

Message From Our Pastor



“Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)

The Lord has so graciously allowed us to see another Lenten season, and by the time this message reaches some of you, we will be celebrating Easter.

This season gives us another opportunity to re-evaluate our walk with God and to focus in on what it is that the Lord is requiring of us. If we study the life of Christ, we will immediately discover that Jesus was disciplined. He never allowed critics, naysayers, or His enemies to distract Him from His goal. Regardless of what may have been going on with Him, or around Him, He “Kept Moving Forward.” We see it throughout the Scriptures that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ never turned back or wavered.

There are times in our lives when it seems as if life has put so much on our shoulders that we are not able to bear. Sometimes we have to deal with so much, and in seemingly every area of our lives. All of us have had periods in our lives when it seems that we have to face problems on the job, with our families, and even in our finances, and we feel overwhelmed. It is during those times of struggle and uncertainty that the enemy, the devil, will tempt us to quit and stop following Christ.

Satan wants to keep us focusing on what’s going wrong in our lives rather than what’s going right in our lives. He wants us to keep dwelling on our failures and past mistakes. However, that is why we

are called by the Lord to, “Keep Moving Forward.” Don’t let Satan, your enemies, or your failures hold you back from where God is leading you. Regardless of what’s going on in our lives; we have to follow the Lord’s example and never turn back. The Apostle Paul tells us to, “forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead.” (Philippians 3:13b) This Scripture exhorts and encourages us to keep pressing forward. It teaches us to refrain from dwelling on the past. To remember it, learn from it, but also know when to move from it.

If you and I are serious about following Jesus; we must understand that Jesus was always moving forward. Even though He had to face execution by the way of the cross; He kept moving forward. Jesus Christ came to make things right between God and man. It was tragic how they treated Him. It was heartbreaking how they whipped and beat Him. Nevertheless, because He kept moving forward....even to the cross, He triumphed over death, hell, and the grave because on the third day He rose from the dead!!!

Be encouraged family, don’t let nothing turn you around.

Keep Moving Forward to the “prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Lovingly Submitted,
Pastor Alphonso Tucker, Servant



Church Directory

Pastor	Rev. Alphonso Tucker	410-466-5776 (home) 410-664-7443 (study)
Chairman of Deacon’s Ministry	Deacon Lawrence Waller	410-281-9185 (home) 410-984-5268 (cell)
Church Clerk	Trus. Marilyn Dorsey	410-298-4892 /443-676-6261
Asst. Church Clerk	Sis. Kitty Owens	410-255-7713
Bus Driver	Trus. Everett Cash	443-850-5494
Courtesy Phone—Lower Auditorium		410-367-9776

Holy Week and Easter Service

Holy Week is the annual Christian observance commemorating Jesus' last week on earth and the events leading up to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is the final week of Lent and the week prior to Easter Sunday. Holy Week commences on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday. It includes the Christian observances and solemn holidays of Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) and Holy Friday (Good Friday).

During Holy Week, there will be a Prayer Service led by the diaconate ministry on Wednesday, April 8th from 7-8 p.m. On Good Friday, April 10th, we will worship at 12 noon at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church located at 1108 E. Preston Street in Baltimore. Seven ministers from the Good Friday Group will preach on the Seven Last Words.

The aforementioned events will culminate in a joyous celebration on Easter morning at FCCBC which will be held Sunday, April 12th at 9:30 a.m. We pray that everyone will come out and help us commemorate these momentous events.

Submitted by: Deaconess Mary Murphy



Church Expansion Pre-Development Activities Update

The FCCBC Planning Committee Ministry continues to seek a qualified General Contractor to do church renovations and to construct the new Outreach Center building. The project is ready to move forward once the Planning Committee Ministry completes construction contract negotiations with a General Contractor for the development of the project.

The Planning Committee approved the final design for the Community Outreach Center in late 2019. The 24,000 square foot lot will include a 1,920 square foot building for indoor church ministry activities, garage space to secure the church bus, community garden, off-street parking, and green space for other outdoor church activities. The Baltimore City Department of Permits and Public Works is currently reviewing the project design for permit approvals.

The Planning Committee Ministry is working to complete all pre-development activities of the projects. Fundraising activities will continue to support current and future expenses to renovate the Church property and expand FCCBC's activities by developing 4201 Groveland Avenue.

The Planning Committee Ministry would like to thank FCCBC Members and friends of the church for continued faithfulness and support in honoring Building Fund pledges.

Submitted by: FCCBC Planning Committee Ministry

Watch Night Service

At 10:00 p.m. on December 31, 2019, the FCCBC church family joined together to bring in 2020 with prayer, praise, and worship. The Music Ministry rendered musical selections. Our Liturgical Dancers ministered as well. Pastor Tucker preached a brief sermon and prayed for all. Balloons and confetti were released throughout the sanctuary. The Culinary Ministry prepared lite fare following service.



Photos courtesy of Trustee Henry Smith, Bro. Roscoe Johnson, III, and Sis. Sharon Johnson

Deacon's Corner

To God Be The Glory. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 3:13

Finally my brethren rejoice in the Lord. I greet you in the name of Jesus, the name that is above every name. It gives me great joy to write to you again concerning the work of Jesus Christ through His servants. Winter is at our back and Spring is right in front of us. Since the last edition we still make a strong declaration that God is still in the blessing business. When we/you look back on our lives and see where God has brought us from, I can't thank Him enough; If I had ten thousand tongues, I still could never thank Him enough for what he has done for me.

I am so proud to announce that the Spring Revival for The National Baptist Deacons Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity and it's Auxiliaries will be held at FCCBC Tuesday, June 2nd - Thursday June 4th. Our very own Rev. Alphonso Tucker will be the Revivalist. The Diaconate ministry hopes that all that can and will plan to attend. More information will follow.

The Diaconate liken unto the Apostle Paul have great joy in serving. For we look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others (Philippians 2:4). We continue the work of serving homes, nursing homes, and hospitals as we exercise our best practice concerning kingdom building for the sick and shut-in. Continue praying for our members that are less fortunate than yourself and pray for one another's safety as we travel to and from. May our homes be as safe as when we left them.

I pray that the FCCBC Connection newsletter has been a blessing to you by keeping you informed about the work that we are doing. Since the last edition, God has called some of our sick members home to be with Him. For He said that He would go and prepare a place for you and I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also (St. John 14:3). God is still on the throne.

Do you honestly read the newsletters when they are printed??? I personally read mine from cover to cover and I send my sisters as well as my cousin who also serves as a Deacon (Shockoe Baptist in Chatham, VA. - Pastor Antonel Myler) and my brother-in-law Dea. Clark (Union Hall Baptist in Chatham, VA - Pastor Leroy Thomas) copies. They are always so happy to hear about our FCCBC family and activities. It gives them joy to stay in touch with us!

I leave you with this, let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5). We encourage our readers to attend Sunday School, Bible class, and Prayer meetings to show thyself approved.

****Be the first person to tell me how has Bible class has impacted or changed your lifestyle**

Humbly Submitted,
Deacon Lawrence Waller



Official's Day

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ Ephesians 4:11-12 KJV

Our annual Official Day program is scheduled for March 22, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. We will have a guest Pastor to feed us spiritually. We welcome Rev. Andre Murphy, Pastor of Miracle Baptist Church. He is a great man of God. We are looking forward to this day.

Prayerfully, you will be able to attend this service of leadership.

Submitted by: Chairman Lawrence Waller

Deaconess Report—Doing God's Will

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity it profiteth me nothing I Corinthians 13-3

Each one should, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty, for God loves the one who gives gladly. For this service we perform not only meets the needs of God's people but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God. The Deaconesses will continue to do God's will in going out to give to the homeless. We are thankful and grateful we always have a group of members who go out with us to give out food, clothes, toiletries and water. Each time we visit with the homeless, they are always glad to see us. We want to thank all the ministries and church members who continue to generously help us. Remember 'He who generously gives to needy, his kindness lasts forever.' (2 Corinthians 9:9)

The Deaconesses and the Deacons visited with Deaconess Ada Bostick and Brother Calvin Taylor. We are looking forward to visiting other sick members.



Photos courtesy of Sis. Audrey Highsmith

Submitted by: Deaconess Hallie Allen

Outreach Update

FCCBC Deaconesses, the Humphrey Chorale Ensemble, and other officials and members are scheduled to go out on March 28, 2020 to distribute nonperishable foods, toiletries, clothing, and socks to the homeless and less fortunate in Baltimore.

Socks are the least-donated clothing items and yet the most in-demand. The Humphrey Chorale Ensemble collected over 300 pairs of socks for its first "Everyone Deserves Warm Feet" Sock Donation Drive which will be distributed as well. The Sock Drive was a resounding success!



Photo courtesy of Deacon Garry Carter

Humphrey Chorale Ensemble member Deacon Garry Carter spearheaded a collection from among fellow letter carriers at the Catonsville Post Office. They collected and donated 170 pairs of socks! We thank them not only for their public service but for going above and beyond to help those less fortunate.

We thank members and friends for their generosity. Please continue your giving as the need is great.

Sunday School Annual Christmas Program

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men – Luke 2:14

Our Annual Christmas program was held on Sunday, December 22, 2019. Aptly named THE CELEBRATION, the Sunday School play celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ with acting, singing and dancing. Sis. Jackie Ward presided over the celebration with Bro. Keith Owens, Jr. as our narrator. The main characters of Mary and Joseph were portrayed by Sis. Kitty Owens and Bro. Tyrone Moore, Sr. Sis. Owens assumed the role of Mary at the last minute even though she was plagued by laryngitis. Supporting cast included Trustee John Sanders as Gabriel and Deacon Keith Owens, Sr. as the emperor. Miss Kaitlyn Sanders' multiple roles included the welcome address, dancer, and singer. Her solo acapella performances were outstanding, moving, and uplifting. The program concluded with The Anointed Vessels of Praise performing a very powerful and spirited dance to Kirk Franklin's *Hosanna Forever*.

Thanks to the faithful members of the Drama Ministry, under the very capable hand of our director, Sis. Marilyn Brunt, for their participation in our Christmas Program. Some come each year to help us to bring the Christmas story to life. Some members are hesitant or shy to perform before an audience but we say, "Be like David as he danced with wild abandon when the Ark was brought back to Jerusalem." When criticized by his wife for his behavior, he let her know that he would dance before the LORD and dishonor himself even more..." (2 Samuel 6:23). So, we say, do not be afraid of what others may think when you are praising the Lord, for that is our duty.

As always, we thank the Culinary Ministry for preparing a hearty breakfast for us. We would like to thank Sisters Evette Townes and Leslie Hyman for helping us to prepare the gift bags for the Sunday School. We also thank Sisters Townes and Jackie Ward, along with Deacon Lawrence Waller, for helping us distribute the bags.

It is our hope that blessings will chase and overtake you in the New Year. It is also our prayer that the Sunday School attendance will continue to increase; that was the hope of our late Sunday School teacher, Dr. Bob Sanders.

May all have a happy, prosperous, and *productive* New Year. For we must work while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work (John 9:4).

Submitted by: The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School



Photos courtesy of Sis. Sharon Johnson

Missionary Ministry Update

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

On December 21, 2019, the Missionary Ministry completed the year with a service at the Future Care Nursing Home - Lochearn located at 4800 Northern Parkway. Evangelist Samuels preached from Matthew 1:18 from the text: God's Plan and Purpose For the World and a Season for Celebration. Then it was time for Santa. We distributed gifts as we sang *Jingle Bells*. The residents were happy to receive them. We always enjoy that part of the service also.

On February 2, 2020, new officers were nominated and voted in. Our new President is Sister Carolyn Laster. Sis. Shirl Farrare will serve as Vice President. Sis. Zenobia McLaughlin volunteered to serve as Secretary as needed. The new officers came in ready to work! We are looking forward to doing great things as we follow our new leaders. We also thank God for keeping us together for nine years working in His Vineyard. We pray that God will continue to Bless this Ministry to do His will.

Sis. Mary Jones, Past President

Ministry members met at our regularly scheduled service at the Future Care Nursing Home on February 15, 2020. Sister Shirl Farrare was the worship leader and scripture was read by Deaconess Mary Murphy. Rev. Samuels rendered a powerful prayer. We sang hymns. Evangelist Samuels sang a Hymn and bought a mighty inspiring Word. There were 13 residents in attendance. Following the service, some missionaries visited and encouraged others who were not in attendance at the service.

We meet on the third Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact any member of the Ministry.

We look forward to all the ways that God will reveal to us on how to reach more of those who do not the beauty of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sis. Carolyn Laster, President



Youth Spotlight - Sis. Alea Powell

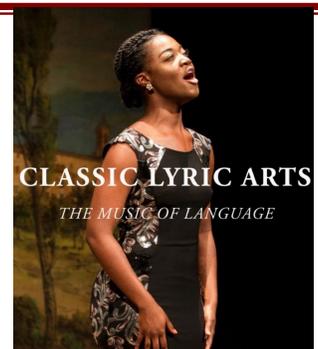
The February 2020 Youth spotlight is a Senior at The Juilliard School in New York City. She earned a 4.0 GPA last semester, taking 7 classes equaling 15 credits. She is due to graduate in the next 3 months. She has a special love for music as we have all experienced her opera and contemporary style singing.

Yes, you guessed it — Sister Alea Powell is this month's youth powerhouse and we congratulate her on her outstanding achievements.

As it is written in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Thank you for helping us shine a light on a member of the FCCBC family.

Contributed by: Sis. Chrystal Nichols



Youth and Young Adult News

New Youth Ministry Leader Named



On January 12, 2020, Pastor Tucker appointed Sis. La-Kia Kommeren as FCCBC's first Youth Ministry Leader. She will serve as the point of contact relating to all youth activities, services, or outreach; plan, coordinate, supervise FCCBC's Annual Youth & Young Adult Day and the Annual Autumn Breeze; and supervise and assist, if needed, all youth and young adult ministries, as well as update Pastor and the administrative staff on any and all activities.

She has begun reaching out to youth ministries to gain insight into their current and future plans, make note of their current and future goals, struggles, and future aspects. Her goals are to incorporate more youth and young adults from within the neighborhood and within the congregation and to establish a bond between the youth and the elders. She would like to see youth and young adults take on more leadership roles in various ministries, as well.

Sis. La-Kia is a Baltimore native. She graduated from Morgan State University. She is married to Matheus (Martie) Kommeren, and has a son Cameron. She is a member of the Humphrey Chorale Ensemble, the Unified Voices, and Voices of Praise choirs. Before joining FCCBC in 2016, she served in numerous ministries (Youth Usher, Pastor's Aide, Dance Ministry, Youth Sunday School Teacher Assistant, and choir member) at various churches.

Her favorite scriptures are Psalms 23 and Psalms 27. She enjoys arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, traveling, and the most part praising and worshipping God.

Photo courtesy of Sis. La-Kia Kommeren

Black History Month Program

We celebrated our Black History Program on February 23, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. with the theme "Black Wall Street - Then, Now, and Future Entrepreneurs." Our program was filled with black historical facts and showcased our present and future entrepreneurs. Several members portrayed historical figures and current FCCBC entrepreneurs were recognized. Our youth came out and showed out in our mini-fashion show, historical figures from the past, and who can forget the Drexel Diamonds Band? The guest speaker was Leland Shelton, an attorney who shared how he overcame tremendous obstacles. Tribute was paid to Sisters Carolyn Smith and Chrystal Nichols.

We look forward to doing this program every year and trying to fulfill the legacy that was left behind by Sisters Smith and Smith-Nichols. We thank everyone for their love and support. WE ARE FAMILY!

Submitted by Sister Theresa Crusoe



Black History Month Program (continued)



Photos courtesy of Trustee Henry Smith and Sis. Sharon Johnson

2020 Black History Month Presentations

Each Sunday in February, a youth or young adult presented information on prominent African Americans, historical events, or achievements.

Samara Jones	The first African American female sculptor named, “Augusta Savage”
Maya Jones	“Marsai Martin” the youngest African American executive producer in Hollywood.
Sanaa Stanley	The first African American female millionaire to own hair products called, “Apex,” in 1930 - “Sara Spence Washington”
Shiloh Bryant	“Rosa Parks,” an African American woman who refused to give up her seat on a public bus
Steven Jones	“Charles Hamilton Houston,” a prominent African American lawyer
Sofie Tucker	The first immigrant to make shoes for African Americans, “Jan Matzeliger”
Kaitlyn Sanders	Presented the 1619 Project.



Submitted by Sis. Sofie Tucker. Photos courtesy of Sis. Sofie Tucker and Sis. Sharon Johnson

Culinary Ministry Early Bird Classic Movie Fundraiser

In honor of Black History Month, the Culinary Ministry hosted its Third Annual Early Bird Classic Double Feature Movie Matinee on Saturday, February 8, 2020.

The first movie showed was *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967) an American comedy-drama film dealing with issues of race and race relations. This film starred **Sidney Poitier** (played the role of John Prentice), a Bahamian- American actor and film director. His impressive career had afforded him numerous honors and awards. To mention a few: Academy Award for Best Actor, the first black actor to win that award, and was nominated a second time, nominated six times for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award for Best Foreign Actor, winning each once, from 1997 to 2007, he served as the Bahamian Ambassador to Japan. This movie also featured:

Isabel Sanford (born Eloise Gwendolyn Sanford; August 29, 1917 – July 9, 2004) (played the role as Tilly); was an African-American stage, film and television actress and comedian. Best known for her role as Louise "Weezy" Mills Jefferson on the CBS sitcoms *All in the Family* (1971–1975) and *The Jeffersons* (1975–1985). In 1981, she became the second black American actress to win a Primetime Emmy Award, and the first to win for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series.

Beulah Elizabeth Richardson (July 12, 1920 – September 14, 2000); (played the role of Mrs. Prentice) known professionally as Beah Richards, was an African-American actress of stage, screen, and television. She was also a poet, playwright, and author. Richards was nominated for an Oscar and a Golden Globe for her supporting role in this film in 1968, as well as winning two Primetime Emmy Awards for her guest roles in the television series *Frank's Place* in 1988 and *The Practice* in 2000. She also received a Tony Award nomination for her performance in the 1965 production of *The Amen Corner*.

Roy E. Glenn (June 3, 1914 – March 12, 1971) was an African- American character actor; (played the role of Mr. Prentice). Glenn's career spanned five decades.

The second movie shown was the *Queen of Katwe* (2016), an American biographical drama feature film depicting the life of a girl living in Katwe. She learns to play chess and becomes a Woman Candidate Master after her victories at World Chess Olympiads. The film starred:

David Oyelowo an English actor and producer. His highest-profile role to date was as Martin Luther King Jr. in the 2014 biographical drama film *Selma*. He also took the lead role in *A United Kingdom* (2016). He has played supporting roles in the: *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (2011), *Lincoln* (2012), *Jack Reacher* (2012), and garnered praise for portraying Louis Gaines in *The Butler* (2013). On television, he played MI5 officer Danny Hunter on the British drama series *Spooks* (2002–2004).

Lupita Nyong'o in 2008 made her acting debut with the short film *East River* and subsequently returned to Kenya to star in the television series *Shuga* (2009–2012). Also in 2009, she wrote, produced and directed the documentary *In My Genes*. She then pursued a master's degree in acting from the Yale School of Drama. Soon after her graduation, she had her first feature film role as Patsey in Steve McQueen's historical drama *12 Years a Slave* (2013), for which she received critical acclaim and won several awards, including the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. She became the first Kenyan and Mexican actress to win an Academy Award.

Madina Nalwanga (born February 2, 2002) This role earned her the Most Promising Actor award at 2017 Africa Movie Academy Awards in Lagos, Nigeria. She also won an NAACP Image Award, a Women Film Critics Circle Award, and was nominated for a Critic's Choice Award.

The Culinary Members would like to thank all that helped to make this fundraiser a successful one! ... We look forward to hosting this annual event next year! All proceeds will continue to help fund the FCCBC 5 Loaves 2 Fish Culinary Outreach. This was a true family day of leisure ...

Submitted by: Sister B. Tucker, Kitchen Manager

The men of FCCBC meet the last Tuesday of each month (formerly Mondays) for devotions, fellowship, and to make plans to give service in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The men, under the leadership of Brother Roscoe Johnson, III (Chairman) and Brother Tyrone Moore (Co-Chairman) have been making preparations for the following 2020 activities:

Men's Fellowship Prayer Breakfast - On March 21st at 9:00 a.m., the men of FCCBC along with the men of the Good Friday Group churches will host a prayer breakfast. FCCBC's men are encouraged to bring a guest or friend to the fellowship.

Men's Car Wash – The Men's Ministry holds two car washes during the summer months to raise funds for special projects of FCCBC. This year, FCCBC men continue to raise funds for the church expansion projects that will create new meeting spaces, expand the food pantry to serve the church's community outreach, and to serve the youth of the church and local neighborhood. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 20th and Saturday July 11th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. each day.

Men In Black— A spiritually filled evening of praise of the Lord in song by various men's groups, choirs, and individually talented singers. The event will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

FCCBC Bi-Annual Crab Feast — FCCBC's Men's Ministry is planning a major fundraising event to support the FCCBC's Development Project that will be open to the general public on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Be on the lookout for more information detailing the location of this exciting opportunity to fellowship together.

All men are welcome to join us at the next Men's Ministry Fellowship meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Submitted by: Chairman Roscoe Johnson, III

The Women's Corner—Women's Day 2020

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

The women of First Christian Community Baptist Church (FCCBC) are about a good work. Hence, our theme for 2020, “Learning and Growing in God's Grace,” which is rooted in the preceding Scripture. Under the leadership of our enterprising ingénue, Miss Kaitlyn Sanders, we intend, with the help of God and all the women and men of FCCBC, to make this one of the most memorable Women's Days ever. So, we are asking that each of you reach out to family members, neighbors, friends, and coworkers to support our activities. Our color for Women's Day is any shade of purple.

It is especially heartwarming to see our youth and young adults participating in the planning and the heading of some of our events. The events, their dates, and leaders are listed below:

Movie: Date to be announced, Leader - Miss Sofie Tucker

Prayer Breakfast: Saturday, April 25, 2020 - Leader, Evangelist Dr. Juliette Samuels

Women in White and Hat Day: Sunday, May 10, 2020 - Deaconess Eileen McCloud

Karaoke: Saturday, May 30, 2020 - Leader, Miss Samara Jones

Concert: Saturday June 6, 2020 - Leader, Miss Kaitlyn Sanders

Women's Day: Sunday, June 28, 2020 - Miss Kaitlyn Sanders, Chairlady, Deaconess Vurely Johnson, Co-chairlady

Fashion Show: Saturday, August 1, 2020 - Leader, Sis. Leslie Hyman

Please save the dates for these events. The date for our next Women's Day meeting will be announced. Please come out and offer your support. Further information will be provided for the upcoming events in the near future.

Submitted by: Deaconess Mary Murphy, Secretary

Member Spotlight - Sis. Carolyn Laster



Meet our new Missionary Ministry President, Sis. Carolyn Laster.

Sis. Carolyn Laster has been a member of First Christian Community Baptist Church for almost 10 years. Sis. Carolyn is a quiet spoken and a very generous person.

Sis. Carolyn has a son, a daughter, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Sis. Carolyn worked for 36 years at the Enoch Pratt Free library where she attained a position supervising a staff of 16. She was also responsible for maintaining and updating circulation policies and procedures and the training of new staff. Handling customer disputes was her specialty. A position that she says was perfect for her.

After her retirement from the Enoch Pratt Library, she soon joined the staff of the Baltimore County Public Library full time and later she worked for three years part-time.

Sis. Carolyn enjoys crafts and has had several small businesses. Some of them are flower arranging for weddings and funerals, making gift baskets, and Sunday Morning Hats. Currently she enjoys making jewelry under the company name of 'Carolyn's Creations' in which she enjoys donating the jewelry to the homeless, senior homes, and as gifts to friends.

Her plan for the Missionary Ministry is to reach out to more people to show them about the goodness of the Lord and to offer them a plan for salvation. She asks that you pray for her as she pursues this very important work.

Compiled by Sis. Leslie Hyman

Getting to Know You

What's Trending with The Senior Usher Ministry

"Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors"
Proverbs 8:34

Elections for the Youth Ushers took place in December 2019. The new officers are as follows:

President: Kaitlyn Sanders
Vice President: Sanaa Stanley
Secretary: Maya Jones

In February 2020, new officers were elected for the Senior Ushers:

President: Bro. Tyrone Moore
Vice-President: Bro. Bruce Flanigan
Secretary: Sis. Beverly Ward
Treasurer: Sis. Mary Jones
Business Manager: Sis. Sheila Stanton
Chaplin: Trustee Brenda Wilkens-Sanders



We thank the former officers for their dedication and leadership and look forward to working with our new officers through 2023.

The newest members of the Senior Ushers are Bro. Keefe Flanigan and Matheus (Martie) Kommeren. Welcome! We are glad to have you on our team!

Submitted by: Sis. Beverly Ward, Secretary

Educational Ministry Update

FCCBC's Educational Ministry is making plans for 2020.

No scholarships were awarded for the 2019-2020 academic year. The ministry continued to fundraise for future scholarships. Applications are currently available for the FCCBC (high school graduates) and the Deotha Humphrey Memorial Book (students aged 26 and under enrolled in college or a post-secondary program) scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year. Paper copies are available in the church foyer or may be downloaded from www.myfccbc.org. The application deadline is April 18, 2020. A Summer scholarship luncheon is being planned to recognize scholarship honorees.

The youth and young adult speakers making presentations on prominent African-Americans and historical events during Black History month will be recognized during a future service.

First Christian will be recognizing 2020 graduates and award recipients of all ages during Youth and Young Adult Day on June 14, 2020. The Educational Ministry will be collecting award recipient, graduation information, and headshot photos. Watch for a bulletin insert in May. Members graduating from high school will receive special recognition.

A Back To School Carnival and School Supply Giveaway will be held in late Summer to provide school supplies for members, extended family, friends, and the community. Free backpacks and school supplies will be distributed to pre-K through college level students (advance registration required). A Moon Bounce, face painting, and more is planned. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

A Scenic Lunch Cruise is being planned for Fall 2020.

Stay tuned for details!

Submitted by: Sis. Sharon Johnson, Secretary

Black History Month Program (continued)



Photos courtesy of Trustee Henry Smith & Bro. Roscoe Johnson III

Helpful Hints

Like eating cherries, but don't like the pits?

Poke the narrow end of a chopstick through - the result—a pitless cherry. Enjoy!

Submitted by: Sis. Jackie Ward



Documents to Shred That Most People Don't

Boarding Passes - have your name, travel plans, and a barcode that crooks can use to get your frequent flyer number and other personal data

Prescription Labels—give your name, the drug's name, dosage, and dispensing pharmacy and can be used for refills in your name

Store receipts - give some credit card digits and can be used for phony returns

Pet medical papers - show pet's name - which many people use as a password

Unused free return labels—can be matched with social media data

(Readers Digest RD.com)

Support Our Newsletter

The FCCBC Connection is a quarterly newsletter designed to share news and to keep our members and friends informed of church services, fellowships, programs, and projects as well as information of interest (prayer requests, testimonies, birthdays, awards, retirements, anniversaries, weddings, births, etc....).

Our goal is to distribute newsletters before each season ends (Spring by 6/20, Summer by 9/21, Fall by 12/20, and Winter by 3/21). **The DEADLINE to submit articles, photos, and announcements is 6/7/20, 9/6/20, 12/6/20, and 3/1/21.** Ministry representatives and members are asked to email photos, articles, announcements, information and suggestions to newsletter@myfccbc.org or to submit to Sis. Sharon Johnson. Thanks to all for supporting our newsletter ministry!

Spring newsletter photos, announcements, and articles will be due on 6/7/20.

Contact Updates

IS YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION
UP-TO-DATE?



Are you receiving our One Call Now messages? FCCBC is using this method to reach out to members about weather and closing notices, reminders, schedule changes, bereavement announcements, and other important notifications.

Please help us to make sure we have accurate contact and personal information for you.

If you have not already done so or if your information has changed, please see Trustee Marilyn Dorsey and complete a Member Information Sheet. Thank you!

Public Service Notices

March 20, 2020

A Notice To Our FCCBC Family

The health & safety of our Church family & Christian friends is our utmost priority.

Therefore, due to the ongoing developments of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Pastor Tucker and his executive staff have made the decision to temporarily close our Church (FCCBC) until further notice.

However, in an effort to maintain our weekly/monthly expenses and to keep our Church operations in good standings, we need the continued support of each member. Therefore, we are asking that you please mail your tithes and offerings to the Church, via check or money order until we can get a more reliable method (electronic platform) in place for giving our tithes/Offerings.

The Church P.O. Box is: **FCCBC, P.O. Box 67407, Baltimore, MD 21215. Please make certain that you have your name on the check or money order to receive proper credit for your giving. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!**

In partnership with the Government Authorities, along with World Health Officials, we will continue to monitor and evaluate the COVID-19 pandemic situation, to assess when we will be able to resume our regularly scheduled Sunday Worship Service and other Fellowships.

Thank you for understanding and stay positive, for God is in control and this too shall pass!

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.
2 Timothy 1-7*

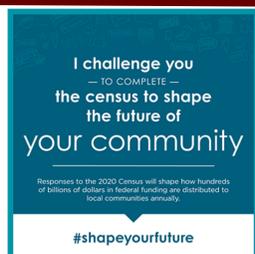
In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Tucker and Executive Staff Members

Do not give way to fear! God is still in control. Cast your fears and anxieties on God and trust Him. It is possible to have peace in our hearts regardless of what is happening in our lives or around us.

Show love and compassion and pray for one another.

Stay informed, be wise, take precautions, stay home if you're sick, wash your hands, etc..

Please respond to the U.S. Census by April 1, 2020



Results from the 2020 Census will be used to:

- Direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Help your community prepare to meet transportation and emergency readiness needs.
- Determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and your political representation at all levels of government.

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



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FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

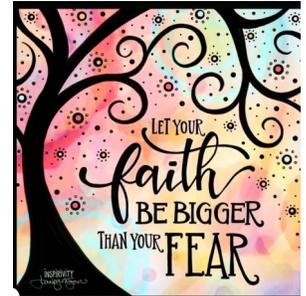
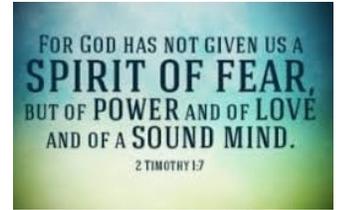
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)





The Mourning Doves



The Family of First Christian Community Baptist shares in the loss of
legacy, faith, and service as we have to say
Goodbye to Church Family

Our hearts mourn the loss of members:

Sis. Chrystal Nichols

Bro. Oliver Hill

Bro. Robert Youngblood

"Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our
lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know that they are happy"

"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow,
may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow"

Submitted by: Sis. Marilyn Brunt

In Memoriam

A Light Dimmed – One of Our Brightest and Shiniest Lights – Sis. Chrystal Nichols

Our hearts were broken when we lost one of our shiniest lights,
That light no longer was shining so bright.
We were all shocked and filled with grief,
For many of us, there are still feelings of disbelief.
God Blessed us with her presence in all of our lives,
When we heard that we had lost her, it was the most shocking surprise.
A beautiful person, a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister, an auntie, and a friend,
She portrayed many roles in her life from the beginning to the end.
An actress, a caretaker, a prayer warrior, a coordinator, and an advocate too, just
to name a few,
These are some of the many works that God allowed her to do.
We must Thank God for the life of Chrystal Linnea Smith Nichols, whose light
always beamed bright,
She always knew the final prize was within her reach and in her sight.
She educated so many of us through plays, dramas, songs, fundraisers, and con-
ferences, too!
There weren't too many subject areas that Chrystal didn't commit herself to.
One of her biggest commitments was getting the knowledge about EDS (Ehlers-
Danlos Syndrome) out to others.
Which also was succumbed by, Jared, her brother and Carolyn, her mother.
Chrystal worked hard to raise awareness and funds, too,
This was something she felt compelled to do.
This was a cause that she held so dear,
She wanted to make sure that the information about EDS was crystal clear.
We must never forget our Chrystal nor her cause with EDS.
No matter what, we know that she always gave her BEST!
We can try to keep some rays beaming from her light,
Simply by supporting her cause to continue the fight.
We will never forget our Chrystal and what she meant,
We will be forever grateful because she was definitely GOD SENT!
Thank you God for the time she spent with all of us,
Being graced by her in our lives was indeed a BLESSING and A PLUS.

Lovingly submitted by Sis. Mae Williams



In Memoriam

Dr. Robert Henry Sanders



Dr. Robert Henry Sanders, affectionately known as “Dr. Bob,” was a dedicated and uncompromising teacher of the Word. Although he had his doctorate degree in theology, he would say that he was proudest of his B.A. (Born Again) Degree. Dr. Bob loved teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS) as evidenced by his meticulous preparation, his joy and eagerness in teaching the Word, and his longevity in the field, having taught for over thirty years. He also taught at Northwestern Bible and Seminary after becoming one of its graduates. He would use technology, anecdotal experiences and commentaries (his own) to complement his lessons during VBS and Sunday School. His commentaries were known far and wide as he would email them to friends and family out of town.

He loved his family and friends in his hometown of Virginia and would visit them regularly with his wife, Trustee Brenda Sanders. He even taught Sunday School while there. He was a diehard stickler for the King James Version (KJV) Bible, none other would he use unless he wanted to make a point about a significant dilution or deviation of the Word from the KJV.

He never lost his enthusiasm and desire for teaching. He continued teaching in spite of his decreasing mobility and accompanying discomfort. He was always looking for an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus. Whether it was at work - before he retired - or in the community, his focus was to save lives. Even when he was in the rehabilitation center, he said he felt that he had been put there for a reason - to help someone.

Dr. Bob loved to travel. He had been to the Holy Land three times and was considering a fourth time but for some reason it did not materialize. He would often regale us with information about his trips to the Holy Land. It was not with arrogance or braggadocio but with reverence and the need to inform, motivate, and to share unique and precious memories.

Dr. Bob was gifted in other areas, also. He was a photographer, a videographer, and an expert in information technology. He was also mechanically inclined, able to repair motor vehicles. At one time he taught computer literacy to some of the members here at First Christian Community Baptist Church, using computers that Coppin State University had donated. He could be consulted for computer problems or scriptural clarifications at any time; he was always more than willing to help. His most fervent desire was that all able-bodied members attend Sunday School with his clarion call to “pack the pews.” The Sunday school gratefully acknowledges his contribution to its body and to the Kingdom. He will truly be missed.

Submitted by: Deacon Bostick, Superintendent and
Deaconess Mary Murphy, Assistant Superintendent

Blessings and Birthday Wishes To:

Correction: Trustee Steven Jones and Bro. Journi Troy 's birthdays were incorrectly listed in January and February, respectively. Both were in November. We apologize for the oversight.

April 2020

Bro. Lamont Aldridge
Bro. Duran Banks
Deaconess Ada Bostick
Sis. Kiara Brown
Sis. Marilyn Brunt
Trus. Everett Cash
Sis. Lysa Davis
Bro. Thomas Day
Bro. Ronnie Cole
Sis. Theresa Crusoe
Bro. Matheus Kommeren
Sis. Laura (Mae) Maxwell
Master Kavon Owens
Sis. Icelon (Kitty) Owens
Miss Sanaa Stanley
Sis. Phyllis Stokes
Sis. Nikki Waller

May 2020

Special Honoree:
Sis. Lillie Mae Campbell

May 2020 (continued)

Sis. Chymira Carter
Trustee Yolanda Cash
Bro. Tyrell Dickens
Sis. Zierra Flanigan
Bro. Jerrod Gault
Sis. Annette Moore
Deaconess Mary Murphy
Miss Karlyece Owens
Sis. Kimberlee Pelzer
Sis. Nina Roots
Sis. Kenyatta Taylor
Sis. Mary Webb

June 2020

Special Honoree:
Lady Bridgett Tucker

Bro. John Arthur
Sis. Carolyn Booker
Sis. Cierra Bright
Quinton Brown
Taylor Brown
Bro. James Clark
Sis. Dené Cole
Sis. Perlizer Davis
Sis. LaKisha Edwards
Miss Kinsley Fowkles
Sis. Christene Holmes
Sis. Ellen Johnson

June 2020 (continued)

Sis. La-Kia Kommeren
Sis. Bessie Kittrell
Sis. Carolyn Laster
Deaconess Eileen McCloud
Bro. Tyrone Moore, Jr.
Bro. Karl Owens
Patrick Parents III
Sis. Arnetta Pinkney
Sis. Arline Pledger
Sis. Sharon Robinson
Rev. Freddie Samuels
Sis. Karen Sanders
Sis. Thelma Stewart
Sis. Gwen Taylor
Bro. Anthony Williams

Member and visitor birthday honorees - be sure to get your complimentary sundae on "Birthday Sundaes Sunday" the last Sunday of your birthday month! Ice cream sundaes will be available to the congregation-at-large for only \$1.00 (while supplies last)

If you don't see your birthday, please notify Sis. Michelle Bright or e-mail newsletter@myfccbc.org so we can keep our records up-to-date. Thank you.

FCCBC Wishes Comfort and Peace

Please continue to pray for:

The Nichols, Smith, and Holmes families on the passing of Sis. Chrystal Nichols

The Hill/Allen families on the transition of Bro. Oliver Hill

The Youngblood family on the passing of Bro. Robert Youngblood

Cast your burden on the Lord who will sustain you
Psalm 55:22

When those we love have left this earth, we still can feel them near. We'll see a picture, hear a song, and it's just like they are here. And when we call upon our faith, when we believe and trust, we know the ones we care about are always close to us.

Constance Parker Graham

Wedding Anniversary Wishes

April

2nd - Rev. Freddie & Evangelist Juliette Samuels (49 years)
11th - Bro. Wesley & Sis. Cheryl McCottry (28 years)

May

2nd - Bro. Willie & Sis. Mary Webb (52 years)
9th - Bro. Anthony & Sis. Shirl Farrare (14 years)
11th - Deacon Garry & Sis. Kim Carter (29 years)
27th - Trustee Rudolph & Barbara Cole (31 years)

June

1st - Bro. Walter & Sis. Sybil Adams (63 years)
23rd - Bro. Carl & Sis. Amy Arthur (36 years)
25th - Bro. Valanti & Sis. Kimberlee Pelzer (11 years)



So that we might acknowledge your anniversary, please notify Trustee Marilyn Dorsey or email newsletter@myfccbc.org.

Regularly Scheduled Ministries

Sunday School	9:15 a.m.	Sundays
New Members Ministry	9:30 a.m.	1st & 2nd Sundays
Mid-Day Bible Study	1:00 p.m.	Tuesdays
Prayer Service	6:00 –6:45 p.m.	First Wednesday each month
Bible Study	7:00 p.m.	Wednesdays
Baptismal Service	9:30 a.m.	Third Sunday
Humphrey Choral Ensemble, Male Chorus, Unified Voices, and Voices of Praise Rehearsals	7:00 p.m.	Refer to monthly schedule

Church Calendar

April 2020

1	Worship with Canaan Missionary Baptist church	7:00 p.m.
8	Holy Week Prayer Service	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
10	Seven Last Words—Canaan Missionary Bapt.	Noon
12	Annual Easter Program	9:00 a.m.
19	Baptismal Service (if candidates)	9:30 a.m.
25	Women's Prayer Breakfast	
28	Men's Fellowship meeting	6:00 p.m.

May 2020

7	Worship with Sweet Hope Freewill	7:00 p.m.
8	Men's Day activity	
10	Women in White and Hat Day	morning worship service
17	Baptismal Service (if candidates)	9:30 a.m.
17	Deaconess Program	3:30 p.m.
26	Men's Fellowship meeting	6:00 p.m.
30	Karaoke (sponsored by Women's Day ministry)	

June 2020

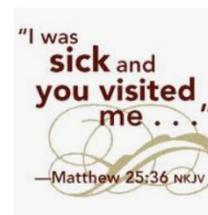
2-4	Spring Revival (The National Baptist Deacons Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity and it's Auxiliaries)	
6	Concert (sponsored by Women's Day ministry)	
7	Worship with Unity Baptist Church	3:30 p.m.
11	Quarterly Official Board meeting	7:00 p.m.
13	Semi-Annual Church meeting	10:00 a.m. - noon
14	Youth and Young Adult Day	
20	Men's Car Wash	9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
21	Baptismal Service (if candidates)	9:30 a.m.
28	Women's Day	
23	Men's Fellowship meeting	6:00 p.m.
29-30	Vacation Bible School	

Our Known Sick & Shut-In

Dea. Walter Adams (Home)
 Sis. Pam Chapman (Home)
 Trus. John Spencer (Home)
 Bro. Calvin Taylor (Future Care,
 12020 Reisterstown Rd., 21136)

**Remember the Sick and Shut-In
 everywhere in your prayers.**

**Any act of kindness can make a big
 difference in their lives.**



Prayer List

Bro. John Arthur	Deaconess Ada Bostick
Sis. Donna Bright	Mother Lillie Mae Campbell
Sis. Dené Cole	Bro. Ronnie Cole
Trus. Rudolph Cole	Bro. Walter Jones, Jr.
Sis. La-Kia Kommeren	Sis. Flore Mincey
Sis. Annie Norris	Sis. Rosetta Quarles
Sis. Karen Cole Sanders	Sis. Annie Smith
Sis. Mae Williams	

In God's House...

As we praise and worship God in this House, we are reminded to adhere to the following:

- The congregation shall stand when the choir enters the sanctuary
- The congregation shall stand during the reading of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- All pulpit ministers shall wear white or black robes on Communion Sunday (as appropriate)
- During Communion, no one shall exit or enter the sanctuary
- Blessings of infants are to take place on the first Sunday of the month
- Turn off cell phones/electronic devices

Welcome to our New/Reinstated Members



COVID-19 Updates (as of 3/17/20)

Due to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention limiting social, community, religious and recreational or sports activities gatherings, FCCBC services, fellowships, programs, and events may be postponed or cancelled. Please check before leaving home.

Everyone is encouraged to take the proper precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including regular handwashing and social distancing.

Maryland has announced free meals for students – three meals per weekday – available from all its summer meal sites. Visit the state's website's [map feature](#) to find the meal site closest to you.

Baltimore City has launched an interactive map of meal sites. To find a meal distribution site near you, visit bit.ly/baltmeals. Baltimore City Senior Centers are currently open as food distribution centers. Seniors who participate in Eating Together in Baltimore should reserve a meal through their Eating Together site and should call 410-396-CARE (2273) for their pickup times. Requests for additional community support and home-delivered meals can also be directed to Maryland Access Point at 410-396-CARE (2273).

Baltimore County Senior Centers were closed to the public beginning March 16th. Seniors needing community can call the Maryland Access Point hotline at 410-887-2594.

Please support older adults 60 years of age or older and people at most risk by:

- Knowing what medications they are taking and helping them stock up
- Helping monitor food and supplies (oxygen, incontinence products, etc...)
- Helping stock up on non-perishable food items.
- Checking on persons who are home alone

Seniors home alone can request a daily call:



First Christian Community Baptist Church
4116 Groveland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215