

The Communicator



*Women's
History
Month*

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR BUTLER



Greetings, Beloved. As we enter a third month in transition since displacement from the sanctuary, I commend you for your broad spirit of cooperation, understanding, and patience. We face and overcome weekly challenges by making alternate arrangements to support ministries of the congregation, including worship and Sunday School. Members of the church staff, leadership, and many volunteers who practice their discipleship through service have bridged the gap, ensuring as much continuity as possible moving from one location to another. I thank them all for the leading and supporting roles they continue to play in the process.

We have been wanderers in the city but graced by the hospitality of fellow Christians who, despite the difference in denomination, have affirmed our common identity in the Lord Jesus Christ by making plenty of good room for us. As grateful as we are for the accommodations made for us at Oakwood University Church for six weeks and now at Madison Mission Church for the past four Sundays, returning to our campus remains paramount. And I am pleased to give the following update about the next phase of the transition.

Worship at 3509

Sunday, March 19, 2023, is identified as the return date to our campus for worship in the gymnasium. With concern for the aesthetics of the space, ease of access for all worshippers, including those with mobility issues, and the quality of audio and video transmission for in-person and live-streaming experiences, we have undertaken painstaking planning and preparation for meaningful worship upon our return. The configuration of the temporary sanctuary will remain set for the worship of God until the renovation of the sanctuary is complete. Worshipers needing access to the sacred space by wheelchair or other assistive devices will be accommodated with a special entrance and seating area. Sunday School Classes for all ages will continue as a new disciple class relaunches. Nursery services will be offered, and children's worship will be scheduled. Choir ministry will resume, as Noonday Bible Study returns on Wednesdays and Family Night at 3509 becomes a feature event.

The work of transforming the space requires many hands. Volunteers are needed to ensure smooth operations of the project's various parts. I trust you will be just as eager to serve as you have been thus far and will be gracious in coming home to worship.

Update to COVID-19 Protocols

Upon our return to campus, mask-wearing will become optional for worshippers and other event participants. Based upon the COVID-19 Integrated County View Update (Madison County, Alabama) from the State Health Department, we are comfortable relaxing the mandatory mask requirement. Leaders and laity should continue to practice Christian hospitality when engaging one another during greeting and fellowship, respecting the personal comfort of each disciple-member or guest. Those who wish to continue wearing a mask may do so with every assurance that your presence and participation is welcomed.

Restoration and Renovation of Sanctuary

Notwithstanding the delight we share in our impending return to campus for worship, the question asked by many disciple-members pertains to returning to the sanctuary. However, it cannot be stressed strongly enough that the damages to the facilities are more extensive than the pictures have conveyed. Some people of goodwill have suggested mere cosmetic fixes to remedy the issue. But these options would lead to more costly repairs down the road. While the rate of the repair process is slow, as some of you can attest relative to your home repairs, the task is not left unattended.

The team appointed to lead the restoration/renovation project updated the Official Board this past week on the progress. All parts of the remediation process are complete. Reports of findings, including moisture and response readings, were submitted to the insurance company. Our claim has been escalated to the specialty loss group as a part of a catastrophic event and assigned to an executive general adjuster. He, along with a forensics engineer, has made respective site visits and performed assessments. Additional assessment of the audio equipment (i.e., cable wiring under the stage, etc.) was performed with a recommendation for an audio engineer to conduct specialized testing. With various reports in hand, the work and findings of the industrial hygienist are the next step for developing a scope of work based on the assessment of damages and necessary repairs.

Be assured that you also have a significant role in this process. As disruptive and inconvenient as this event is, it presents us with an opportunity to reimagine our worship space and to dream together about what it could become. The innovation we have seen in other sanctuaries can inspire us to be creative about configuring the sacred space we share. Space for children and youth, nursing mothers, and families with infants; space for persons needing special assistance and accommodations; and space for receiving and welcoming guests are considerations that come to mind. But these are not the sum of possibilities before us. Suggestions and recommendations that were advanced spring of last year during congregational conversations have been included as well and the committee will need to hear from you directly. Listening sessions will be scheduled within the month to receive your feedback.

Currently, we are careful not to project an unreasonable timeline for return to the sanctuary considering the unknown scope of work. However, as we gain more clarity after engaging the professionals and contractors, we will communicate that to you.

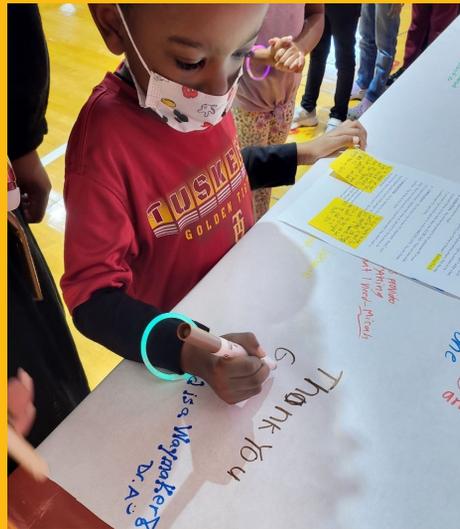
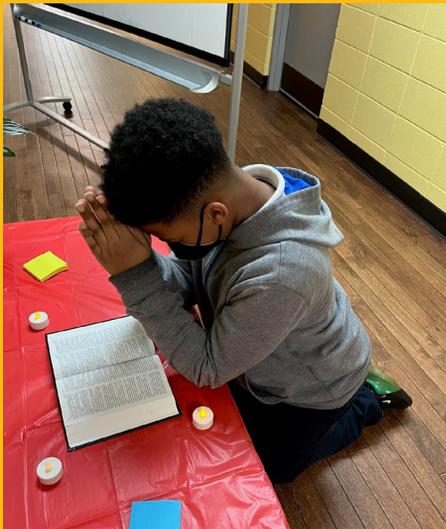
Establishing a Community Development Corporation

As I have shared the need for our congregation to lead in stabilizing the community neighboring our campus, we move one step closer to actualizing this. A steering committee has researched and investigated options for establishing a specialized ministry of the congregation that would focus on economic empowerment and housing development in North Huntsville. Having received the support of deacons and trustees to the presentation, we invite the congregation into the dialogue. Within the next month, an open session will be scheduled to present the concept for the NorthStar Community Development Corporation and its incredible potential to meet the needs of the North Huntsville community.



JRS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND ACADEMY

by Dr. Tammy Alexander, Interim Head of School



It's March Madness at the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy. What does that mean? I'm so glad you asked.

March Madness means celebrating reading. The first week is set aside to have fun while reading. One of our "Brilliant" pillars; Literacy is Foundational. We will read around the school-books that make us laugh and cry, books that celebrate our history and the history of others, books written by African American authors and books written by women. Our scholars will read on their own and will listen to guest readers sharing stories they love. **Literacy is Foundational!**

March Madness means celebrating women. It's Women's History Month. We will honor women who are game changers and trailblazers. Stories that are known and unknown will be shared with our scholars. Bessie Coleman and

Amelia Earhart, Shirley Chisolm and Ketanji Brown Jackson, our mothers, grandmothers, sisters and aunts. We will study women of faith. Some names are known - Sarah, Ruth, and Mary Magdalene while other are not like "the woman at the well" and the "woman with the issue of blood". The women in our own congregation that have a faith journey to share; First Lady LaKeisha Butler and Sister Willie Nell Carodine. **Herstory will be our theme!**

March Madness means celebrating basketball across the curriculum. Scholars will create their own brackets, research one of the Sweet 16 schools, add, subtract, multiply and divide scores. They will follow the "Cinderella" team and make predictions. They will watch the game that James Naismith invented with a renewed interest. if only to see how their brackets look after each game. **Basketball is March Madness!**

March Madness means we will take time to remember and reflect on our February Fun. Daily Harambee questions that stretched us to learn more about African American History. Stories our scholars did not know and stories we may have forgotten. Our FMBC prayer ministry adopted our scholars, teachers and staff praying for them during the ACSI Day of Prayer. JRS CDCA scholars led in worship during the Annual JRS CDCA Day. We are building faith walkers and prayer warriors who know how to pray the scriptures and honor God with their lives. **We are building the next generation of Christian leaders.**

March Madness means Spring Break, a time to relax and reflect, renew and rejuvenate. When we return after the break, we continue to do what we do - **build brilliant scholars who will change the world.**



GIVING STATEMENT UPDATES

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2022 WERE DISTRIBUTED VIA
EMAIL OR MAIL AS OF JANUARY 22, 2023.

Looking for your contribution statement... have you checked your email? Giving statements were sent from **First Missionary Baptist Church** (notifications@onrealmmail.org) with the subject line "Your Giving Statement from First Missionary Baptist Church".

You can access your Realm account by scanning the QR CODE below or visiting the website <https://onrealm.org/FirstMissionary5617>.

To access your giving, please follow the instructions below.

1. Sign in to your Realm account on a computer.
2. Choose Giving from the menu.  Giving
3. Click the funnel icon to filter the gifts that display or to change the date range. 
4. Click the printer icon to generate the statement. 
5. Click Print. A preview of your statement will display.
6. Click the printer icon to print or click Download for a PDF file.

If you need further assistance with your giving statement, please contact the Financial Comptroller at tbaugh@fmbc.org | (256) 852-4318 ext. 212.

Scan the QR CODE to access your Realm Account



Black Female Authors That Made History

If you are looking for iconic writers to add to your literary library, the following authors are recommended black female authors whose legacy made history. These authors wrote stories, poems, and dialogue that captivated readers for decades. Also, check out a few famous female investors that made history.



Maya Angelou is considered one of the most prolific writers of the 20th century. She provided her audiences with necessary insight into the Black female experience during a time of great tension and strife in America. Her most famous work, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, is an autobiographical memoir describing her early years and how her love of reading helped her to overcome the racism and tyranny of her past.



Zora Neale Hurston claims a familiar background locally: born in 1891 in Alabama, Hurston and her family moved from Alabama to Eatonville, Florida when she was very young. Hurston's 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is often considered the peak of her writing. Hurston's works overall reveal the humanization of her subjects and an honest look at the complicated nature of being Black in a white world.



Toni Morrison, The first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1993, Ms. Morrison was the author of 11 novels as well as children's books and essay collections. Among them were celebrated works like "Song of Solomon," which received the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1977, and "Beloved," which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

<https://www.blackhistory.com/2019/06/best-black-female-authors-20th-century.html>

Black Female Inventors That Made History

Marie Van Brittan Brown and her husband Albert noticed increasing crime in their New York neighborhood along with the fact that police were slow to respond to calls in their part of town, which still holds true today, they ventured out to make their home feel safer.

The system had a camera at the front door that looked through one of four peepholes at different heights. That image was broadcast to the user on a television set in another part of the house.

Alice H. Parker was an African American inventor famous for her patented system of central heating using natural gas.

Parker took it upon herself to design a natural gas-fueled "new and improved heating furnace." Her design earned a patent in December 1919 which helped revolutionize the thermostat and the familiar forced air furnaces that are in homes today.

Many people acknowledge Elvis Presley as the "King of Rock and Roll", Chuck Berry as the "Father of Rock and Roll", and Alan Freed coined the term "rock and roll." However, Rock and Roll has a "Mother of Rock."

In the 1930s and 1940s, Sister Rosetta Tharpe was one of the first people to combine gospel music with melody-driven urban blues, traditional folk, and a unique pulsating swing style. Many music legends were influenced by her style but never acknowledged her.



<https://www.yesmagazine.org/health-happiness/2016/03/21/10-black-women-innovators-and-the-awesome-things-they-brought-us>



PROUD TO BE A GIRL SCOUT!



Girls from First missionary Baptist were asked about their experience being a Girl Scout. All respondents have been scouts for at least three years and some since daisies which are kindergarteners. The respondents are from the four older Girl Scout troops, 4th grade to high school.

1. Below are the questions that were asked:
2. What does it mean to be a Girl Scout?
3. What would you tell a person looking to be a Girl Scout?
4. How does the girls Scout organization benefit you?

Charis L. (Junior)

It means that you are a leader and learn skills that will carry you through life...like goal-making and integrity.

You have to be very committed and show that you care about Scouts. Could you do it? I just wanted to give you a heads-up that you will thank me later.

It helps me to become an entrepreneur. It allows me to use resources wisely and improve the world. It also helps me make friends for a lifetime.

Makenzie D. (Junior)

To me, to be a scout means being adventurous, and helpful. Being involved in STEM and learning about powerful women like Mrs. Michelle Obama through the Becoming Me program series.

It is a place for all girls, no matter their race and beliefs. We are given the same opportunities to explore old and new ideas and learn and grow together.

It is not just about selling cookies. It has helped me meet new friends, learn life skills, and help others while making the world better.

Christen M. (Cadette)

To be a Girl Scout is to be prepared for everything that comes.

I'd tell a person looking to be a scout that you'll be able to explore, create, and help your community by doing projects. Along the way, you'll earn badges for your hard work.

The Girl Scout organization helps me spread my ideas and improve my problem-solving skills.

Sahlom L. (Cadette)

To be a Girl Scout means one who works hard and accomplishes goals. Being a Scout teaches you to be independent. It also means going the extra mile to help others.

GO FOR IT! You would love the experience. It teaches me business, life skills, and how to become an effective leader.

Madison S. (Cadette) Silver Award

Being a Scout means I don't have to be older to make a difference. Adults will listen to kids when they have something meaningful to say.

I would tell a person looking to be a Girl Scout that it's great to be around girls your age with your interests. Even if those interests differ, that's a unique opportunity to learn about each other. Make New Friends!

The Girl Scout organization benefits me by working on badges that work affect our lives and others. We're currently making the boxes for the less fortunate at Christmas and the First Aid Kits.

Lauren C. (Senior)

Being a Girl Scout means having integrity and, respecting our community and peers, living by the Girl Scout law in everyday life.

I would tell someone looking to be a Girl Scout that being a girl scout is fun and engaging.

I would also tell them that being a Girl Scout is a responsibility. Being a girl scout benefits me by teaching me the importance of leadership skills, being resourceful, and problem-solving.

Anina Y. (Ambassador) Silver Award

Setting a good example for others is what being a Girl Scout means to me—assisting one another in trying circumstances. Also, being a leader sets specific goals for life.

I would tell them that joining Girls Scouts is enjoyable, demanding, and full of new experiences. Also, Girl Scouts helps you be motivated and learn so many great things about the world.

Girl Scouts benefits me by showing me the right path in life and through experiences. It shows me how to communicate better with others. Also, Girl Scouts helped with my self-esteem and gave me the confidence I never had.

BETTER KNOW OUR MEMBERS



LaBreesha Batey is a woman who knows how to utilize the trials of life as a catalyst for higher dimensions. Born and raised in Nashville, TN single-handedly by her mother in an underprivileged environment, LaBreesha quickly learned the art of perseverance and the significance of faith, as she watched her mother raise her children in a wheelchair as a result of a car accident that left her mother paralyzed from the waist down. She watched her mother persevere through pain and hardships, which greatly influenced her perspective on life that: She is not bound by her circumstances, and that under a deterministic mindset and in faith, the opportunities for her are limitless. This mentality carried over into LaBreesha's professional and academic career, enabling her to graduate from TSU, loan-free, with her BBA degree in 2011; secure an internship and permanent position at NASA/MSFC; obtain an MBA from AAMU on scholarship in 2015; obtain a MENG from AAMU in 2021 on scholarship; and to pursue a Phd in Engineering under a scholarship at UAB.

At NASA/MSFC, she is known as a unique anomaly and a change agent, serving in many roles to include a Program Analyst, Engineer, Deputy Chair of the Women of Excellence Group, and a Project Manager, being coined as the first woman and person at NASA/MSFC to lead a technical project from a non-technical discipline, and receiving the Best Technical Project/Program of the year award in 2022. As a firm believer in "To whom much is given, much is required", LaBreesha purposes herself to inspire and to pay forward the seeds sown into her into the next generation, initiating her Moving Mountains Through Faith Scholarship fund in 2019.

LaBreesha believes that if one acknowledges God in all of their ways, he will surely perfect their path, despite circumstances.

Charlene Jones is a native of Birmingham. She is a Dallas VA Medical Center retired nurse and a former Lieutenant Naval Reservist.

After returning to Alabama and visiting several churches, I started attending noon Bible Study at First Missionary Baptist Church. Upon meeting Pastor Butler, he invited me to attend a Sunday Service. He assured me that I would enjoy and be blessed upon attending. Service was Powerful and filled with the Holy Spirit. After service, Reverends Poole, Landry and I went to Brunch. Brunch was informative and the visit was as if we had known each other for years.

I like that, First Baptist is a church family that welcomes you. A Church of fellowship, caring, and continuously pouring into the congregation's spiritual growth to be more like Christ.



Lent, A Season of Renewal

Brother Allen and Arnatta Poole

It is Lent time, a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. It begins Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter and provides a period of specific focus on prayer, fasting (reduce distractions and become fixated on God our Savior and our relationship with Him), and giving; these to mirror Christ's experience in the wilderness before He began His public ministry.

The question remains for many Christians, "Do I really need a structured way of preparing for Resurrection/Easter Sunday?" The answer is yes, we do need a structured way to prepare ourselves for the most important celebration in the Christian life, the RESURRECTION of JESUS CHRIST. In partnership with this question is another, "How do I prepare?"

Well, a good start is understanding that

Lenten Season is not about a journey of deprivation, rather the journey of preparation and consecration. It is a time for believer's to re-think the idea of being deprived of material and physical pleasures and re-imagine themselves as being enriched in spiritual disciplines and Christlike characteristics. A time of intentional and constant obedience to, worship of, and thanksgiving for the "Precious Lamb of God and His ultimate sacrifice." In fact, and most importantly is understanding the focus is not about what we give up temporarily, rather all about what Christ our Savior paid eternally.

It is a time to seize and capitalize on consistent behaviors and structured opportunities to repent, confess, self-examine; pull away from whosoever and whatsoever hinders and impedes realization thereof, and draw nearer to God. It is a time to pray and fast, "take-out", delete the overload and overdose of unnecessary religious activities, routines, and ruts we've become enslaved to which

allows for pollution, corruption, and uncleanness in mind, body, and spirit.

It is a time to "take-in", add necessary meditation, reflection, study, humility, repentance, and prayer we often neglect that allows for:

- a) Christ characteristics to be revealed through us
- b) Holy Spirit "Fruit" to be produced in us
- c) God's love to flow from us. It is a time for stretched and strengthened faith, demonstrations of our obedience to God's word, and evidence we are "children of God led by the Spirit of God".

Lenten season, is a time of intentional and structured preparation, consecration, and celebration of our Savior's sacrifice, God's forgiveness, and Holy Spirit's help on our Christian journey now and forevermore.

DISCIPLE MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to Deacon Arthur B. Wesley and Sister Sandra Hyder-Wesley who will celebrate 20 years of marriage on March 15th.



Congratulations to Deacon Emeritus Leonard H. Chalk and Deaconess Laura Chalk who will celebrate 40 years of marriage on March 19th.



Congratulations Nequoia Adams for making player of the week and MVP of the 2023 Southern States Athletic Conference Women's Basketball All-Tournament Team.

WANT TO BE SHOWN IN THE COMMUNICATOR?

You can e-mail a picture and your information of an anniversary or accomplishment to clynk@fmbc.org

Joint

WORSHIP

Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 | 6:30PM

THE COMBINED CONGREGATIONS OF
First Baptist Church Governors Drive & First Missionary Baptist
Church

Host Church: First Baptist Church
600 Govenors Drive, Huntsville, Alabama



PASTOR DON DARIN BUTLER
First Missionary Baptist Church



PASTOR TRAVIS COLLINS
First Baptist Church

PASTOR EMERITUS

REVEREND DR. JULIUS R.

SCRUGGS

Sunday

MARCH 19, 2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:15AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30AM