



Volume 3, Issue 1
January 2008

The WORKS!



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Reflections from Pastor Mark Avery



“Happy New Year to One and All!”

It seems like only yesterday that we were all enjoying the blessings of the year gone by. What a remarkable year 2007 was for so many of us. The Lord really showed Himself strong in so many ways in all of our lives. There were challenges, obstacles, and even a few pitfalls along the way. In all of these situations, we saw the Master prevail on behalf of his children. It is wonderful to know that we serve a faithful God. Faithful in all of His devotion, love and kindness toward us. We made it by the grace of God.

Several factors contributed to our success, one of which was our commitment to our theme for the year. We endeavored to live out our mantra daily. The enemy of our soul was relentless in his attack, but the joy of the Lord strengthened us through all our difficulties. Defeat was not an alternative to God's best for us. As the songwriter put it, “I'm stronger, I'm wiser, I'm better.”

As we begin this great year of 2008, we do so with great anticipation and expectation. I can sense the spirit of excitement and enthusiasm in the air. New leadership is prepared to take us to the next dimension of purpose as we aim to live out our great name daily. Yes, Greater Works is what we want to give to our God, our community and membership at large.

Get ready, God is going to do some marvelous things for us this year. My spirit senses it, my faith embraces it, and my heart rejoices in what is in store for us. No matter what life may have thrown at you in the year gone by, remember this one important fact: “You Can Begin Again!”

Blessings,
C. Mark Avery
Pastor

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Scripture of the Month

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

From the Pastor's Desk

Attention All Parents:
Please keep small toys, crayons, and any other instruments of play out of the sanctuary. We need to preserve and maintain the gifts that God has given us. Please comply with this directive. Thank you for your cooperation and obedience.
Pastor Avery



Cyber Study

For those of you who are web savvy and unable to attend our weekly Discipleship Training session, I have an important announcement for you. You no longer have to miss out on the opportunity to receive instruction. All you need is an active e-mail address and you will receive each updated weekly lesson. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please send an e-mail to REVGWM@aol.com and note in the subject area "Cyber Study."



Weather Cancellations



In case of inclement or bad weather, call the church 610-444-5581. Once the recording comes on, press 3 to listen for any cancellations or updates.

GWM Weekly Bulletin

Do you have something that needs to be in the GWM weekly bulletin? Please get the information to First Lady Cheryl Avery no later than Wednesday afternoon for consideration. The e-mail address to use for bulletin updates is CAMA1229@aol.com.

Black History: A Celebration of Heritage at Longwood Gardens

Gospel Music Celebration Maurice J. Moyer Academy Charter School Choir, 2:00 pm and the Freedom Choir of Philadelphia, 1:00 pm. Kids Crafts by Gretchen Shannon - "Caterpillar Blues and Butterfly Dreams" and Pot-A-Plant activity, 12:00-3:00pm. All performances are included in general Gardens admission. For more information call 610-388-1000 or go to the Longwood website www.longwoodgardens.com

2008 Deacon Board

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

Greater Works Ministries Deacon Board. Family Care Ministry 2008

Deacon Melvin Banks

Sis. Sara Brison
Sis. Shirley Davis
Sis. Tonda Hawkins
Sis. Margaret Hicks
Bro. & Sis. Gary Jones
Sis. Dessie McKee
Mother Mildred McMillan
Sis. Margaret Patton
Eld. & Sis. Rufus Peterson & Family
Bro. Shawn Polite
Sis. Patricia Tynes

Deacon Raiford Box, IV

Sis. Joanne Bowman
Sis. Joanne Eberhardt
Bro. Johnathan Davis
Sis. Emily Jones
Sis. Rosetta Juarez
Sis. Ella Lee
Bro. Troy Mease
Bro. & Sis. Samuel Reeves, Sr.
Bro. & Sis. Dana Tinnin & Family
Sis. Marlene Tinnin
Sis. Desiree Walker

Deacon James Miller

Sis. Revella Brown
Dea. Emer. Everett Butcher, Sr. & Family
Bro. Lawrence Dutton
Bro. Frank Hammond
Sis. Patricia Jenkins
Sis. Catherine Jones
Sis. Wanda Jones
Eld. & Sis. Richard McKim
Sis. Elsie Reeves
Sis. Shirley Reeves
Sis. Blanche Rice

Deacon Ervin Warren

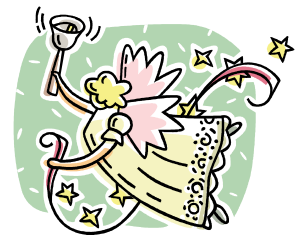
Sis. Nancy Dry
Sis. Alicia Hicks
Sis. Tacie Himelright
Bro. & Sis. James Jones & Family
Bro. K. David Katzmire
Min. Perry & Min. Tonya Price
Bro. Robert Reeves, Sr.
Sis. Michelle Sweeney & Family
Sis. Barbara Warren & Daughter
Sis. Catherine Warren
Sis. Yvonne Wolfe



Ministry Updates

As we move into this brand new year, please pray for God's choicest blessing over all of the Ministry teams of Greater Works Ministries. Please join me in congratulating all of the following new Team Leaders:

Sister Elsie Reeves - Shepherd's Care
Sister Yvonne Wolfe - Usher's
Minister Tonya Price - Youth
Elder Richard McKim - Christian Education
Deacon Raiford Box & Deacon Melvin Banks - Mighty Men
Sister Alicia Hicks - Hospitality
Sister Cheryl Avery - Women of Wisdom



Dear Kennett Community Choir:

We are gearing up for our next big performance at the Martin Luther King Breakfast, January 21st! Mayor Leon Spencer has agreed to be our Director. Rehearsals will be held at the Kennett Presbyterian Church. Please see the **Upcoming Events Calendar** for dates and times. Please let me know if you will be participating this year. Also, if you will be attending the practices. We ALWAYS are looking for additional members — please let me know if anyone would like to join us this year.

Thanks You!

Joan Holliday
610-344-5550



FTC Consumer Alert

Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection Office of Consumer & Business Education



Good, Better, Best: How to Improve Gas Mileage

Whether you are shopping for a new car or just trying to maintain the one you have, you can take some steps to get the best mileage out of your gas purchases. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, offers these tips to use fuel efficiently:

On the Road: Drive More Efficiently

- *Stay within posted speed limits.* Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour.
- *Stop aggressive driving.* You can improve your gas mileage up to five percent around town if you avoid "jackrabbit" starts and stops by anticipating traffic conditions and driving gently.
- *Avoid unnecessary idling.* It wastes fuel, costs you money, and pollutes the air. Turn off the engine if you anticipate a wait.
- *Combine errands.* Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- *Use overdrive gears and cruise control when appropriate.* They improve the fuel economy of your car when you're driving on a highway.
- *Remove excess weight from the trunk.* An extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce a typical car's fuel economy by up to two percent.
- *Avoid packing items on top of your car.* A loaded roof rack or carrier creates wind resistance and can decrease fuel economy by five percent.

At the Garage: Maintain Your Car

- *Keep your engine tuned.* Tuning your engine according to your owner's manual can increase gas mileage by an average of four percent. Increases vary depending on a car's condition.
- *Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned.* It can increase gas mileage up to three percent.
- *Change your oil.* According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), you can improve your gas mileage by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. Motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the performance symbol of the American Petroleum Institute contains friction-reducing additives that can improve fuel economy.
- *Check and replace air filters regularly.* Replacing clogged filters can increase gas mileage up to ten percent.

At the Pump: Use the Octane Level You Need

- Your owner's manual recommends the most effective octane level for your car. For most cars, the recommended gasoline is regular octane. In most cases, using a higher octane gas than the manufacturer recommends offers no benefit. Unless your engine is knocking, buying higher octane gasoline is a waste of money.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/fuelalrt.shtm>

Submitted by Sister Tacie Himelright



Resolve to be Ready

This New Year's Eve, nearly 50 percent of Americans will make at least one resolution as they look toward the New Year. The American Red Cross, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force, and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, our partners with FEMA, are encouraging citizens to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: preparing for emergencies.

Are you and your family prepared for an emergency? If you had to stay in your home for a few days, would you have what you need to stay safe, comfortable and healthy? If you had to leave your home suddenly, without time to pack anything, would you be ready to go? The time to start planning for an emergency is not in the middle of one. In an emergency, you're either READY or you're not.



In a recent national survey conducted by the Ad Council, 91 percent of Americans agreed that



taking some simple steps to prepare could help protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency. However, only 54 percent had taken at least one of the three steps recommended by Ready Campaign, including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, and being informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

To learn how to prepare your families for all types of emergencies including natural and human-caused disasters, visit www.readyregion.org, www.ready.gov and www.redcross-philly.org.

If you would like to take a more active role in

preparing your community for an emergency, consider volunteering for Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) VOAD or Citizen Corps. SEPA VOAD is a national collaboration of diverse organizations and citizens trained to meet community needs should a large-scale natural or man-made disaster occur. SEPA VOAD offers free training and coordination services, before and after a disaster, and matches community needs with trained volunteers after a disaster hits. Citizen Corps brings community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members and non-governmental resources in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. Visit www.sepavoad.org for training and volunteering opportunities with SEPA VOAD and Citizen Corps.

Be Ready. Make a Plan. Get what you need. Resolve to be READY in 2008.



Importance of Obedience

Written by Sister Marlene Tinnin

On December 9th we traveled to Rose of Sharon Apostolic Church pastored by Bishop Leonard Briddell Sr. where our own Elder Carlton M. Avery of Greater Works Ministries in Kennett Square, Pa. was guest speaker for the Brotherhood Service. Bishop Briddell introduced him as one of his own to come in his own way to deliver a Word from God. The "Mighty Men" of Greater Works Ministries sang two selections; "Praise the Lord I'm Free" and "Let's Go Back to the Old time Way." Then Pastor Avery came from scriptures I Samuel 15:13-15; 20-23 and focused on verse 13 which speaks about an empty sacrifice. The theme was the 'Importance of Obedience'. He started by stating that there comes a time in our lives when we are unable to verbalize but the Holy Ghost inside you can do it for you. He gave an example using children. When we are blessed with them we must expose them to the Godly things not things of the world. We need to protect them as much as possible from all the evil things the world has to offer and throws at them. He

said as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles we must not allow certain Spirits in our homes and monitor what they hear, see and do. We all need to take a firmer stand and face adversity and crisis and not run from it when it raises its ugly head. The enemy can come in any open gate and run havoc in our lives. The saints must remember to take care of business properly by guarding our gates, mainly your senses from the wickedness of this world.

His next point was that what God has for you is for you. Sometimes we can make a mess of things when we try to do things on our own instead of trusting God and obeying his Word. When we don't we still have to go back to him to fix it anyway. We must all learn to have Faith and Trust in God knowing he has our backs because he doesn't like the enemy coming against His children. We should want God's Will to be done and let it be done. Accept it because He doesn't need our help in anything. We must make sure that we are heart filled in all our deeds coming with clean hands and a pure heart so that it will be acceptable and pleasing to God. We

can't live any old way during the week and come in on Sunday and expect God to accept our dirty sacrifices coming to Him. We need to realize that we are coming before The King of Kings and He always gives us His best and expects us to do the same. There are no stars in the church but God alone. Your sins can and will be exposed when you are not right with our God. We are going to be held accountable for our words and our actions. The old devil knows what we all like and tries to continually tempt us with evil to be lured back into his dark world. He likes to always bring up our past but our past is our past; the Old Man. We are to live in our now; the New Man, once we've accepted the Baptism of Spirit and Water. God sees our messes but he allows us to get victory over our enemy and we can expose him through our confessions and give him a black eye.

Some people will not line up with God's Word until they see He is serious and could take them out. But He tells us in His Word that it is better to obey than sacrifice. Disobedience in any area is one of the biggest sins among others. Continued on Page 7

For Your Health—Is It a Cold or the Flu?

The **cold** and the **flu** are both respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different types of viruses. **Flu symptoms** usually come on quickly (within 3-6 hours) and the symptoms can be mild to severe without much notice. Be aware of your body.

Cold symptoms are less severe and the symptoms usually begin in 2-3 days, during this time you are contagious, though the symptoms may take a week to fully develop. There are over 200 viruses that may cause a cold, but generally after 7-10 days you are usually not contagious and you should begin to feel better.

<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Cold</u>	<u>Flu</u>
Fever	Rare 	Usual; high (100° F-102° F or higher, especially in young children)
Headache	Rare	Common
General aches and pains	Slight 	Usual; often severe
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual; at the beginning of the illness
Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe
Treatment	Antihistamines, decongestant, Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications - NO ANTIBIOTICS	Antiviral medicines - see your primary care doctor
Prevention	WASH YOUR HANDS often and for 20 seconds - the time it takes to sing the Happy Birthday song twice, cough onto elbows, arms and not hands	Annual vaccinations
Complications	Sinus congestion, middle ear infections, aggravation of asthma	Bronchitis, pneumonia and can be life threatening

This article is the combined effort of Sister Margaret Hicks and Sister Leslie Tinnin. Sources of information FluFacts.com, Clorox.com and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Health Institute

THIS Information IS *NOT* a SUBSTITUTION FOR SEEKING PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CARE or INFORMATION from YOUR DOCTOR!

Songs Echo Through Friends Hall

Written by Sister Leslie Tinnin

The Mass Choir of Greater Works Ministries once again, for the 15th consecutive year, donned their Red and black attire to bring forth a Christmas performance at the Friends Meeting Hall in London Grove, Pennsylvania, on December 2, 2007. Prior to the performance to a full house, the members of the two houses of worship sat down to break bread together with a wonderful selection of various foods which were provided through the generosity of Friends Hall members. The Friends

Hall leader, Brenda Macaluso, welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in this tradition between the two congregations.

The choir sang old favorites such as "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night" with Sister Alicia Hicks as soloist. A wonderful version of "Go Tell it on the Mountain" was performed as a duet by, Elder Richard McKim and Brother Carl Trice. Sister Leslie Tinnin also performed a solo verse of "Oh Holy Night," another favorite of this precious season. The Greater Works Ministry instrumentals were Sister

Elaine Warren on piano and Brother Chandler Avery on the drums. The Mass Choir was led by our very own Lady Cheryl Avery.

With the performance over, Pastor C. Mark Avery, addressed the congregation and their visitors from Philadelphia. In her closing, Brenda Macaluso noted how similar our seemingly diverse congregation are. The evening was closed with a prayer.



Fifth Sunday Fellowship Service

Attitudes

Sermon by Bishop William Todd Sr.

Written by Sister Marlene E. Tinnin

On December 30th Fifth Sunday Fellowship Service was held at Greater Works Ministries, pastored by C. Mark Avery and hosted by Pastor Rayford Moulden of Word of Life Church of West Grove, PA. Pastor Moulden was introduced by one of his own, Deacon Bowman. Seated in the pulpit were all the ministers represented in this Fifth Sunday Fellowship: Pastor Rayford Moulden Jr., Word of Life Church of West Grove, PA; Pastor Arlene Norton, Hosanna House of Prayer of Elkton, MD; Pastor William Barrett, Apostolic Fellowship Church of Oxford, PA; Bishop Richard Stonewall, Maranatha Evangelistic Temple of Coatesville, PA; Bishop William Todd Sr., Christ Haven Apostolic Church of Darby, PA; and Dr. Reginald Burrows Sr., Bethlehem Temple Church of York, PA. These churches rotate every fifth Sunday to have fellowship. Under the new leadership of Bishop Stonewall the 2008 officers for the Fifth Sunday Fellowship were announced: Bishop Stonewall, President; Bishop Todd, Vice President; and Dr. Burrows, Secretary. Hosanna House of Prayer, pastored by Pastor Arlene Norton and her husband, were welcomed into this event for the first time.

Then we were in for a Spirit filled evening of song and praise from various choirs initiated by Word of Life Choir singing, "Oh How Wonderful He Is, Oh How Marvelous," followed by Hosanna House of Prayer singing "Hosanna Blessed it Be The Rock." Then the Apostolic Fellowship choir sang, "Bless the Lord with All My Soul." After that came Bethlehem Temple Choir singing "Oh Lord I Praise You." The audience was pumped up after those songs from Zion, giving praises to God by singing and shouting. Now we were ready for a mighty word to be delivered by Bishop William Todd Sr. The theme for the evening, one word: Attitudes - Philippians 3:12-20. Bishop Todd began by sharing these statements: "There is power in attitudes good or bad.

Life is 10% what happens to us but 90% how we react to what happens to us." When we respond positively it causes a calm reaction. With the right spark we can create extraordinary results and we can't be stopped. Life is our thought life more than we realize it. "I believe the bible says, 'As a man thinketh so is he.' So, 'junk in, junk out.'" Our daily challenge is to learn to altar any negative thinking which can often lead to great discoveries and make huge differences in our lives and others too. Learn to Encourage yourselves to have a positive outlook on situations. Bishop Todd proceeded to tell us the three main keys to our attitudes. First: Stay focused and don't lose sight of your objectives. Second: Stay faithful and committed. Third: Finish the job. We all have a destiny to go somewhere in God.

The Bishop continued by telling the congregation that God has given us good days but "our later will be greater." We have to finish the jobs God has given us to do. We need to learn to watch our words, which produce our mind patterns, that later can produce actions that can become our habits and they produce our character. This is where we really need the Holy Spirit to help us keep our flesh under subjection. Our attitudes are so important for they can make or break us in our daily lives, in our churches, homes, marriages, jobs, and relationships in general. We must learn not to let past hurts, disappointments, failure in relationships or whatever, keep us held back bound by the enemy. We must move forward pressing toward the mark, free as God would have us do. Forget the past. You can't go back and change it. We should learn from past experiences and move on and be the best that we can be in Christ. The enemy will always try to play on your weaknesses and attitude is a big part of it. Remember life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. We've all had tough times and performed misdeeds, but that was our past. Once we've been baptized by water and Spirit that old man is washed away and we become a new creature man in Christ. God has forgotten so we need to forget and move on in our future looking to the heavens and

occupying until the Lord comes back for His church. We all should be trying to know Christ Jesus for ourselves having that relationship with Him that He so desires from all of us. It shouldn't be important that we get titles, pats on the backs from man, and other earthly things. We can build up heavenly rewards from our Father in Heaven where it's more important. We must learn to embrace those things that God sent our way, especially trouble. He sent them to perfect us to be more like Him. Praise Him through the good and the bad times. It might not be easy when you are hurting, but God is always there for us and wants you to come to Him in times of trouble and not depend on man. Bishop told us, "The world is getting sicker every day and if we are comfortable here then we're getting sicker too". We all should be trying to get ready to get up out of here while striving to be more like Jesus everyday in every way. Yes, we all fall short of the glory of God but we can get back up again. Our focus needs to be on glory and Jesus and not this old wicked dark world we must live in. Keep pressing on toward that glorious mark and we shall be changed in a twinkling of an eye as He descends from heaven to take us home to be with Him. In closing he called the awesome young choir of Christ Haven Apostolic Church to help him sing "We'll Have Some Good Days, Some Bad Days, But I Won't Complain". The church was exploding in praises, tongues, shouting and rejoicing for our King. God also blessed a body to be healed and a precious soul to give an awesome, heartfelt testimony to us all. God is so good all the time. Amen



Importance of Obedience, continued

For example Pastor Avery asked "Are you giving out of devotion for God and obedience to him or to be seen?" We must always do freely from our hearts whatever we do for God, giving, serving or anything. Remember God knows and sees all things and He knows your heart and motivations for doing things. So if you are doing things with the wrong motivation He isn't accepting it and you can't fool him. If you don't obey what God has told you to do He will allow it to destroy you. We have to try to

stop getting wrapped up in whatever is going on around us, staying focused and walk upright before our God. One main thing Pastor Avery told us is that we must stay in the confines of God's house and in the safety of the saints. We need to continually kill or get rid of anything not of God or pleasing to a Him that might be hindering our walk with Him. We so easily get distracted by the works of the enemy. We need to really be so careful who we try to destroy because they might be the very person who

has to come back and deliver or pray for you later on. What the devil always means for our evil our God always means for our good. In closing we were told to "Walk by faith and not by sight," line up with our leader's vision and God will do the rest. God only wants us to have the best and if we leave things in His hands He will do the rest and accomplish His will for our lives. So learn to be obedient to God's Word and He can and will continue to show His favor and shower His blessing on us.

Watch Night - 2008

Written by Sister Leslie Tinnin, Editor

I grew up in West Philadelphia in the 1950's when the neighborhood was beginning to change. There were Italian, Irish and Jewish families that remained in the neighborhood when I was a little girl. There were fewer people not of color the older I got. Most of those that lingered owned businesses and weren't quite ready to give up the convenience of being so close to them. "Yocks," a corner delicatessen, was where my friends and I went to get M&M candies and a fountain Coke soda mixed with Cherry syrup; it didn't always come in a can. There was "Dirty Sam's" that made the best hoagies in the world for 25 cents. There was a synagogue two blocks from my home. I once asked my mother why "that school" only opened on Saturdays. For as long as I can remember I went to church. My parents got us up on Sunday morning, like it or not, and off we went. We passed several other churches along the way; Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, and some store front churches whose domination to this day I couldn't tell you. I attended a fairly large, though poor Episcopalian church, other wise known as "Catholic Light," or Anglican which is part of the Church of England. Our church lacked a growing membership. As whites died or moved out of the area, they were not replaced but people of color. It was conveyed years later, by a bishop, that the church eventually was sold and torn down. I learned 10 years ago is the average Anglican is a 35 year old African male – though not in this country. In this country the average Episcopalian is middle class, educated and Caucasian, so it was no wonder none of my class mates and later co-workers knew what I was.

Now, I said all that to say this. though I grew up in a predominantly black com-

munity, I don't remember anyone in my neighborhood talking about going to church on New Years Eve. I had never heard of "Watch Night" until I was in my early thirties, and even then I don't recall anyone actually labeling it as such. At the time it seemed awfully strange for folks to be going to church on the one night of the year when you were expected to party! For years I heard people talking about going to church on New Years Eve and felt sorry for them that they had no where else to go. There was something else I noticed; everyone I heard speak about it was African American. As a practicing Episcopalian I could find nothing in our liturgy to explain Watch Night and it seemed inappropriate to me to connect a secular holiday with the church. Finding myself no longer an Episcopalian and sitting in these services, I needed an answer.



I did some research of my own and among Christians, Watch Night has been passed to the African American but seems not to have originated with our community. Reportedly it began with a small Christian denomination called, Moravians, in what is now known as Czech Republic. The first such service was believed to be held in Germany. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement in England, picked the service up from the Moravians. These services were held once a month on full moons, to give people the light of the moon as they traveled home. The first Watch Night service in North America was held in Philadelphia in 1770 at Old St. George's Church. Today they are called "Covenant Renewal Services." There are periods of reflective silence, prayer, cheerful singing. A congregational breakfast or late night brunch may follow, especially if there was no Holy Communion celebrated.



In earlier services what was being "watched over" was ones covenant with God. The congregates were to meditate over their state of grace. "Watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the master comes."

On September 22, 1862 President Lincoln issued his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. December 31, 1862 took on special significance because January 1, 1863 meant the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation. That night became known as "Freedom's Eve". All persons held as slaves in any state or any other designated part of the United States were made free. At the moment of issuance the proclamation did not immediately put an end to slavery. It is thought that with the anticipation in the African American community as well as abolitionist that a second layer was added. That night they were watching for freedom. In the nights after that we are watching for the coming of Christ at an unspecified time and therefore the need to maintain a constant state of spiritual readiness. In the African American Community Watch Night Services do have some historical significance. It began as a celebration of freedom and grew to be a time of personal reflection. Though we may have necessarily initiated the practice we have embraced it whole heartedly. So, next year when you are sitting in church wondering why or how this all started, now you know.

Sources:

Wikipedia, World Wide Faith Archives, Methodist News Service, Snopes.com



Greater Works Ministries Rings in the New Year

Written by Sister Leslie Tinnin, Editor

When the clock stuck midnight on January 1, 2008, the members of Greater Works Ministries were blessed to still be worshipping with Pastor Mark Palmer and members of Highway Tabernacle Ministries Church. Promptly at 10 pm Elder Rufus Peterson of Greater Works Ministries began the worship service with song, followed by Sister Joanne McKim with prayer and Sister Michelle Sweeney with the reading of scripture Psalm 92. We were also blessed with musical selections from a member of Pastor Palmer's church and Pastor Palmer himself with "I Never Would Have Made It."

After the reading of Psalm 18:1-6, Pastor Palmer noted the theme that Greater Works Ministries had carried through 2007, duly noted by the banner hanging faithfully over the entrance way to the church reading; "Defeat is not an option." He reminded us that we need to continue to hold on to this theme and praise God, and even in our bad times we need to give Him glory. "The harder the strug-

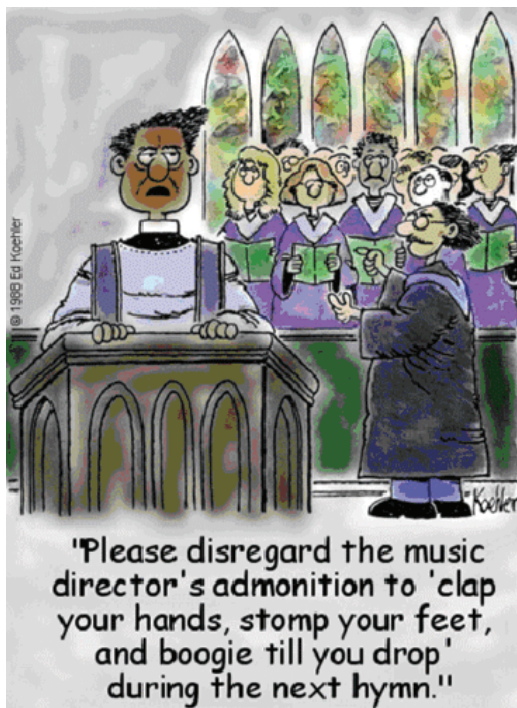
gle the greater the blessing." Pastor Palmer conveyed to the congregation, that the title of his message on this New Year's Eve was "I never would have made it with out God." We should be thankful for Gods mercy. He imparted to us some of the violent tragedies occurring in this country; shootings occurring everyday in schools and even in churches. Pastor Palmer went on to discuss how this country was founded on God and religious freedoms. We used to sing "God Bless America" in schools, but it is no longer politically correct to do so, as we have to have concern that a non-believer would be offended. It is no longer politically correct to mention God in a public place. "There are spirits in 2007 I need to be over. Two thousand and eight will bring new spirits. We've gotten caught up in the building". There are large buildings all over the country with thousands of members. "But the church is not the building. The church is the people inside the building."

"Wherever I am I need to experience the power of the Holy Ghost. We are

living in a world that doesn't want to worship God. We want to say God bless

America, but we should be blessing God." God is the source of our strength, the rock of our foundations. WE should remember that there were stormy times in 2007 and it was God that protected and delivered us through every storm. "Tonight we need to be grateful because if the enemy had his way we wouldn't be here. God stepped in and stopped you from losing your home, or from losing your mind. Your trials and tribulations made you stronger and wiser. The devil wanted to make you bitter, but God made you better."

Greater Works we shall do...



The Greatest Man in History

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him..

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

I feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us!

If you ignore this, remember that Jesus said:

**"If you deny me before man,
I will deny you before my Father in Heaven"**

Submitted by Deacon Irvin Warren

Prayer Requests

Forgiving Lord, help me to press on with my life. Reviewing reruns of my past serves no purpose. I will not use my past life as an excuse for not achieving today, for with you I am born again and with you in my life I will accept responsibility for the actions of my life.

For those looking for answers:
LTD

For those in search of wisdom and strength:
James T.

For those in crisis:
Mo
SMD and Family
S. Britton

For those in need of physical, mental, emotional or spiritual healing:
Pastor Gilberto Fuentes
RVT
Lizzie Baker
LLT

For those in need of strength and support:
Leona Lickman
R M T

For those in need of permanent housing and protection:
RR and Family
Diane

For all new ministries and discernment in ministry:
Multi-Media Ministry

For Nation and World concerns:
Peace in the Middle East
I 35W Bridge Victims, Survivors & Families

For those giving service through occupation:
Robert Allen Mahoney - US Air Force - Iraq
Antonia Russell - US Army - Germany



V. J. Forrest - Iraq
Donald Mease - Deployed to War
Ernest Hilbert - Deployed to War

For those seeking permanent employment:
TW
RK
MO

Give Thanks For:
For the marriage of:
For the birth of:
For the Baptism of:

For the Faithfully Departed:

Please let us know when we may add or remove some one from the prayer list. You need not put a name, you can put initials, or E.G. Friend of Don Jones.

Weekly Church Schedule

as of June 1, 2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Sanctuary Prayer 8:30 am			Corporate Fast Day 8:00 am to 2:00 pm			
Leadership Prayer (2nd Sun. ea. Mo.) 8:45 am						
Christian Education (Ages 4 and up) 9:30 am						
Christian Education Teacher's Training (3rd Sun. ea. Mo.) 9:30 - 10:30 am	Living Waters Noon - 3:00 pm	Living Waters Noon - 3:00 pm	Living Waters Noon - 3:00 pm	Living Waters Noon - 3:00 pm	Living Waters Noon - 3:00 pm	
Sanctuary Prayer 10:35 am		Discipleship Training (Ages 4 and up) (1st 3 Tues. ea. Mo.) 7:00—8:00 pm	Woman of Wisdom (1st Wed. ea. Mo.) 7:00 pm			
Morning Celebration 10:45 am		Leadership Training (4th Tues. ea. Mo.) 7:00 pm				
Evening Service 2nd & 4th Sun. 5:00 pm (unless noted for special events)		Totally Radical & Live (5th Tues. ea. Month when announced) 7:00pm-8:30pm	Bible Class at Praying Ground (3rd Wed. ea. Mo.) 7:30 pm		Midnight Cry 12:00 am - 1:00 am (when announced)	Iota-Sigma-Iota Men's Fellowship (4th Sat. ea. Mo.) 7:00 pm

Upcoming Events Calendar

Sunday Through Saturday

Did you miss Sunday's Service? You can now listen to Pastor Avery on Live365.com from 7:00 to 8:00 am every day! We have archives on the web at <http://www.gwministries.net/services.archives.htm#>

Sunday, January 6:

10:45 am Consecration of the Officers

Monday, January 7:

8:00 to 9:00 pm, Kennett Community Choir, Martin Luther King Breakfast Rehearsal at Kennett Presbyterian Church.

Monday, January 14:

8:00 to 9:00 pm, Kennett Community Choir, Martin Luther King Breakfast Rehearsal at Kennett Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, January 20:

Time: TBA, Kennett Community Choir, Martin Luther King Breakfast Rehearsal at Kennett Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, January 27:

5:00 pm - Pastor Avery & GWM will worship with Pastor Arlene Norton &

Hosanna House, Elkton, MD for their Greater Light to the World Fellowship. Various churches will be in attendance for this celebration

Monday, January 21:

8:00 am, Martin Luther King Breakfast at the Red Clay Room

Tuesday, January 22:

Leadership Training

Saturday, February 2:

Black History: A Celebration of Heritage, see page 2 for more information.

Tuesday, February 26:

Leadership Training

Tuesday, March 26:

Leadership Training

Tuesday, April 22:

Leadership Training

Tuesday, May 27:

Leadership Training

Thursday May 1 to Sunday May 4:

Pentecost Celebration 2008, more details to follow.

Tuesday, September 23:

Leadership Training

Wednesday, October 29:

Leadership Training

Tuesday, November 25:

Leadership Training

Tuesday, December 29:

Leadership Training

Please see the weekly Bulletin for updates and changes.

Please see the website for more information and maps for our Fellowship Outreach. If you an event you would like on the calendar, please submit to Sister Tinnin at newslet-GWMinistries.net



Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Anniversaries...

Jan 23:

Deacon & Sister Robert Anderson

Dec. 19:

Elder Rufus & Beverly Peterson

January Birthday's...

Jan 1:

Sister Anna Jones

Jan 17:

Taa' Box

Jan 28:

Sister Anna Anderson

Our Mission is to provide an atmosphere where God is glorified, members are edified, and our community is ministered to, spiritually and educationally, and enriched through the experience of abundant life.

The Greater Works Newsletter is our outreach to members & guests. Monthly issues are produced in hardcopy and archived web. Included in the newsletter are writings from Church members, ministry activities & special events, our upcoming events calendar, prayer requests, and more. If you have presentations for, or questions about, the newsletter, contact our newsletter editor, Sister Leslie Tinnin at: newslet-GWMinistries.net.



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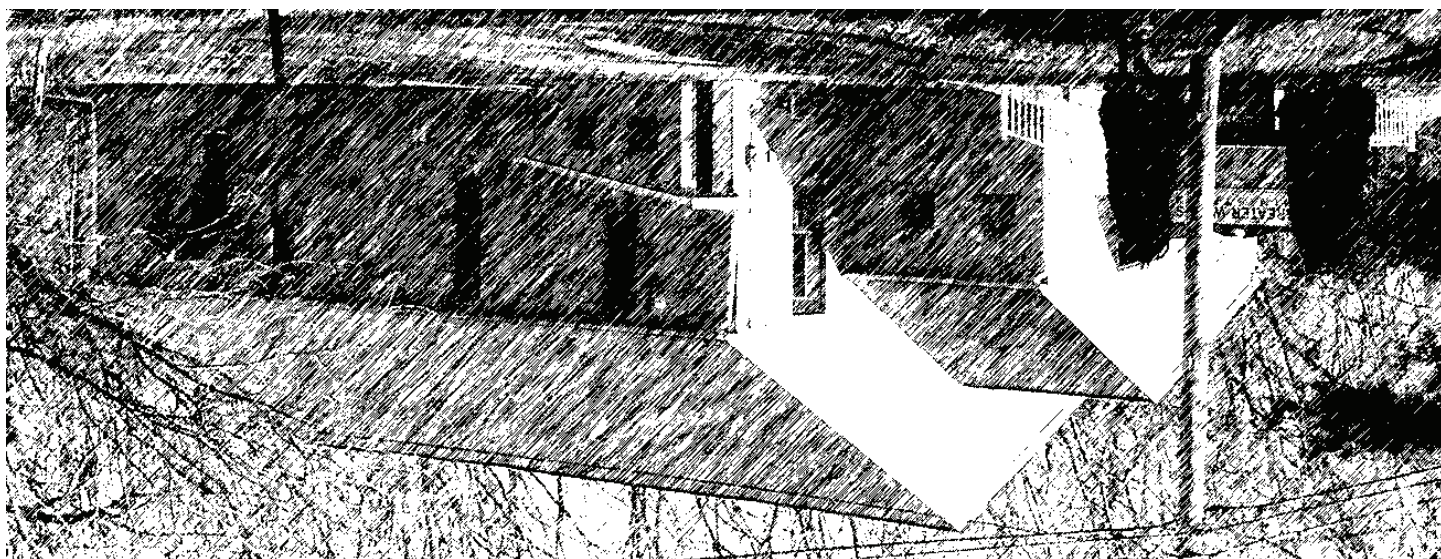
PO Box 319 Fax: 610-444-1592

Kennett Square, PA 19348 Email: newsletter@GWMinistries.net

Website: www.GWMinistries.net



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Greater Works Ministries