

The Praise Report

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The Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwood, Pastor

www.UjimaChurch.org



“Agents of Truth”- VBS 2017

This past summer’s Vacation Bible School was a wonderful blessing. It was well attended in general, and the adult class was the largest ever. For three nights in August we gathered to study around the theme “Agents of Truth.” The



guiding Scripture text was, 2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV); ***Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*** Each class dealt

with the issue of how to rely upon, study, and declare the truth of Scripture. Each night was filled with such joy that people lingered long after classes were over. Of particular interest to the youngest “agents of truth” was the law enforcement uniforms that were given to

those who attended each night. The hats, dark glasses, and police vests caused such excitement among the junior agents that even our most senior agents seemed a bit envious and wanted outfits themselves... Well, maybe next year (LOL).

This year’s VBS adult class marked the first time that Pastor Norwood utilized Internet-based multimedia as part of the curriculum. The format was well received. The video presentations included information on how the Scriptures were assembled, preserved, and translated in order to promote an understanding that they are absolutely trustworthy and accurate. Information was given as to how to approach reading and studying the Bible, and the importance of doing so on a regular basis. The PowerPoint slides and links to the videos were provided in a digital format to all “senior agents.”



Josue Yav Buth

By Pastor Norwood

If you've been at Ujima for any length of time, then you have heard of World Vision, the international outreach and crisis response ministry that is been supported by the Brotherhood of Mighty Men and through which much of our international crisis support is provided. However, what many may not know is that our church also sponsors a child through World Vision. His name is Josue Yav Buth, and he lives in Kipushi, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa. Josue is eight years old and is currently in the second grade. The World Vision community workers that have regularly visited with him to monitor his well-being have reported that his health is very good. Josue reports that he was able to demonstrate Christ's love to his neighbors and his community because of the interaction that he has had with World Vision workers. He also indicates that his life has value because this year he was able to celebrate his birthday with his friends and community. He is thrilled and states in the report, "I had the freedom to celebrate and have fun with my friends and community." Josue travels to school by foot enjoys art and music. In fact when he grows up he wants to be an artist. He says that one of the most important things that he has learned through his education is to be thankful.

World vision has been able to help people of the Kipushi area by providing access to clean water for 1250 households reducing the incidents of waterborne diseases. Over 20,000 children under five are in good health thanks to the immunizations provided. There's an increase in children attending primary school with a passing rate at 98%. There has also been a boost in the ability of 300 families to start income generating activities through their farming. Among the many other achievements, World Vision volunteers are promoting an understanding of love of God and neighbors, providing approximately 800 children in the Kipushi area with Bible study opportunities.

In addition to the international aid in crisis support ministry of the Brotherhood of Mighty Men through World Vision, I urge everyone to consider how they may further support this vital ministry by sponsoring a child. Visit www.worldvision.org for more information.



Medieval Times

By Deacon Tanya Norwood

On Sunday July 16th 2017 we traveled to Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. This was the first trip to Medieval Times for some and an old favorite for others. It was a great evening of cheering on our knight



as he engaged in great feats of Courage while jousting in this tournaments against five other knights. There were beautiful dancing stallions who put on a lovely show as well. And let's not forget the falcon who flew around the stadium gliding with such beauty and ease!

The entertainment was amazing but so was the food! We enjoyed a delicious dinner beginning with tomato soup followed by roasted chicken, vegetables and potato and a delicious dessert. And we ate all of it with our hands! (well, with the exception of Sister Kathy Rawls who brought her own flatware - LOL).

As our Knight won his jousting matches, he threw flowers to the crowd and both Sisters Robin Wilkins and Trinity Norwood caught his flowers. In the end our knight was the ultimate victor! He defeated all of the other nights including the enemy of the Kingdom! It was a rousing evening of cheering, excitement, fun and fellowship! Bro. Cliff Rawls cheered so loudly that he barely had any voice left when the show was over. If you missed this one, be sure to attend the next time... you won't be disappointed.



Youth Lock In

By Deacon Tanya Norwood

On Friday September 8th we had our Youth Lock-In. We were few in number but we had an awesome time! In fact we had more chaperones than we had youth and I'm not sure who had more fun... the kids or the chaperones. Everyone was tired when it was over and no one left without a smile on their face!



We started off with dinner from Pizza Hut followed by crafts and then onto games and finally a movie. We played musical chairs as if our lives depended on it. We even played hide and seek... adults

and kids alike! Everyone participated and we enjoyed each other's company while learning more about each other at the same time. We had so much fun that while we were scheduled to end at midnight it was almost 2 a.m. by the time we all actually left the church. Thank you to our chaperones Sisters Tameekia Hardwick, Kathy Rawls, Sajada Hardwick, and Miracle Santiago. And Thanks to Deacon Derick Hardwick who checked in on us and Grandpop Manning who took the late shift and stayed with us until everyone left the building. If you missed it don't worry... There will be another one next year!

Sharing Is Caring - Women of Nia Fellowship

By Deacon Andranette Hardwick

Our September Women of Nia meeting began with a little dance sample starring Deacon Norwood and yours truly. We gave our younger audience a peek at our dancing abilities from our yester years (grins and giggles). We shared with the group what it was like to go out with our girlfriends and dance together and just have good, clean, fun. We continued the fellowship with open discussions on other topics that pressed upon the hearts of our young ladies.

Women, Dating, Marriage, Spiritual Development and Discipline and Emotional Healing. Proverbs 19:20 says, *"Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise."* This is what the gathering is all about.... Lovingly ministering God's Word to our girls and younger ladies.

Please come and be blessed and be a blessing to someone!

Sunshine Ministry Tea

By Shuquin Windbush

The Sunshine Ministry would like to thank all the guests and contributors for participated in this



year's Annual Tea on Sunday, September 17, 2017. We had a wonderful time in Christian Spirit as we participated in Ujima's version of High Tea and Crumpets.

The Sunshine Ministry holds this annual tea as a fundraiser to acquire contributions for cards, flowers and small donations to send to the sick, shut-in and bereaved. The Ministries purpose is to spread the love of the Lord by offering words of warmth, encouragement, strength, joy and God's peace. As our members and friends are recovering from the battles of life, our goal is to lift their hearts and spirits letting them know that God has not forgotten them, and *that nothing will be able to separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:39)*. God is continually caring for them. Jesus loves them and so do we!

I would like to extend personal thanks to the Sunshine Ministry Members: Mother Mildred Manning; Sister Cynthia Solice; Dec. Caleb Collins; Bro. Adrian Roche and Family. Honorary Members (our regular supporters): Mom Patricia Weeks; Dec. Tanya Norwood; Dec. Pamela Hill; Sis Crystal Weeks and Pastor Norwood.

May The Lord bless you and keep you... May the Lord make his face to shine upon you... May the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace!



Among the topics discussed were how to conduct yourself as Godly

Ujima is Truly a Church Family!!

A testimony by Tina Roach

The day we joined, my husband actually surprised me when he nearly sprinted forward to join without pausing to bring me or our son Adrian! When Pastor Norwood opened the doors to the church, he instantly went forward so, I grabbed Adrian and then my Mom stood up and we all hurried along after him. We had discussed our mutual impressions and thoughts so I wasn't surprised he wanted to join, but just taken aback that he went forward without us. We've often teased him about leaving us behind, but seeing him this excited and resolved about joining this body of believers, blesses me more than I can express with words.



We were looking for a church home. My husband had been very transparent and shared that not being fed and other such concerns were affecting his faithfulness. For me, only the word was paramount and an atmosphere where Adrian could connect and be nurtured thru his teen years. It was most important for my husband to be satisfied, but he wasn't explicit about his criteria; it seemed this would be an arduous and time consuming process. We came to visit because Uncle Henry & Aunt Pat were members and had only been visiting a short time when we went forward. I prayed that God would lead my husband and confirm in his spirit where we should be. I joined Ujima because this is where God showed up and definitively answered my prayers.

Now, after years of praying and prodding my husband, the tables have turned. He has left me home a few times and was so frustrated that I made him late for church, it became a major motivation to get another vehicle. He routinely chides and reminds me that I should be able to be on time for church like I am for work and other things!!?? Wow, I'm working on it but Glory to God & be careful what you pray for!

How has being a part of Ujima helped me grow? I enjoy the word, but sometimes it can be challenging and difficult to understand. Having frequent easy access to our Pastor, Dr. Norwood, a world-class theologian, is a delightful

While it is an amazing delight to experience the great breadth and depth of his biblical knowledge and insight it is clear he does not want his members to become lazy in personal Bible study and cautions us that only the word is infallible. Moreover, he openly shares his methods and approaches, seeking to encourage and inspire sound and thorough biblical exegesis of the word through example and instruction. My Pastor and First Lady embody humble servant leadership that I not only respect biblically but find personally empowering. In this age of non-reality, they represent real life examples to live by.

What stands out to me about Sunday Worship Service and the ministries? They say you can't have your cake and eat it too. I guess "they" are wrong again! Our worship service and ministries are like the icing on the cake! The choir is outstanding, truly an anointed ministry - sometimes it's hard to believe there are so few of them. SHOUT OUT to Sis Crystal and Sis Shaquann!!!!!! MORE SOLOS please!!!

Over such a short time, the Sunshine Ministry has been such an immense blessing to my family during the unexpected loss of my cousin, beautiful 7mos old grandson and most recently my sister. What stands out is the showering of love and support, prayers and actual hands on help, that is both beautiful and tangible.

Is there a ministry I am interested in serving? Yes.. several... I am interested in serving: food preparation and service on Sunday Meals; as needed during ministry events, and visionary planning. I would also like to help build a First Lady's Aid, & Marriage Ministry.

Congratulations to Franco and Marva Pedriel!

On Saturday, July 29th, Ujima hosted the wedding of Sister Marva to Franco Pedriel. May the Lord bless both of you as you grow together in Him!

Genesis 2:24 (ESV); *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*



privilege and a great benefit. He has answered questions and addressed issues that have concerned me for years.

Cancer Awareness in October and November

Submitted by Tina Roach

In October 2017, the focus is on Breast Cancer (with “National Mammography Day on October 20) and Liver Cancer. In November, the Great American Smokeout is on the 16th (3rd Thurs in Nov) and the focus also includes Lung Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer, and lifting Family Caregivers. These are National campaigns to raise awareness of various types of cancers, risk factors, the value of screening and early detection, and treatment options.

Cancer Screening is important! The tests allow for early detection, when it's easier to treat and before symptoms appear. The sad truth is that while all women get breast cancer at similar rates, women of color are much more likely to die due to late detection and health care disparities. What You Need to Do: 1) Self Breast Exams [to learn how goto www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-self-exam]; 2) Clinical Breast Exams: see your primary or OB ANNUALLY; 3) Mammograms (50-74 years old - every 2 years, 40-49 years old - consult your doctor). Mammogram Screening is the best way to detect breast cancer before symptoms and when still too small to feel. CAN'T AFFORD MAMMOGRAM? See if you qualify for CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program - call (800) CDC-INFO.

Breast Cancer awareness facts:

Warning signs: Breast &/or Nipple pain or changes (swelling or lump (check underarm pit), unexplained discharge, inward nipple, skin changes)

Risk Factors: Being overweight, especially after menopause; Family history of breast cancer, personal history; Obesity increases the risk of postmenopausal breast cancer (approx 1.5 times higher for overweight & approx 2 times higher in obese women); 10%-25% lower risk for physically active compared to those who are inactive, with stronger evidence for postmenopausal; Higher risk for higher alcohol consumption and long term heavy smokers

Be Aware: Male cases of breast cancer are 100 times less common, BUT often more deadly due to later detection

References – and to Learn More:

The American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org



On Your Mark, Get Set... Family Game Nights Are Back!

By Tina Roach

Friday, September 29th, was filled with some cooperation and competitiveness, rules and rallying, and lots of fun and laughter, along with “Connect Four” and “Dominoes.” The grand finale was a battle of the sexes at the game, “Catch Phrase.” The ladies were triumphant! Hmm, the ladies were also victorious during the teen lock in game-time. Is this a pattern? Even if not, it certainly helped some of the ladies to enjoy the night all the more.... According to Kathy Rawls, “We enjoyed family game night - a time to come together and enjoy each other's company, laughter, food and games. I'm glad we had game night.....plus the ladies beat the men!” But the men, even while on the losing side, still had fun... according to Daniel Roach, “It's always good to be with the brethren; breaking bread, having fun, blowing off a little steam.”

Thanks to Bro. Darryl & Sis. Kathy for volunteering, and making sure everything went smoothly. The Rawls family made an impressive showing with Mom Rawls, Cliff & Kathy, Darryl, and Miracle. Also supporting the event were Deacon Hardwick, Melayna, Isaiah & Jayden; and the Roach family; Daniel, Tina and Adrian.

Let's all support our Youth as they lead the way by sponsoring Ujima Family Game Nights. An individual or family who can receive the pizza/food and help with setup and cleanup. To signup please see Miracle Santiago. Keep an eye on the church announcements for future dates.

South Sudan Famine Relief

By Pastor Norwood

War has raged ever since the Christians of South Sudan formed their own independent country, seeking liberty from the religious persecution from their northern neighbor. World Vision reports that “South Sudan is experiencing the worst food and nutrition insecurity since conflict began about three and a half years ago. About one million people are starving and more than 270,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the most critical form of malnutrition.”

I want to thank the member of Ujima, who through the Summer “door donation basket” drive raised \$316 to go to famine relief in South Sudan.

Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/cancer

2017 Church Picnic

Well, on September 17th, we may have been fooled by the weather, but the weather did not stop us from having a great time! Gray clouds, occasional drizzling, and a rainy weather report all conspired to keep us inside in the fellowship hall for the church picnic. But, while we ate, the sun came out! We had a ball inside anyhow! As always, Deacon "Pop" Manning organized food volunteers, making for a wondrous feast and fun filled fellowship. There was so much food, quite a few of us admitted that we "got the 'itis," feeling rather drowsy as we rubbed our full and swollen bellies. Of course, being inside did not stop the kids from having a great time either. They know how to have fun wherever they are. We were also blessed with a visit by Pastor Brink of the Harrisburg area in Pennsylvania, who came with two of his ministry colleagues. Many thanks to all who made our annual picnic a joy filled event!



Bowling Outing



The youth of Ujima sponsored a church wide bowling outing at Colonial Lanes after worship on August 13th. Amid all of the "wolf tickets" that were "sold," and chest thumping that was heard... there were "gutter balls a-plenty!"

But, that only added to the fun and fellowship. This well attended event allowed our church family to demonstrate how Christians can enjoy spending time and recreation with

Legal Shield

By Missionary Linda Rogers

We are all blessed and grateful for God's protection in these days and times, with all the recent hurricanes, earthquakes, etc. I am a servant of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior and heed the biblical call to be wise and prudent. Recently, I joined an amazing business, Legal Shield that may be valuable to you, your family or friends. If you answer "no" to any of the following questions, then consider giving me a call. To protect you and your family...

Do you have a Living Will or a Last Will & Testament?

Do you have a law firm on retainer 24 hours a day to answer any legal question without cost, that you may have?

Do you know if your identity is being compromised?

Is your child protected while they are away at school/college?

Do you know your legal rights?

If you want answers to your NO's, take a minute and look at my website and complete the "Contact Me" section, with your name, contact number, and email address or call me and I will send you more information:

Linda Rogers, Sr. Associate

Cell: 609-331-0281

Website: legalshieldassociate.com/hub/lindarogers

American Cancer Association Candy Sale

By Miracle Santiago

Sister Miracle has been selling candy to raise money for the American Cancer Society through the Volunteer club at her school, Trenton Central High. She will be raising money all year long to support the cause. Be sure to see her to purchase a snack and donate to a great cause!

one another. Many thanks to the youth ministry for their faithful efforts.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

October 2017:

1st - Pastor Norwood
8th - Pastor Norwood
15th - Rev. Henry Panniell
22nd - Pastor Norwood
29th - Rev. Henry Panniell

November 2017:

5th - Rev. Henry Panniell
12th - Pastor Norwood
19th - Pastor Norwood
26th - Deacon Tanya Norwood

December 2017:

3rd - Pastor Norwood
10th - Pastor Norwood
17th - Pastor Norwood
24th - Pastor Norwood
31st - Pastor Norwood

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

**Email Your Articles and Pictures to the Praise
Report at Contact@UjimaChurch.org**

With "Newsletter" in the Subject line

UJIMA VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship - 10:30AM

Sunday "Time for Truth" After Morning Worship

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:30PM

Wednesday Children's Activities 6:30PM

Wednesday Bible Study Adult and Teen Classes at 7:00PM

New Members / Inquirers Class Scheduled Upon Request

Children's Special Catechism Classes as scheduled

Announcements

HURRICANE RELIEF – Give to support the relief efforts. The following organizations are endorsed by the church leadership for this purpose ... **The Red Cross** (online donations <https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-harvey>) and **Church World Service** (online donations <https://cwsglobal.org/>)

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS & REMEMBRANCE is on Sunday, November 5, during Morning “All Saints Day” Worship.

THE WOMAN’S RETREAT IS ON NOVEMBER 10TH TO 12TH. See the bulletin insert for more information.

MEN’S MINISTRY “DINNER AND A MOVIE” FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH will be on Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30PM

BUILDING GREATER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY -

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY THE REGION’S “TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION” will be on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30PM here at Ujima. All are invited.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP – 11/22 at 6:30PM

THE SENIOR USHERS WILL MEET EVERY 3RD SUNDAY after Time for Truth Studies.

UJIMA’S MIGHTY MEN MEET for a breakfast fellowship on the first Sundays at 9:30AM in the Lighthouse Café. This is an Outreach Opportunity!

PASTOR NORWOOD’S RECENT SERMONS can be downloaded or streamed online at www.UjimaChurch.org or at www.facebook.com/RevNorwood

THE MASS CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY’S AFTER TIME FOR TRUTH STUDIES. 20 Minute sectional rehearsals on the 2nd Sundays. 4th Sunday’s all will practice.

CHURCH LOGO PINS ARE AVAILABLE! Gold tone and Silver tone pins are \$7 each. See Deacon Caleb Collins for details. Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Mighty Men.

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