attend JSU and become a member of the Sonic Boom of the South. Now here is where the "desire" resurfaced, my wife at the time had her Master's and was working on her Ph.D. His mother graduated while pregnant with him; but dear old dad, had no degree! An uncomfortable truth and reality is that many, not all, go to college, but we don't FINISH! We do not finish what we started, and that is earning our degree.

I wanted my son to know that not only could his mother earn her degree; but his father could also!!! See my "desire" was still embedded inside of me to receive my degree for myself and my son, even some 19-20 years later!

Now what will it take to ignite your desire in 2016? What will motivate you to get off the pews and start to work in God's kingdom? I have learned that in order to become something or want to do something, there must first be a "desire." A strong feeling, a yearning or a craving for something!

You must have a desire to attend church regularly, to attend bible study and Sunday School (CUC) consistently. You must have a desire to study the Sunday School lesson with your children and explain the things of the bible to them. A desire to know more about Jesus Christ and get a understanding that he is the only way to the Father, that there are no other way to him!

You must have a desire to become more active in church and a ministry! Have you ever wondered why some people are always speaking and communicating with others? Have you ever felt like

you are *of* the church; but not *IN* the church?" It may be because of your "inactivity" in the body of Christ! People generally know you by "what you do as opposed to who you are!" So I encourage each of you to become involved in the functions of the church! Join a ministry!!

Lastly, we must have a desire for growth! We must have a need that pushes us to be better! I saw a documentary on the great NFL Hall of Famer Jerry Rice. As a country boy from Crawford, MS who played his college football at Mississippi Valley University. Jerry always had a desire to be the best. The way he trained, the way he studied football film and players, he had a desire to be the very best! He went on to become the greatest wide receiver in NFL history!! Because of his desire, he achieved greatness.

God desires that we become great, great in his kingdom. He desires that we become spiritually mature in his word; not only in his word, but in our deeds and actions too. He desires that we have patience with those babes or immature Christians. Showing patience, kindness and long-suffering as he does with us. He does still want us to move from milk to meat! We do that by studying his word, attending the teaching arms of the church. Hebrews 5 teaches about Christians who were avoiding healthy growth. It gives details of how we should move or grow in our spiritual maturity.

My brothers and sisters, let's make 2016 a tremendous year for the Kingdom and here at Greater Pearlie Grove! God has purposed us to be here in 2016, find your purpose and walk in it for the building up of the Kingdom!

"Be Encouraged!"

Reverend Ken Wells

CUC Junior Christian's Coat Drive

by Sis. Sabrina Simpson



Nothing is more comforting than knowing that you are warm for the winter months. GPG Junior Christians sponsored a “Warm Up Winter” coat drive which was held from December 1st through the 20th. During this time they collected winter items which included coats, blankets, scarves, gloves and hats. Donations were overflowing! These items were given to the Billy Brumfield Shelter for Men, Matt’s House Women’s Shelter and Sims House Shelter for Women and Children.

The word of God states in the book of James 2:14-16, “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” Thank you GPG Junior Christians and COATS off to you for exercising your FAITH!

“Children Who Serve

by Bro. Olmec Martin



As future generations hastily approach us, there is a time of reflection that is necessary for our progress. Teaching our children to serve is one



of the essential foundations that seem to be steadily diminishing. Time brings about change and through that change comes new, inventions, technology, and ideals. Things come much faster and children have more access to the world. They have intelligence far beyond any generation before them but collectively no boundaries. The atmosphere creates a wave of receiving and not giving. Developing service within a child has now become a necessity to combat the newfound privileges. The eras before us show a picture of children who had no choice but

to serve. The means of survival required children to serve whether it was a boycott, family chore or a church choir, the theme was all the same. Serving is not an action but an attitude, and throughout

Gods Word we are constantly reminded of its importance. Developing the ideals of service within a child creates a spirit of humbleness and gratitude. Initially the service may have been an obligation in which parents deemed crucial for the basic survival of the child in society. The ideals that come from a child serving can be considered social skills, humbleness, hard work and dedication, all of which cannot be found in the coursework of general education.

Health Ministry Fall Blood Drive

by Sis. Karla Edwards



The Health ministry's fall blood drive was held on October 11th. Over 25 units of blood were donated to Mississippi Blood Services. Ministry leader, Nkeba Bell, has set a goal to have 500 members of Greater Pearlie Grove donate blood in 2016. Members are encouraged to set appointments with Mississippi Blood Services, located at 115 Tree Street Flowood, by calling (601) 981-3232, if they are unable to give

during the blood drives. Please mention that you are a member of GPG when donating. If the church meets its goal, members can receive priority when needing blood services. The spring blood drive will be on April 17, 2016 Please see any Health ministry member for more information.

Social Media Ministry

by Sis. Alisha Gibson



As technology continues to advance, the methods that churches use to reach out to the members of the congregation and visitors, has advanced also. Social Media is just one of the methods that our church uses to disseminate information, like sermon notes and upcoming events. The ability to connect with the congregation through social media helps to make the church more personal for members and visitors.

Here at Pearlie Grove we have a Social Media Ministry that continues to transform the way we share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You can visit the FACEBOOK page and check in on Sundays for a chance to win a free meal at Wednesday's at the Grove. On our page you can find bible study notes, sermon notes, as well as announcements for upcoming events. You can find the church's Facebook page by searching, Greater Pearlie Grove MB Church. You can like the page and receive updates on

your timeline as they are available.

Not only can you visit the Facebook page, our church spreads the gospel on Twitter. Because of the 140-character limit you can find interesting quotes from the sermon or bible study, reminders of ministry fellowships, encouragement through scripture and so much more. Our twitter name is @GPGMBC, so follow us on Twitter as we follow Christ.

In summary, the Social Media Ministry is a way of reaching everyone especially those of the younger generation, who practically live on social media. We recognize there are other social media outlets; it is possible that soon you may find Greater Pearlie Grove on Snapchat or Instagram. The social media ministry is all about spreading the gospel by any communication outlet available. If you are interested in joining the Social Media Ministry, look out for the advertisement on Sunday and Wednesday night.

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!



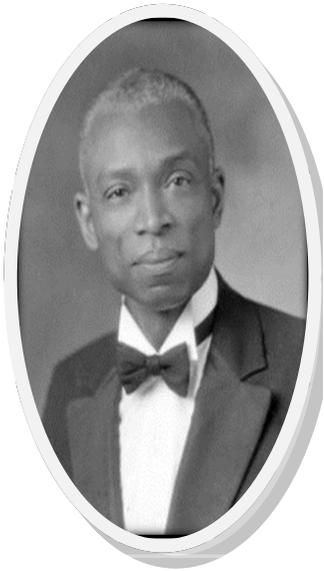
by Sis. Toni Martin

On Saturday, December 19, 2015, the Youth Ministry encouraged the members of Greater Pearlie Grove Missionary Baptist Church to remember the real meaning of Christmas through recitations, special music (R.E.A. P. , the Washington Kids and a Christmas Instrumental Selection was presented by our youth) as well as a skit, “What would Jesus say if He could see us now?” written by Brother Leon Bryant, presented by the Honor Guard. The Praise Dance Ministry uplifted



our spirits with “Mary Did You Know?” The Christmas play, “What is Christmas really about?” asked that we consider what family we would like to be. The Davis’ who had no time for Jesus or the Nelsons whose goal in life was to please Him. Special thanks to Sis. Dornette Thompson, the Youth Ministry, Brother and Sis. Leon Bryant for an inspiring program. As we enter this season, let’s reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross and live lives pleasing to our King! Joy to the world!

Little Known Black History Fact: John Morton Finney



John Morton-Finney was born June 25, 1889 in Kentucky to a free woman whose ancestors were transported from the people of Nigeria. John Morton-Finney enrolled in the Military-Academy to begin his education. During World War I he fought within the infamous U.S. 10th Calvary Regiment of the United States Army. The group known as the Buffalo soldiers who were represented by an elite number of black soldiers, nicknamed for their hair quality which reminded the Native Americans of buffaloes. John Morton-Finney attempted to become an officer of the army, but he was insulted and given a citation for the remarks of his rebuttal. Morton-Finney left the army to enroll

in Lincoln College in Missouri to receive his first degree. John Morton-Finney earned degrees in French, Math, and History. He moved to Indiana in 1922 after he married his wife Pauline Ray. John Morton-Finney practiced law while teaching at the infamous Crispus Attucks High School. He eventually earned 11 law degrees. He was forced to retire from Crispus Attucks High School at the age of 82. He joined the United States Supreme Court at the age of 83. John Morton-Finney practiced law there until the age of 107. John Morton-Finney holds the record of longest amount of years practicing law at 85 years.

Meet Our October, November, and December 2015 New Members



Alexandria Thomas



Angela Thomas



Anthony Thomas



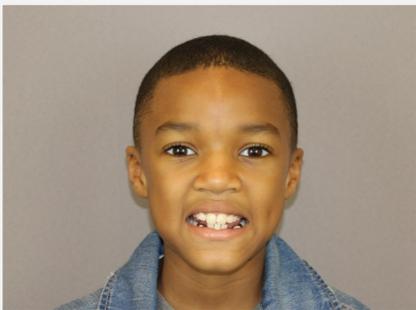
Burnadette Gilbert



Constance McDoules



Dwight Gilbert



Dylan James



Erin Turner

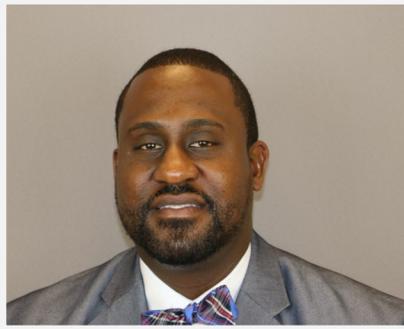


Freda Davis

New Members Continued



Jennifer Jones



Jeremy Jones



Jerrica Davis



Kennedi Richardson



LaMarcus Richardson



Marcus Moore



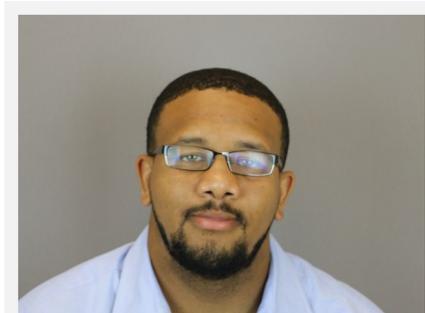
Marcus Turner



Richard Ceasar



Teresa Ceasar



Tremaine Davis



Chaqwisha Jordan



Errence D. Wilson, Sr.

New Members Continued



Marilyn McCarthy



Mary Scott



Terry Jordan, Jr.



Carlecia Cain



Carmia Cain



Cartazia Lapoole



Monica Steen

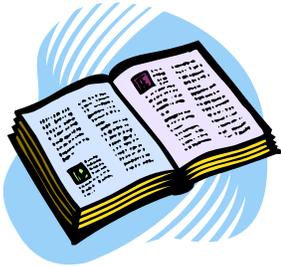


Paula Harrison



Shawntee Robinson

Who's My Deacon!



Transforming lives through the Word!

Who's Your Deacon?

Here at Greater Pearlie Grove, all families are assigned to a group of Deacons based on your last names. Our Deacons are here to assist you with any questions or spiritual needs you may have and work on behalf of the Pastor. Below is a listing of the deacons and their assigned alphabet. Should you have any general questions regarding the Deacon's Ministry or whom you're assigned to, please contact Dea-

con Greg Walker, Chairman, or Deacon Andrew Moncure, Co-Chairman.

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS BY ALPHABET

A through F

Anthony Clay
Daryl Jones
Willie Tucker

G through L

Van Jefferson
Willie Hughes
Herman Mainor

M through R

James Hart
Jonas James
Michael Parks

S through Z

Levorn Lipsey
Larry McCook

Celebrating 50 Years of Love and Devotion!

by Sis. Wanda Clark



What God has joined together let no man put asunder. No truer words have ever been spoken as they relate to Bro. John and Sis. Agnes Coleman. These two love birds have been married for 50 wonderful years. Their 50th year wedding anniversary was celebrated on February 20, 2016. 50 years of marriage is called a "golden wedding anniversary". A golden wedding

anniversary is a celebration of a life spent together and great things accomplished with love and commitment. It is given great honor. In our lifetimes, we are gifted with a limited number of truly "landmark moments". They start small, but then, as we grow, they grow too. They grow in power and significance. There is that perfect landmark moment when you look into the eyes of the most loving, caring, and giving individual that you've

ever known and realize you've found true love. A special love of longing that allows you to smile from the heart. The Coleman's are a true testament of God's love and devotion towards each us. The level of commitment it takes to love and care for one another for 50 years is inspiring. Please take time to wish Bro. and Sis. Coleman a very happy 50th year anniversary.

1640 West County Line Road
Jackson, MS 39213

Phone: 601-354-2026
Fax: 601-969-6027
E-mail: secretary@gpgmbc.org

Our Mission

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen

It is the desire of this local church to fulfill the job description that has been given to us in

Matthew 28:19-20.

“Where Our Mission is to Learn, Grow and Serve”



We're on the Web
<https://gpgmbc.org>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Birthdays

- Teronta Day - 8th
- Shellie Myers - 15th
- Richard Smith, Jr. - 19th
- John Haynes - 23rd
- Carolyn Jefferson - 30th

January Anniversaries

- Steven & Crystal Smith - 8th

February Birthdays

- Tracey Davidson - 13th
- Steven Smith - 20th
- Tawana Smith - 24th
- Ezekiel Parks - 27th
- Ian Longino - 28th

February Anniversaries

- Leonard & Toinette Jackson - 3rd
- John & Agnes Coleman—20th (50 yrs)
- Roderick & Angela Longino - 26th

March Birthdays

- Deborah Rhodes - 10th
- LaSonya Drake—10th
- Imani Smith - 25th

March Anniversaries

- John & Shermeka Haynes - 5th

