



The CLIFTON *Parker*

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

In Search of the Perfect Gift

by Robin Bellamy

Holidays. We've barely made it through the Thanksgiving turkey and retailers have us in shopping overload. The commercials and stores have their marketing strategies in place to get us to buy what they think is the greatest gift we'll ever need. Lists and budgets are being made as we turn our thoughts to finding that special gift.

Buying gifts require some planning. You really need to think it through carefully otherwise those tired aching feet that walked from store to store, and hours upon end in mall after mall will have been for naught. Let's not forget the multi-colored duck someone purchased and thought it would look great in your den, or the bold whimsical sweater that was picked out in your favorite color that made you say to yourself, "what in the world am I going to do with this?". You get the idea. We've all most likely been on the receiving and giving end of these gifts. And we know what usually happens - perhaps they get re-wrapped and passed on to someone else in hopes that they will

use it, or tucked away in a drawer or in back of a closet and go unused.

Jesus Christ was God's Christmas gift to us, and God never gives anything but the best, for James 1:17, states "Every good and perfect gift is from above." As we think of gifts and giving during the Christmas season, let us meditate on the fact that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

God gave the first Christmas gift. Romans 8:32 states, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Salvation is the gift of God.

We all look forward to unwrapping the gifts that await us under the Christmas tree, hoping that at least one will be that special something that we've been giving subtle hints about wanting - just to make the shopping a bit easier for the giver of course so they'll pick out the "right thing." Or who perhaps

IN THIS ISSUE

- In Search of the Perfect Gift 1
- Pastor's Corner 2
- Young Adults On the Move 3
- Dialogue With Diaconate....3
- Stewardship 4
- Your Voice 5
- Family Matters 6
- Upcoming Events 8

cannot say that over the years they have not been asked up front—"What would you like for Christmas?" or "What can I get you for Christmas?"

As we think about God's glorious Christmas gift, let's consider that it was an **UNSOLICITED GIFT**. More often than not, gifts are the result of a specific request or hint, but this is not the case with God's gift. His was an unsolicited gift. It was not man who saw his own need and asked for God's help; but God, who foresaw our need and sent His Son

(cont. on pg 5)

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Essentino A. Lewis, Jr.



In January 2010, our congregation committed itself to understanding God's kingdom agenda. We spent the majority of that calendar year preaching through a series on the subject and also engaged in a church-wide study through Dr. Tony Evans' book, appropriately entitled, *The Kingdom Agenda*. By all accounts this time was well spent; our discovery was not only informative, but, to the extent that we were willing to be impacted, it had great potential for life change. Dr. Evans declares of the kingdom that, "As God's people, we are not limited by the choices this world offers us. God has an alternative plan for us---His kingdom...the kingdom of God is His rule, His plan, His program." God's kingdom is comprehensive; it incorporates His plans and purposes for all parts of culture and society, including our personal, family, church and civic lives. If we understand God's kingdom agenda, we will better understand our own purpose and place in the world.

And so I am excited about the course of discovery we will begin in January 2012. Building on the kingdom agenda, we will preach and teach through *The Transformational Church*. In the Transformational Church, Drs. Ed Stetzer and Thom Rainer argue that, "The Church is God's tool and instrument for His kingdom agenda." The Apostle Paul wrote that we are the Body of Christ and, *just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body* (1 Cor 12:12-13). As the Body of Christ, we, the Church, serve as an extension of Christ in the world, such that much of what the Lord desires to be accomplished in this age will be facilitated through us.

We will begin next year by exploring the seven elements that Drs. Stetzer and Rainer suggest are found in transformational churches. Generally, these churches have

a missionary mentality. That is, the church understands the community and will minister in contextually appropriate ways to reach the people. They are led by vibrant leadership that shows passion for God, His mission and its transforming power. Because these churches operate with relational intentionality, they help Christians deliberately connect with one another, for both encouragement and accountability. Churches displaying transformational ministries revealed a dependence on prayer rather than a program for prayer. The fifth marker of transformational churches is that when people arrive for worship, they do so with expectancy. They know something great is going to happen. Community is important to transformation. But the community that fosters transformation in churches is not simply the geographic location of the church, but a community that seeks to join together in meaningful fellowship. Finally, transformational churches are committed to diligently following God in order to see the world changed through the Gospel. Evangelism is not taught as a program but as a natural way of life.

There is no questioning that God transforms people and communities through His church. This was the message to the Corinthian believers: *we all, with unveiled faces, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit* (2 Cor 3:18). Transformation within the body of Clifton Park Baptist Church is already taking place and through us, the Lord is transforming the lives of persons in our surrounding community and even the world. We thank God for this. Still, by understanding better how to harness the awesome power that the Lord has already placed within us, our church will indeed, walk more boldly and live out more intentionally our purpose of, *Leading the way, Teaching the truth and Experiencing the life*. Let's already begin preparing our hearts for what the Lord will yet say in 2012. *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.* ■

The CPBC Drama Ministry presents...

**Where is Christ
in Christmas?**

Saturday, December 24 at 6:00 PM





Young Adults On the Move

by Lorenzo McGhie

Recently the Young Adults Ministry was installed as a new ministry at Clifton

Park Baptist Church. This life group, consisting of young men and women, age 21-30, is led by Lola Olakanye, Robin Bellamy and Lorenzo McGhie. The ministry aspires to promote Christian living in today's hectic society, while being a source of support and encouragement for one another, and remain focused on living a balanced life as we ultimately grow closer in our personal relationship to the Lord.

The ministry was officially launched in September 2011 with a "meet and greet" where the young adults came together to get acquainted, fellowship, and birth new friendships. The Young Adults Ministry will facilitate ongoing Bible studies that will begin in the first quarter of 2012 (be on the lookout for more information on this).

In November, members of the ministry had an enjoyable time of fellowship while bowling at Lucky Strikes in Washington, D.C. The next fellowship activity will be a get-together on Friday, December 16, at Dave & Buster's in Rockville. We will spend the evening in celebration of the great significance of the holiday season.

In addition to our Bible study and fellowship outings in 2012, the Young Adults will be involved in a number of outreach and community-focused opportunities including organizing a career fair, providing services at the Shepherd's table, participating in Race for the Cure, and encouraging our group members to step up and faithfully serve in other needed areas of ministry.

Overall, the Young Adults ministry is designed to be a source of support and encouragement to its members. If you are (or know of someone) between 21-30, we'd love to have you come and be a part of this growing and dynamic ministry as we strive to be a lighthouse to those in our church and community. ■

Dialogue With the Diaconate

We caught up with some of the members of the Diaconate for a brief Q&A session. Here's what they had to share with us.

Q. What would you say is the greatest challenge that the Diaconate face in this ministry? Many believers encounter challenges while working in ministry. Seeking to balance and prioritize the increasing needs of the Diaconate responsibilities of meeting the practical needs of the church as a whole within the context of fulfilling family obligations, work, personal and responsibilities is a great challenge - ensuring that neither is lacking. But we know that with God, all things are possible.

Q. Being a Deacon/Deaconess requires certain attributes. What are some of the characteristics that you look for when determining if a member would make a good candidate for the role of Deacon/Deaconess? In assessing a candidate for the Diaconate, the Bible provides us with the qualifications for the office of Deacon in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. I would

add Gal. 5:22,23, the demonstration of the Fruit of the Spirit in the person's life. The process of choosing a candidate is seeing the need, and petition God through Scripture and prayer and follow His direction.

Q. Does age matter? While age is not a major factor, a level of spiritual maturity to a great degree is necessary.

Q. If a member is not sure who their assigned Deacon is, how can they find out? A member has several ways to discover the name of his/her assigned Diaconate member. The member can speak with either the co-chairs of the Diaconate -- Deacon Ross Johnson or Deaconess Yinka Gardiner. Members can also contact the church office for this information.

Q. Are there any goals that the Diaconate has set for the new church year that you can share with the church at this time? The Diaconate is currently in the process of narrowing our 2012 goals, so expect to hear more soon. However,

the Diaconate plans to continue its efforts to strengthen communication with assigned members, individually and through group events.

Q. There are many demands that come with being a Deacon/Deaconess. How can we as a church body be of service and support to the Diaconate? Assist them during church events and acknowledge communications (respond/return calls and e-mails). Members can also assist with care group management by helping us to reach out to members who miss church regularly or those who have been away for some time. The Diaconate welcomes the support of the church body. Members can help us in various ways, such as being open to share and call your Deacon/Deaconess when you are sick or need prayer. Don't wait for your Deacon/Deaconess to contact you. Good communication works both ways. ■

Stewardship: Taking It to the Next Level

by Ed Jackson, **Chairperson, Stewardship and Finance**

During the month of November, the Stewardship and Finance Committee (SFC) conducts its annual stewardship promotion campaign to garner support for the Unified Budget for the upcoming year. Our overall purpose for the month and beyond is to encourage our church family to give generously of their time, talents and financial resources to support mission and ministry at Clifton Park.

Our purpose this year is no different from past years, which is to communicate the message of effective Christian Stewardship and its importance in expanding the Kingdom of God. The word stewardship is generally defined as the management and accountability for something that belongs to someone else. Christian Stewardship for believers is defined more specifically. It is the responsible management and accountability of all that God has entrusted to us, which includes use of our time and talents for God's purposes, and use of our financial resources to support the work of His Church. God provides us with the skills and abilities to earn, and through this partnership He meets our needs and we give back His portion to our local church.

While we are confident that God does His part, Christians have often fallen short of the mark in giving back to God His requested portion. Many churches, including Clifton Park, face financial challenges because members of congregations give less than

five percent of their income to support the work of the church. At Clifton Park, it is projected that only 8.4 percent of the congregation tithe; i.e., give ten percent of their income, which is far below the minimum standard established by God. Therefore, the Church constantly faces challenges to resource basic mission and ministry needs, which provides little opportunity for growth.

What does stewardship at the next level look like? It begins with a continuous increase in the numbers in the congregation giving the tithe. It also requires that the leadership and members of our church family make a conscious effort to become more intentional in giving of our time and

talents to leverage mission and ministry activities. Here are a few suggestions for growth in three important areas:

First, as individuals and as a church family, we need to be committed to Spiritual growth through

Bible Study and discipleship training. The Holy Spirit will guide us, and convict us to be better stewards in managing our time, talents and money. Giving is indeed a spiritual matter. It

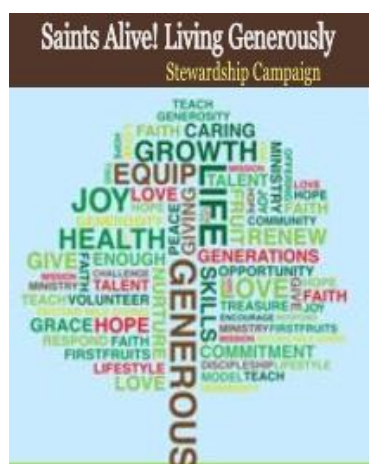
involves faith and trust in God's promises that He will provide all our needs.

The second area for growth is our commitment to service in the use of our time and God given talents, and passion for ministry. No one is too busy to commit a few hours weekly, monthly, or even occasionally. Being involved in ministry helps all of us feel that we are part of the church family. It helps us feel connected and encourages all to fellowship with one another.

Finally, the third area of growth is in the stewardship of giving. It is clear from Scripture that God's

plan for financing the church is from the continuous giving of tithes and offerings from the membership. Yet, the discussion of money continues to be a sensitive issue for many because of misplaced priorities on acquiring material resources. God must be first in our lives, not worldly goods which have no eternal value.

In summary, raising stewardship to the next level will require a commitment from each of us to continue to grow spiritually through Bible study, becoming involved with a discipleship group, and getting actively involved in one or more ministries within the church. Most important, Christians need to live a balanced financial life, which involves developing goals for faith, family, career, finances and a plan of action to achieve life goals. Our faith goal as Christian Stewards is to plan to give and to give as planned. This is an act of obedience. ■



In Search of the Perfect Gift *(continued from page 1)*

to be the propitiation for our sins. Isn't it wonderful to know that the greatest gift ever given to us was unsolicited; we didn't ask for it, but "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

God's Christmas gift is also an **UNLIMITED GIFT**. Many high-end shops cater only to the very wealthy. Not to mention some stores in which the clientele is so elite that the only way you can shop in their store is by appointment only. The items they offer are so expensive that the average person couldn't purchase an item even if it went on sale at 70% off, more less even get past the threshold of the store. But praise be to God for His Christmas gift is unlimited. The blessed promise in John 3:16 is, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus Christ is God's gift to the entire world. The Bible tells us that He died for every man, woman, boy and girl. No one, regardless of wealth, status, education, nationality, is excluded. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole

world (1 John 2:2). His gift is available to one and all.

God's Christmas gift is an **UNSPEAKABLE GIFT**. Thinking of this wonderful gift, the Apostle Paul said, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (II Cor. 9:15). Rest assured that God never gives anything but the best: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." Jesus Christ is God's unspeakable gift! He is beyond telling! He is indescribable! He is inexpressible!

God's Christmas gift is also an **UNCHANGING GIFT**. Hebrews 13:8 declares, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever." Times change, styles change, attitudes and tastes change. Nearly everything we know of changes. But Jesus Christ is God's unchanging gift. Electronic gadgets we received just a year ago have now become obsolete with 2nd and 3rd generation models in its place, or something bigger and better from a competitor. But Jesus stays the same. He is the same today to those who trust Him as Savior as He was to those who trusted Him

two thousand years ago! God's Christmas gift is unchanging.

Even more so, God's gift is an **UNDESERVED GIFT**. The very fact that salvation is a gift indicates that it is undeserved. If it is earned or deserved, it is no longer a gift. A gift is something offered with no strings attached. Salvation is through grace. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).

God's Christmas gift that is unsolicited, unlimited, unspeakable, unchanging, and undeserved is also an **UNCLAIMED GIFT**. Excitement builds as Christmas Day approaches, and those who have toiled and sacrificed to see the joy expressed upon the faces of their loved ones as they unwrap their gifts will now be complete. Yet, it is sad to imagine that some gifts will go unclaimed, some package is unopened. As you go about your holiday shopping keep someone in mind who is in need of a special gift and share the message of salvation with them so that their gift from God will not go unclaimed or unopened! ■

Your Voice



Oye Adewole, Lead Technician in the Audio/Visual Ministry, shares what Christmas means to him.

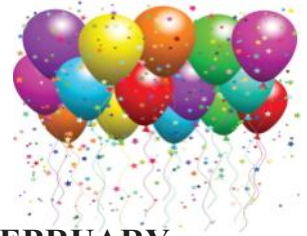
Over the years, my perspective on Christmas has changed. Growing up in Nigeria, it was the biggest celebration of the year, and it was the time when everyone got together and ate awesome food and relaxed while watching Christmas movies and listening to Christmas carols. There was always plenty of gifts and it was that special time when all the things I wanted I

just might get. As a kid, it was incredibly exciting because the adults who came around would give me some money as a Christmas gift allowing me to buy a snack or other item at a later date. As a teen, Christmas was more important because I didn't have to go to school. There was almost nothing better than being able to sleep in on a supposed school day. As an adult, Christmas is a completely different experience, you don't get all the time off from work or school that college students and kids typically get. As an adult, I get a day off from work, or maybe two, and those days become extremely precious because I get to sleep in, skip my daily commute, watch TV and movies late into the night, and again in the morning. It is also a genuine opportunity to spend time with family.

Through all of that, Christmas remains a unique experience for me because I have a Christian view of it. Though I experience it through all facets of life, I never lose sight of how God impacted Christmas. I was raised understanding that Jesus Christ was the reason and purpose of Christmas, and that our celebration of the season should never be without understanding the purpose behind it. While Christmas was great for food and fun, it was a time of reflection on how we made it to where we are as people of God. Through the years as I've grown, Christmas has changed from food to fun to relaxation, but it has never changed as the beginning of salvation. This is ultimately what Christmas is to me—Christmas is, and always will be, the time of celebrating the birth of the One who gave us 'life'. ■



BIRTHDAYS!!



DECEMBER

- 1 Delbert Drewry
- 3 Carol Alleyne
Matthew Ellong
- 4 Sally Kweti
- 5 Margee Nelson
- 7 Amera Williams
- 8 Deja Jones
Christiana Lewis
Teddy Roberts
- 9 Yvonne Atis
Edward Jackson
Pamela Sanford
- 11 Tasmiea Broomfield
Madline Morsha-Taylor
- 12 Pamela Ghogomu
- 13 Leslie Cross
Trevor McMillan
Lillie Shepherd
- 14 Cynthia Bell
Margaret Fortune
Kingsley McLean
Abiodun Sofela
- 15 Mamie Rogers
- 16 Demara Austin
Nirma Barnett
Elsie Beckles-Carter
- 19 Sidney Lewis
- 20 Lorna Been
Rita Manages
- 21 Carman D. Gray
- 22 Joseph Sofela
- 23 Koko Ubaha
Daisy Wilson
- 24 Andora Graves
Gwendolyn Jump
Ifeatu Sofela
- 25 Felisia Nfor
Prudencia Wawa Tanto
- 26 Gloria Barnes
Nana Dolce
Jean Francis
Andre Kokro
- 27 Ernest B. Johnson
Claudette Knight
- 29 Kristen Gorman
Ross Johnson
- 30 Kayla Applewhite
Ayshia Reed
- 31 Anderson Acholonu
Micheale Patterson
Oretha Sawo

JANUARY

- 1 Brenda Bailey
Andrew Mahabeer
Lorenzo McGhie
- 2 Evelyne Tchagna
- 3 Sarah Sesay
- 4 Robert Hughes
Kiana Scott
Suzanne Womble
- 5 Carrie Causey
- 7 Elizabeth Olakanye
- 8 Josephine Berkley
- 9 Sherial Ellis
- 11 Nissi Niveditha Chilkamari
Beverly Marshall
Gloria McCormack
- 13 Venora Plummer
- 15 Shalene Nickelson
- 16 Evan Adams
Kurtine Payen
Maxwell Yeboah
- 17 Terry Evans
- 18 Doris Thompson
- 20 Sarmah Lloyd
- 21 Collete Diallo-LaCroix
Maima Jomah
Pastor Lewis
John Slaughter
Brenda Taylor
Nathaniel Thorne
- 22 Phyllis Basden
- 24 Beverly Bunsie
Vanessa Grant
Robin Grant
- 25 Asha Henley
Melanie Pitter
- 26 Amaka Acholonu
Jason Glasgow-Jackson
Solange Jean
- 27 Ken Mickelson
Christiana Neequaye
- 28 Guy Toto
- 30 Audrey Carless
Joanne Joseph
Benjamin King
- 31 Albertha Johnson

FEBRUARY

- 2 Gwendolyn Glover
Antoine Jusse
Stephen Lambe
- 3 Marvel George
- 4 Surya-Isis Ndedi
Diane Shaibu
- 5 Clarice Jefferson
- 6 Myeshi Adams-Jeter
Celeste Gregory
- 7 Stephen Love
- 8 Cornelius Jump
Britany Swaby
- 10 Bill Boykins
Florence Lloyd
Esther Opaluwa
- 11 Kayla Epps
Doreen Ford
Samuel Forkkio
- 12 Elizabeth Jean
Sillo Ngoo
Winona Russell
- 13 Paula Peltier
- 14 Lorraine Jones
- 15 Ronald Ankrah, Jr.
- 16 Bernadette Blake
- 17 Yolanda Slaughter
- 18 Marie Mode
- 19 Dareria Shanea Johnson
- 22 Ernest Jallah
- 23 Emmanuel Appah
Elsie Delson
Jocelyn Jean
- 26 Tubosun Acholonu
Dereck Oshin
- 27 Jermiyah McGee
- 28 Eunice Akitobi
- 29 Denyse Jeter-Williams

Body & Soul!

Body & Soul brings food to nourish the soul, and delicious recipes shared from our church family to nourish the body. Enjoy!

Shrimp & Pasta w/Creamy Garlic Sauce submitted by Sis. Wendy Mclean



Ingredients

- olive oil
- 5-8 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 stalks scallions (green onions), chopped
- 2 cups white wine (any favorite will do)
- 2 Tbs. fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 Tbs. fresh basil, chopped (reserve some leaves for garnishing)
- 1 tsp. thyme leaves, chopped
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 3 lbs. (16/20 count) shrimp, peeled & deveined with tails left on
- 1 vidalia onion (cut into slivers) and sautéed (should still be slightly crunchy)
- 2lbs. cooked whole wheat spaghetti
- grated parmesan cheese
- salt and white pepper (if needed)

In a wok or large sauté pan, heat 1/4 cup oil and cook garlic and scallions until translucent, about 2 minutes. De-glaze the pan with the wine, and add parsley, basil and thyme and let the liquid reduce by half. Transfer to a sauce pan and then add the cream. Over low heat, let the sauce reduce to medium thickness. To the now empty wok/sauté pan, add 2 tablespoons olive oil, sauté shrimp, cook until opaque (do not overcook) and remove to a platter in a warm place. Add now reduced cream sauce back to wok/sauté pan to toss the drained pasta with the cream sauce and shrimp. Taste and season with salt and white pepper, if needed. Transfer to a serving dish. On top of plated dish add previously sautéed slivered sweet onions. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Finally, garnish with basil sprigs.

Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Vegetable Salad submitted by Sis. Thelma Jackson

This recipe is good to use any time of the year. It keeps up to one week in the refrigerator.

Mix the following vegetables:

- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 can French cut green beans, drained
- 1 can le seur peas, drained
- 1 can shoe peg corn, drained
- 1 large jar pimento

Prepare:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ½ cup cider vinegar | ½ cup oil |
| ½ cup sugar | 1 tsp salt/pepper |

Pour over vegetables, mix, and chill.

Psalm 100:5

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Anniversaries

DECEMBER

- 3 James & Janice Basham
- 8 Audley & Lisa Brown
- 13 Melvin & Jami Davis
- 26 John & Musu Abakah
- 31 Maxwell & Patience Yeboah

JANUARY

- 6 Joseph & Ifeatu Sofela
- 8 Elijah & Gloria Carr
- 23 Sean & Yaco Thomas
- 27 Ricardo & Katina Harrington

FEBRUARY

- 2 Roger & Sheila Davis
- 7 Renaldo & Tonisha Stannard
- 16 Trey & Shalene Nickelson
- 25 Steve & Betty Ward

Upcoming Events

- December 11 Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- 11 Senior Ministry Outing -The Living Tree
- 13 Kid's & Teen AWANA Christmas Celebration
- 16 Young Adult's Christmas Party
- 24 Children's Christmas Play
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve Service

***Upcoming events for 2012 will be available in the next issue and in our new monthly bulletin supplement which will be available the first Sunday of every month!**

Did You Know



Giving of your time and service is also stewardship. There are areas of serving which do require a lot more interaction and time involvement than others due to the scope of their ministry. Perhaps that has been your reason for not becoming involved in the work of the church? At CPBC there are many areas in which you can serve AND only requires a few hours of your time. This surely must be good news to those of you who perhaps have said, "I just don't have the time to get involved, I'm just too busy". The opportunities to serve are many. For example, participate in as few or as many of the upcoming Project NeighborCare events; offer several hours and a little elbow grease when the next call for a Work Party comes from the Trustees; serve as a photographer with the Communications Ministry to help capture memorable moments and maintain a photo library, offer to pick up a member who lives near you who may not have transportation to/from church. These are just a few suggestions but you can get more by contacting a specific ministry or committee and just asking: "How can I help?" We know that Jesus can do much with a little. Let Him do great things through the time in which you give.

Photography Credits:

Robin Bellamy
Joanne Bellamy
Wendy McLean
Lorenzo McGhie

Communications Ministry:

Joanne Bellamy
Pat Dunnavant
Robin Bellamy
Selina Hunt
Adrienne Thorpe

Have an idea for the Clifton Parker? Want your ministry, event, achievement or topic to be highlighted in the next issue? The Clifton Parker newsletter is published quarterly through the Communications Ministry. If you would like to submit content for the next issue, contact Robin Bellamy at (240) 533-6270 or robinbellamy_86@yahoo.com . You may also submit your article content using the online form "Newsletter Articles" located on the church website at www.cpbc.net on the Member Central page.

DCBC Events & Opportunities

ABHMS Sponsors 2012 Immerse Gathering

American Baptist Home Mission Societies is sponsoring Immerse: The 2012 National Gathering of American Baptist Youth, July 24-28, 2012 at American University in Washington, D.C. Participants should be ages 14-19 and at least entering their freshman year of high school. The event will include advocacy training and feature a community-service focus that will engage youth in volunteer outreach efforts. For more information, visit www.abhms-immerser2012.org or follow Immerse2012 on Facebook and Twitter.

Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest

Entries are now being accepted for the 2012 Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship contest, which is being sponsored by the Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee. High school juniors and seniors can win up to \$1,000 for college by writing an essay exploring the role of religion in presidential campaigns. The complete topic, rules, and entry forms are available at www.BJConline.org/contest. The deadline to enter the contest is March 15, 2012 (no email entries will be accepted). For more information, contact Cheryl Crowe at 202-544-4226 or by e-mail at ccrowe@BJConline.org.

Employment Opportunities

Vienna BC Youth Ministry Team Leader. Vienna Baptist Church is seeking an Interim Youth Leader/Minister to partner with the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) to lead and support the youth in their journey as followers of Jesus Christ: the inward journey of individual spiritual growth and the collective outward journey of mission and social justice. This interim position is part time (20 hours per week) and is required from November 2011 through at least August 2012.

ABCUSA Ministers Council Executive Director. The Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches USA is looking for a new Executive Director. The Ministers Council is an autonomous, professional, multi-cultural organization of ordained, commissioned and lay Christian leaders within the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. The Executive Director of the Ministers Council is charged with maintaining and strengthening the health and vitality of the Ministers Council, a national organization with forty separate local Councils. For a complete job description, click [here](#).

Ministerial Intern. Olive Branch Community Church in Sandy Spring, MD is looking for a ministerial intern to serve during their weekly worship service on Sundays. There will also be opportunities to teach/develop classes and ministries. For more information, contact Pastor Donald Kelly at obcchurch@comcast.net.

For more information, you can contact the District of Columbia Baptist Convention * 1628 Sixteenth Street N.W. Washington DC 20009
* Phone: 202.265.1526

Next Publication Date: March 2012