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The Douglas Legacy
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From the Pastor's Desk: "Ready for Change!"

As I was working from home early last month, I noticed that outside my window was a cardinal, perched on one of the tree limbs in my back yard. What made me notice the bird was its singing. Now, I must admit that I did not expect to see a bird perched on a bare tree limb, let alone one that would be singing, also. There were no signs of anything the bird could use to nest or find to eat. Yet, here was the cardinal on the tree limb, near the end of winter, singing!

If I were to use my imagination, I would argue that this bird was simply showing me how to approach life. You may ask, "How is that the case?" I would simply say that the cardinal was demonstrating faithfulness, attitude, and expectation all at the same time. I know you may think I am reaching, but let me explain.

First, the cardinal was demonstrating faithfulness in the singing of its song. Sometimes, we need only demonstrate our faith by singing our song. If we are grateful for another day, then we should sing our song. If we are asking God for guidance, we should still sing our song. Whatever our circumstance, we should always be willing to sing our song.

Secondly, the cardinal was singing joyously. Now I don't know much about bird singing, but something in the bird's song let me know that the bird was not complaining about being on a bare limb at the end of winter. Often, our attitudes affect not only if we sing, but how we sing. No matter where we find ourselves in life, we have something to be grateful for—and we have a reason to sing our songs with joy!!! The Bible puts it this way: *"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."* Don't just sing, sing with joy.

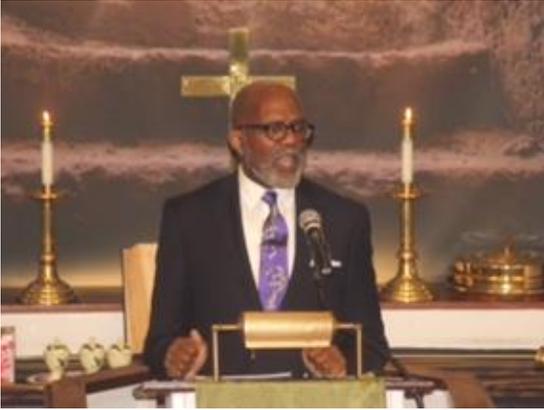
Finally, the bird was perched, looking around in what seemed to be expectation. Not only was the bird singing its song, and singing with joy, the bird was singing with expectation. I believe that is why the bird was perched on a bare limb, at the end of winter, singing its song. The bird has an instinct that knows when things are about to change. Birds know when to return after being away for the winter, as they prepare for the coming spring. If you want to prepare for a new season, sing your song! Sing it with joy and sing it with expectation!!!

This is indeed the day the Lord has made!!! Are you ready for change? TODAY is the best day of your life!!!

Pastor David

Earl Andrews and Don Golden Preach Initial Sermons

At the Ash Wednesday service on March 1, 2017, the Douglas family was doubly blessed to not only observe the beginning of the Lenten Season, but to also witness the initial sermons of Brother Earl Andrews and Brother Don Golden.



Using the scriptural reference Joshua 4:1-8, Bro. Earl preached "Let's Get Stoned: Tell the Story". Reflecting on the sermon, Bro. Earl notes, "We all have amazing stories to tell about the goodness of God in our lives. The twelve stones in the text symbolize the story of the twelve tribes of Israel, a story of deliverance and liberation at the hand of God. It was the responsibility of the elders to share that story with future generations. The members of Douglas are blessed with three categories of stories -- our own individual personal stories; our collective story as a congregation; and the story of African-American people told from our experience and our perspective. Our children are hungry for

these stories. As it was with the twelve tribes of Israel, it is our responsibility to share our stories so that they might be known to generations yet unborn."

Bro. Don then preached, "We Have a Desert to Cross" using the scripture from Matthew 4:1. When asked to reflect on the experience, Bro. Don responded, "I'm honored to be part of the Douglas family and consider it a truly great honor to be in the ordination process in your company. I'm thankful for the welcome I've received and the love so freely shared Sunday after Sunday and at the Wednesday noon Bible study. The joy Douglas shares as a community has enriched my life and given me hope both for the day and for the future. I look forward to sharing the journey ahead with my Douglas family!"



Pastor Todd asked the two preachers to kneel at the chancel rail, with their families and the stewards surrounding them and placing their hands on them; and asked Rev. Catherine Luckett to pray for them.



The service ended with the imposition of ashes. Afterward, Bro. Earl and Bro. Don were greeted in the Parlor by family, friends and members at a reception in their honor.

Post Script—As a part of the process to be licensed to preach and begin preparation for ordination, Bro. Earl and Bro. Don met with the Steward Board at their regular monthly meeting following Ash Wednesday and...on Sunday, March 5, Pastor Todd presented them with certificates, licensing them to preach! This is the beginning of their journey in preparation for ordination. They are now Minister Earl Andrews and Minister Don Golden; and a welcome addition to the Douglas Church ministerial staff. To God be the glory!

Deborah's Daughters - Our New Women's Ministry

By Rev. Rhonda Boozer-Yeary

Thank you to every woman who filled out a survey for Deborah's Daughters. They have been very helpful in developing the ministry's focus and helping to build a relevant ministry. We are excited about this upcoming Women's Month (May 2017) and hope that you will join us for May's activities and beyond.

Remember, that you are special. You are unique. You are enough. You are loved by the Most High God and have been hand-picked to participate in God's kingdom work here at Douglas. I'm excited about where we are going! Let's do this together!

Why the name Deborah?

Deborah was a woman of great spiritual and national influence in Israel during the time of Judges. She mediated disputes in her country and proved to be a wise judge. When the leader of the army refused to go into battle without her - she stepped forward. Her nation was set free because of her bravery and spiritual insight. We want to walk in her steps. (Read about Deborah in Judges 4-5)

Many lessons can be learned from the life of Deborah. She acknowledged that her strength came from the Lord. Rather than taking pride in her own abilities, she relied on God for wisdom and leadership ability.

Deborah used her abilities to serve. She showed no selfishness in the use of her God-given abilities to judge Israel or to prophesy. Rather, she focused on helping the people of Israel improve their lives, honor God, and find freedom from their oppressors.

Deborah offers a bold and powerful role model for women today. Deborah had courage to face the enemy, even after 20 years of oppression. Her courage was contagious, and Barak was able to fulfill his God-given

duty with Deborah's support. Her courage became encouragement.

Though the Bible's record of Deborah's life is brief, her impact was great. Her leadership and obedience to God's word resulted in a changed nation for an entire generation. Those who study her life will find a role model of godly faith, boldness, wisdom and worship.



Women's Ministry Launch Meeting, Sunday, December 18, 2016

Deborah's Daughters Vision Statement

Encourage women to know...

- God and to follow Jesus Christ in their daily lives
- That they are fearfully and wonderfully made, that they are loved unconditionally, that their lives have value and purpose (regardless of the past or present), and that they are uniquely gifted by God to make an impact wherever they are.

Equip women to grow...

- In authentic, intimate relationship with Christ through prayer, Bible study/teachings, discipleship, and fellowship.

Empower women to go...

- Use their spiritual gifts to serve and reach others, as Christ would, both locally and globally.

Vitality Recap: Where We Are, What's Next

By Dr. Maggie Caples

The Congregational Vitality Pathway is a journey in five phases designed to assist us in becoming a healthy, missional church. Some activities we have completed, and others lie ahead. The DMCC Vitality Team has guided much of this work in coordination with ministerial staff and representatives of the Covenant Church (COV); which provides excellent materials, processes, and coaching to lead us through the journey. We look forward to completing the Vitality Pathway in 24 months. As we've continued to work through the Congregational Vitality Pathway, the Douglas family has participated and provided input in a number of ways.

Phase One – Pre-Vitality

Navigate: During this phase, staff from the COV East Coast Conference visited and explained who they are; and how they help churches revitalize and regain their missional clarity and momentum. This was a time of DMCC exploration when we had meetings and discussions about what it meant to become a part of the Covenant Church. DMCC ministerial staff, leadership, and members gathered additional information, attended COV meetings and met with their leadership as we considered whether to enter into a denominational affiliation. Our DMCC congregation voted to join.

Phase Two – Beginning the Vitality Pathway

Veritas: The first Vitality workshop was led by Kreig Gammelgard, COV Director of Congregational Vitality. A full day of training and discussion focused on the language of vitality, descriptions of the four types of churches as identified by the Covenant, identifying DMCC's current type, and the 10 healthy missional markers to rate churches. We all received a book to work through and review.

The Vitality Team was formed and began to work. There are eight tasks for the Vitality Team to accomplish. The first five tasks for the Vitality Team are in Phase Two:

1. Debriefing the Veritas experience, which was done in the Vitality Team meetings.
2. Establishing a process of pervasive prayer. New prayer activities were begun and led by the Steward Board.
3. Initiating the behavioral/relational covenant. A Relational Covenant was developed, and has been reviewed and approved by the ministerial staff. It was published in the DMCC Winter 2016 newsletter for congregational review.
4. Finding our church's biblical story. Vitality Team members met with various ministries for updates and input. The final selection for our biblical story is Luke 13:6-9, the parable of the fig tree. This story is seen as a message of hope, that we can till the soil and revitalize us to move from a Critical Moment church (as rated by our members) to a healthy missional church.
5. Developing a communications team. Vitality Team members have communicated the work of the Vitality Team in many different ways. They have presented updates during Sunday School, ministry and leadership meetings; and published information in the worship guide and newsletter.

Phase Three – No Turning Back

EPIC (Empowering People, Inspiring Change) DMCC and the Vitality Team are committed to the journey and to follow the Spirit of God wherever that will lead us. The EPIC workshop was held for all members, and we had another excellent full day of discussion led by Kreig Gammelgard.

Vitality Recap *continued*

The Vitality Team is continuing its work with the following activities:

1. Learning from our history. DMCC will develop a plan to record oral history from our members.
2. Developing our internal profile. A survey was conducted to assess current views of members on a variety of topics.
3. Developing our external profile. Vitality Team members will coordinate the development and implementation of this activity

A Service of Consecration will be held. This is a special service of commitment for the entire congregation. More information will follow as details are planned.

Phase Four – Evaluation and Assessment

PULSE: During this phase everyone in the congregation will be asked to participate in an online assessment of our church (Pulse). There will be special emphasis on the primary characteristics of a Healthy Missional church as measured using the Ten Healthy Missional Markers. During this phase, taking our vital signs can be done repeatedly to check our progress and see where we are on the vitality pathway.

Phase Five – The Home Stretch

A final workshop, “**One**—A Unifying Approach to Strategic Ministry Planning”, will be held, presented by the East Coast Covenant leader/trainer. The work of the Vitality Team will be complete. The Strategic Ministry Planning Team will be formed to develop the strategic ministry plan. The strategic ministry plan will guide continued development for DMCC’s future.

The Vitality Team members are: John Barber, Robert Beasley, Maggie Caples, Carl Jackson, Virginia Johns, Samuel Little, Atiba Nkrumah, Nicole Smith, Courtney Spain and Jennifer White.

Leadership Sunday

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble.”
1 Peter 5:1-5 NIV

The Douglas Family observed Leadership Sunday on February 26 with joy, thanksgiving and celebration. Pastor Todd honored (and surprised) the following persons for their faithful service:

- Sis. Henri Daniels for 30 years of service to the Douglas Village Board
- Sis. Carole Green and Sis. Courtney Spain for completing their full 5-year terms on the Board of Trustees
- Bro. Khalid Smith and Sis. Courtney Spain for their dedication and commitment to Children’s and Youth Sunday School
- Min. Deborah Ivory and the staff of the CFO Strengthening Families Program for their on-going work with community families and children
- The Shepherd’s Crook Award to Sis. Sandra Roberts for her many years of service to Douglas Church and with ICCC

Ministry leaders were then consecrated for service in the upcoming year.

Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bible Word Search 256: Jesus the Teacher #2

Matthew 11:18-30

K	N	O	W	S	D	E	L	T	H	G	I	L	S	I
V	B	U	R	D	E	N	D	E	N	I	A	M	E	R
D	N	E	I	R	F	I	E	N	S	N	R	D	S	E
R	E	H	T	I	E	N	T	U	E	O	S	E	O	P
J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T	I	L	D	S	T	O	E
A	S	D	E	V	O	R	P	C	C	I	D	F	H	N
N	K	B	T	R	A	E	H	D	A	S	R	I	C	T
D	I	F	E	G	U	I	O	R	R	H	I	L	H	R
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F	I	G	E	N	T	L	E	O	E	N	I	N	T	E
S	S	D	E	P	T	H	S	N	M	S	E	H	S	A

ASHES	BERABLE
CITIES	BURDEN
DEPTHS	CHILDREN
EARTH	CHOOSES
EXCEPT	GLUTTON
FATHER	HEAVEN
FRIEND	HIDDEN
GENTLE	HUMBLE
HEART	JUDGMENT
JESUS	LEARNED
KNOWS	MIRACLES
LIFTED	NEITHER
LIGHT	PLEASURE
PRAISE	REMAINED
REVEAL	PROVED
SIDON	REPENT
SKIES	SINNERS
SODOM	DRINKING

After you find all the hidden words, the leftover letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right.

More puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com> copyright 2016 all rights reserved

Your Free Gift is Coming!!

Douglas members will soon be receiving information about Right Now Media. You will receive “free access to a huge streaming, online, access-on-any-device library of over 10,000 video Bible studies, leadership videos and kids shows. To sum it up—it’s like the Netflix of Bible study videos. You will have free access to thousands of video resources to help you with parenting, marriage, discipleship and more. With content for all ages and stages of life, additional family members can set up their own accounts as well.” Further information will be coming soon!

*Birthday Blessings!**April*

- 1 E. Gay Jackson
- 4 Lerlene McAllister
- 5 Tonya Johnson
- 6 Rev. Vivian Ferebee,
Honorio 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 Betty Johnson
- 20 Ruth Love
- 21 Jennifer White
- 22 Romaine Wise
- 25 Jordan Yeary
- 29 Susan Frazier

May

- 1 Leon Riley
- 3 Queen Williams
- 4 Vaughn Nelson, Juanita Smith,
Benjamin Tillman
- 8 Robert Beasley
- 12 Roger Grier
- 17 Min. Deborah Ivory,
Tyshaad Jackson
- 18 John Gibson, Mary Hodgson
- 20 Alice Brown
- 21 Lamarge Wyatt
- 23 Mary Garrett, Tammi Noel,
Thomas Weaver
- 24 Courtney Spain
- 25 Lauryn McBroom
- 27 Dianne Howard
- 28 Evelyn Prettyman
- 29 Jared Green, Timothy Rice
- 30 Shirley Shorter-Giles

June

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

*Happy Birthday!*

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.” Psalm 139: 13-18 NIV

The Inspirational Corner

January

How wonderful it is to be alive!

God has granted us another day

Just give Him thanks; and praise His name

In a joyful, reverent and Christian way.

Let's set some time aside my friend

Each day let's do a loving deed.

Let's try to spread some sunshine where

We share our gifts with one in need.

God gives us chances every year

To correct mistakes and make amends.

Draw near to Him; grow in grace.

We're God's children—His love never ends.

"Hopefully whoever reads the above words may be encouraged with their spirits joyfully giving praise, honor and all glory to God"

-Submitted by Edna Gaither

Upcoming Events

- **Foot Washing Service**—Thursday, April 13 at 6 pm here at Douglas
- **Good Friday Fish Fry**—Friday, April 14 at 5:30 pm
- **Resurrection Sunday**—April 16, 2017
- **Men's Ministry Breakfast**—Saturday, April 22 at 9:30 am
- **CFO Clean-up**—Saturday, April 22 (see Min. Deborah Ivory for further information)
- **Courtyard Spring Clean-up**—Saturday, April 29 - Wear your comfortable work clothes and bring work gloves. We will be sweeping, cleaning and beautifying our courtyard and your help is needed. More information to come.
- **Tour of National Museum of African American History and Culture**—Sunday, May 7 after worship service (tickets sold out)
- **CFO Clean-up**—Saturday, May 20 (see Min. Deborah Ivory for further information)
- **Women's Day**—Sunday, May 21, guest preacher will be Rev. Linda D. Stevens at 10:30 am
- **Chicago Road Trip**—May 26-May 28, 2017 (See Rev. Vivian for reservations)
** One worship service at 10:30 am
- **Memorial Day**—Church office closed, no Meals on Wheels
- **New Disciples Orientation**—Saturday, June 3, 12—3 pm

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3) Tap My Place of Worship

4) Tap the Give button

5) Tap an amount

6) Select an envelope

7) Tap Give Now

8) Create your account

9) Enter payment information

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