

The Praise Report

Summer / Issue 3 of 2017

1001 Pennington Rd*Ewing Twp., New Jersey 08618



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

www.UjimaChurch.org



A Joyful Community Day!

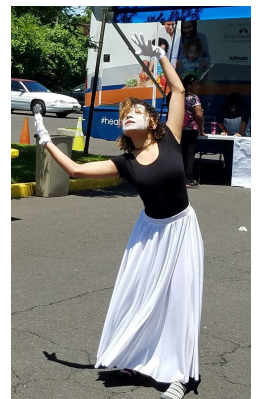


What a wonderful day it was! Our 2017 Community Day looked as though it might not turn out so well. A rainy morning led to some doubt. But, the gray clouds receded and a blue sky was revealed by the start of the celebration. Looks of concern were replaced with smiles of joy.

Minister Diggs, associate minister and youth leader at the New Kingdom Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, not only served as the master of ceremonies, but also gave a soul stirring testimony and appeal to repent.



From the opening prayer and the wonderful praise dance by Destiny Weeks, the blessing of the Holy Spirit was apparent through the selections by our own choir members, keyboard instrumentals by Ira Serl, puppet ministry by Tameekia Hardwick, American Indian drumming by the Norwood family, and a special presentation by the 6th Regiment Colored Troops military reenactors. Free health screening was provided by the Trenton Health Team mobile medical unit. We were also visited by Senator Shirley Turner, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, and Ewing Mayor Bert Steinmann. It was a blessed day indeed. Many thanks to all of our volunteers!



Door to Door... Person to Person

By Pastor Norwood

I learned something after this year's Community Day. Mother Elzata Goodman, who for years has done the "planning and leg work" for our annual event, goes far above and beyond what I had realized for the success of the event. Even though our church is a "second home" for her, as she is a member of the St. John Baptist Church of Camden, NJ (*where she is a member of two choirs and works with the School of Christian Discipleship, the singles ministry, the Potter's House Ministry, and Women's Fellowship*), she works tirelessly for our annual Community Day. I had always known that Mother Goodman begins contacting area companies, agencies, churches, community leaders and politicians months in advance. Many show up asking for her, as she has been their persistent and tenacious point of contact for years. I knew that she announced and "talked up" the event to stir interest from the area around the church. I knew that she sent "thank you" notes to the community agencies and leaders that showed up and supported the event. What I did not know was that every year she taxes her body to exhaustion walking door to door to the homes on the blocks surrounding the church to leave flyers and goes to area businesses to leave posters... all by herself. Whoever she is able to strike up a conversation with, gets a flyer. She carries a stack of Community Day promotional materials in her purse and car. I did not learn about all of this from her, but rather because our First Lady, who is her daughter, mentioned how concerned she was for Mother Goodman's physical condition after walking all over the neighborhood. Mother Goodman did this for years without telling anyone... it was between her and the Lord. To God be the Glory!



"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

Sky Zone

By Malayna Cherry

On Sunday, June 25th, the youth of Ujima met up and headed out to skyzone for a fun filled afternoon. There, we had an amazing time bouncing off the walls... literally! The blocks are a bottomless pit; and once you're in, there's no coming out! The younger children lit up like Christmas trees during dodgeball time. When it came to jumpball, they jumped like fire was beneath their feet. Adults had a blast watching the little ones play and run around. Needless to say, there were many kids who were tucked in before 9 pm that night.



At skyzone, the fun is endless and If you ask me, I would go back for more. Thank you to all the chaperones that played, jumped, and laughed with us. If you want to see some live footage, see sister Kathy or sister Tameekia!

Homefront Fundraiser

By Jai Wilkins

Ujima's members have always been helping to better their communities from outside as well as within the church. In following the trend, a special collective initiative, taken on through a school project was put forth to help those in need. From June 3rd to June 10th, Ujima collected donations and offerings to a Central Jersey organization, Homefront. The charity's goal is to end the cycle of poverty by providing housing, food, clothing, and training to underprivileged families.

Originally, this idea of service began in my Spanish class as an assigned project to learn more about local charities as a part of 'El Mes de Servicio' (The Month of Service). In addition to creating a video diary, the teacher, Sra. Snyder, encouraged students who were genuinely interested to contribute to the organizations they learned so much about. After contacting Pastor and hearing their enthusiastic response the project took on new life. In addition to the money raised by Ría Gurram, a classmate at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North the total amount donated was \$150. The experience of fully engaging with the community was truly inspiring. As I continue on with civil service my work will only be made that much more through the support of the church.

Leadership Workshop

The “Our Best For Our King” leadership workshop was held on May 7, 2017. Pastor Norwood gathered those in leadership of various ministries of the church and those who were interested in developing a more faithful and growing congregation together to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit on such matters. The following report is taken from the notes of First Lady Tanya Norwood:

To improve the worship life of the church, worship leaders need to fast and pray together in order to prepare themselves and intercede on behalf of others who are coming to worship. This could be done during the week preceding their designated Sunday. The youth ushers should meet with the senior ushers a few times a year for training and coordination purposes. Both usher boards should served together on each fifth Sunday. There was a desire for the redevelopment of the youth choir and youth dance ministry. It was suggested that there be an increase in designated testimonial services. It would be a blessing to not only have a prayer box but also a praise box that provides for the report of answered prayers.

Improve communication through the further development and use of the new church website, the use of “Robo-Calls,” and the development of a Facebook page and texting services.

What each ministry does and what each ministry may need should be presented so the members, especially new members, can be more aware. This should be aimed at encouraging every member to be involved in some ministry in the church to ensure the support of all of the ministries of the church. There should also be a reevaluation of ministries to determine which ones are still functioning, which ones are not, and what new ones may be needed. Some that are needed include: 1) A mechanic’s assistance initiative by the men’s ministry for women in need of such support so that they are not taken advantage of. Create a list of mechanics and other trades persons who are reliable and willing to be accountable for their services...2)New strategies for more outreach into the surrounding community, and being unafraid to do so wherever the Lord may lead...3)Because mentoring and counseling are important, it was thought that, in addition to more workshops on such topics, the opportunity to train lay counselors and to have specific resources available to address certain critical needs and challenges, such as:

financial crises; domestic violence; marital issues; parenting issues; dealing with devastating diagnoses; grief and mourning; etc. This could be anything from handouts and flyers that provide comfort to directories for community resources to meet individual needs. The Lighthouse Café could become a resource room for such materials and for recommended books...4) Development of a prayer line, so people can call in for intercession... 99.1 Radio Station was lifted as an example of one that worked well... 5)Develop a ministry care for new marriages, new mothers, new parents, and seniors... 6)Redevelopment of a feeding ministry and renovation of the kitchen for further growth of the hospitality ministry... 7) Development of an exercise ministry.

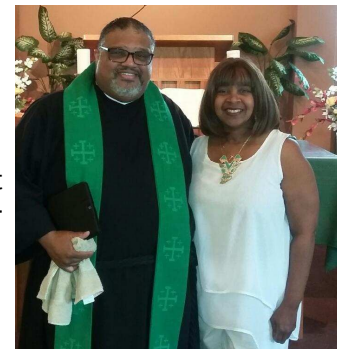
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

By Tina Roach

We welcome Pamela Marshall, our newest member. She shares in her own words... “...I truly feel the Lord led me to Ujima! I was commuting to a church 45min away. I began missing things more and more as it was getting difficult to travel. I did visit a few other places but I had been attending the Saturday ministry with Linda (Rogers). She invited me to church so many times but the first time I came to Ujima, I got such an awesome word when Pastor Norwood preached. I felt compelled to come back. It was like a jigsaw puzzle coming together. I prayed about it and I truly feel the Lord led me to Ujima! I felt such a welcoming genuine spirit...”

“I’ve been through a challenging time lately. My family members and I received so much loving support. It was different than anything I’d ever experienced. I felt such a welcoming genuine spirit from the church members. Pastor Norwood & Sis Tanya both deliver such awesome word...I’m so grateful to be here. I love God so much and I just want to do more to devote my life to him and serve him.”

Sister Pamela lives and works locally; and feels blessed to look out for her father and his house as well. Her daughter and grandson live in south Jersey.



Usher's Council Meeting

by Cynthia Solice and Diane Watkins

The Ushers here at Ujima belong to the Ushers Council of Trenton and Vicinity, which consists of 14 churches. Each church goes to all the ushers anniversaries. We support each church that is in the Council. The monthly Usher's Council of Trenton and Vicinity meeting was held at our church on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7 PM and continued until 8 PM. We praise God for allowing us to have a wonderful meeting. The meeting was called to order by our first Vice President,, Brother Timothy Jamison. Our chaplain began devotions with the song, followed by Scripture. Devotions ended with prayer and a song. In the absence of our pastor, Dr. Norwood, our associate minister, Rev. Panniell, gave greetings in the name of Jesus Christ and a warm welcome to all who attended. Everyone thanked Rev. Panniell for a wonderful welcome to our church.

The Usher's Council meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. The Usher's council supports the ushers anniversaries of each of the member churches in the area. When we had our ushers anniversary, the Council filled half of the sanctuary! The anniversary celebrations are also open to any who would like to attend. The author's counsel also has an awards and scholarship program. Any student in their senior year who wishes an application can see Sister Solice.

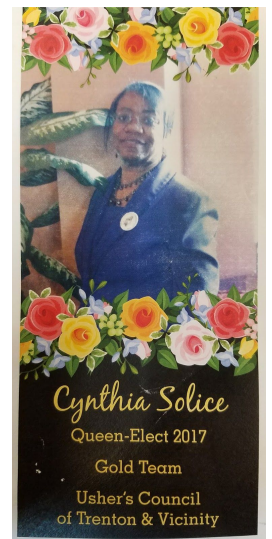
The months of July and August or "free months," in that no meetings or anniversaries are held. We start back in September on the 11th at Beauty Grove Church located at 66 Race Street. All Council meetings are held At 7 PM on the first Monday of each month, unless there is a holiday – then it would be the second Monday.

The Usher's Council prayer breakfast will be held at Mastorie's Restaurant on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 9:00 AM. Tickets are \$20. Our own pastor, the Rev. Dr. JR Norwood, is our guest preacher for the breakfast. For tickets, please see Sister Diane Watkins.

The Usher's council "king and queen" contest is an annual event. This year, our own Cynthia Solice will be running for Queen, and representing the "gold" team.

Within the Council, between the two teams, gold and silver, gold has never one. But this year we are determined to do so. Please see Sister Solice to find out how you can help her to win. She needs all of us to support her and the gold team. Let's support our own Cynthia Solice, so she will be the first gold team winner and queen.

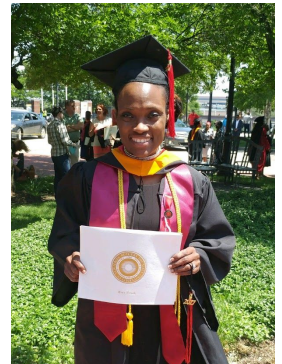
If anyone is interested in joining our ushers ministry, please see Sister Diane Watkins or Sister Cynthia Solice.



An Award, Honors, and a Degree

Congratulations are in order to several members of our Ujima Church family...

Tina Roach graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers with a Bachelor's degree in nursing.



Miracle Santiago and Malayna Cherry were inducted into the National Honor Society.



And Malayna Cherry also won medals with her high school track team.

Aim High and Give God the Glory!!!

Ujima Village Plaza Complex Biblical Studies and Life Applications

Submitted by: Missionary Linda Rogers

Praise God! Residents at the Ujima Village have started their Vacation Bible Study early! During the months of June through August, on the 3rd Saturday, we started getting a deeper understanding and appreciation of “God’s Grace.” We would like to share with you our outline, **“Summer Series Lessons on the “Grace” of God”...**

- We Are Saved by **“Grace”** Through Faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8)
- **Grace** is the Power and Ability of God Operating Through Us For Ministry and Sanctification (Acts 4:33 & 2Peter 3:18)
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of **Grace** (Hebrews 10:29 & Zechariah 12:10)
- The **Grace** of God Was Upon Jesus Christ (Luke 2:40 & John 1:14)
- The **Grace** of God Was Upon the Apostle Paul (1Corinthians 15:10 & Ephesians 3:7-8 & Romans 15:15-16)
- Let Your Speech Always Be With **Grace** (Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29)
- Do Not Abuse the **Grace** of God (Romans 6:1-2 & 6:14-15)
- Stay Humble With the **Grace** That God Will Give You (James 4:6)
- Do Not Receive the **Grace** of God in Vain (2 Corinthians 6:1 & 1 Corinthians 15:10)
- Continue in the **Grace** of God (Acts 13:43)
- How To Receive The **Grace** of God (Hebrews 4:16)

The LORD has laid on our hearts that we needed a deeper understanding of His “Grace” and the precious gift that He has bestowed on us, as children of God. This ministry meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 11:00am-12:30pm at the Ujima Plaza. All are welcome.

Daniel Roach: Ujima has been a blessing!!

An Interview by Tina Roach

Why did you choose Ujima as your church family?

My family and I felt welcome and very comfortable. The members were truly warm and we don't take it for granted. What impressed me most was the sound teaching; consistently high quality Word! Pastor Norwood's sermon's are in depth, provocative and they cause you to think deeply about your life positions on real issues. He is very well prepared and I like that we are continuously stretched, challenged and encouraged by the ministry of the word. Another reason I like Ujima is every time I've ever gone there, I have been blessed. Little by little, we continue to grow. Church used to be more of a burden or obligation, now I look forward to it.

How has being a part of Ujima helped you grow?

It has made me take a more serious and committed approach to learning God's will for my life. For example, for years only my wife tithed. I would say I believed in tithing, but I found the concept difficult when I had so many bills to pay. I was trusting in myself and looking at the circumstances instead of the Lord.

Through Pastor Norwood's teaching, I realized that the answer is always trust God and put him first. Since being committed to obedience in this area my family has been blessed beyond measure: investment mortgage wiped out by lender, purchased a new home, and received a grant for my wife's tuition.

What stands out to you about Sunday Worship Service and the ministries?

For one thing our choir is outstanding! Regardless to whether there are just a few of us, they always deliver and do their part to set an environment of worship and prepare us to receive the word. The Men's ministry is great because we have the chance to build relationships and get to know each other beyond a superficial level. I enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie; we are like brothers.

Is there a ministry you are interested in serving?

I'm very grateful to be here. I'm willing to do anything I can to help but I'm honestly not sure where God would have me serve.

Ujima's 2017 Teen Lock-In was a Success!

By Tina Roach

The overnight event was inspired by two of our teens Miracle Santiago and Malayna Cherry. Let's hear more:

Why did you want to have a Teen Lock-In?

Miracle: *I heard the church had done it before and I really wanted to experience it. I didn't know what it would be like but everything we did was fun; it exceeded my expectations.*

Malayna: *I attended one when I was younger; I thought it would be good to start having them at least once a year. It's good for the teens to come together and socialize, ask questions and talk about things that are on our minds. We are looking for a Godly atmosphere and we just need advice about some things and we make it comfortable so no one feels judged.*

Itinerary: Friday May 26, EIGHT teens and friends came & First Lady Tanya rose to the occasion providing plenty of teen-friendly natural and spiritual food and fun including: a scavenger hunt, competitive games & relay races (Girls are the reigning champions!); an exclusive Q&A session with Pastor Norwood, a word from Rev. Panniell, and Morning devotions. Finally, the teens of Ujima prayed for every seat to be filled and that all would be empowered to live the gospel.

Testimonials:

Jai Wilkins - *The lock-in was a lot of fun. We played a lot of different games and the Pastor's Q&A was my favorite part.*

Dylan Cherry - *"I had a great time, it was spiritually moving and honestly opened up my eyes a bit."*

Channell Wilkins Jr. - *"I liked the bonding experience. We shared things and I feel like I know everyone a lot better now."*



THANKS to all the volunteers who made the lock-in possible: Pastor Norwood; First Lady Norwood; Reverend Panniell; Channell Wilkins, Sr.; Tina Roach; Daniel Roach

Graduates Celebration

By Tanya Norwood

On Sunday, June 26th We held our Annual Graduates Celebration. We thank the Lord that all of the children of Ujima are being promoted to the next grade



level! Several of our kids maintained honor roll as well. Both Malayna Cherry and Miracle Santiago are rising Seniors in High School and Sis. Tina Roach received her Bachelors of

Science in Nursing, graduating magna cum laude. As always, each of the young people have selected a new Bible verse to memorize over the summer. Our Time for Truth Sunday Bible Study classes are officially on hiatus until after the Church Picnic in September. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



PREACHING SCHEDULE

JULY: 2nd - Pastor Norwood; 9th - Pastor Norwood; 16th - Pastor Norwood; 23rd - Pastor Norwood; 30th - Rev. Wayne Dobson (of New Life Fellowship of Willingboro, NJ)

AUGUST: 6th - Pastor Norwood; 13th - Pastor Norwood*; 20th - Rev. Henry Panniell; 27th - Deacon Tanya Norwood*

* Tentatively

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

Coming Soon!

OUTREACH SUNDAY on July 2nd. A special offering envelope is available to support the evangelism efforts of the Tape Ministry and Lighthouse Ministry.

SOUTH SUDAN RELIEF - Throughout July, the Brotherhood of Mighty Men will be holding a plate at the door after worship to assist the World Vision famine relief in South Sudan. See the Bulletin insert for more details.

SUNDAY "TIME FOR TRUTH" STUDY IS ON SUMMER HIATUS and will be returning in September. Keep an eye on the bulletin and website for Summer educational & fellowship opportunities.

MEDIEVAL TIMES TRIP – on Sunday, July 16, after morning worship. See the First Lady for details.

UJIMA'S WOMEN OF NIA MINISTRY is on Summer Hiatus until September.

THE CHOIR IS RAISING MONEY FOR ROBES through snack sales after worship. Please support their effort.

AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE "HOW TO READ AND INTERPRET THE BIBLE" WORKSHOP ARE AVAILABLE. See Rev. Panniell for details.

SHARE A WORD OF PRAISE... anyone interested in participating in a time of sharing their testimony during a Sunday worship service is invited to speak with the Pastor. A new feature in addition to the "Wisdom Keeping" will be "A Word of Praise" as scheduled by the Pastor. See Pastor Norwood for details.

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.

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

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

SINGLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY every 3rd Monday from 6:30pm-7:30pm. See Deacon Pamela Hill for details.

CHURCHWIDE RETREAT payment schedule is available. Don't miss out on this blessed 5 day integer-generational retreat. See flyers for details. Cost is all inclusive.

IF YOU DON'T USE AN ENVELOPE, YOUR OFFERING OR TITHE CAN NOT BE CREDITED TO YOU. Please fill in the information on the appropriate envelope and use it in order to have your donation recorded.

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

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

Upcoming Events:

Church Leadership Session – TBD (*This Summer - keep an eye on the website and Sunday bulletin*)

Summer Vacation Bible School – 8/2-4

Bowling Fellowship – 8/13

Church-wide Game Night (*sponsored by the Youth*) – 9/29

Women's Retreat – 11/10 to 11/12 (see insert)

Youth Fun & Craft Day – TBD (*in the Fall*)