Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. As we begin the New Year, my wife and I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the many members and friends of Bethel for your cards, gifts, and other expressions of love during the holiday season. Your love and kindness are greatly appreciated. “And my God shall supply all your needs (this year) according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 4:19) God bless you all!

In order for our congregation to become the church God is calling us to be will require a commitment to making disciples and developing leaders for Christ. Disciples are committed Christ followers. They love Christ and are committed to advancing the kingdom of God. Distinguishing marks of a disciple are attendance at worship, cheerful giving, study of the Word, growing spiritually, serving God through the discovery and use of their spiritual gift or gifts. Making more disciples will build hope by changing families, the church, and the community.

Our vision is to become the premiere church in Westchester County, serving as a beacon of hope to individuals, families, the community, and the world. To become the premiere church will require leaders and leadership. Leadership is influence. Our church will be intentional this year in developing and deploying Christian leaders who will assist the pastor in attaining the vision God has for our church.

Leaders are committed individuals who love God, love the church, and love the pastor. Committed leaders will attend worship service, be cheerful givers, support the vision, grow spiritually, and grow their following. If a leader is not attending, giving, supporting, and growing; then are they really leading? John Maxwell states, “A church or any organization cannot go higher than its leadership.”

We must have high expectations of our leaders and members because we want to achieve a high goal. To become the church God is calling us to be, which is to be the premiere church in Westchester County, will require our congregation to raise our standards and expectations of both members and leaders. The world is attracted to the best and God deserves our best. **We want to be the best!**

**Join the movement! Are you in or are you out? Make the commitment now!** We are all in this together, being the church God has called us to be. And that means being the best! To God be the glory! Amen!

Dr. Edward O Williamson, Pastor-Teacher
Missionary Ministry 105th Anniversary

Theme: “Missions Matter: Having a Global Impact for Christ”
Matthew 5:13-16

The Missionary Ministry’s annual day was chaired by Deaconess Sylvia Latimer. Her committee consisted of the following missionaries: Sisters Joann Edwards, Stephanie Ward, Sheryl Franklin, Rosalind Keys and Tasha Pine. Along with “helping hands” from the entire Missionary Ministry, the committee worked hard to plan and execute a wonderful celebration of our history within Bethel Baptist Church.

Rev. Donald K. Sadler, Pastor of New Morning Star Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. was our guest preacher. He was accompanied by his lovely wife and one of their sons. Rev. Sadler brought an inspiring message that challenged not only the missionaries but the entire congregation. Rev. Sadler and his wife are highly involved in the work of the Lott Carey convention.

Echoes of the Lott Carey Convention were given by Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith. He was assisted by Sis. Carol Robinson with selected photos from the convention which was held in Birmingham, Alabama this past August 2017.

Our delegation included: Sis. Barbara Andralliski, Sis. Carol Robinson, Rev. Virginia Young (& husband Mr. Michael Young), Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith, and Deacon Dewitt Roy Smith.

Ms. Sophonie DeFranc started the service with the introduction of our Worship Leader, Dr. F. Reece-Smith. Sophonie did a great job and she represented the Youth Department with dignity. Min. Dianne Asphall graced us with the altar call. Our first lady- Rev. Deborah Williamson gave a dynamic introduction of our preacher, Rev. Sadler. The Male Chorus followed with melodious songs of zion. As always, Sis. Geneva Benton prepared and served a delicious meal which concluded our 105th celebration! “To God Be All The Glory”

Submitted by: Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith
God's Pharmacy, very interesting and informative

It's been said that God first separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish... All before making a human. He made and provided what we'd need before we were born. These are best & more powerful when eaten raw. We're such slow learners...God left us a great clue as to what foods help what part of our body!

God's Pharmacy! Amazing!

A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye... And YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.

A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food.

Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.

A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.

Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Celery, Bok Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.

Avocados, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine (9) months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).
“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” Luke 2:10(KJV).

One of the goals for the Music and Fine Arts Department for 2017 was to develop more cohesiveness within and among all the groups. Pastor Williamson stated that he would like to see the Green Christmas Concert presented by the entire department to usher in the Christmas spirit through the arts.

After much thought and prayer, the theme was presented to all the groups. The impetus behind Jesus is…”Joy To The World”, was rooted in the 10th verse of our chosen scripture in Luke 2nd chapter and the Christmas carol: “Joy To The World” (1st & 4th verses). Our aim was to highlight the diversity of our congregation and show how “joy” affects all people during the Christmas season of the year. A history of this carol can also be found in today’s newsletter.

The leaders of the dance and mime groups met with Dr. Smith to discuss the scripture and the carol. The goal was to decide on pieces that would be appropriately aligned with the theme. We followed up with a telephone conference to work through scheduling times for all groups to rehearse in the sanctuary. We shared so much as we worked around schedules, considered each group’s time and preparation, and intentionally supported the “whole” concert, rather than, individual group agendas. There was no room for mediocrity, inferior quality, or triviality. EXCELLENCE was the goal!

A note of gratitude to the leaders of each group is once more extended to:
Pam Tabbs, Adult Praise Dancers; Asjea Bowry, Joyful Praise; Robine Guillaume, Unspoken Praise; Marian Bobian, Divinely Inspired Mime & Drama; and to all the members of the Voices of Inspiration & Friends Choir.
We pray you were blessed by this endeavor which was done “to the glory of God!”.
Until Isaac Watts came along, most of the singing in the British churches was taken from the Psalms of David. The church – especially the Church of Scotland – had labored over the Psalms with great effort and scholarship, translating them into poems with rhyme and rhythm suitable for singing. As a young man in Southampton, Isaac had become dissatisfied with the quality of singing, and he keenly felt the limitations of being able to only sing these Psalms. So he “invented” the English hymn.

He did not neglect the Psalms, altogether. In 1719, he published a unique hymnal. In this hymnal, he translated, interpreted, and paraphrased the Old Testament Psalms through the eyes of a New Testament faith. He titled it: *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament.* Taking various Psalms, he studied them from the perspective of Jesus and the New Testament, and then formed them into verses for singing.

Watts’ archenemy was Thomas Bradbury who called Watts’ songs *whims* instead of *hymns.* He accused Watts of thinking he was King David. Watts replied in a letter, “You tell me that I rival it with David, whether he or I be the sweet psalmist of Israel. I abhor the thought; while yet, at the same time, I am fully persuaded that the Jewish psalm book was never designed to be the only Psalter for the Christian church.”

“JOY to The WORLD” is Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98, which says: “Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth” (verse 4). As he read Psalm 98, Isaac pondered the real reason for shouting joyfully to the Lord – the Messiah has come to redeem us. The result, despite the now-forgotten criticisms of men like Bradbury, has been a timeless carol that has brightened our Christmases for nearly three hundred years.

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He (JESUS) rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove...
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Submitted by: Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith

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**Something To Think About This Cold Season**

*from Mere Christianity, by C.S. Lewis*

What Christianity Offers

Now the whole offer which Christianity makes is this: that we can, if we let God have His way, come to share in the life of Christ. If we do, we shall be sharing a life which was begotten, not made, which always has existed and always will exist. Christ is the Son of God. If we share in this kind of life we also shall be sons of God. We shall love the Father as He does and the Holy Ghost will arise in us. He came to this world as a man in order to spread to other men the kind of life He has - by what I call ‘good infection’. Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else.

Submitted by: Sis. Denise M Bennett
My son D'Andre Cosby is a force to be reckoned with as he excels on and off the football field. He is a (running back) on his beloved team the Harrison Huskies, where he played an instrumental role in leading his team to many victories. Following Dres fierce performance in the game where the Harrison Huskies played Byram Hills, he was named the athlete of the week. A Loudon County article stated D’Andres performance during that game was best offensive game of his young varsity career. He had 25 carries for 188 yards, and 3 touchdowns and he caught a pair of passes for another 37 yards. The article also said Dre was on center stage and was described as a star being born. Dre has had several recruiters interested in him from D1 colleges such as Mame University, Wagner University, University of Rhode Island, Mammoth University and Colgate Universities. He has received several awards, one being the Hudson Valley award and most recently the New York State Section 1 award. This award was presented at the Hilton Hotel in Pound Ridge, NY at an elegant black tie affair. I am humbled that God has truly nurtured my son’s amazing gifts. I pray that D’Andre will continue his passion and also allowed him to be used by God!

Submitted by
Sonia Coleman-Cosby
Proud mama!

Bethel Member Recognized by Magical Group

Long time Bethel member, Teddy Lee, was honored in December 2017, by the national organization of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. He was recognized by the FCM for his 25 years membership, receiving a 25 years certificate and a 25 years lapel pin, as well as becoming a member of its Heritage Club. The FCM is a national organization of clergy and laypersons, who are balloon artists, clowns, puppeteers, face painters ventriloquists and magicians who use their magical talents and props to demonstrate biblical stories and events. The FCM consists of members from 49 states, the Territory of Guam, 9 Canadian Provinces and 30 other countries.
As we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day let us look back at an excerpt from one of his many powerful essays.

The Purpose Of Education

by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
Morehouse College Student Paper, The Maroon Tiger, in 1947

...It seems to me that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture. Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.

Education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half truths, prejudices, and propaganda. At this point, I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose. A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.

The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals...

We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living...

Submitted by The Education Ministry

THESE WOMEN ARE NOT BEHIND BARS BUT ARE IN PRISON!!

Kairos Outside NYC, chartered in 2009 is the local chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International, designed for women impacted by incarceration. Someone in their life is or was in prison. In many ways the families are “doing time” right along with the incarcerated. This ministry is also for women, that were themselves previously incarcerated. Mass Incarceration, is described as the new Jim Crow, from 1970 to 2005 the number of inmates increased 700%. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

Each year Kairos Outside NYC offers two Weekend Retreats, for women. These women referred to as “Guest’s” have an opportunity to get to know other’s that share similar struggles and concerns. The last Retreat Weekend took place in November and thirty five (35) women participated. Guest’s are in some way transformed by participating in this Retreat Weekend. The goal of this ministry is to address the Guest’s spiritual needs by providing a loving, safe, and supportive environment. Jo-Ann Edwards, Sharon Gilham, Yvonne Harris, Janice Robinson, Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith and Stephanie Ward are members of Bethel Baptist Church and this Kairos ministry.

It cost approximately $15,000 to carry out this Retreat. ALL expenses are covered by donations, consequently Guest’s do not pay a fee. If you would like to make a monetary donation or attend the next Retreat which will take place in May 2018, please speak to Pastor Williamson or Sharon Gilham...... shaham@optonline.net. Donations can also be made to: Kairos Outside NYC, P.O. Box One, Larchmont, N.Y. 10538 Website: www.kairosoutsidenyc.org / konyc2009@gmail.com.

In addition...This ministry greatly needs volunteers, who are referred to as “Angels”.
Strength Quotes for Encouragement

The Bible is full of strength scriptures to live by. These passages will bring many encouraging thoughts to your day and the New Year.

**Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

**Isaiah 41:10** Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Zephaniah 3:17** The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.