

The Praise Report

The Newsletter of Ujima Village Christian Church

Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwood, Pastor
1001 Pennington Road * Ewing, New Jersey



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“Holy Week” at Ujima Village Christian Church

-By Naomi Cullum

During “Holy Week”, the church observed and celebrated the most sacred of times in all of Christian history! From the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, the poignant Last Supper with His disciples, the excruciating death and burial of this Lamb of God, to the glorious Resurrection of the Savior of the world- all deserved the utmost honor.

Palm Sunday Worship: Marking the day of the entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem, Pastor Norwood delivered an anointed and vibrant sermon. He paralleled the arrival of Jesus with that of a champion boxer entering the ring. The congregation, most likely, could visualize this analogy and realize that a true champion is a winner, one who is not defeated. Christians already know that Jesus is a victor because (fulfilling His mission from God the Father), He endured the atrocity of a crucifixion, conquered death, and majestically rose from the grave!

During the worship service, palm leaves were distributed and waved in honor of the “victor”, the Son of God! Later, during the “Time for Truth” class, he simultaneously led the study while creating several palm leaf crosses to distribute to those in attendance.

“Holy Wednesday” Special Study: On this evening, in lieu of regular Bible study, a powerful video presentation was given by Pastor Norwood, focusing on the “infallible truths” of the crucifixion and resurrection. He utilized commentary/content by two prominent and influential Christian leaders: *Allen Parr*, the minister/teacher and host of YouTube’s “*The BEAT*” and *Josh McDowall*, renowned author, apologist and evangelist. Each of these acclaimed individuals delivered information (not widely- known) concerning aspects of the actual crucifixion of Christ, the heavy guard of His burial tomb and His amazing resurrection.

An interesting irony associated with Josh McDowall was that his initial research efforts sought to disprove the concept of the Resurrection. However, his findings were infallible truths- which led him to actually become a Christian believer, having previously been an atheist!

“Holy Thursday” (Seder Meal and Fellowship): The annual tradition of gathering for a Seder Meal in celebrating the Passover came alive on this particular evening. For Jews: it represents their Exodus/deliverance from Egypt and redemption ...for Christians: it spiritually represents the “passing over” from the bondage of sin. This gathering allows all an opportunity to personally reflect on/rejoice in that redemption, be submissive to God and renew one’s faith.

First Lady, Deacon Tanya Norwood, wonderfully and patiently coordinated the effort to prepare all the various foods/elements for the meal- as well as the décor.

With Pastor Norwood serving as Leader for the event, and First Lady Norwood serving as Commentator, Ujima members and guests took care to follow all aspects of participation in the Seder meal. *[continued on page 2]*



[“Holy Week” continued from page 1] Later, the fellowship continued with all enjoying a much heartier buffet of foods, beverages and desserts supplied by the participants.

“Good Friday” Worship: For this solemn evening, the church focused on the dark days of Jesus just before His Resurrection. Most service attendees and the Ujima ministers wore black or dark colors to symbolize these last, sad hours. Each of the four ministers spoke on an aspect of the following theme: *“The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, From the Garden to the Cross.”*

The first speaker of the evening was Deacon Pamela Hill who powerfully gave an intense, comprehensive message on the topic of “Betrayal, Arrest and Denial.” She exposed how even those closest to Jesus, a couple of his disciples, went against Him in different ways. She focused on the greed-motivated betrayal of Jesus by His disciple, Judas Iscariot, which ultimately led to His arrest. She continued with the fact that even another disciple of His, Simon Peter, denied knowing Jesus (to save face) when pressed.

The next speaker was First Lady, Deacon Tanya Norwood. Her delivery was full of fire and understandable emotion on the subject of “The Trial and Scourging.” Her highly visual account of the trial and physical torture of Jesus truly captivated the senses of those in attendance. What particularly stood out was the reference to those horrendous lashes that Jesus received and endured...how “He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with his stripes we are healed.” [Isaiah 53:5]

Rev. Henry Panniell followed the previous speakers with a fresh and provocative exploration of “The Crucifixion.” He exhibited such a command and mastery in delivering his message on the elements of the shameful crucifixion of Christ. In fact, one could “hear a pin drop” as he expounded-at length-on the very depth and manner of suffering that Jesus endured while He hung on that cross. Also emphasized was the irony that Jesus (He who knew no sin), was sentenced to one of the worst kinds of death possible-that of a criminal’s death on a cross..

Just before the last speaker came to the podium, there was a liturgical dance performance by Sis.Trinity Norwood. Trinity, also dressed in black, gracefully filled the room with her whirls and swirls which beautifully fit the solemn mood of the evening.

The final speaker of the evening was the Pastor, Rev. Dr. John R. Norwood. In his legendary eloquence, he brought a riveting message on “The Death and Burial.” One could clearly visualize the death and burial account/scenario with the Pastor’s meticulous attention to detail. He spoke on what undoubtedly had to be unfathomable physical pain of Jesus: the nails splitting His flesh, the gushing of water from the piercing of His side and the dripping of blood from all the lashings and that crown of thorns forced on His forehead. Additionally, Pastor mentioned the compassion of a man who desired to take care of dressing the brutally-bruised, dead body of Jesus. The burial tomb of Jesus, and the huge stone that covered its entrance was also described. In a dramatic closing of the service, lights were turned off and all ministers lined up and walked out to the church vestibule-to the instrumental song of, “Were You There?” Those in the pews were encouraged to silently depart the sanctuary- as the Holy Spirit lead them.

Resurrection Sunday: The essence of The Resurrection is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead-proving His divine identity as the Son of God. Christian believers joyfully celebrate this fact and realize that because Christ rose from the dead, so shall all believers rise from the dead. On *Resurrection Sunday*, two worship services were held at the church- as well as a breakfast fellowship in between the two services. There was the early morning service at 8:30 AM which generally covered many aspects of the later service, with some exceptions and slightly abbreviated. There was a vibrancy in the air on this lovely morning as people came in to partake in the activities of the day. Pastor Norwood preached his message with much excitement-reminding the congregation of the authentic, spiritual meaning of Resurrection Sunday. When that service was over, a delicious breakfast was provided in the church Fellowship Hall for those who had previously signed up for it (and who were attending both services for the day). The breakfast feast included: scrambled eggs, home-fried potatoes, grits, sausage, bacon, fresh fruit (melons, pineapple), assorted toast, a variety of juices, coffee and tea.

Returning to the sanctuary for the 10:30 AM Worship, service continued with special presentations by the children, teens and the young and older adults. The young children gave recitations, “tweens”/teens/young and older adults did a dramatization-with First Lady Norwood directing and Sis.Trinity Norwood assisting. Just before the Ministry of the Living Word, the Liturgical/Praise Dancers of Ujima gave a fabulous performance and were a beautiful spectacle in their white attire. Pastor Norwood then came to the pulpit and brought the powerful, anointed Word of God. His timely message was entitled, “A Risen Lord, A Risen Savior” (Scripture focus was from Luke 24:1-12). Later in the service, there was the sacrament of “The Lord’s Supper” (with *Communion by Intinction*). Quite a few participated in this particular portion of the worship service, too. Overall, Ujima’s *Resurrection Sunday* was one where, obviously, all had a glorious time in the Lord! It was such a special blessing to see the pews fill with members, many visitors and smiling faces everywhere!

“Bible Olympics”

-By Sis. Adelia Clark



The 2019 “*Bible Olympics*,” held on March 13, was quite challenging. Pastor Norwood facilitated the challenge and the participants were divided into two teams: “David’s Destroyers” and “Warriors of the Word” responded. It was obvious that both teams wanted to stay in the game. Deacon Tanya Norwood served as scorekeeper and monitor. Participants consisted of all ages...and, fun was had by all.

A sampling of questions included: “Where was Samuel when the Lord called him four times?” Which disciple was Saul sent to assist in restoring his sight?”, “How long did the manna from heaven last in the wilderness?”, “When did the manna stop?”, “How many days and nights did the flood last?”, “On what location did the ark stop?” “What was Nimrod known for?”, and many more interesting and thought-provoking questions.

The questions were addressed to anyone, a specific team, or the first person who raised their hand and provided the correct answers after being selected by the Pastor. If the correct answer was not given or the person did not wait to be acknowledged, the points were forfeited to the other team. Someone was challenged by the rules regarding waiting to be acknowledged... We won’t say who that person was (but you can probably guess).

The team interaction was everything from teasing the opposite team to commending them on their correct answers to challenging questions. This was a time of searching our minds, putting our heads together to ascertain correct answers, learning, and being encouraged to learn more.

Phrases of songs were sung based upon specific, assigned words given to each individual. What fun! With some songs, we joined in and sang entire verses of the song, just because we wanted to.

The winners were “David’s Destroyers” - winning with a seven - point lead. Again, what a challenge! It may be time to start getting ready for next year’s “*Bible Olympics*.”

2nd Brunch Fellowship (of 2019) for Ujima’s “Women of Nia”

-By Naomi Cullum

Once again, the ladies of Ujima met at Hamilton’s *Cracker Barrel Restaurant* for food, fun and fellowship. Over an appetizing and pleasant meal, there were smiles, chuckles and small talk.

Later, as deeper discussions ensued, we gained a sense of enlightenment about some of these dear, spiritual sisters. Just listening to each other developed an avenue to better discern each other’s values and sensitivities. Additionally, sharing aspects of our lives allowed us (as individuals) to reflect on those specific circumstances which helped to shape us into who we are today.

Through it all though, there was the realization and the consolation that the Lord already had His hand on our lives. He had/has a purpose for us. In fact, were it not for His intervention, there’s no telling where any of us would have gone. So very grateful to the Lord!

All were generous with time and love- affording us the opportunity to just enjoy each other’s company. Indeed....on that sunny, second Saturday of March, we truly had a lovely fellowship!



Women of Nia Celebrate Mother Mildred Manning

-By Sandy Baez

On April 12, 2019 the “*Women of Nia*” Fellowship met at Mother Mildred Manning’s home to celebrate her 84th Birthday. Mother Manning, who has been struggling with illness, was to say the least, surprised and somewhat confused as to why we had decided to gather at her home. All evening long she insisted on finding out who had set up the gathering of the “*Women of Nia*.” She mentioned that she was adamant with her daughter, Chastity and husband, Deacon Charles Manning about not celebrating her birthday. Our response to her was that we missed her terribly, we needed to be with her and celebrate her birth!

As the Women of Nia continued to arrive on that misty, rainy evening, we sat and chatted with her about her struggles with recovery. The last to arrive were our First Lady, Deacon Tanya Norwood with her daughter, Trinity- our Treasurer/Director of Ujima’s Dance Ministry. However, the biggest surprise guest of the evening was Mother Manning’s life- long friend *and* our Pastor’s mother, Mother June Norwood. The look of surprise and happiness that overwhelmed Mother Manning was priceless. Then, the “party” began!

All at Ujima Village Christian Church have been in prayer for our dear Mother Manning as she has been away from us for many months. As we gathered in her home, we prayed over her individually and collectively, we sang hymns at her request, and we feasted on a glorious meal. As the evening drew to a close, we sang “*Happy Birthday*” to Mother Manning and cut her birthday cake.

From shock to somewhat dismay, Mother Manning no longer questioned the gathering, but rather was filled with a joyful spirit, a smile from ear to ear, and a full belly. She was so very grateful for the gathering and surprise! Happy 84th Birthday, Mother Manning!! Continue to trust in the Lord and know that the “*Women of Nia*” will remain in constant prayer for your healing and return home to Ujima.



Collegiate Life: Our College Students on “Spring Break”

-By Naomi Cullum

When Ujima’s college students left in the Fall of 2018 to enter their respective schools, the church experienced a range of emotions. Of course, there was the pride and joy of seeing them all venture out to further their education-embarking on a new life journey. Simultaneously, there was also a sort of sadness in that they would be missed and bound to be subjected to spiritual opposition while away from home. However, through prayer and trust in the Lord, there was certainly great hope for them, too.

Fast forward...during their recent “Spring Break” from college, we saw Sajada Hardwick, Miracle Santiago, Malayna Cherry and Carly Bethea return to the area and attend worship and weekly services at Ujima. It was understood that student, Jada Hinds, was away on an educational mission in Costa Rica.

As for those we did see, one could easily note very positive characteristics in them. They all appeared to be especially happy, relaxed and content-despite the challenges of college life. In speaking with a few of them, they seemed enthusiastic about their courses of study and being able to maturely adjust to any changes in their social and academic situations. What a Blessing!

May these students always know that they have the prayers, encouragement and support of their church family at Ujima Village Christian Church.

Thanks be to God for watching over and protecting these young people- as they transition into the young adults that He would have them to be.

Active Assailant Training (by Star Group Solutions) *Would You Know What To Do In An Active Assailant Threat Situation?*

-By Naomi Cullum



In answer to that above question, strategies and recommendations were provided when Ujima Village Christian Church graciously hosted a free, highly informative training seminar at the church. This event focused on pertinent preparation info for places like churches, schools, malls and businesses - all of which could potentially face active shooter threats/situations.

Utilizing a slide presentation (as well as an interactive audience session), the personable trainer - Dan Dluzneski - fielded various questions and promoted great discussion on this highly relevant topic. Some of the most important points emphasized to all were to: 1) Have a Plan; 2) Be Vigilant and/or cognizant of Exit areas in public places; 3) Run, Hide or Fight, etc.

Audience members also participated in a “simulated” drill by leaving from the church sanctuary to go to Exit areas like the stairwell or nearby lockable rooms. By the way, in attendance was a modest gathering consisting of an interesting cross-section of Ujima members, local educators, clergy and others-mainly from Mercer, Bucks, and Burlington counties.

After the presentation, those in attendance were treated to a wonderful lunch. Certainly, this was another opportunity for even further communication with the guests.

Needless to say...appropriate and in order was: prayer before the training session, grace said at the meal and professional photography for the event - all provided by Ujima’s own Pastor, Rev. Dr. John Norwood.

Hopefully, none of us would have to ever encounter an active shooter situation. However, we do live in a dangerous society today - where anything is possible. So, it is a good thing to be knowledgeable and safe. [for more info on this topic or training, refer to the website for Star Group Solutions]

Below are a few comments from those who were in attendance:

“I thought the session was wonderful and informative.” –*Sheldon Ewing, Ujima member*

“On 3/23/19, I had the opportunity and privilege to attend an active shooter training program at Ujima Village Christian Church. I left the training with a clear understanding and awareness of the mindset of an active shooter, some actions he/she might likely take to carry out their mission and things that I could do to better survive and not be a victim. Active mass shootings are common and a real threat. Become aware, get trained, be prepared!

–*Kayla McGill, Lawrence Township*

“The info was very vital...we should meditate on how to be safe just like we meditate on the Word of God. We should utilize these tools on our jobs/workplaces and in our homes.” –*Cliff Rawls, Ujima member*

The Single Women's Ministry

-By Naomi Cullum

The Single Women's Ministry, led by Deacon Pam Hill, met recently for a very fruitful session. Normally, the meetings start at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month and last until approximately one to one and a half hours. This time, an earlier hour (3PM) was considered to better utilize time and to accommodate those who would not otherwise make the later evening hour. Until further notice, the meetings will be held at 3PM.

During the session, there was a continuation of the reading of the book, "Me and My Big Mouth" by Joyce Meyer. The enjoyable, thought-provoking reading was interspersed with questions and comments on concepts encountered in the chapter.

In addition to the reading, there was time for sharing past or current individual struggles as Christian women. These discussions served to help recognize the power of God in our lives while remembering to reach out to others in similar situations.

This was all the more reason to become active planners for outreach and recruitment for additional single women to be involved with us. Surely, there are needs and circumstances, not only in our church, but also in the community that more attention can be given to.

Well, the process continues as we look for a variety of ways that could somehow encourage women and strengthen faith on this Christian journey.

****If you are a single woman, let the Lord use you in ways that can be a blessing-by participating in this once-a-month fellowship. So, Come on out, join us and be Blessed!**

The Mozambique Cyclone Disaster Relief Fund

-By Naomi Cullum

During mid-March, the southeastern African nation of Mozambique was devastated by a powerful cyclone that swept through its borders. At the time, at least a thousand people were feared dead and many more fatalities were later confirmed. Consequently, multiple families were displaced and are currently in dire need of the basics of food, water and shelter.

In response to this disaster, Ujima is answering the compassionate call of Christian service by engaging in an effort to provide urgent help to the country. Throughout the month of April, at the end of Morning Worship each Sunday, monetary donations were being accepted at the door. Contributions totaled \$300 and were sent through World Vision for its relief efforts in Mozambique.

For additional info on international relief efforts, please see member of "The Brotherhood of Mighty Men."



Ujima's Annual Church Business Meeting

-By Naomi Cullum

The church membership of Ujima Village Christian Church met recently for the purpose of reviewing our annual fiscal report. This was an opportunity for all to view and compare income, various major expenditures and other allotments made for two consecutive years.

Church trustee/treasurer, Trinity Norwood, aptly presented a visual projection of a spreadsheet to clarify many aspects of the church budget. Then, there was sufficient time allowed for any comments, questions and/or discussion regarding what was actually shown, adjustments needed and any other general concerns..

Later, after a vote was taken (with all in agreement), a motion was made and seconded to accept the budget.

Taking Time for Others

- Missionary Linda Rogers

Greetings Saints! Colossians 3:12 (NIV) Reads: *“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*

On Saturday, March 30th, the Ujima Village Complex Bible Ministry, residents and visitors were blessed with a virtual presentation of Egypt given by Sister Naomi Cullum. Sister Naomi listened and provided answers to all who had questions. Not only did we learn some biblical facts about Egypt, Sis. Naomi also displayed some of her souvenirs (clothing, miniature pyramids, papyrus paper, and books). The presentation was well received by all present.

We thank you very much Sister Naomi for sharing your experience in Egypt with us! I would also like to thank Mr. Henry Myers and Sister Daisy Husband residents at the Ujima Village Complex for making the arrangements for the use of the community room for this wonderful presentation. God Bless to ALL!



Ujima’s “Busy Bees” Can Use Your Help

-By Naomi Cullum



Looking for something to do that can truly be a blessing to the church? Want to help make a difference in the appearance of our facility? Well, look no further than volunteering with the “The Busy Bees.” This special effort of the church is coordinated by Brothers (spiritually and literally) Cliff and Darryl Rawls and aided by other members of the church.

In questioning Bro. Cliff about the concept behind these projects, he emphasized that there is a need to constantly find ways to maintain the building and grounds. For example, help can be used for church cleaning, refurbishing, storage, checking/changing lighting and general upkeep of the grounds.

He and his natural and spiritual brother, Bro. Darryl Rawls, are especially resourceful and professionally qualified to assess these needs. They spearhead tasks to get the jobs done. Not all help has to be done by the men... yes, even women are of help. We can assist with packing light items, cleaning and offering design ideas for painting, carpet selection, etc.

Bro. Cliff adds that among some immediate goals are to create a new kitchen and provide a gym for church members.

When asked how others might be inspired to participate in “Busy Bees,” he responded by saying, “View this as a blessing from the Lord to learn how to do various jobs (like carpentry) and to have fellowship.”

>> For further info/details on the “Busy Bees”, please see Bro. Cliff or Bro. Darryl

Bowling Ventures (by “The Brotherhood of Mighty Men”)

-By Naomi Cullum

Our church’s Men’s Ministry, “The Brotherhood of Mighty Men,” recently opened their men’s bowling nights to their list of fellowships and outreaches open to all. I spoke with one of the ministry members (and one of our church’s *greatest* questioners), Bro. Sheldon Ewing, regarding this addition.

I asked him what had prompted that selection and he responded that all the men basically agreed that bowling would be most enjoyable.

When probed about whether he was pleased with the level of participation in the first outing, he indicated that he was, but there could have been more. He mentioned that one focus was/is to encourage more families to get involved, too. Certainly, that’s understandable since making time to participate in fun activities can help promote more family unity.

Finally, I asked him what else he’d like to share-in general-about the men’s ministry...he smiled and said that the brotherhood is great and that he would encourage others to participate.

>> For further info/details, please see Bro. Sheldon or any of the other Mighty Men.



Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape “Pow Wow”

-By Naomi Cullum

Are you interested in Native American culture? Do you desire to learn more about the interesting history of regional tribes? Do you enjoy the wealth of info provided in seminars on Pastor Norwood’s ancestral tribe? Would you enjoy an exciting, visually-stimulating time by being in actual attendance at a live celebration of Native American culture?

Well, if you answered, “Yes” to any of the above questions, there’s certainly a unique opportunity awaiting you! The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation will be having their annual “Pow Wow” coming up on Saturday and Sunday-June 8th and 9th 2019 in Salem County, NJ. According to its online website, this event “celebrates the culture and socializing of American Indians.” To emphasize the importance of respecting the culture, the site also lists several items under the heading of “Basics of Pow Wow Etiquette” for all attendees to keep in mind. In addition, this site provides directions for those traveling from various regions.

Expect to enjoy the experience, have a chance to purchase a variety of hand-made arts and crafts and be enlightened by this wonderful, lively event! It’s such a blessing to witness and support precious opportunities like this-while they exist!

Anyone interested in traveling (in a group-via van) to go to the ‘Pow Wow’ on the Saturday date, please see Sis. Naomi Cullum- as soon as possible. A volunteer driver is much appreciated, too!



Details:

Who: Those interested in going

What: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation “Pow Wow”

When: Saturday June 8th 2019- (*leaving Ujima Village Christian Church no later than 8:30 AM [Event opens at 10:00 AM, with “Grand Entry” of tribes @12:00 PM]

Where: Salem County Fairgrounds

735 Harding Highway (US Rte. 40)

Woodstown, NJ 08098 (Salem County)

Entry Fee: \$5 per person

Ujima at Grace Community Church: An Ushers' Ministry Anniversary

-By Naomi Cullum

On a Sunday afternoon in late April, Ujima Village Christian Church was invited (and warmly welcomed) to the *Ushers' Ministry Anniversary* of Grace Community Church. Located on West State St. in Trenton, NJ, this church is pastored by the Reverend Ethan S. Evans (who was formerly mentored by Guest Speaker and Ujima's Pastor, Reverend Dr. John R. Norwood).

Accompanying Pastor Norwood on this occasion, were Ujima's own: the talented "Praise Dancers" (under the direction of Sis. Trinity Norwood), the fabulous choir (under the direction of Sis. Shuquin Wimbush) and several dedicated ushers- all beautifully in sync and service!

Following the Call to Worship, there was a spectacular procession of ushers stepping ever so proudly- in their gleaming white- to the tune of "Every Praise." Later, during the offering, there was the impressive presentation of their *Grand March*. As the subsequent worship preliminaries continued, a quite spirited young lady was introduced as *Mistress of Ceremonies* who- notably- handled her duties well.

Shortly afterwards, Ujima's choir sang two selections and were most incredible that day. They just took the song praise to a whole new level! Also, not to be missed was the sweet and poignant ministry of the "Ujima Praise Dancers." The audience was mesmerized!



All of the above were 'tasty appetizers' just before the main entrée was served. Indeed, the congregation was treated to a "most hearty meal" of the Word of God- powerfully brought by Pastor Norwood! With such a heavy anointing upon him, the pastor gave a riveting and fiery message of great substance and timeliness. His message, entitled "Living for Christ," was taken from Gal. 2:20. The emphasis was that if one professed Christ as Savior, then one's daily life should reflect that- by being/living like Christ.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, this dynamic delivery of the Word compelled and/or convicted several to come to the altar for prayer.

Before leaving the service/church that evening, Grace Community Church expressed much gratitude to Ujima for such a marvelous time in the Lord. Additionally, they provided a home-cooked meal for all in attendance. Needless to say, a wonderful time was had by all!

In Memorium ... Brother Johnnie Weeks

On May 18th, the Ujima Village Christian Church family had one of our founding members called from labor to reward. Brother Johnnie Weeks, the husband of Marjorie Weeks, brother of Cynthia Solice, and Brother-in-Law of Pat Weeks, and uncle to his many neices and nephews who remain active in our congregation, graduated from the Church Militant on Earth to the Church Triumphant in Heaven.

Brother Weeks worked with the Ujima Youth Ministry in the early 1990's, which was the precursor to the Ujima Village Christian Church. He served as one of the early members of the Council of Trustees and, during those early years of our congregation's history, he also sang in both the Voices of Imani Choir and Men's Choir.

In recent years, Brother Johnnie Weeks could be seen attending our retreats, trips, and special events. He would jump up to join in with the choir when an old song was being sung. He was the "man with the camera," documenting the life of our congregation. He will be missed... but we will all be reunited in heaven!



Our Own “Ma Weeks” Honored at Luncheon

-By Naomi Cullum

Ujima’s own Deacon E. Patricia Weeks (affectionately known to many as “Ma Weeks”) was honored at a lovely Mother’s Day luncheon on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Sponsored by the Samaritan Baptist Church’s Women’s Ministry (Trenton NJ), this event recognized eight women in the community who were aptly given the title of, “Women of Worth.”

In a fellowship hall that was tastefully decorated in colors pink and black, the program started with a processional of the honorees. They were escorted by a loved one to selected table areas. After the Invocation and Prayer, all in attendance participated in a litany/response reading entitled, *Black Mothers*. This content proved to be such that captured the essence of the plight, role and strength of many Black mothers –both historically and currently.

Next came the celebration of the honorees; this entailed a bio read for each and a presenter who offered additional comments relative to them. Our “Ma Weeks” was certainly well-represented with many family and church members gladly showing up to support her on this occasion.

There were some moments of humor, as well as emotional responses, during this time-and understandably so. Honorees were also presented with a bouquet of flowers and a beautiful plaque from the women’s ministry.

Then, there was a most delicious meal provided with a good assortment of choices-buffet style. A nice touch was the generous pitchers of pink lemonade placed on each table and “party favor” pink roses for attendees to take home.

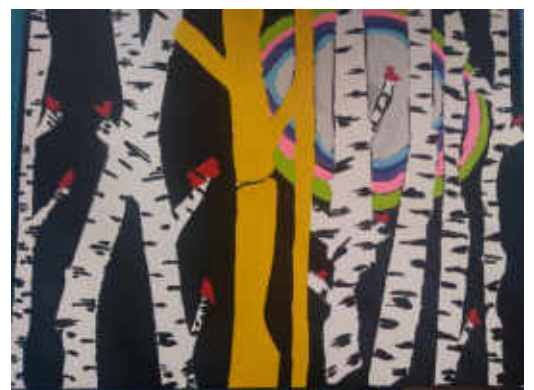
The final portion of the program included a guest speaker who offered words of encouragement to all-especially the mothers. She shared scriptures and her own personal testimonies of the depth and power of the role of motherhood. In doing so, she truly inspired and touched many.

It was obvious that this event was indeed a memorable one...for all who attended and *especially* those precious honorees. With great concept, coordination and execution, a fantastic job was done by the Samaritan Baptist Women’s Ministry!



Artwork by Nashea Flowers

For color versions, see the newsletter online at www.UjimaChurch.org

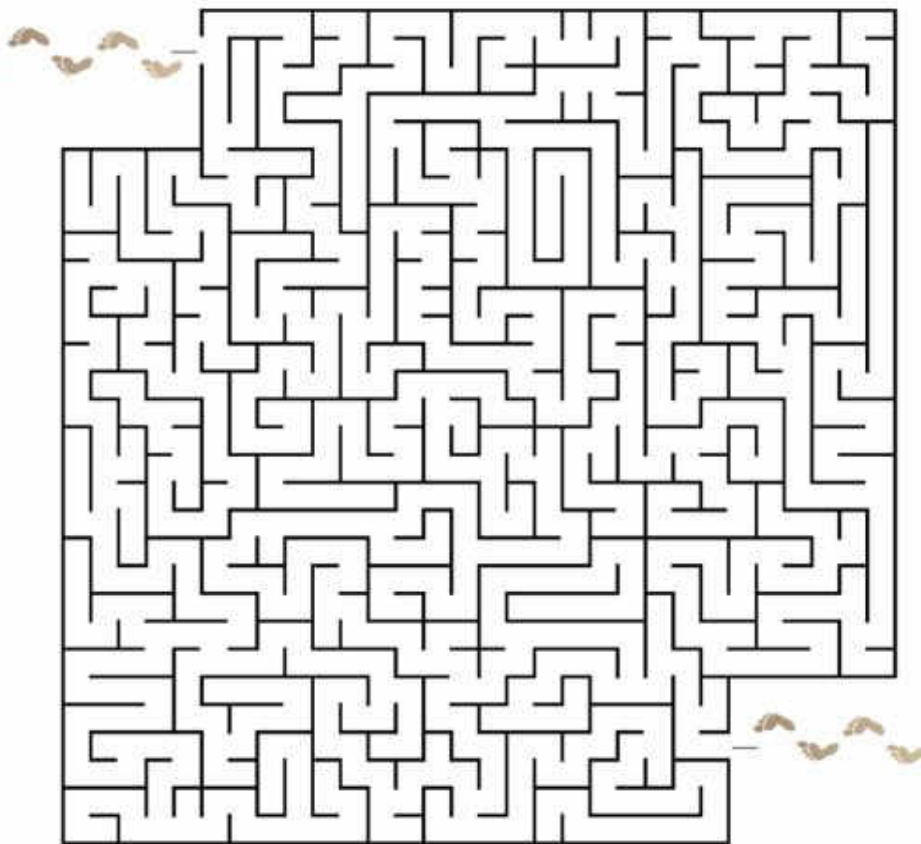


#2 ABRAHAM

Oftentimes in the Bible, God caused people to take long journeys. That's because along the way, they became a-maze-ing people! Abraham was told to leave his home of 75 years, Haran, and travel through Egypt to the Land of Canaan. It took almost 15 years! Let's get Abraham from Haran to the Land of Canaan.



HARAN
End Here



CANAAN
Start Here

Genesis 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

Psavory Psalms

CROSSWORD #1 PSALM 1

Learn one of the best-loved Psalms by answering questions about it in the crossword puzzle below.
Read the Psalm first!

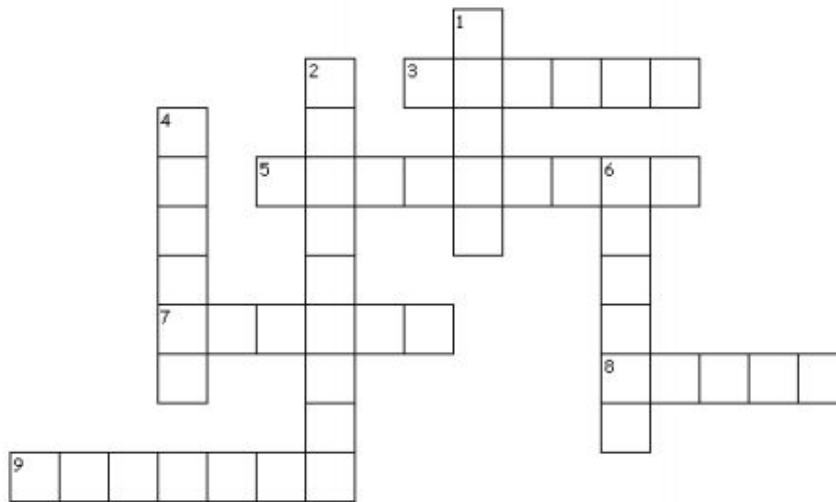
- 1 Great blessings belong to those
who don't listen to evil advice,
who don't live like sinners,
and who don't join those who make fun of
God.
- 2 Instead, they love the LORD's teachings
and think about them day and night.
- 3 So they grow strong,
like a tree planted by a stream—
a tree that produces fruit when it should

and has leaves that never fall.
Everything they do is successful.

- 4 But the wicked are not like that.
They are like chaff that the wind blows
away.

- 5 When the time for judgment comes, the
wicked will be found guilty.
Sinners have no place among those who do
what is right.

- 6 The LORD shows his people how to live,
but the wicked have lost their way.



Across:

3. These have lost their way.
5. Good guys love the Lord's
7. Don't listen to this sort of evil.
8. Sinners have no place among _____ who do
right.
9. Don't live like these people.

Down:

1. Think about the Lord's teachings day and....
2. Those who don't make fun of God get this.
4. Strength is like a tree planted by this.
6. At judgment, the wicked will be found this.

TeachSundaySchool.com

Crossword #1 Psalm 1
Across: 3. Wicked; 5. Teachings; 7. Advice; 8. Those; 9. Sinners
Down: Night; 2. Blessings; 4. Stream; 6. Guilty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNSHINE MINISTRY “TAKE HOME TEA” will be on Sunday, June 9. \$5 donation. Please support this ministry.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST CHURCH-WIDE GAME NIGHTS. Those interested, please see the First Lady.

A WORSHIP LEADER’S TRAINING will be on Thursday, June 13th at 6:30PM for all those participating in leading parts of worship or interested in doing so.

FATHER’S DAY PRAYER BREAKFAST on Sunday, June 16, at 9:30AM. Please reserve your seats on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule by Wednesday, June 12. Free for Dads, \$5 for all others.

ANNUAL USHER’S DAY on June 23 at 3:30PM. Pastor John Taylor of Friendship Baptist Church is our guest preacher

***WOMEN OF NIA STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP** on June 14th at 6:30 PM in the Lighthouse Cafe. Bring your Bible, a dish and a friend. All women are invited!

GRADUATES CELEBRATION Sunday, June 30th immediately following morning Worship.

“WHO ARE YOU?” CHURCH INVITE CARDS are available in the vestibule. Take a few, give them out, leave them wherever you go.

GOT CHANGE? DONATE YOUR LOOSE CHANGE to meet building needs. A change jar is available on Sundays in the sanctuary vestibule.

THE SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE is posted on the church website and around the building.

CHECK FOR NEW ISSUES OF “NORWOOD’S BIBLE STUDY NOTES” in the Sunday Bulletins, the sanctuary vestibule, and on the church website under “Resources.”

THE SENIOR USHERS 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!

SINGLE WOMEN’S MINISTRY ...See Deacon Pamela Hill for details.

THE “BUSY BEES” BUILDING FUND CLUB needs you to donate to meet our building and fuel demands without touching the ministry budget. Please give a little extra on the 2nd Sunday Offering.

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.

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

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Class being scheduled...

“Digging Deeper: Understanding Scripture”

“A Biblical Response to Abortion”

Dinner & Movie 7/2

Church Leader Training TBD

Upcoming 2019 Holy Days and Special Observances: Ascension Day 5/30 (observed on 6/2); Pentecost 6/9; Father’s Day 6/16; Reformation Day 10/31; All Saints Day 11/3; Thanksgiving Eve 11/27; Advent begins 12/1; Christmas 12/25; Watchnight 12/31