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## After the “I Do’s”

*The Couples Ministry helps married couples navigate through their relationship equipped with God’s plan.*  
By Robin Bellamy

Every marriage needs encouragement, instruction and guidance. As Christians, all of this is available to us in the Word of God. Clifton Park Baptist Church (CPBC) Couples Ministry will be hosting a married couples conference with the theme, “Planting for the Harvest: A Marriage that Endures All Seasons.” The conference is intended for all married couples, whether you are newlyweds or seasoned vets. It will be held on Saturday, June 11 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

“The overall purpose of the conference is to offer encouragement for married persons not only at CPBC, but in the surrounding communities,” said Juanita Palmer, co-lead of the Couples Ministry. “The conference is also an opportunity to provide resources and helpful guidance to sustain a Godly marriage and affirm marriage the way God designed it.”

For newlyweds, there are

many things that they experience early on after the honeymoon ends. Sometimes spouses quickly realize that their other half is not as perfect as he or she seemed during the dating phase, or that they don’t necessarily agree on key family or financial decisions. For the more seasoned couples, they too encounter areas of unrest. Perhaps they have become so comfortable with each other that they often take each other for granted and neglect to make special time for one another. Or sadly, perhaps their spouse simply starts to fade and “blend in with the couch.” And if these scenarios aren’t enough, add parenting and finances to the mix and times can get a little difficult.

The good news in all of this is that no matter which end of the spectrum you find yourself, or even if you think you have it right, it’s never too early or late to improve and build upon your

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marriage. “Planting for the Harvest” centers around the idea of couples uniting and working together to conquer these issues. Being armed with the knowledge of God’s will for married couples can help them navigate through the troubled times they may find themselves facing.

One of the fundamental scriptures for the conference comes from Genesis 2:24-25 and it highlights the combining of two individuals to create one union.

*(cont. on pg 5)*

# Pastor's Corner

Pastor Essentino A. Lewis, Jr.



With this summer 2011 edition, we welcome back *The Clifton Parker*, after a short hiatus. As most of you know, this newsletter has been a source of information sharing for the members of Clifton Park Baptist Church for some years and we celebrate its return, which is brought to us under the leadership of the Communications Ministry. It is my prayer that the newsletter will be just one more vehicle through which our ministry can enjoy life together as a community of faith.

Community has always been important to God. Webster defines community as, "a group of people living together as a smaller social unit within a larger one, and having interests, work, etc. in common." And while this is not a biblical definition of the church, it certainly captures much of what our Lord envisioned when He established the church over 2000 years ago. The church or the *ecclesia* (in the Greek), is literally, "the called out ones." It is a redeemed people, called out of the darkness of the world into community and fellowship with one another (1 Peter 2:9-10). We are, in a very real way, a group of people living together as a smaller community within the context of the larger world around us;

we have shared interests, shared aspirations and shared work. The Apostle Paul said it this way, *there is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all* (Eph. 4:4-6).

And so then, as we seek to live in community with one another, as we celebrate our commonality of purpose and calling, items like the *Clifton Parker*, take on new meaning. They are no longer just another piece of paper for us to pick up on our way out of the door on Sunday morning or another website to visit in our spare time, but they become avenues through which we can connect and enjoy the goings on of our life together. They become a common space for us to exchange ideas and rejoice over what the Lord is doing among us. Common spaces are important in the life of any active community and we have attempted to create them in the ministry, whether it is a kind word shared somewhere in the hallways of the church building; a meal enjoyed in the social hall after a ministry study or activity or just the passing, "have a blessed afternoon," in the parking lot on our way home, we have learned to value the blessing of closeness in relationship.

It is my prayer that in the months to come the *Clifton Parker*, will represent for us another opportunity to be united in fellowship; for us to care about one another and the ministry we share. Read it and enjoy it. Submit an article or piece for publication. But most of all, as you enjoy its pages, be grateful for our community. ■

**Come celebrate CPBC's  
diversity on  
International Sunday!**

**Sunday, June 26, 2011**

**Church service begins at 10:00.  
The International Fair will be held  
directly after service in the  
gymnasium.**



**Annual All-Church Cookout!**

**Saturday, June 18, 2011  
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
10615 New Hampshire Avenue  
Hillandale, MD**

For more information contact:  
Yinka Gardiner

# CPBC to Open Academy for Community and Congregation

By Nana Dolce

On March 31, 2010, after nearly a year of investigation, Clifton Park Baptist Church (CPBC) voted to incorporate the Clifton Park Baptist Church Christian Academy (CPBCCA or the Academy) as a ministry to address the need for quality, affordable Christian childcare within our host community.

The decision for the Academy came out of two central convictions. First, CPBC saw the Academy as an opportunity to practice the principles of good stewardship. A childcare center offers a chance to invest our key talents: 1) our facility—along with its many exemplary classrooms; 2) our human assets—congregants with years of experience in education and other relevant areas; and 3) our spiritual talents—Godly leadership and a congregation that is committed to spreading the Gospel and sharing the love of Christ.

Secondly, CPBC saw the Academy as a response to a community and congregational need. An analysis of our surrounding area revealed a neighborhood in need of quality affordable child care. The study discovered that approximately 300-500 children are cared for through unregulated child care arrangements in Long Branch. These arrangements sometimes lack educational stimulation and a governing body oversight and commonly make no guarantee of properly trained staff.

It was further understood that, like our external host community, our internal church community is made up of growing families in need of quality affordable child care. As a holistic ministry, committed to

caring for the whole person, a child care center provides us with the opportunity to spiritually nurture and academically develop the children of our ministry.

With this, the church voted unanimously to incorporate the CPBCCA. The Articles of Incorporation, which established the Academy as a legal entity in the State of Maryland, were filed on April 30, 2010. Shortly thereafter, the Academy raised over \$5,000 through a successful Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser held in July 2010. Also that month, CPBCCA was awarded a \$7,025.75 grant from the D.C. Baptist Convention, and on March 8, 2011, the CPBCCA was approved by the IRS as a 501c3 federal tax exempt organization!

We have seen the Lord's grace as we continue to pray, give, and work to fulfill this essential ministry of the church; we welcome your partnership toward this end. In the immediate, the Board will host its Second Annual Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser on Saturday July 30, 2011 to cover residual start-up costs. Your resources and participation are appreciated in making this year's Bowl-A-Thon a dynamic and God-honoring event.

We are excited about the prospect of providing a quality affordable Christian early learning program in our community and thank the CPBC leadership and congregation for its proven support. Please visit the Academy's website at [www.cliftonparkacademy.com](http://www.cliftonparkacademy.com) to stay up-to-date on our latest activities. ■

## Vacation Bible School

**Vacation Bible School** begins the week of **July 18 - 22 (7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m.)**. Using "Hometown Nazareth" resources, children will get the ultimate Bible-times experience as they hear of the childhood adventures of Jesus. For more information you may contact Elizabeth Olakanye at (301) 460-3838 or Jolene Russell at (301) 439-1335.



# From Our Family to Theirs

*The ongoing success and future of Project Neighbor Care  
By Nana Dolce*

Clifton Park Baptist Church has embarked on a journey to reach out to her surrounding community! For the past five months, we have



been transforming our food bank and clothes closet into a vibrant community market offering quality food, clothing, shoes and blood pressure screenings to area families every first Saturday of the month. The effort has been termed “Project Neighbor Care” (PNC) and it exists to help local families with basic necessities within a loving and engaging atmosphere.

The work is truly bringing CPBC and her community together in a meaningful way. For one, members have an opportunity each Thursday preceding PNC to introduce themselves to neighbors and announce the upcoming market through a door-knocking initiative. Since its start in February, 2011, a total of 26 door-knockers have knocked on 430 homes along Carroll Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Street and the Langley, Heron, Kimes and Miles

Streets community! Some 200 neighbors from these and other areas have been provided with food, clothing, shoes and blood pressure screenings at our monthly market. Eighty-two people from CPBC—belonging to the Mission, Seniors, Young Adult, and Health and Fitness Ministries—have served families on these Saturdays.

In addition to this tremendous achievement, PNC is also proving to be a unique tool for building impressive partnerships:

✦ First, it has connected us to our local community centers, service organizations, and apartment resident managers who work with us to inform families about this amazing resource.

✦ Second, it has aligned us with local businesses including Safeway and Panera Bread—both of which

donate monthly to PNC. Beginning in July of this year, Diakon Kathryn’s Closet, a Christian organization that provides resources to community non-profits, will also partner in our work.

✦ Third, and perhaps most importantly, PNC has linked CPBC with an incredible Hispanic congregation, Iglesia Bautista Cristo Vive (Jesus Lives Baptist Church). Our two churches are enthusiastically working together to minister to the Hispanic Community. Our efforts have birthed a growing Hispanic Bible Study led by Pastor José Amaya on Wednesday evenings here at CPBC.

Our advancing work in the community has not gone unnoticed. Members of the county are speaking and making their excitement known. For one, Betty Lam, Chief of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Affairs has stated:

*“In an area with ongoing under-employment, the*

*CPBC Community Market serves as an important additional resource to local families. Moreover, the program actively works in collaboration with other existing service organizations—including IM-PACT Silver Spring—and thus contributes to effective and thriving community partnerships. We are happy to support the CPBC Free Community Market as an added resource to our families and as a tool in our community building.”*

We thank the Lord for the great things He has done and is doing through CPBC! Our prayer is that we would hear *His* expression of approval and pleasure above the rest. I ask here that you consider joining the PNC Strategic Team as we work to take this ministry to greater heights for the sake of Christ. Please pray for PNC and contact Sister Nana Dolce ([ndolce@cpbc.net](mailto:ndolce@cpbc.net)) today to serve. ■



## After the “I Do’s” (cont.)

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked and felt no shame.”*

The conference will be able to help couples find the way to unite in their challenging times and to grow stronger during their good times.

“We believe that we must equip married couples with tools to challenge and deter Satan and his schemes to destroy marriages,” said Palmer. “Couples will

come away more committed and in love with their spouse and the necessary armor to enrich their marriage.”

After the conference, attendees can continue to reap the benefits of the support and guidance that the Couples Ministry provides. The

group is active throughout the year providing bible study opportunities for growth and understanding of marriage, and the responsibilities to one another and family in the way God intended. The Ministry will gladly welcome the arrival of new couples to join them. If you would like to be part of the Couples Ministry or

attend the “Planting for the Harvest” conference, contact Artis or Juanita Palmer at (301) 439-3814 or email at [anartistouch@verizon.com](mailto:anartistouch@verizon.com). ■

### Sessions being offered at the conference include:

- ◇ Dare to Love
- ◇ Bringing Out the Best in Your Spouse Through Prayer
- ◇ Finances
- ◇ Dancing Like the Stars
- ◇ Parenting
- ◇ Putting Your Love to the Fitness Test
- ◇ Quality Time

Cost of the conference is \$40.00 per couple, and yes, you may attend without your spouse for the cost of \$20.00. A continental breakfast and lunch is included in the ticket price. Childcare service will also be provided.

## Taking Charge of Your Health

*CPBC’s Annual Health Fair gives members and community residents important information to take care of their bodies, souls and minds.*

*By Robin Bellamy*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

Knowing that we should take care of our health is not only practical, but is a way to honor the Lord.

For this reason, over 200 residents and CPBC members took giant steps towards being in control of their health by attending the Health Ministry’s Annual

Community Health Fair on Saturday, May 14. The health fair was a great way for people to understand the importance of both spiritual and physical well-being and to get information on the various health issues that affect many people.

**Representatives** from Kaiser Permanente, AARP, The Fit Solution and more were on hand to talk to the attendees about important health matters such as blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol management and cancer prevention. In addition to the information that



was available, there were screenings for body fat analysis, HIV testing and hearing/vision testing, and a blood drive supported by the American Red Cross.

“Community health fairs like this are one of the best ways to get information out to people, especially those who might not have access to it,” said Patsy Keel, a volunteer with Kaiser Permanente.

Reginald and Yinka Gardiner conducted a workout during the

health fair. It demonstrated that it’s not just about getting the information, but putting that information to use and getting active.

Children were able to participate with face painting, various arts and crafts, and interact with the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Station 16.

“It was truly great to see how well the community came out and participated in this event”, said Felicia Charlous, chairperson of the Health Ministry. ■



# BIRTHDAYS!!



## JUNE

June 3 Seidou Soweh  
 June 5 Aaron Robinson  
 Andrew Robinson  
 June 6 Lucille Anderson  
 June 7 Gloria Carr  
 Shanese Gordon  
 June 8 Denise Ponder  
 June 10 Katina Harrington  
 Olateju Oladipo  
 June 11 Senetra Brown  
 Etta Diggs  
 Camille Saint Cyr  
 June 12 Esther Akintayo  
 Juliana Ankrah  
 Jan Baird-Adams  
 Barbara Hunter  
 June 13 C. Jessi Chilkamari  
 Joseph Ellong  
 Kevin Thompson  
 June 15 Neville Barrett  
 Julia Martin  
 June 16 Denyse Boisson  
 June 17 Usamet Fifo  
 Evangeline Mancka  
 June 18 Amanda Malloy  
 Hyacinth Salmon  
 June 21 Shalonda Mitchell  
 June 22 Diane Brockington  
 Vanzalier Goodwin  
 June 24 Robert Jones, III  
 June 25 Harry Guy  
 June 26 Rebecca King  
 Alicia Robinson  
 Catherine Williams  
 June 27 Barbara Richardson  
 June 29 Konjit Afework  
 June 30 Fanny Ewande  
 Barbara Shaibu

## JULY

July 1 Makayla Anderson-  
 Tucker  
 Robin Bellamy  
 Samuel Manages  
 Lorraine Taylor  
 July 2 Colleen Moses  
 Elijah Scott  
 July 3 Sherlan Henry  
 Jasmine Solano  
 Amoye Taylor  
 July 4 Eje Chuku  
 July 5 Shirley Jones  
 July 6 Janet Rogers  
 Nanci Staley  
 July 7 Cerina Johnson  
 Bert Ponder  
 July 9 Adeoye Adewole  
 Roy Green  
 Yaco Thomas  
 July 10 Anne Miriam  
 Asumeng  
 Ricardo Harrington  
 July 11 Joshua Davies  
 Helen Martin  
 July 12 Una Douglas  
 July 14 Alanna Diggs  
 Edithe Nyagou  
 July 17 Evelyn Johnson  
 July 20 Robert Crabbe  
 Lilly King  
 July 24 Tyanna Davis  
 Herbert Kule-  
 Thomas  
 Toni Marshall  
 July 25 Savion Jones  
 July 26 Phylinda Peters-John  
 July 27 Vernon Ashford  
 July 28 Melva Young  
 July 29 Cheryl Callahan  
 Jannie Harrell  
 Kerrice Lewis  
 Michelle Foster  
 John Slaughter  
 July 31

## AUGUST

August 2 Yinka Gardiner  
 Wendy Walkes  
 August 3 Rhoda Davies-Smith  
 Annie Kimble  
 August 4 Renae Love  
 Linda Slaughter  
 August 6 Askane Boulandi  
 August 7 Winifred Drummond  
 Sandra Manning-  
 Kirby  
 Anne Ohene-Twum  
 August 8 Grendra Wilson  
 August 9 Doris Oshin-  
 Ogunmakinwu  
 Margaret Pierrelus  
 August 11 Karen Aaron  
 Huey Long  
 Sandra Sterling  
 August 13 Clement Che  
 Poniesa Johnson  
 August 14 Jummie Fasipe  
 August 16 Clarence Harmon  
 August 17 Wumi Bada  
 Sunnaye Rogers  
 Beverly Tucker  
 August 19 Daniel Shaibu  
 August 20 Brooke Holmes  
 Jesse Nfor  
 Anna Ntim  
 August 21 Roger Davis  
 Janet Henley  
 Annette Oshin  
 August 23 Velma Olu-Cole  
 August 24 Pearson Johnniefred  
 August 25 Ralph Freeman  
 August 26 Adam Hopkins  
 August 27 Ronald Ankrah  
 Lenward Williams  
 August 28 Louise Dixon  
 August 29 Torrance Barnhardt  
 Deborah Freeman  
 Eva Woods  
 August 30 Aaliyah Brown  
 Jay Walkes

# Congratulations, Graduates!

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

*- Jeremiah 29:11*

**Kindergarten to Elementary**

Charisse Freeman & Simone Lewis

**Elementary School**

Aisha Taylor

**Middle School to High School**

Shellie-Ann Francis & Jasmine Lloyd

**High School**

Amaka Acholonu, Bowie High School, College: Penn State University

Jesse Boulandi, James Hubert Blake High School

Nissi Chilkamari, Montgomery Blair High School, College: Montgomery College, Major: Health Information Management

Princess Conteh, Montgomery Blair High School, College: Allegany College of Maryland, Major: Chemistry

Alanna Diggs, Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, College: Howard University

Trishia Faulkner, Paint Branch High School, College: Morgan State University, Major: Health/Nursing

Shanese Gordon, Washington United Christian Academy, College: University of Maryland College Park, Major: Criminal Justice

Brianna Mitchell, James Hubert Blake High School, College: Bowie State University, Major: Education

Olorina Sawo, Montgomery Blair High School

Nathaniel Thorne, McKinley Technology High School, College: University of Maryland College Park. Major: Business Technology

**Trade School**

Marjorie Johnson, Tess College of Technology

Taylor Shelton, Antonelli Institute of Art and Photography, Associates degree in Specialized Technology and Photography

**College**

Sheila Jean, Towson University, B.S. in Kinesiology and Psychology

Barbara Shaibu, University of Pennsylvania, B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

**Masters**

Cheryl L. Callahan, Palmer Theological Seminary, Master of Theological Studies in Christian Faith and Public Policy

Joseph A. Ellong, University of Maryland University College, Master of Science in Value Chain Management

Yanacia Rose, Webster University, Master of Science in Information Technology Management

**Doctorate**

Gbemi Acholonu, University of Maryland University College, PhD (Doctor of Management)

## Anniversaries

**JUNE**

- 1 Hampton & Eileen Edwards (37 yrs)
- 2 Glenn & Kiana Scott (10 yrs)
- 4 Louis & Louise Dixon (33 yrs)
- 9 Jolene & Andy Russell (6 yrs)
- 12 Lester & Jannie Harrell (39 yrs)
- Yvonne & Rony Atis (6 yrs)
- 19 Jocelyn & Solange Jean (22 yrs)
- 20 Barbara & Fitzroy Gordon (18 yrs)
- 22 Marjorie Johnson (21 yrs)
- 24 Carletta & Michael Lundy (19 yrs)
- Robert & Vanzalier Goodwin (4 yrs)
- 25 Torrance & Erica Barnhardt (5 yrs)
- 26 Louise & Nathan Cole (11 yrs)
- Damion & Bettyann Tyson (2 yrs)
- 29 Edward & Thelma Jackson (42 yrs)

**JULY**

- 3 Wendy & Wilson Walkes
- 7 Tevon & Marvinna Taylor (3 yrs)
- 10 Artis & Juanita Palmer (39 yrs)
- 18 Daniel & Jummie Fasipe (1 yr)
- 20 John & Ime Lewis (8 yrs)
- 21 Ernest & Jean Johnson (21 yrs)
- 28 Lemaye & Askane Boulandi (29 yrs)

**AUGUST**

- 6 Janet & Douglas Henley (22 yrs)
- 7 Pastor & Sis. Cassandra Lewis (13 yrs)
- 12 Antoine & Justine Jesse (38 yrs)
- Madline & Herbert Morsha Taylor (32 yrs)
- 17 John & Linda Slaughter (14 yrs)
- 18 Stanley & Florence Walker (37 yrs)
- 19 Anderson & Gbemi Acholonu (18 yrs)
- 25 Leslie & Hyacinth Salmon (40 yrs)
- 26 Colleen & Michael Moses (10 yrs)
- 29 Bill & Brenda Boykins (40 yrs)
- 30 Preston & Allison Salmon (7 yrs)
- 31 Roy & Denise Green (24 yrs)

## Upcoming Events

- June** 11 "Planting for the Harvest: A Love that Endures All Seasons" (Couples Conference)  
12 Christian Education Sunday/Fair  
18 Annual All-Church Cookout  
26 International Sunday
- July** 9 Senior's Ministry Ice Cream Social  
18-22 Vacation Bible School  
24 Fellowship Meal & Service (Zion Baptist Church)  
30 Christian Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bowl-a-thon
- Aug** 19-21 Women's Ministry Symposium

*"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."*

*- Isaiah 65:24*

Do you have a testimony of answered prayer?  
Encourage someone today.  
Share your story on Clifton Park's Facebook Page!



Have an idea for the Clifton Parker? Want your ministry, event 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 send an email to [media@cpbc.net](mailto:media@cpbc.net). You may also submit your article content using the online form "Newsletter Articles" located on the church website [www.cpbc.net](http://www.cpbc.net)

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