

Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church 428 N 41st Street Philadelphia, PA 19104 Rev Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor

# FROM MOUNT PISGAH

2023

SPRING













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We are
still in
Covid, so
please
wear
your
mask!



We are still not in the Clear!



## Message from our Pastor Reverend Jay B. Broadnax

A Time to Speak: A Rallying Cry for JESUS Christians The Rev. Jay Broadnax April 2023

In our Bible Study series entitled "Getting The Most Out of Your Season" we have been talking about Solomon's passage in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Our March 22 lesson was on the end of verse 7, which says that there is "a time be silent and a time to speak." In our discussion we identified that one of the times to speak is "when justice warrants it." Christians as God's representatives on earth are called to speak up when we see injustice. A king identified only as Lemuel in Proverbs 31:8 writes that we must "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (NIV)

If there were ever a time for Christians to speak up, it is right now. Believers cannot afford to be silent. There is too much at stake!

- How can we be silent when the pendulum of progress is swinging in the wrong direction and American society threatens to turn back the clocks on gains that were fought for during hundreds of years of oppression?
- How can we be silent when there are movements afoot to erase our struggle for humanity from history books and not allow our children to learn the truth about our people's past, so they can help America reach the full potential that its founding fathers envisioned?
- How can we be silent when our neighborhoods that have been disinvested in for decades are now the targets of unscrupulous developers who want to tax our elders out of their homes?
- How can we be silent when the precious lives our children are being daily snuffed out both in the streets and in the schools and our elected officials spend precious time and resources fighting each other instead of waging war against the problem??

How can Christians be silent in times like these?

Unfortunately, there is an element that is holding the "Christian voice" hostage and making it speak up to protect privilege and power. Rather than a "Christian worldview" implying a view of the world with an eye to justice and lifting people out of oppression through radical love and inclusion, it has come to mean a narrow mindset with a preference for a world in which the "haves" protect what they have (or

#### Message from our Pastor continued.

terrorize people until they get it back) and the "have nots" fight over crumbs. It has come to imply returning to a time where people are excluded and oppressed because of social or economic distinctions.

This was not the worldview of **JESUS**. Jesus broke boundaries. Jesus lifted the fallen. Jesus preached good news to the poor and lifted them out of their poverty. Jesus kicked it with folks that nobody wanted to be around. Jesus called out the hypocrisy of the privileged and made them drop their stones and walk away.

Where is THAT Christian voice? Who is lifting up THAT Christian worldview? Now is a time for JESUS Christians to speak! JESUS Christians speak truth to power, pulling down the entrenched strongholds of racism, sexism, classism, profiteering, and other idols at whose altars our society is tempted to bow. JESUS Christians speak through PRAYER, ACTIVISM, AND VOTING. The voice of JESUS Christians must be amplified so it is louder than the voice of "Christians" who long for a return to the "good old days" of disempowerment and exclusion.

When the disciples were raising a ruckus upon Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the Pharisees and Sadducees tried to get Jesus to shut them up. Jesus' response was, "if these be silent, the rocks will immediately cry out." JESUS Christians must keep the stones quiet – it's A TIME TO SPEAK!





### Message from the Editor Keith W. Arrington, Sr.



yourselves with compassion, kindness, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

# **PUTTING ON YOUR EASTER CLOTHES**



What joy there has been at Mt. Pisgah as more and more disciples return to a full in-person worship experience. As we approach Resurrection Sunday, my mind drifts back to the days when the sanctuary would be overflowing with worshippers, even extending to the balcony! Three-piece suits with polished shoes! Pastel-colored dresses with

majestic hats! Everyone showed up and showed out in their finest Easter clothes!

This text from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Colossians reminds me so much of those Easter Sundays of yesteryear! What better reminder than Resurrection Sunday that we are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved! So loved that He sacrificed His only begotten son for our sins, only for Him to rise again three days later with all power in His hands. Yet, as much as God wants us to have the finer things in life, His concern is not for the splendor of our material clothes! On Resurrection Sunday, the Lord is looking at our spiritual clothes. How splendid are they? Are you clothed with compassion? With kindness and humility? With gentleness and patience?

We're all human. We get frustrated. Sometimes, we get annoyed. Sometimes, the call to bear with one another is not such an easy task. But, cloak yourself in forgiveness just as the Lord forgives you! Then, better than the finest fedora or the prettiest bonnet is to top it all off with love!

Come on back to worship! Come on back to fellowship! Show love for one another as Christ loves us! Palm Sunday, Resurrection Sunday, and all through the Easter Season, don't forget your Easter Clothes!





## PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# SILVER SISTERS CELEBRATE.





# DARLENE FOREMAN PAULETTE THOMPSON





# WMS ACT OF LOVE TEDDY BEAR PROJECT

Women Missionary Society would like to thank everyone that participated for their Act of Kindness and Love for their donations to support

# THE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE PROJECT

The PCA is dedicated to ensuring that all children in Philadelphia are safe from sexual abuse. Because the pain and shame from this abuse can be overwhelming, each child is given a teddy bear to hold as a source of comfort as they describe the abuse to the police and social workers.

Please keep our children in constant prayers!







## CHURCH SCHOOL RESURRECTION PROGRAM

Our Church School will host a Two-part Resurrection Presentation this year, entitled.

# "At The Foot of The



Join us as we tell the Story of The Resurrection from

a variety of perspectives!

Part 1: Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday) at 9:00

Part 2: Sunday, April 9 (Resurrection Sunday) at 9:00 a.m.

> Connect via Zoom http://zoom.us/j/215-386-6181





...He said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. JOHN 19:30

The disciples watched as Jesus cried out, "it is finished." But what was finished wasn't Jesus' life – it was everything separating us from God's love.

"God with us" became "God for us" by giving up His life to rescue us.

Jesus suffered so that our suffering world could know God personally...that's what makes Good Friday "good."

# A Good Friday Prayer Jesus,

I grieve that the torture and sorrow You endured on the cross were necessary to save humanity. You didn't want us enslaved to fear, anxiety, or sin – so You sacrificed Yourself so that Love could win.

It's Love that hung upon the cross and gave up everything to rescue us. "It is finished" was a cry of victory because You defeated everything that held us in captivity.

Because of Your Sacrifice, I can experience intimacy with You forever. Thank You! Show me how to share Your love today and every day.

Use me to reach the world You died to redeem. Amen

Reprint from You Version

# THE SUPRISING ORIGINS OF EASTER SYMBOLS: FROM LAMBS TO LILIES

From lambs to lilies, there are many beautiful Easter symbols that have significance to us. But do you know why? The origin of the Easter egg is based on ancient fertility lore. The Easter bunny tradition came from the Germans (similar to Santa Claus). And then there are the Easter foods! Understand the symbolism and how Easter traditions began! Here's some table talk for your Easter dinner.

#### EASTER EGGS

The oval-shape egg has been a universal symbol in many religions across the millennia, symbolizing new life, rebirth, and fertility.

In Judaism, eggs are an important part of the Passover seder plate. For some Christians, the egg symbolizes the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of his Resurrection. Among Orthodox Christians, the faithful present each other with crimson eggs in honor of the blood of Christ.

#### **EASTER LAMB**

Among the popular Easter symbols, the lamb is by far the most significant of this great feast. The lamb is said to symbolize Jesus, as it embodies purity and goodness, but also represents sacrifice. Jesus was crucified during Passover week and then made the ultimate sacrifice, his life. He is referred to as the "Lamb of God" and "our Passover lamb" in the Bible. During Easter, we celebrate Jesus Passover from death to life.

#### EASTER BREADS

Sweet breads are also a tradition, especially with the conclusion of Lent, a period when many people do not indulge in sweets. For Christians, the resurrected Christ is called "the bread of life" (John 6:35), in whom believers will find their daily spiritual sustenance.

#### **HOT CROSS BUNS**

Hot cross buns, hot cross buns! Traditionally, this delicious, sweet bun was served on Good Friday, the Friday prior to Easter. Good Friday marks the end of Lent and is the day that Jesus dies on the cross. The sweet bun is marked with a cross to help the bread rise and as a visible sign that the bread was "blessed."

#### **EASTER LILY**

The magnificent Easter lily, with its sheer white petals symbolizes life, purity, innocence, joy and peace. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is seen handing a bouquet of white lilies to the Virgin Mary. In other paintings, the saints are bringing vessels full of lilies to Mary and the baby Jesus. It is said that beautiful white lilies sprang up in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus wept in the last hours before he was betrayed by Judas. The lilies sprang up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow.

Easter lilies grace homes and churches each spring as a symbol of new life.

#### THE EASTER BUNNY

The "Easter Bunny" who visits children on Easter morning was an invention of German Protestants; the *Osterhaus* or "Easter Hare," brought eggs and sweets to "good children" in the same way that Santa Claus brought gifts to well-behaved youngsters. Like Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny is something fun to do with the kids.

#### Excerpts from The Old Farmer's Almanac



Mothers bring you into the world and then they are always there to.....

Feed you when you are hungry
Clothe you when you are cold
Comfort you when you have pain
Laugh with you when you are happy

Cry with you when you are sad Play with you when you are young Plan with you when you are older Jump rope with you when you are "6"

Pray with you in good and bad time
Type for you when a paper is due
Crochet for you when you need a new "blue" vest
Cook for you when company is coming

Dance with you at family Weddings
Hold you hansd at family Funerals
Sing with you at family parties
Swim, run & play ball at at family picnics

Smile at you when you take things too seriously
Decorate with you when Christma is approaching
Hide eggs for you at Easter-time
Bake cakes, blow up a baloonss and
pin tail on Donkeys at Birthdays

Walk with you to school on your first day.

Be there to cheer you on your last.

Encourage you to go on and succeed.

Proud of you, whatever you do.

Teach you: "Run, Spot. Run"....

The states that border Pennsylvania, the sq.rt..

of 144,...the Latin for girl,...how to do long
division,...the notes of a scale...the parts of the

Mass, how the President is elected, to put a
project together, to paste, tape, color, cut, cook,
bake, ride a bike, swim, clean, wash shop,
collect coupons, crochet, knit, read, garden,
sew, do your nails, apply make-up or remove it,
dance and to love...

Love you in every way and be with you whether she is there beside you or with her heavenly Father......

Thank God for Her today and have joy in your beautiful memories...



# Ladies



# SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Silver Fox

Vivian Gee Claudie Hammond Arletha Pierce Clara Robinson Catherine Stewart Henrietta Stukes

Special Recognition Sages

> Leroy Foreman Robert Taylor

Honorary Rev. Isaac Patterson

**Submitted by Church School** 

# HANDLING IT GOD'S WAY

# Proverbs 31:24-31

She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies the merchants with sashes.

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affair of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praise her:

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fear the LORD is to be praised.

Give her the rewards she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

WHOSE MAMA IS SHE?
MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

( ) 1.	Jochebed	A.	Timothy
() 2.	Eve	B.	Eurice
( ) 3.	Hannah	C.	Jesus
( ) 4.	Naomi	D.	Mirian/Aaron/Moses
( ) 5.	Zipporah	E.	Ishmael
() 6.	Mary	F.	Seth
() 7.	Salome	G.	Twins/Jacob/Esau
( ) 8.	Eunice	H.	Joseph & Benjamin
() 9.	Elisabeth	I.	Obed
( ) 10.	Ruth	J.	John
( ) 11.	Sarah	K.	Solomon
( ) 12.	Lois	L.	Gershom
( ) 13.	Leah	M.	James and John
( ) 14.	Hagar	N.	Samuel
( ) 15.	Bath-sheba	O.	Chilion & Mahlon
( ) 16.	Rebeka	P.	Judah
( ) 17.	Rachel	Q	Issac

Answers on page: 26



# MEMORIAL DAY ORIGIN The First Decoration Day

Memorial Day started as Decoration Day more than a century before becoming a federally recognized holiday in 1971. While memorial services for fallen soldiers of the Civil War were common, the history of this holiday dates to May,1865, shortly after General Lee and the Confederacy surrendered to the Union, when formerly enslaved persons from Charleston, South Carolina held a large-scale memorial for those Killed in Action, many of whom were buried in mass graves in the devastated city. After a group of Black workmen turned one such mass grave at the site of a former POW camp into a cemetery, Black Charleston, white missionaries, and teachers "staged an unforgettable parade of 10,000 people on the slaveholders' racecourse... A New York Tribune correspondent witnessed the event, describing a procession of friends and mourners as South Carolina and the United States never saw before." According to the Zinn Education Project and historical record, three thousand Black schoolchildren singing "John Brown's Body" led the parade, followed by "several hundred Black women with basket of flowers, wreath, and crosses. Then came Black men marching in cadence, followed by contingents of Union infantry and other Black and white citizens." This was followed by a ceremony during which clergy read scriptures and the crowd sang both spirituals and patriotic songs, including the "Star-Spangled Banner."

In 1866, many days honoring those lost in the Civil War were celebrated across the country, including in Waterloo, New York. Two years later, a Union general called for an official day of remembrance for fallen soldiers to specifically include grave decorating; he chose May 28. That year, General James Garfield (later elected President in 1881) made a speech at Arlington Cemetery and lead 5,000 participants in decorating the 20,000 Civil War graves there, according to this article posted by the History Channel.

Over time, Decoration Day grew from being a day to honor Civil War dead to one of remembrance for those killed in all U.S. conflicts. In 1968, Congress designated the last Monday in May as Memorial Day; this became federal Law in 1971.

## FATHER'S DAY

Fathers are wonderful people Too little understood, And we do not sing their praises As often as we should... But FATHERS are just wonderful In a million different ways, And they merit loving compliments And accolade of praise, For the only reason Dad aspires To fortune and success Is to make the family proud of him And to bring them HAPPINESS... And like our Heavenly Father, He's a quardian and a guide, Someone that we can count on To be aways on our side. Happy Fathers Day

A - always there for you no matter what
T - the only one who's there
H - he's my hero till the end
E - encouraging in everything i do
R - really the only one...no one can beat him he's the best!!!

Happy Father's Day



The quality of a father can be seen in the goals, dreams and aspirations he sets not only for himself, but for his family.

-Reed Markham



# FAITH IN GOD'S WORD





Submitted by Patty Layne

## **GOOD MORNING**

We all say Good Morning to others.

Do you know the new meaning of "GOOD MORNING"?

- G Get up.
- O Open your heart.
- O Open your mind.
- D Dedicate your day to God.
- M Meditate on God's Word.
- O Optimise your faith & hope.
- R Rebuke all evils.
- N Never doubt God's love.
- Inspire someone.
- N Nothing should scare you.
- G Go out with joy.

So, I say GOOD MORNING & have a blessed day!



# PRAYER CALENDAR

			NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.		N	72
1 SALVATION Lord, I pray that I will obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. 2 Timothy 2:10	may grow in	3 LOVE Father, grant that I will learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who lives in me. Ephesians 5:2	A INTEGRITY Lord, may integrity and uprightness protect me because my hope is in you. Psalm 25:21	5 SELF-CONTROL Father, help me not be like many others, but to be alert and self- controlled in all they do. 1 Thessalonians 5:6	6 LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD Lord, may I regard your Word as more precious than gold and sweeter than honey. Psalm 19:10	7 JUSTICE God, help me to love justice as You do and act justly in all I do. Psalm 11:7 & Micah 6:8
8 MERCY Oh Father, grant that I would be full of mercy and compassion as you are, Lord. James 5:11	9 RESPECT Lord, help me to show proper respect to everyone, as your Word commands. 1 Peter 2:17	10 SELF-ESTEEM God, help me develop a strong self-esteem rooted in the realization that I am Your workmanship. Ephesians 2:10	11 FAITHFULNESS Let faithfulness never leave me, but bind this virtue around my neck. Proverbs 3:3	COURAGE Lord, may I always be strong and courageous in my character and my actions. Deuteronomy 31:6	PURITY Create in me pure hearts, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in my life. Psalm 51:10	14 KINDNESS Father, I pray that I would be kind to others and good to everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:15
15 GENEROSITY Lord, I pray I will be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18	16 PEACE LOVING Father God, help me make every effort to do what leads to peace. Romans 14:19	17 JOY Heavenly Father, grant that I will be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1:6	18 PERSEVERANCE Lord, teach me to persevere in all I do, and help me to run with perseverance the race set before me. Hebrews 12:1	19 HUMILITY God, please cultivate in me the ability to show true humility toward all. Titus 3:2	20 COMPASSION Holy Father, I pray that You would clothe me with the virtue of compassion. Colossians 3:12	21 RESPONSIBILITY Lord, grant that I would learn to be responsible, for each one of us should carry our own load. Galatians 6:5
22 CONTENTMENT Father, teach me the secret of being content in every situation, through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:12- 13	good fight of faith, taking	24 A SERVANT'S HEART God, help me develop a servant heart that I may serve wholeheartedly. Ephesians 6:7	25 HOPE God of hope, grant that I may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13	26 PATIENCE God, strengthen me with all power, so that I may have great endurance and patience. Galatians 5:22	27 PASSION FOR THE LORD Lord, I pray my soul would pant for you as the deer pants for streams of water. Psalm 42:1	28 WISDOM Father, I pray I would ask and that you would generously give wisdom to me as you promise. James 1:5
29 PRAYERFULNESS I ask that I will be committed to prayer, and not faint, lose heart or give up. Luke 18:1	30 GRATITUDE Lord, help me to live a life that over-flow with thankfulness, always giving thanks to You. Ephesians 5:20	31 BOLDNESS I pray that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel of Christ Jesus. Ephesians 6:19	May God BI Ha	ess You and You ppy and Prospo calendar as	our Family w	ith a Healthy,



# HEALTH CORNER

# How walking affects the body

3 minutes Blood pressure decreases

5-10 minutes Creative thinking improves

30 minutes

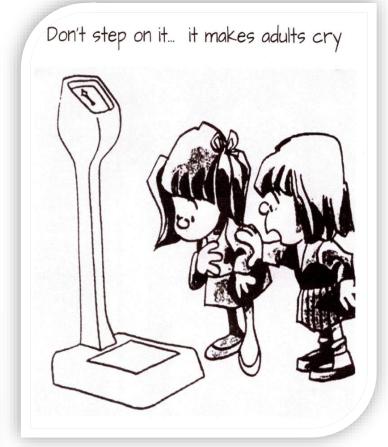
after meals

Helps to lose weight
(depending on walking speed)

90 minutes outside Reduces the number of depressive thoughts 5 minutes outside Mood improves

> 15 minutes after meals Blood sugar level decreases

40 minutes
Reduces the risk of
developing coronary
heart disease in the elderly

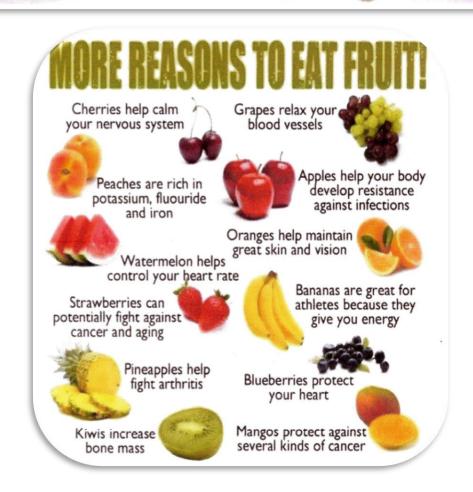




# HEALTH CORNER CONTINUED



oats



horseradish





## TUFFED VEAL CHOPS

¼ c. minced prosciutto
 ¼ c. grated sharp provolone cheese
 ¼ c. sm. diced roasted peppers
 ½ sm. onion, grated
 2 T. seasoned Italian bread crumbs
 2 T. minced fresh oregano leaves

½ tsp. coarse black pepper
 ½ tsp. salt
 2 (1-inch) thick veal chops, frenched
 Salt & freshly ground black pepper
 2 T. extra-virgin olive oil

In a medium bowl, mix all the filling ingredients together until well combined. Set aside. Have grill preheated over high heat and oven preheated to 350°. Slit each veal chop on its side to create a pocket. Stuff each chop with filling. Use toothpicks to keep closed. Season chops with salt and pepper and brush with oil on both sides. Place chops on smoking hot grill and mark for 2 minutes on each side. Remove from grill and place in a baking dish. Finish cooking in oven for 4 to 6 minutes.

Darlene Foreman Mt. Pisqah A.M.E.C.

## WEET-&-SOUR MINI MEATBALLS

Sweet & Sour Sauce:

2 (15-oz.) cans tomato sauce ½ c. light brown sugar

½ c. chili sauce

#### Meatballs:

1½ lbs. lean ground beef
½ sm. onion, grated
½ c. plain bread crumbs
½ c. freshly grated Parmesan
cheese

1 lg. egg, beaten
3 T. finely chopped fresh parsley
Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
Kosher salt & freshly ground
black pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400°. Put all ingredients in medium saucepan and mix. Simmer while you prepare meatballs. Combine all the meatball ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well and shape the mixture into meatballs the size of walnuts and place in a 13 x 9-inch casserole dish. Pour sweet-and-sour over meatballs, cover with foil and bake 30 minutes. Serve with decorative toothpicks.

Cheryll Davis St. Matthew, A.M.E.

# SIMPLE CAKE

1 c. butter 3 eggs

1 c. sugar 2 c. flour

½ c. milk

2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. vanilla or lemon extract

Cream butter and sugar together. Add 3 eggs and cream and beat well until batter is light. Add milk. Stir flour into the batter. Use 2 (9-inch) pans for a layer cake. Use chocolate frosting or vanilla. This bakes for 20 minutes.

Denise Ruffin Mt. Pisgah A.M.E.C.

# ATE NUT CAKE

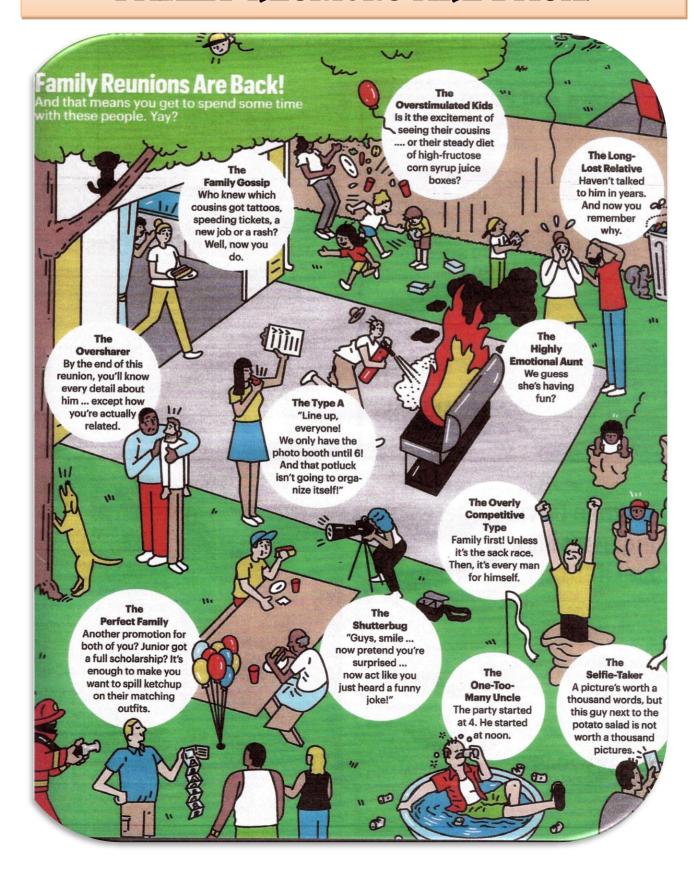
3 eggs ½ c. honey 1 tsp. vanilla extract ⅓ c. whole wheat pastry flour 43 c. unbleached white flour 1 tsp. baking powder 14 c. chopped dates 14 c. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray an 8 x 8-inch pan with vegetable spray. In a large bowl, beat together eggs and honey for 5 minutes. Beat in vanilla. Sift together whole wheat pastry flour, unbleached white flour and baking powder into small bowl. In another small bowl, toss dates and nuts with 2 tablespoons of the flour mixture. Fold the rest of the flour into egg mixture. Fold in dates and nuts. Turn into prepared pan and bake on middle shelf of oven for 25 minutes. Cool in pan. Cut into 9 squares. Makes 9 servings.

Clara Robinson Mt. Pisgah A.M.E.C.



# FAMILY REUNIONS ARE BACK.



# Congratulations. Alese M. Fauntleroy



# National Junior Honor Society

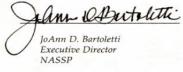
Certificate of Membership

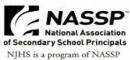
This certifies that Alese Fauntleroy

was selected as a member of the
Reach Cyber Charter School
Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.
Membership is based on Scholarship, Service,
Teadership, Character, and Citizenship.

Presented at Harrisburg

un March 23, 2023





Meghan Rodgers

NJHS Chapter Adviser

Alicia Swope

Principal

So proud of you and your accomplishments!





# BIRTHDAY/BIRTHS



# **APRIL**

# MAY

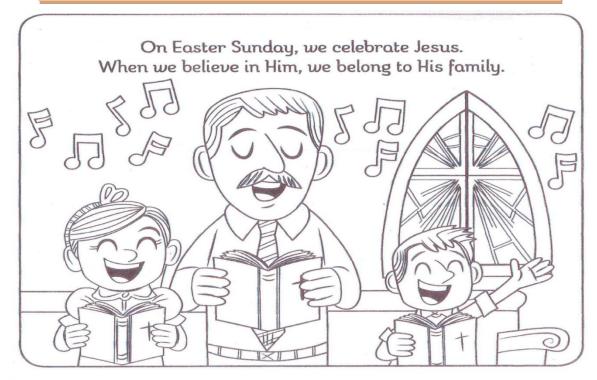
Pat Brown (3)	Verna Cox (20)
Rafig Harvey (3)	Earlene Moses (24)
Horace Ryans, Jr. (3)	
Catherine Brinkley (4)	
Pamela Hammond (10)	
Alese Fauntleroy (17)	
Jackie Gardner (27)	
Rev. Lisa Richardson (30)	

# JUNE



Denise Ruffin (1)		
Chance Durham (5)		
Angela Ryans (10)		
Mary Collins (12)		
Delores Lewis (12)		
Claudie Hammond (15)		
Sharon Lovett (25)		
Australia Weaver (30)		

## CHILDREN PAGE



# Word Search

								-		_	-	-	_
J	E	S	U	S	T	M	M	0	R	N	1	N	G
D	E	A	S	T	E	R	S	R	A	L	I	٧	E
Н	N	S	S	0	R	C	N	G	R	C	Y	0	J
D	G	В	E	A	C	Н	D	W	R	1	S	E	N
T	L	A	N	G	E	L	N	J	N	E	M	0	W
L	F	0	L	L	0	W	E	R	S	G	D	C	R
R	G	В	Н	Y	Н	S	1	F	Q	R	Н	N	T

Answers to whose Mama, is she?

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words may be forward or backward:

- ☐ ALIVE
- ☐ FOLLOWERS
- ANGEL
- **JESUS**
- BEACH
- ☐ JOY
- CROSS
- ☐ MORNING
- **EASTER**
- RISEN
- ☐ FISH
- ☐ WOMEN

1: D	2: F	3: N	4: O	5: L	6: C
7: M	8: A	9: J	10: I	11: Q	12: B
13: P	14: E	15: K	16: G	17: H	

# Shootings Remain High in Philly, But City-Funded Violence Interruption Shows Promise

A recent study found that a Philadelphia program can reduce shootings among participants by about half.



Mar 14, 2023

Deion Sumpter, the director of Philadelphia's **Group Violence Intervention**program, sits with his staff.
(Mensah M. Dean for The Trace).

## What is GVI?

Kennedy and urban crime experts contend that a small

percentage of a city's population — as little as half of 1 percent — are responsible for more than **60** to **70** percent of gun violence. The focused deterrence model, which has been launched in dozens of cities nationwide and abroad since first being used in Boston in the 1990s, is designed to reach those hard-core offenders.

"These group members are often the hardest to reach," Kenney said. "They have fallen through the cracks of society."

Nearly all the at-risk people that law enforcement referred to the program, city officials said, were Black men between the ages of 18 and 34. Initially, the program brought participants to large meetings at City Hall, where they heard about GVI from Kenney, D.A. Larry Krasner, mothers who've lost children, reformed offenders called credible messengers, and a handful of law enforcement officials. But the pandemic shutdown forced GVI officials to revise the program by sending teams to group members' homes instead. Now, the program mixes home visits with group meetings.

David Kennedy, a criminal justice professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and co-creator of the focused deterrence model, said Philadelphia is the only city to <u>successfully</u> launch the program during the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest following the police killing of George Floyd. "They figured out how to make GVI work… and the results are here in front of us: independent, scholarly confirmation that what Philadelphia set out to do is in fact working."

Kennedy said **GVI** is effective, "because there's a place in it for everything. There's a place for community engagement. There's a place for the most immediate, granular social services. There is a place for the hot stove of criminal justice, which is deterrence. There is a place for enforcement."

Sumpter, 34, who has run the program since its inception, said he knows the struggles of those **GVI** is trying to help because he has overcome many of the same obstacles. Raised in the city's Germantown neighborhood, he graduated from high school in 2007, but a year later, driven by peer pressure and group dynamics, he said, he committed armed robbery, was arrested, and was sent to federal prison for three years.

After finishing his sentence, Sumpter earned an associate degree from Community College of Philadelphia and an undergraduate and master's degree in social work from Temple University.

"This strategy, for me, just makes sense, because I know what it's like to be a part of a group and to be around a bunch of people that really don't care about you, who are really just trying to use you," he said during an interview.

Of the more than **800** people referred to **GVI** by the Police Department during its full two-and-a-half years of operation, about **28** percent of participants have requested social services, and **75** percent of those seeking services have been linked with them, Sumpter said. **GVI** case managers connect group members with job training, employment, education, housing, transportation, and mental health services, he said, and stay in touch with them as they transition from street life.

Jay, 27, is one of them. It was last year, shortly after he'd returned home to North Philly after serving two years in prison for gun possession, that he got a visit from a **GVI** outreach team. Jay, like Zeem, asked that his legal name not be published.

He recalls hearing that the group could help him gain temporary and permanent employment, education, better housing, and even food. "The things that they were telling me, I liked the information. So, I just started working with them," said Jay, who is also working in cemetery landscaping and is applying for a job with the local stagehands' union.

The father of two said the **GVI** program impressed upon him the consequences of carrying an illegal gun. "It's up to God's hands now, and basically I pray that everything goes the way it's supposed to," he said of his personal safety without a gun.

But he knows others are in a different situation. "It's a crazy city, man. You need protection," he said. "You can fall victim to multiple things out here – robberies. You can get into an argument with somebody at a store, and someone will want to kill you over an argument, over a bag of chips or just looking at somebody wrong."

Mark Johnson Taylor, a **GVI** case manager, said the culture of violence that group members live in is daunting, but not insurmountable. "I tell everybody, we have to get better as men. I'm a Black man, and I don't want to see another Black man die. I don't want to keep going to funerals," he said. "The biggest thing really is the mindset with the guys. Trying to change that mindset because that mindset is so closed up. But that's where the repetition comes in with the constant calling and checking in to build a rapport."

#### The Mothers

Volunteer mothers who've lost children to gun violence are crucial to the **GVI** teams. "These mothers who have endured this loss are a source of energy like no other," Krasner said.

"These mothers who have this deep wound, and this deep pain, are able to deliver a level of power and commitment and serenity and persuasion that is almost irresistible," he said.

Some mothers go to home visits with pictures of their late sons, smiling and alive. **Kimberly Burrell** brings a city morgue picture of her son, **Darryle**, 18, who got involved in the drug trade and was gunned down by "friends" in 2009, she said.

"I want young men and their mothers to see that this is our reality," Burrell said in explaining why she carries the morgue picture. "Our reality is not T-shirts, it's not balloons. I carry that picture so these young men and mothers, who sometimes give us opposition, see that this is what you're going to live with."

Cherie Ryans tells those she meets about her son Terence, 18, who was gunned down September 2, 1990, in West Philly after leaving a movie theater with a friend. "The thanks that we get is when a young man says, 'What you said to me helped change my life," she said.

"I've been a part of many programs, but with **GVI** we are actually talking to those young men who are going to pick up a gun one day," she said. "I've been on this battlefield since 1991. It's not easy. But I want to save another mother. I don't want another mother to go through what I've gone through."

#### Mensah M. Dean

Before joining The Trace, Mensah was a staff writer on the Justice & Injustice team at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, where he focused on gun violence, corruption, and wrongdoing in the public and private sectors for five years.



# CALLING ALL WORSHIPPERS

Let them praise his name with dancing...Psalm 149:3

## **OPEN MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH GROUPS**

**Angels of Praise Dance Ministry** 

(Ages: 6-18)

## **CO-DIRECTORS**

Tiffany Fauntleroy 215-436-0364 Dara J. Broadnax 610-551-3075



# PRAYER IN MOTION MIME MINISTRY

(Age 7 – Adults)

Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might...2 Samuel 6:14

The young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well.....Jeremiah 31:13

## **CO-DIRECTORS**

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Briana Arrington-Dengoue 215-900-5655





### A TIME TO BE HEALED....



## Sick & Shut-in

Darrell Alston	5121 Cedar Ave. (43)
Daphin Baker Jackson	1680 N. 56 <sup>th</sup> Street, 19131
Robert Brown	1420 Clearview Street, Apt. H110 (32)
Billy Cash	1118 E Sydney Street, 19150
Elizabeth Cason Kamara	4928 N. Camac St (41))
Phyllis Covington	418 N. 53rd Street (39)
Brian Durkson	2363 N. 23 <sup>rd</sup> St. 19132
Jackie Gardner	2133 S. 58th Street (43)
Vivian H. Gee	1519 Paul Jack Dr, Hampton VA 23666
Claudia Hammond	2001 S 59 <sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 406 (43)
Willie Holloway	4912 Osage Ave.(43)
Syreeta Jeter	411 N. 42nd Street (04)
Kathy Johnson	4751 Bingham St. (20)
Elizabeth E. Lavender	5917Washington Ave. (43)
Elizabeth Kamara	2100 N. 49th St. Apt. 103 (31)
Corine McKeithan	4239 Pennsgrove St. (04)
Mildred McNeil	3901 Market St., Apt. 607 (04)
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Jeanette Nana	417 n 42 <sup>ND</sup> . Sttreet, 19104
Eunice Patterson	1843 N 72nd Street, 19151
Joyce Patterson	6213 Walnut Street, 19145
Arletha D. Pierce	5524 Haverford Ave. Apt 413 (39)
Ida Pierce	5458 Locust Street (39)
Maryetta Reid	4511 Walnut Street, Apt 220 (39)
Florence Smith	1425 N Allison Street, 19131
Catherine Thompson	4400 Fairmount Ave, Apt.102, 19104
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Willie Hamwright		The Watermark Logan Sq., Apt 8122 Franklin Town Blvd 03
Madeline Logan		Manor Care, RM 24A, 14 Lincoln Ave., Yeadon, PA 19050
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Rev. Isaac N. Patterson IV		Lankenau Hospital, 103 E. Lancaster Ave, Wynwood			

Please remember our Sick and Homebound with a card and or a phone call. Always keep them in prayers.





