

- Cruise & Banquet
- New Ministries
- Heart Health
- Out & Up, Inc. Grant

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

- A Royal Gala 2
- Board of Directors 2
- Organize Your Finances 2
- GLRBC Nursery Debuts 3
- Evangelism Teams Organize 3
- Reflections 5
- Out & Up, Inc. Grant 5

The Messenger

VOLUME II ISSUE I

FEBRUARY 2008

Pastor's Letter



Greetings Beloved,

I am ecstatic about the kingdom of God and the opportunity afforded us to bring glory to God. Without a doubt we are right now poised and positioned to be a beacon of light in a dark and dismal world, and also to possess all that God has promised us.

I believe by faith that the seeds we have planted as faithful followers of Jesus will in fact allow us, through the divine growth of our church family, to receive both the resources and gifts needed to this year see for ourselves the manifestation of the vision God has given unto me.

Cruise and Banquet Culminate Five Years of Service

In celebration of our Pastor's 5th Anniversary Greater Little Rock Baptist Leader's Conference was held in the Bahamas.

Members and friends set sail from Jacksonville, FL. on October 29, 2007 for a time of fun, fellowship, and adventure on Carnival's Celebration cruise ship. While on the ship we all ventured out at the various facilities. We attended various shows- comedy, singing, and also on Halloween there was a talent show. Food, food, food, there was food everywhere. If you did not wish to eat in the formal dining room, you could go to the

I therefore believe by faith, that Joshua's Spies, Nehemiah's Builders and Gideon's Army will produce the harvest of our prayers unto God. I believe by faith, that our Early Learning and Child Care Center will open by October 1, 2008. I believe by faith that the continued beautification of our sanctuary and commercial kitchen will come into existence this year, I believe by faith that this year will be a great year for the harvesting of souls by our ministry and it will truly be a year of "Excellence, Excitement and Elevation" as we determine to breakdown the traditions that cause us to be both stagnant and stale.

Jesus said, "you cannot put new wine into old wineskins" and while we will leave some traditions open, we must remember what the song writer said, "to serve this present age my calling to fulfill". Not only must we remind our men and boys that they are to be strong, but teach them that they

are the head and not the tail, not only must we tell our mothers and daughters that they are beautiful and bad, but remind them that they are now both the rib and backbone, not only must we educate our children but we must graduate our children, not only must we get men and women together, but teach them to stay together, not only must we hoop and holler on Sunday, but we must walk the walk Monday through Sunday.

So let us unite the power of God that indwells our soul, fills our hearts and controls our minds so that God will be glorified and the enemy will be terrified. Always remember, let us not grow weary while doing good, for if we do not lose heart, we shall reap in due season.

With Jesus' Joy,

Pastor

C. Hardnett

upper deck and pick from a variety of dishes. All of it was delicious.

Upon porting in Key West we toured the town and shopped. What a beautiful tropical place. Next, we were scheduled to port in Nassau Bahamas, however due to hurricane Noel the captain kept us out of harms way and ported in Freeport Bahamas instead. There we also toured and shopped. All during the cruise there was both a time of fun, adventure, and fellowship. Our Pastor presented great conference sessions as we looked toward the future of Greater Little Rock in 2008.

Everyone had a great time during the cruise; **those of you who did not attend missed a treat!**

On November 9, 2007 a "Royal Gala" appreciation banquet was held in honor of our pastor and first lady at the Macon Centreplex. Everyone attending was decked out in their after five grand attire. This was a time of celebration, good food, and fellowship. Some of the churches represented were, Union Baptist, Fulton Baptist, Word Power, and Total Praise Church,

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

as well as other well wishers. **Looking good**, Pastor and first lady were decked out in matching red and black attire, escorted by Deacon and Mrs. Horace Graham. While strolling down the aisle Pastor and Sister Eason stopped for a one-minute dance, then he saluted fist lady with a kiss. Pastor Terence R. Gray of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Orlando, Florida delivered the message, "Encourage the Encourager." During the message he took Pastor Eason down memory lane. All Greater Little Rock members and friends had a joyous time as we celebrated our pastor's fifth anniversary. On Sunday morning, **Pastor** **Again those of you who did attend missed a treat.**

Finally on Sunday we worshipped and praise dall day long. Powerful messages from Pastor Reginald Brown of Americus, Georgia and Pastor Willie Finney, Jr. along with his dynamic choir and congregation blessed our souls and energized us for the upcoming year.

To enjoy photographs from the celebration, visit our web site at: <http://www.greaterlittlerock.org/media/photos/index.cfm>

We have to begin to do things in a different way if we want different results.

Continuing to do them the same way ensures that needed changes will not occur. So we chose as our supporting scripture for this year's theme of "A Year of Excellence, Excitement, and Elevation." We will not attempt to put new wine in old skins.

Luke 5:37

Pastor Eason

Board of Directors Organized

On October 20, 2008 the first meeting of GLRBC's Board of Directors was held. The purpose of the Board is to function as that group of Church leaders which will move the Church towards the achievement of goals set at the annual retreat and to ensure the smooth and effective day to day operations of the Church. Membership on the Board is determined by leadership position so that all the Deacons and presidents of each ministry are the make up of the Board.

In our first meeting, Pastor Eason shared that the primary goal for the

Church this up coming year is to grow spiritually, physically, and financially.

Two meetings have been held since that time and much has already been accomplished.

The By-Laws of the Church have been revised; committees empowered to begin work, evangelism teams formed, plans to install stain glass windows in the sanctuary and to open Joshua House Early Learning and Care Center by the fall of 2008 are well on the way.

Officers of the Board are: Chairman, Pastor Eason; Vice Chairman, Deacon Horace Graham; Secretary, Gwen Westbrook; Assistant Secretary, Minnie Richards, Treasurer, Deacon Barry Walker, and Brother Vereza Hill, Assistant Treasurer. Committees are: Executive, Finance, Building and Grounds, Program Public Relations Christian Education, Worship & Reception. Ad Hoc Committees were established for the Stain Glass Window Ad Campaign and for the Child Care Center. Pastor Eason emphasized members of the congregation will be involved as participants on committees.

Organizing Your Finances For 2008

As we each begin this new year, now is a good time to assess our financial condition. Determining financial goals for 2008.... That is how much do you want to save and invest, what purchases will be necessary for you to make, do you have sufficient insurance to cover you and your family in case of a disaster or a health crisis and do you have a good plan for your children's education and for your retirement when that time comes? All this may sound a

bit overwhelming but addressing these concerns now will prevent heartache and stress later. Current economic conditions suggest a need to evaluate our mortgage arrangements and make certain that we are not at risk because of our financing arrangements. Most of all we need to reach out for help if we face any financial threats. A number of resources exist to help, but they must be accessed before we reach the crisis level. For beginners, try the Consumer Credit Counseling Agency

<http://www.cccsmacon.org/>
For foreclosure prevention counseling and reverse mortgage assistance Home First Housing Resource Services

<http://www.homefirstga.org>
at 478.803.3373 is an excellent resource.

Times have been particularly challenging for most Americans, but an incremental and strategic approach to good financial planning is a sure approach to not be a victim of these times.

Athletic Ministry and Dance Ministry Make Their Debut

How exciting it was to be a part of the debut of the GLRBC Dance Ministry. The Dance Ministry is coordinated by Sister Tanisha Bush and the dancers have been impressive with their commitment to weekly practice and to improving at each performance. They demonstrate excellent promise and we look forward to them expanding our worship experience through their unique expression of the Word. These participants represent both our teenagers and our younger girls

who are learning their routines and also how to carry themselves in a respectful and Christian manner. Not only are our children dancing, but they are also participating in the Christian Fellowship Athletic League. Pastor Eason and Coaches Gilbert Holland, Gerren Eason, Serena Dillard, Tanisha Bush, and Afrika Walters stress to them that its not all about winning, but much is learned in how we win and how we lose. Though this initial season has not been one of many wins the teams have competed vigorously

and have enjoyed the fellowship with other church youth teams and with each others.

Coaches & Team Pose Before Game



Praising Him in Dance



Trying to Put One Away

Deaconess Ministry Spearheads the Church's First Nursery

On February 3rd a new ministry began operating during the Sunday worship service, the GLRBC Nursery. The nursery is for those children who are infant to five years of age. One of the blessings of the last year has been the big increase of children and babies in our congregation. Our newest arrival is Madison Deshazer who was born November 26, 2007, weighing in at 6 lbs, 1 oz. Mother, Elisha, was excited to volunteer in the Nursery, along with Donna Thompson, Jonathan's mother, so they can look forward to those Sundays when they will get to sit through a sermon without needing to give baby their undivided attention.

The Deaconess Ministry, under the leadership of Sister Eudell

Graham, has worked hard to make certain that the Nursery is equipped with beds, toys, videos, and books for the entertainment of the children. Their first Sunday was a time of learning to share for the youngest nursery students; however, staff reported great success. More volunteers are needed and the Deaconess Ministry would still like to put in bookshelves and a couple of rocking chairs to enhance the quality of the nursery experience.

While we are not ready yet to begin a Children's Church we are on the right path to be a ble to do so in a year or so, according to Pastor Eason expressed great satisfaction with the Ministry.

If you want to volunteer time or equipment contact the Office.

Reflections

Train
A
Child in
the
Way
He
Should
Go

We are challenged to look for God in everything and to know that he speaks to us in many different ways. I am so fascinated by the process by which our children grow from helpless infants into independent persons. Watching my grandson's development has been fascinating. Recently he has made some noticeable steps in communicating his needs. Now when he needs something he will come to me and pull on my hand to point to indicate the area of his need. He recently lost a toy under a chair and pulled and pointed to an area where he could not retrieve it. Upon my doing so he was so happy and delighted,. I thought about this phase in his development and compared it to our development from infancy to spiritual maturity in Christ; many similarities, I think. We do grow from not knowing anything about the source of our supply to learning that He loves us and that we can share our needs and he is faithful to respond to them.

P. Walker

Evangelism Teams Organized

Consistent with literature about how to grow an effective and strong Church, GLRBC was recently divided into three evangelism teams with a small group focus. These teams are Joshua's Spies, Nehemiah's Builders, and Gideon's Army.

In support of the leadership's goal of increasing our membership by 100 new members this year, these teams will focus on evangelism and support to each other. Every member of the team has been encouraged to get the Church's outreach

cards and to share every where we go, inviting the unsaved and the unchurched to come and fellowship with us. Teams will also keep up with members and encourage their faithful attendance at worship, in study and in service. The

teams kicked off with a spaghetti dinner before Bible Study on January 15th and are led by Deacon Barry Walker, Sisters Hollie Pitts and Patricia Walker.

Forever Connected

Hollie Pitts

On a recent trip to a national convention in Philadelphia, I packed the necessities, a couple of days worth of business casual clothes, a few feminine items, and my absolute essentials, my Smartphone and my laptop. Even though this was my first trip to the national convention, I wasn't the least bit apprehensive. If there was anything that I needed it was simply a phone call, email, or text message away. After an uneventful flight, I headed to a promised early check in at the hotel. I hailed a taxi and headed to check in and charge up my devices. I checked email, called my family, and after a shower drifted off into a deep sleep that only the "early AM flight" traveler can understand.

With the first session of the day beginning mid-morning, I knew that I'd have time to stop for a quick breakfast. Somewhere in translation, I lost my Smartphone. Now this isn't your basic phone. It connected me to as many things as humanly possible, my calendar, email, contacts, videos, the Internet. I could go on and on. Did I mention the wireless sync? Needless to say, I was devastated by the loss, more so than even I expected. The pricey retail value wasn't the source of my devastation. It was insured.

Even though I continued to attend the sessions that I'd registered for, during that first session after the loss, I was pretty numb. Go ahead and cut me open and I'd never feel a thing. How could this have happened? I was more than 600 miles away from home with my departing flight four days away. That day, I traveled through the conference differently after that. A little less chatty, a little more reserved.

I prayed that God would show me what I needed to learn from this. Why couldn't I sign up for this lesson in Macon? Needless to say, my spirit was too troubled to hear from God and sometime that evening after requesting my wake-up call, I drifted off to sleep. In the still of pre-dawn morning, God revealed to me why the loss felt so devastating. I didn't believe that I was connected anymore. Even though I'd traveled alone, the moment I lost that phone, I really felt alone. Surprisingly enough by the time I received the wake up call that morning, I sensed a strange feeling in the air. After a hot cup of tea at Starbucks, I began to recognize the feeling more and more. It was a feeling that I'd had prior to starting a career. Without the Smartphone, I didn't have a single email to answer, there was nothing on my calendar that I needed to reschedule or attend, no voicemail to listen to, and there wasn't a single missed phone call. I couldn't multi-task. My spirit had been quieted.

My time in Philadelphia eventually drew to a close; I left the conference center for the last time knowing that I'd intended to learn something totally different during this week than God had planned on teaching me. I managed to be on time for my departing flight and I reflected on all that God had taught me. Technology is wonderful. I talked with physicians who believe that one day they will be able to cure cancer by treating our DNA at birth. One day we will have a universal electronic medical record. No matter the benefit of technology, my connection is my spiritual relationship with my God. He taught me that even if we were back in the Dark Ages, that He would connect me to my needs, professional and otherwise. My connection is my desire to make a difference in the world, for the world. It's knowing that even if I can't call, email or text my family that they are still there waiting for me to come home. Isn't it something that God will take you completely away from the familiar and grab your attention?

After driving home from the airport, I welcomed the sight of my little blue house. I saw a yellow and red tag flapping in the wind attached to our door. I knew that my replacement phone had arrived. Isn't technology wonderful? The Smartphone had beaten me home by a day. No matter, I'd give them a call later and probably pick up the phone sometime the next day. My Smartphone will remain a tool that helps me to manage the busy life that I've chosen to accept. I am forever connected, without devices, to God and the mission that He has given me. I am forever connected to those whom I love and those who in spite of everything love me too.

Health Highlight

Women let's be on the alert. This is the month of the heart, love and health, too. Go Red for Women is the slogan and during this time lots of attention is paid to heart health emphasizing diet, exercise, and education about warning signs for heart problems.

We need to know that we are twice as likely as Caucasian women to die from a heart attack. These signs are important to know. Chest discomfort in the center of the chest, pain and/or discomfort in other upper body areas, such as the arms, jaw, and neck, stomach; shortness of breath, nausea, cold sweat, and light headedness. Experiencing these symptoms may be sign of a heart attack. It is important to get immediate medical attention. These symptoms alone or in combination are not to be taken lightly.

Call 911 for immediate medical attention and remember smoking, poor diet, and lack of exercise exacerbate heart health concerns. Go to www.heart.org



Out & Up, Inc. Receives 2nd Morehouse Grant

Recently, the Board of Directors of Out & Up, Inc. was notified that Out and Up, Inc was awarded a second Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) grant . These grants are the result of the Compassion Capital Fund, a federal initiative targeted to faith based and non profit organizations The first MSM grant of \$7,000.00 was directed to infrastructure needs of Out & Up, Inc. and resulted in our hiring an Administrative Assistant, whose position is now funded by the corporation. Also funding was directed to strengthening financial accountability; some public relations activities; and strategic planning and training. We can report that the grant was successfully managed and was integral to our positioning this corporation as both accountable and strategic in its focus.

Our second grant will be directed to public relations issues. The success of any non profit is in part related to its "branding in the community." Recognizing both the name and work of the organization promotes the interest of volunteers and donors. As a result Out & Up, Inc. will use this second grant to brand our corporation through mail outs to the community, through marketing our services through e marketing, and through purchase of mail lists and a non profit mail permit for mass mailing.

As major events are on the horizon for Out & Up, Inc., our fifth annual fund raising golf tournament and summer enrichment camp, we will definitely use the resources of the grant to assist us in marketing these

RECIPE by Hazel Marsh

Chocolate Chip Pie

2 eggs
½ cup of all-purpose flour
½ cup of sugar
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 cup of butter, melted and cooled to room temperature
1 cup Nestle's Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate morsels
1 cup chopped walnuts
1 9 inch unbaked pie shell

Preheat oven to 325 F. In a large bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Add flour, sugar and brown sugar. Beat until well blended. Blend in melted butter. Stir in chocolate morsels and walnuts. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake for 1 hour. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

Bidding to Begin At Joshua House

Having submitted a bid package to the Department of Economic & Community Development of the City of Macon, the work of selecting a contractor through a competitive bid is scheduled to begin this month.

Lead paint testing results have been secured and lead levels are far below the level requiring abatement. The men of GLRBC will complete the demolition necessary to allow a contractor to begin renovation of the child care facility.

This project will be completed through the resources of GLRBC and grant funds from the Macon Dept. of Economic and Community Development.

In the meantime Out & Up, Inc. will continue its work to be ready with the program aspects of the child care center. Ideally, it will be significant and will seek to serve the child care needs and the special needs of parents who also have special needs.

Black History Facts

Did you know that a black physician, Dr. Benjamin Carson led the first successful surgery team to separate twins joined at their head?

Or

That Frederick McKinley Jones, a black man, developed the air conditioning units in 1930 used in trucks that transport food across the country .

Or

That Black Entertainment Television (BET), owned by Robert Johnson, was the first Black owned business to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Fifth Annual Golf Tournament

Pastor Eason announced the date for this year's golf tournament at quarterly Board meeting on January 30, 2008. This year's tournament is set for April 19th and will follow previous years' format being a two man scramble. The prize package is still being determined, but the day will feature a raffle of some Ping Golf equipment as was done at last years tournament. Our hope is for 100 golfers with a registration fee of \$60.00 each golfer.

To ensure a maximum outreach, advance advertising will begin this month and will offer registration at the Out and Up web site and payment option through Pay Pal. Part of our marketing efforts will be supported by the Morehouse Grant and we are really excited that those funds were approved for us. We will work especially hard to secure sponsors & donors. <http://www.outandup.org>

Faith Nuggets



Web Site Up Grades

If you have not visited the web site recently, a visit there might delight you. Upgrades have been made listing the Pastor's itinerary, as well as putting crucial documents on line for review. Not only are Bible Study notes posted, but the Church Portfolio, Articles and By-Laws, and previous copies of the Messenger. Coming soon we will feature e-letters as a part of our efforts to become a Church in touch with technology and change.

Email Pastor Eason (pastoreason@greaterlittlerock.org) or the office (contactus@greaterlittlerock.org) to let us know what you think.



**Greater Little Rock Baptist
Church**

2046 Felton Avenue
Macon, GA 31201

Phone: 478-743-5616

Fax: 478-743-1290

E-mail: contactus@greaterlittlerock.org

www.greaterlittlerock.org

*Our mission is to engage, encourage, and empower
all people to walk by faith and not by sight.*

Up Coming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| February 10, 2008 | Black History Program |
| February 14, 2008 | Smith Street Baptist |
| February 15, 2008 | Red & White Ball |
| February 24, 2008 | Family & Friends Day |
| March 6, 2008 | Ocmulgee Baptist Church |
| March 23, 2008 | Easter Program |
| March 30, 2008 | Women in Red Program |



EMAIL US

contactus@greaterlittlerock.org

Or

For Pastor Eason
pastoreason@greaterlittlerock.org