



**IN THIS ISSUE**

<b>Leadership Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Church Vitality Team</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pastor Todd's Portrait</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Poetry</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Evangelical Covenant Church Affiliation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Word Search</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Happy Birthday</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Primary Election</b>	<b>8</b>

**The Douglas Legacy**

The Quarterly Newsletter of  
 Douglas Memorial  
 Community Church  
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 Photographs by Bernadette Green

**Wednesday**  
**Power Call at 10 pm**  
**712-432-1500**  
**536638#**

**Download the**  
**Douglas app for**  
**i-phone and android**

## *From the Pastor's Desk: Let's Celebrate!*

Last month, we completed our journey through the final week of Lent. This has been a season of reflection, repentance, submission and sacrifice. For some of us, we may have wondered why we were doing all of this. At some point along our journey of fasting and praying, we may have become discouraged or disappointed. What has all of this been about? That is a great question!

A simple answer comes to mind. The point of all of this praying and fasting has been to move to a place of celebration! Our celebration comes from recognizing that our fasting and praying has made more room for God to come into our lives and make our lives better. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was not only coming into the city; he was also coming into the lives of the people. When the people saw Jesus coming, they were overcome with joy and began to celebrate by waving palms and throwing their garments on the ground. Jesus' coming into our lives should generate a new sense of excitement and joy that causes us to celebrate.

During this season, we have earnestly tried to remove all of the unnecessary things from our lives so that there would be room for Jesus to come in and change us. Today, we remember that when we make preparation, Jesus will show up and enter into the place that we have prepared for Him. When He comes in, know that your life will be changed forever. So, do as they did years ago. Recognize the change that has come with the arrival of Jesus. You waved your palms as a sign of your victory. Now celebrate the goodness of Jesus in your life.

Celebrate the arrival of Jesus! He has come into the city of your heart!!

*Pastor Todd*

## Leadership Sunday 2016



The Douglas family celebrated Leadership Sunday on February 28, 2016, at the culmination of Founders' Month and Black History Month. Our guest preacher was Rev. Robert Turner, senior pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Columbia, MD. The multi-generational service included the youth dance ministry The A.N.G.E.L.S. (**All Now Glorify our Everlasting Lord and Savior**); and recognition of members who are 80+ years of age. The Board of Stewards, Board of Trustees, officers and ministry leaders were installed; and trustees who had completed their terms and retired ushers were acknowledged for their years of service.

In a special surprise moment, Pastor Todd took the time to call the names of our 80+ members; and invited those who were present to come and receive their certificates of appreciation in honor of their longevity, wisdom and leadership.

Finally, after much anticipation, the 2016 Shepherd's Crook Award recipient was revealed as Pastor Todd made the presentation to Beverly Reid, for her wonderful spirit of encouragement to the body.



For more photographs, see the display unit in the Narthex.

## Douglas Hosts the Renaissance Academy Food Pantry

On the first and third Thursday of each month, the Braxton Fellowship Hall has been buzzing with activity. Since January, Douglas Church has hosted the Renaissance Academy Food Pantry, in partnership with Promise Heights. The pantry provides food from the Maryland Food Bank to people in the community; and is staffed by Hallie Atwater of Promise Heights, parent volunteers and students. The doors are open to the public from 2:30 pm until 5 pm or as long as the food lasts.

*"The University of Maryland, Baltimore has partnered with community based non-profits and faith-based organizations to improve the educational, social, health, and economic opportunities of children from birth to young adulthood in the West Baltimore neighborhood of Upton/Druid Heights. Entitled, Promise Heights, the partnership is led by the School of Social Work and is creating a pipeline of interconnected*

*services that begins with prenatal care and continues through college to career."* (website [www.promiseheights.net](http://www.promiseheights.net))

Douglas Church is one of the faith based partners. The food pantry will be held at Douglas each month this year except July; when it will be at the Renaissance Academy.

## Upcoming Events

- **Mayoral Candidate Forum**—Wednesday, April 13 from 6-9 pm, sponsored by Communities United
- **New Members' Orientation**—Saturday, May 7, 2016, 12-3 pm
- **May is Women's Month!** Events and activities to be announced. **Women's Day**—Sunday, May 22, 2016
- **Family Meeting**—Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 10 am. Focus: Church Vitality
- **Father's Day Lunch**— Sunday, June 19,th, sponsored by the Men's Ministry. More information TBA.

## Men's Ministry Hosts Palm Sunday Fellowship Luncheon



Front row: Leon Bridges, Pastor Todd Yeary, Minister Aaron Davis, Henry Taylor, Carl Jackson, Atiba Nkrumah, John Riley, Julius Braxton, John Barber and Gregory Snead. Back Row: Ronald Boozer, Thomas Phillips and Martin Morgan, Sr.

Photographs by Bernadette Green

The tickets were free! The fellowship was warm and welcoming. The Fellowship Hall was filled with members and friends following the 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday worship service. The men were impeccably dressed. The stage was set.

And then, Min. Aaron Davis welcomed everyone, blessed the food; and the "Real Men of Douglas" served up a delicious lunch that they had prepared themselves. Minister

Davis commented, "It was a blessing to see so many men work together as a team." It was a memorable afternoon; and the "Real Men" have promised to host more fellowship events and activities.

Min. Davis, began co-teaching the men's Bible study in September and has been leading the Bible study and Men's Ministry since January. The ministry has been in a period of transition and renewal; and the luncheon created a new sense of interest and excitement.

Recently, the Monday night men's Bible study group has been meeting by conference call and on-line at 6:30 pm. The information to dial in or go on-line is as follows:

Dial-in Number: 563-999-2090 Access Code: 438-039 or  
On-Line Link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/dbigasr> On-line meeting id: dbigasr

All Douglas men are encouraged to join the study and to also become an active part of the Men's Ministry.



Preston Brown, Jerry Prettyman, Julius Braxton and Ronald Boozer



James Davis



Ralph Vanderhall

For more pictures, see the display in the Fellowship Hall

## Congregational Vitality at Douglas Church

A team of ten is at hard work encouraging healthy missional momentum at Douglas. The team members are John Barber, Robert Beasley, Maggie Caples, Carl Jackson, Virginia Johns, Samuel Little, Atiba Nkrumah, Nicole Smith, Courtney Spain and Jennifer White.

The Vitality Team has gotten off to a good start with a focus on assisting the church in discerning God's spiritual strategic direction and recommending possibilities for the future of the church. The evolution of this process will be guided by eight functions of a Vitality Team developed by the Evangelical Covenant Church:

1. **Debrief the Veritas (Truth) Experience.** Self-evaluation is embraced as normal and natural. Get to know members better and enjoy them on the journey.

2. **Establish a Process of Pervasive Prayer.** We simply ask God for wisdom and guidance. We also dedicate ourselves and align our resources with God and His mission.

3. **Initiate the Behavioral/Relational Covenant.** It provides a means to communicate and to have "holy manners" during conversations that honor Christ.

4. **Find Your Biblical Story.** Look to the Bible to find a story that represents the current situation and challenges at Douglas. Through the story, God grants endurance and understanding.

5. **Communicate.** The congregation will be kept up to date with the work of the Vitality Team. Engagement with Douglas members will be on-going.

6. **Learn from History.** Many life-giving stories will come from the archives of Douglas. These stories will help the congregation move forward into the future that God has identified.

7. **Develop an Internal Profile.** A demographic overview of the congregation will be developed along with the many resources Douglas provides.

8. **Develop an External Profile.** Team members will gather information to present a clear picture of the community around us by building a demographic profile. Demographic information can lead to divine connections as the Holy Spirit leads and guides.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a special congregational meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The Vitality Team will present a progress report. In addition, Rev. Kreig Gammelgard, Director of Congregational Vitality, East Coast Conference, will conduct a workshop entitled *Empowering People, Inspiring Change* (EPIC).

**Let's keep moving forward!**

*By Samuel B. Little*

## Pastor Todd's Portrait Unveiled



On Saturday, March 5, 2016, the Stewards, Trustees and Ministerial staff unveiled Pastor Todd's official portrait in the elevator lobby of the Narthex.

The surprise unveiling came at the end of the Leadership Training for lay leaders, ministers, staff and members who have a desire to serve in leadership roles in the church.

## The Tears I Cry

*By Sandra Roberts*

The tears I cry are not for me.

They are for all humanity.

In God we trust is our mantra line

But God seems to be put behind.

We think we are self-made.

Our successes we received on our own.

Forgetting the God who bought us here,

“My God” we only say when trouble is near.

We say a lot of things in His name sake

But we say it is “I” who is great.

At the Cross, Christ said Father forgive them

For they know not what they do.

Sin was nailed and left at the Cross for me and for you.

We serve a loving Savior but it breaks the Father’s heart,

That we as a people are not doing our part.

We let the world show us the way.

We read the Word but what does it say?

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7 and 14 clearly states,

We the people can make everything great.

Peace and harmony is the goal we should strive,

Then tears of joy would be our cry.

These tears I cry are not for me.

They are for all humanity.

Wake up, read God’s Word.

Wake up, do God’s Word.

Wake up, be God’s Word.

And God will keep you, His promise to keep,

Until Jesus returns and we will be complete.

## Douglas Church Enters New Affiliation with ECC



DMCC was officially “adopted” into the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) at the ECC Annual Conference, “Gather ’15” on Saturday, June 27, 2015 in Kansas City, MO.

Pastor Todd Yearly led the Douglas delegation that included Rev. Vivian Ferebee, Min. Deborah Ivory, Trustee Board Chair Robert Beasley, and Dr. Virginia Johns.

The occasion was highlighted in the *East Coast Covenanter*, SPRING 2016 edition:

“Delegates also welcomed the adoption of Douglas Memorial Community Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Rev. Sheridan Todd Yearly and staff were there to greet delegates and President Gary Walter. DMCC is located in the Upton/Druid Heights Community of Baltimore.”



## Word Search: Books of the Bible

The names of 17 books of the Bible, from both the Old and New Testaments are hidden inside of bigger words, or are spread across more than one word. Sometimes the name is even used as a normal word in the story.

Here's an example of a hidden word: contracts = Acts

### A Trip to the Farmer's Market

It could have only been a fluke that led us to the market yesterday. We arrived just in time to see our favorite comic. Ahhh! What a treat. We learned that the comic had just signed several new contracts to perform in our area. We also enjoyed the banjo elements of a blue grass band. And, we arrived just in time for a huge rainstorm!

Working quickly, my mom chose a lovely melon and some delicious low-sugar jam, estimated to have just 5 calories per serving. (If you want to know the truth, I seriously doubt that claim!) When we asked one vendor why her tomatoes were so large, she explained how she could format the watering system to run only, and always, when needed. What a great way to do the job! With the rain now coming down in sheets, her plants would need no watering today.

We noticed a mostly empty stall where someone could probably make a lot of money. In fact, we started crunching some numbers, wondering if we might be able to sell our garden produce there in the future.

After a short while, we took a break under a roof. My elderly mom needed to rest her feet. Then I realized I was exhausted, too. (It's not in the genes, is it?)

Meanwhile, my big brother tried to be a hero. Man, someone should tell him to be more careful when he runs into the street to fetch a little kid's soccer ball! He should more accurately judge speeds of oncoming traffic, especially in the rain!

As we were leaving, we again discussed the empty market stall and talked about trying to sell our extra beans and corn there. After performing some careful calculations, my big brother said, "Nah, umbrellas are the way to go. Lots of people sell vegetables, but no one is selling umbrellas!"

Today that would have been a great item to sell.

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10. job = Job                   | 1. fluke = Luke                  |
| 11. a mostly empty = Amos       | 2. market = Mark                 |
| 12. numbers = Numbers           | 3. comic. Ahhh! = Micah          |
| 13. rest her = Esther           | 4. contracts = Acts              |
| 14. genes, is = Genesis         | 5. banjo elements = Joel         |
| 15. hero. Man, someone = Romans | 6. chose a = Hosea               |
| 16. judge speeds = Judges       | 7. jam, estimated = James        |
| 17. Nah, umbrellas = Nahum      | 8. truth = Ruth                  |
|                                 | 9. format the watering = Matthew |

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*Happy Birthday to You!**April*

- 1 E. Gay Jackson
- 4 Lerlene McAllister
- 5 Tonya Johnson
- 6 Rev. Vivian Ferebee,  
Honorita Newman,  
Ernell Thornton
- 8 Rasheed Grady
- 9 James Davis, Audrey Gibson,  
Mary Summers
- 10 Ruth Jackson, Darrell Taylor
- 14 Delores Ford, Jacklin Wilder
- 15 James Gilliam
- 16 Jocque Brown
- 17 John Barber, Peggy Jones
- 18 Kim Wiley
- 19 Heather Gisbert,  
Betty Johnson
- 20 Ruth Love
- 21 Jennifer White
- 22 Romaine Wise
- 25 Jordan Yeary
- 27 Loretta Rock
- 29 Susan Frazier

*May*

- 1 Leon Riley
- 3 Queen Williams
- 4 Vaughn Nelson, Juanita Smith,  
Benjamin Tillman
- 8 Sara Arnold, Robert Beasley
- 11 Martin Morgan
- 12 Roger Grier
- 14 Ashley Watkins-Butler
- 17 Deborah Ivory
- 18 John Gibson, Mary Hodgson
- 20 Alice Brown
- 21 Lamarge Wyatt
- 23 Mary Garrett, Tammi Noel
- 24 Courtney Spain
- 25 Wendell Mitchell
- 26 Lauryn McBroom
- 27 Dianne Howard
- 28 Evelyn Prettyman
- 29 Jared Green, Timothy Rice
- 30 Shirley Shorter-Giles,  
Marcel Umphery

*June*

- 5 Mary Gabbin
- 6 Patricia Booth, Aaron Davis
- 7 Dayna Gibson,  
Jocelyn Simpson
- 12 John Comer
- 14 William Lee, Lorraine Wood
- 15 Michelle Daniels
- 19 Angeanette Conaway
- 21 Minnie Wilson
- 24 Lloyd Carter, Sandra Jones
- 25 Elijah Fautleroy
- 26 Deniece Baylor, Emma Grier,  
Blanche Mackel
- 27 Shirley Briscoe, Elaine Lee
- 28 Gregory Snead,  
Ranjanie Young
- 30 Alice Fabre

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace...*" Numbers 6:24-26 RSV

## Maryland Primary Election 2016

Information from [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us)

**Primary Election** - April 26, 2016, 7 am until 8 pm

- Early Voting for the Primary Election - Thursday, April 14, 2016 through Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 10 am until 8 pm

### How to Register to Vote

You can use Maryland's Online Voter Registration System (OLVR) or submit a voter registration application to your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections at any time. However, an application must be postmarked by the voter registration deadline in order to vote in the next scheduled election. If you submit a voter registration application during the period that registration is closed, your application will be held at the local board of elections and processed when registration reopens. The close of voter registration is:

**April 5, 2016**, for the Presidential Primary Election.

If using Maryland's Online Voter Registration System (OLVR), you have until 9:00pm to submit your application; and

**October 18, 2016**, for the Presidential General Election. If using Maryland's Online Voter Registration System (OLVR), you have until 9:00pm to submit your application.

You can also register to vote during early voting. To make the voting process quicker for you, we encourage you to register to vote by the close of voter registration. If you can't register by that date, go to an early voting center in the county where you

live and bring a document that proves where you live. This document can be your MVA-issued license, ID card, or change of address card, or your paycheck, bank statement, utility bill, or other government document with your name and new address.

### Where may I apply to register to vote?

You can use Maryland's Online Voter Registration System (OLVR) to register to vote or, you may complete a voter registration application in person at:

- Your local board of elections
- The State Board of Elections
- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- The Department of Social Services;
- The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA);
- Offices on Aging;
- The MTA Paratransit Certification Office;
- All public institutions of higher education;
- Recruitment offices of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- Marriage license offices; and
- Offices for students with disabilities at all Maryland colleges and universities.

### Restoration of Voting Rights in Maryland

Effective, March 10, 2016, if you have been convicted of a felony and have completed serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, **you are eligible to register to vote.**

You do not qualify to register to vote if you have been convicted of buying or selling votes.

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**Make Your Voice Heard: Register and Vote!!**