



“Seizing the Divine Moment” New Theme for 2007



From the Pastor's Desk

As we prepare for a new year of blessings, favor, and spiritual fulfillment, I first thank God for God's unending grace and immeasurable mercy. As we examine the simplicity of the Christian responsibility I have no choice but to admit that although we have experienced the beginnings of a maturing body of believers we are not witnessing, working, and warring as fully as we have been commanded. And yet our God has continued to look beyond our failures while still

supplying all our needs. That is the kind of God we serve.

I also thank God for each member of the GLRBC Family because you have not rejected or attempted to deny or delay the vision God has given me as your pastor. That vision being to reach out to all people especially those in this community and specifically our children. In this season of property acquisitions and extension of our outreach ministries we give God another shout of praise because He has not only made the way, but he has also opened the door for us to continue to possess the possessions God has already supplied.

I believe and claim this year for this Church that 2007 will

be a year of excellence, excitement, and elevation. We will receive our State license for child care. We will begin restoration of a second child care center for children 0-3 years old. We will continue to beautify our church edifice. We do believe that God will move all our current ministries to the next level. As we move to this next level of amazing grace we must determine that every obstacle is an opportunity; every problem is a possibility, every challenge is a chance for God to both use us and bless us.

As always as we witness, work, and war, let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart.

With the Joy of Jesus,
Pastor

Leadership Retreat 2007 Initiates New Theme & Exciting Changes

A new Church theme, concise mission and vision statements; clear values and strategies for services were among the major products of Leadership Retreat 2007.

Plans would indicate that we should look forward to an exciting 2007. Lots of

activities are planned, and new and exciting plans for evangelism are evolving.

A plan is in place for leaders and other members who are interested to give out business cards as we attempt to share Jesus wherever we are. We will invite

more people of all walks to share in worship with us and begin our physical outreach to all parts of Macon.. Leaders were encouraged to write the vision and make it plain (Habakkuk 2:1)

We learned in our teaching
(cont p. 4 Retreat 2007)

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- *New Member, Gwen & Michael Westbrook*
- *Our New Theme, Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategies*
- *Joshua House Reports*
- *Retreat 2007*
- *Bible Study Highlights*

Gwen and Michael Westbrooks, A Gifted Couple

Gwen and Michael Westbrooks are sharing themselves with GLRB in ways that benefit the entire body. Surely you have noticed the improvement in the foyer restrooms, the new wall paper and the various bathroom accessories; the entire atmosphere has been enhanced. Well Gwen and Michael Westbrooks played a major role in this transformation. For their dedication, we give God Glory.

Michael and Gwen have been married for fourteen years. They both were born in Macon. Michael 's parents, Dr. W.M. Westbrooks and his mother, Sister Gladys Pitts, were very dedicated members of this church for many years. Gwen is the daughter of Willie and Jenette Prosser.

Both Gwen and Michael were educated in Macon. Michael graduated from Southwest High School and Macon Technical

College, while Gwen graduated from Southwest High School and continues her

education in the paralegal tract at Georgia College and State University.

Michael is currently employed with Macon Transit Authority and has been for the last twenty years; he holds the position of superintendent. Gwen works at Bibb County Department of Family & Children Services, though prior to this employment she worked for twenty two years at the Medical Center of Central Georgia.

Gwen has served the community for many years as an officer with the NAACP where she held offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Chairperson of Legal Redress. Her period of service was from 2000 through 2006.

Michael 's hobbies are drag racing and working on his 1965 Ford truck; while



Gwen enjoys cooking, singing, and helping people. In fact Gwen created a wonderful cake in the form of a church for Pastor Eason's last anniversary. It was awesome!

Gwen works with the Senior's Ministry and sings in the choir. Since working with the seniors there has been a seminar and planning for many more activities that the seniors should enjoy.

Though having personal goals of good investments leading to a secure retirement for Michael and obtaining her paralegal license and opening a consulting business for Gwen, they also have dreams for their church___ that God will elevate her and produce great results through her.

They shared that they are especially impressed with the love that is exhibited in GLRBC. They commented that this is what God would have us to do___"to love everybody."

Understanding the history of God's people helps us all to better understand the ministry of Jesus Christ.

If you missed these sessions you really missed a wonderful opportunity to marvel at the fascinating history of God's plan for the salvation of his people.

We studied Israel's move from being a God governed people to a people governed by the Judges and eventually by a long line of Kings. These kings were men who showed many human weaknesses and in some instances divine guidance and obedience. We were able to see God's hand of provision as well as His wrath as He displayed His love for this nation of people. We marveled at the instruction gained when we applied this history to our lives and our culture.

Each completed book was followed by a test and finally the last big test leading to a non accredited certification of the student's knowledge. Certificates were presented on January 7, 2006 at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Of all the students, the following received their non accredited certification and we offer them a big congratulations!!! (cont p.4)

Census 2006

Births

Johnathan Elijah

Thompson

Born November 20, 2006

Parents: Nathaniel and Donna Thompson

Deaths

John Wesley Richard

November 30, 2006

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven

Ecclesiastes 3: 1

In Our Prayers

Sister Pauline Collins

Sister Jerry Gordon

Mother Rosa Jackson

Sister Maria Clements

Brother Willie Anderson

Sister Mattie Stephens

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven.

James 5:14-15

Sister Lois Evans : Our Seasoned Member Tribute

Sister Lois Evans moves with quiet grace as she makes her way through the sanctuary of Greater Little Rock. Her beautiful smile and quiet demeanor mask her rich history. Often consulted about the events and history of our Church, Sister Evans herself has lived a rich and productive life.

Born in Baldwin County, she has lived the majority of her ___ years of life in Macon, though she shared that she lived for a while in Ft. Valley where she attended Henry Hunt High School. Sister Evans' father was a "traveling painter," and as a result her family moved about in support of his work. Though her father worked as a painter her mother was able to stay home and care for Sister Evans and her three sisters who are all still living. Sister Evans' sisters are dear to her and they live in other states. One lives in California and lives in Philadelphia.

Sister Evans used her education gained at Georgia Baptist College to substitute teach at both Ballard and Hudson High schools. She also worked at Milady's Cleaners where she sometimes still works.

Sister Evans states the obvious, when she says that she loves people. She shared that she has always been in the Church, but came to Greater Little Rock in 1940's. Interestingly, the evangelism of her neighbor, Sister Agnes Harrell, encouraged her to work in Greater Little Rock and subsequently she decided to join. Since this time she has worked in a number of areas, but most importantly she has worked with the youth where she taught Sunday school for more than 20

years.

Sister Evans was Director of the Youth Department, even recalling her work with Sister Rhonda Moore Anderson, who was a student and assistant and now continues her work with youth.

Sister Evans' favorite song and Psalm is *God id My Light and My Salvation*, Psalm 27.



Married in 1947 to Brother George Evans, she says she does not like to be celebrated. Despite her humility, the life she has lived celebrates her !

Community Partnership Continues to Bless Our Church

Having a community partner who shares our desires to change the community which surrounds our Church has been a powerful blessing to us. That partner is the Macon Housing Authority. Through that relationship we have been blessed in many ways. Most recently, the land immediately adjacent to the east side of the Church was cleared giving a

clear view of the Church from the main thoroughfare, making us more visible to travelers moving along Plant Street. This cleared land may be used for parking or



may be used in part as a play-ground area for our child care center, or perhaps we will just beautifully landscape it and have a quiet sanctuary for rest and

meditation.

Whatever its final use, it confirms for us that God is blessing us in ways that we can not even imagine. But that is true to the Word isn't it?

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever ! Amen." Eph 3:20

We need your news. Share with us your thoughts about how to make this a better newsletter and join us by serving on the Media Committee.

Next Deadline for articles is March 15, 2007. Publication Date April 15, 2007.

For More information, Contact:

Trammekia Anderson

Patricia Walker

Some Important Dates

January 1st Emancipation Proclamation Signed abolishing slavery in southern states

January 15th..... Martin L. King Birthday

January 23rd The 24th Amendment abolishes the poll tax which prevented African Americans from voting

Tax Advisory

"Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto the Lord what is the Lord's."

Prepare early to avoid the rush on April 15th.

If you did not last year, create that file or place where you store all your tax information.

Review your filing status and keep up with legislation which effects you.

Retreat 2007 (from p.1)

session to be careful as to whom we seek counsel. We were reminded of this by the instruction in Psalm 1:1.

Further instruction came as we explored the need that success will come when we take the challenge to do something that we have never done in order to get something we have never had. Numerous encounters with Jesus are centered on this challenge __ ex. Peter walking on water, the healing of a leper, Joshua's instruction to the Israelites.

We were reminded that Jesus set goals_ i.e. Luke 19:10, and that we must set goals as leaders as well. We were reminded that Jesus' successful mission was in collaboration with God; as leaders we will not succeed working alone. We were told to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and to follow its instruction. Passion is power; our ministry must be pursued with great passion. We were encouraged to "be in the same boat."

We must sow seeds in order to reap a harvest! Luke 38

Bible Study (cont from p. 2)

These students are: Sister Hattie Bonner; Sister Pauline Collins; Sister Emma Crawford; Brother Leroy Crawford; Sister Cynthia Eason; Sister Carolyn Hardnett; Sister Mary Jones; Brother James Murphy; Sister Pamela Tomblin; and Sister Patricia Waller.

Remember Bible Study Notes are available at the web site: www.greatertittlerock.org.

Plans are underway to work in Bible Study teams for our net sessions and to encourage more students to venture out in the testing area so that good feedback is given and learning is maximized.

Our next area of study is the book of Romans.

And by the way did you pick up your copy of "Our Daily Bread?" The Five Star Ministry ensures that these are available and they are a great way to begin each day.

Timothy 2:15

In

Memoriam

John Wesley

Richard



On November 30, 2006 God called John Wesley Richard from labor to reward. John was a faithful member of GLRB Church where he served on the Deacon Board and as Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School. John was a faithful worshipper and a dedicated student of the Word. Teaching the Adult Sunday School Class, alternately with the Superintendent, he dedicated himself through studious preparation and articulate presentation of the lessons he taught. John worked faithfully in Vacation Bible School and was dedicated to the success of the taught word in the ministry of the Church.

John was married to Minnie Richard. He was the father of seven children. Retired from the Norfolk Southern Railway John was remembered by a huge outpouring of friends as an excellent worker, a mentor to many, a great golfer, athlete, and friend.

We mourn John's departure, but we are comforted by the Word and the hope to which he was faithful.

Joshua House Reports!!



Greetings Christian Friends,

The staff and students of Joshua House's After-School Program would like to say Happy New Year to each of you and may God's blessings continue to be with you throughout the year of 2007! The Joshua House family would like to share some of the awesome things that are taking place at our facility:

FROM THE "DIRECTOR'S DEN"

I'd like to begin by saying that it is

displays characteristics such as "high expectations", "support", and "compassion".

Academic excellence is what we strive for and our children are meeting those qualifications by leaps and bounds. We have 14 students attending daily and 12 of those made the "HONOR ROLL" this past semester! All of our students are doing extremely well academically and we are proud of them.

The program would not be operable without two significant people. They volunteer daily and help me out tremendously. Your efforts and contributions are to be commended. Mrs. Eudell Graham and Mrs. Rhonda Anderson, JOB WELL DONE! I am also thankful for outstanding partners in education such as The Macon Housing Authority, Mercer University, and Sam's Club.

FROM the Kid's Corner

A few students were asked "What is special about Joshua House?"

Amara said, "I like having my very own tutor. She treats me special and I can ask her for help in any subject. We made a great digital storytelling project and I was soooo proud of it." (Fourth Grade)

Goddis said, "I love the after-school program, I want to come every day to go to the computer room. I like Bible study, too. (Kindergarten)

Brandon said, " When Hurricane Katrina hit our town we has to move. We came to Macon and we did not know anyone My mom heard that this was a good program and she let us come. We like it here now and we want to stay here for good."

When we here comments such as those it

C X L T R K E E Y B Y W G U P
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 L Y A N R M J A O C I D O J I
 F B B D K A P A V R T X D S M
 W H L P N X B E E R W P N E I
 F L T M C A Y F R I M Z E U U
 L S G I V H F K S A C K S U B
 I Y K T A U T D P L N K S J O
 R O O H S F E W C E X C R Q G
 N A K G C S V J S Y A D E Q U
 Q Y N O I Q O S M J U A O C B
 W O F U F V L D U I O Z J N L
 L D S G E N T L E N E S S J R
 Q Z I K K U W M R S C Z S G O

**Fruit of the Spirit
 Word Search
 Galatians 5:22**

FAITH
 GENTLENESS
 GOODNESS
 JOY
 LONGSUFFERING
 LOVE
 MEEKNESS
 PEACE
 TEMPERANCE

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.greaterlittlerock.org.

Living A Healthy Life: An Act of Spiritual Worship

There are many health issues facing Americans and over the next several publications we will, at a minimum, encourage our congregation and our readers to be more actively involved in monitoring these health concerns for themselves and for their family members. Particularly African Americans are facing major health issues as relate to obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, Aids, and heart disease. An informed and conscious effort to be educated and proactive as relates to becoming more healthy is not just a social concern, it is in fact a Biblical expectation (I Cor 6: 13, 19).

Start the new year with a commitment to care for your temple. Visit your doctor for a good start. Ask for the blood tests that will provide you with the numbers you need to know, and monitor, your blood pressure, your cholesterol, your triglycerides and your fasting blood sugar level.

A recent recommendation is the following: Optimal blood pressure equal to or less than 120/80; Total Cholesterol of less than

200mg/dl; LDL-Cholesterol (bad) of less than 100 mg/dl with HDL Cholesterol (good) of 40 mg/dl or higher; triglyc-

*I Corinthians 6: 13, 19
 Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of
 God's mercy, to offer your bodies as
 living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to
 God- this is your spiritual act of worship*

erides of less than 150 mg/dl; Blood Sugars of less than 100 mg/dl.

Beginning this year with a deliberate plan to be healthy means being less likely to be surprised later with chronic health problems. And, oh yes, do not forget diet & exercise.

There are lots of resources to help you plan your new health habits. If you have access to the internet visit the web. Prevention Magazine has a wealth of information as a possible resource —

www.prevention.com

Our Mission, Vision, Values & Strategies

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

Our Vision is to reach out to all people, touching them with love and to be an example of God's power in the world.

Our Values are to embrace, inspire, bring out, and raise up

Our Strategies are to communicate, cultivate and contribute

Your email to the Church administration and to the Pastor are encouraged. Contact us at littlerockbaptist@cbi.mgacoxmail.com

Greater Little Rock Baptist Church
2046 Felton Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31201

Up Coming Events

January 28, 2007

Ordination Service for Leroy Crawford

February 4, 2007

Super Bowl Fellowship

February 25, 2007

Family & Friend's Day

March 11, 2007

Pot Luck Dinner

February 17, 2007

Officer's Meeting & Leadership Update

Out & Up, Inc Receives \$10,000.00 Community Foundation Grant

On January 17, 2007 we received official notification that Out & Up, Inc had received its first Community Foundation Grant. This was such good news as the grant was solicited in order to have more financial support for our After School Program and for our summer enrichment camp. In previous years while our primary focus has been to provide quality learning and enrichment experiences for our children, we have been constrained in many respects by the lack of financial

means to under gird this commitment.

This \$10,000.00 grant will greatly enhance our planning and service delivery in these programs which we consider critical to our youth.

We are especially thankful to a summer visit from President of the Community

"This is a real blessing to our efforts. We believe by faith that this grant signals that our breakthrough is here."-- Pastor Eason

Foundation, Ms. Kathryn Dennis and Ms. Sarah MacConnell,, Donor Relations and Grants Associate, who visited our 2006 enrichment camp and gave us encouragement in our efforts. We are also grateful to the Board of the Community Foundation

as their support of us and similar organizations is critical to our community's health.

motivates us to work even harder to ensure that our students achieve.

Until the Next Issue,

Joshua House Staff

Joshua House, Our After School Initiative is located at 985 Plant Street in the Hester Bivins Center.

This program is supported in part from proceeds of our annual golf tournament. This year's tournament will be held on April 14, 2007. Plans are on the way to have some sponsorship from the PING

Corporation. This promises to be biggest and best yet. For more information call (478) 743-5616 or (478) 719-4443 or visit the web at greaterlittlerock.org

If you would like to make a tax deductible

donation, you may send it to Out & Up, Inc, c/o GLRB Church, 2046

Felton Avenue, Macon, Ga. 31201

Visit us at :

www.gretaerlittlerock.org

for more information

Telephone us at (478) 741-2080