

FBS Newsletter

April 2007-Spring Edition

The Newsletter of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

The current Bible study is based on the Book of Revelation. Each Wednesday at 12:00 noon and at 6:30 p.m. we delve into the meaning and message of the ancient Biblical text, seeking to uncover the "hidden" secrets addressed to the modern Church. The average student of the Book of Revelation has often been confused by Book's many symbols, therefore, leaving the task of deciphering the symbols to that group of prophets, who are convinced that the Book of Revelation is concerned more with future events than with past events. The Wednesday study is open to all members and visitors. I hope to see you next Wednesday.

This past Sunday, I sought to spark an interest in the study of the Book of Revelation by preaching from the subject: "The First Letter from Revelation." Here are some excerpts from the sermon:

This is the first of seven letters written by Christ to the Churches in Asia Minor. While this letter was original addressed to the Church in Ephesus, it has been read by the church in every period of history; read, not just as a dead relic from our distant past, but as a living and breathing document, whose message is as relevant today, as it was two millennia ago!

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.' " (Revelations 2:1-7 RSV).



Dr. Hickman Johnson, Pastor

FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

"Located within the Farish Street Historic District"

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WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

While this letter is addressed to the church in Ephesus, it is not for “their eyes only.” This is not a confidential memorandum (or email) to be read and discussed, in a closed Annual or called meeting, only by the church in Ephesus. This letter will be read by the other churches in Asia and beyond. Every church in every nation will know of Christ’s appraisal of the seven: their accomplishments, their failures, their sins, their saintliness, their faithfulness, and their faithlessness. Indeed, Christ’s appraisal of the seven is an appraisal of every congregation! If the number “seven” means completeness, then the churches in Asia minor are churches everywhere. And therefore, Christ might as well have said: “To the pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church write . . .”

If we read these letters as having been addressed to us, then they will not be seen as musty smelling relics of the past, uncovered only in our search for “money” hidden in the attic. When they are seen as addressed to us, then they take on a significance, never before realized.

“These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands . . .” John is exiled to the Island of Patmos. This is the punishment he suffers for proclaiming the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. A punishment he gladly bears! It was on the Lord’s Day that a strange and unforgettable thing happened. This strange thing would be experienced by saints throughout Christian history.

Of John’s experience on that Lord’s Day, he says: “I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, ‘Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.’” (Revelations 1:10-11 RSV).

To the church at Ephesus, he says: “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance.” For Christ to take notice of our work is heartwarming. Most of us will live and die in obscurity. Most of us will simply rear our children, provide for our families, pay our taxes, vote our conscience, do goodly deeds, and worship on Sunday. The mall salesperson will treat us as a dollar bill. The medical profession will treat us as a body part: the heart patient in 201. And the government will treat us as a statistic. Most of us

will live and die in obscurity. Never recognized for our contributions to the betterment of society; never appreciated for our sacrifice; never acknowledged for our labor. But is it not heartwarming to realize that Christ; the Lord of Hosts, recognizes us for our labor: “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance.” (Rev 2:2 RSV).

But as he recognizes our work, toil and patient endurance, he also recognizes our flaws. This can be cause for consternation and resentment. But Jesus is brutally honest in his appraisal of humankind. To be less, would be to our disadvantage. Most of us want only to hear the positive comments. But if I have improved at all, it has been in the face of the most distributing critics.

“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first.” (Rev 2:4-5a)

The Church had abandoned the love they first had! This does not mean that they had abandoned the love that they had for God. They said, that they loved God! But in practice, they had failed to love one another. What an indictment against the people of God! How can the church be the church without love? Love is what makes the church the church! The question is asked of every believer:

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” (I John 3:17)

The Church at Ephesus taught the correct doctrine. They preached the correct gospel. They were the moral examples to the community, but they had failed to love. They must remember, repent and love again.

JUST FOR FUN

Smiles From the Bible...

Q: *What kind of man was Boas before he married Ruth?*

A: *Ruthless*

Q: *What do they call pastors in Germany?*

A: *German Shepherds*

Q: *What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?*

A: *Your mother ate us out of house and home*

FROM THE COMMITTEE

We appreciate members who have been submitting news items. However, we know there is much more news of interest we want to find. Therefore, the Newsletter Committee is asking each auxiliary, committee, ministry, society, circle, board, & organization to **AP-POINT** a member to serve as a **REPORTER**. This person will be responsible for reporting all news pertinent to the organization and its members. By doing this, the newsletter can reflect highlights and insight on the amazing things our members are doing in the church and in the community. Thus, affording our church an excellent recruiting tool for new members, offering those who want to serve a taste of what the many ministries here at Farish Street have to offer, and providing great publicity for your organization's activity. Yet, we still want to hear from individual families about promotions, awards, recognitions, births, marriages, and any other information you want to share. News can be submitted anytime to any committee member.

We appreciate your cooperation and speedy response to our request. We are excitingly awaiting to hear from you as well as publishing an expanded edition at our next printing.

— *The FSBC Newsletter Committee*



Reminds You of the
"Place of Worship Partner Program"

Stop By Piccadilly's for Sunday Dinner

And Then

Mention Your Place of Worship is Farish Street Baptist
 Church at Check Out...

And FSBC-WMS

Will Receive 10% of Your Purchase

"A WINNING PARTNERSHIP...GREAT THINGS"

Please Remember Our
SICK & SHUT-IN

with a
Prayer, Card, or Call.



FSBC Newsletter Committee Members

Ruby Bryant

Deloris Hopkins

Bruce Bullock

Belivira Junior

Terryce Walker, Chair
 Dr. Hickman Johnson, Pastor
 Lori Johnson, Graphic Designer

OUR QUARTERLY WORD

“THE PREEMINENT ONE”

Read: Matthew 21: 1–11

Preeminent is Christ the Lord,
He reigns o'er earth and sky and sea;
For mighty power is in His Word—
How great in majesty is He.

—D. De Haan

CHURCH BITS AND BITES

- A world of thanks to FSBC from Belivira Junior for another successful "WORLD DAY OF PRAYER." This year's day of prayer was held at College Hill Baptist Church in December and your continued attendance, support and participation are immeasurable.
- Members of the Outreach Ministry of FSBC are continuing their work in the community. These ladies are Dr. Bennye Henderson, Clyda Myers, Annie K. Lattimore, Nellie Tolliver, Minnie Miller.
- Best Wishes to the following members in the birth of their new additions:
Bruce and Kinya Bullock on the birth of their new daughter.
James and Jacqueline Chatmon on the birth of their new daughter.
Joe and Dorothy Haynes on the birth of their new granddaughter.
Vaterrria and Deshun Martin on the birth of their new daughter.
- We are saddened by the lost of long time member Mr. Perry Sanders. Mr. Sanders was dedicated member of this congregation for many years and loved this church and its members whole-heartedly. He will be forever missed!
- Dr. Ivy Lovelady has left her duties this year at Operation Shoestring. Congratulations and happy retirement!
- John Eze Uzodinma, son of Eze and Cynthia Uzodinma has been selected to travel to Chicago, IL with Madison Middle School's Chamber choir to compete in a choir festival. He is one of six African Americans among three hundred participants.
- Shelia L. Ramsey held her Senior Vocal Recital on Sunday, January 28, 2007 in the Recital Hall of the F.D. Hall Music Center on the campus of Jackson State University.
- Don't forget our partnership with Piccadilly's Restaurant in the Jackson Medical Mall. When you have Sunday dinner there, ten percent of your purchase will be donated to the Woman's Missionary Society's Media Project.

CHURCH NEWS



HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY REV. JOHNSON! On March 7, 2007 Rev. Hickman M. Johnson celebrated his 65th birthday. We hope that his celebration was wonderfully blessed and the Farish Street Family wishes him many, many more!

WOMAN'S RETREAT HELD. The "Annual Woman's Bonding Retreat " of the Woman's Auxiliary of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc. was held at Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church on February 2-3, 2007. It was hosted by the Central Area Directress, Mrs. Mattye Dees and more than 600 women from across the state were in attendance. The theme was *Extreme Makeover* (Isaiah 43:19) and workshop topics included: Extreme Makeover (Isaiah 43:19), Faith Lift (Hebrews 11:1), Fasting: Spiritual Weight Loss (Judges 20:26; Matthew 6:16), Girl Friend Issues (1 Samuel 1: 6-7), Debt Free Makeover; Dollars & Sense (1 Kings 4:1-7; Romans 13:8), and Relationship Makeover (Isaiah 63:16; Romans 8:11). It was not only informative, but an enjoyable and spiritually uplifting event. Members from Farish Street Church attending were Annie K. Lattimore, Lola Weakley, Belivira Junior and Mary Burciaga. Mrs. Annie K. Lattimore, Dr. Bennye Henderson and Mrs. Clyda Myers had previously traveled to Tchula, MS to meet with Mrs. Dees to assist with the planning of the retreat. Mrs. Lattimore received a trophy for her service and was also the first lady to register for the retreat. The following poem was shared at the retreat:

THE SENIOR EXCURSION. The Senior Ministry of FSBC will be traveling to Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia on June 4-8, 2007. Adults of all ages are invited to take this educational and fun trip. The cost of the trip is \$525.00 per person (two per room). You may reserve your place with a \$50.00 deposit to Nellie Tolliver or Lola Weakley. The trip includes:

- Luxury Motor Coach Transportation
- Two nights Hotel Accommodations in Atlanta (complimentary hot breakfast)
- Visit to the Dr. Martin Luther King Center
- Tour of Underground Atlanta
- Visit to the World of Coca-Cola Atlanta
- Shopping Spree
- Two nights Accommodations in Savannah (complimentary breakfast)
- Sight seeing trolley tour of historic Savannah
- An African American Heritage Tour
- A Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Members are invited, male and female, to join this active group. Meetings are Thursdays after the second Sunday in each month.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXPO. The Annual Black History Month Expo and African Marketplace, held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, was a successful, vibrant and exciting experience for all the participants vendors and attendees. Thank you to coordinator Mrs. Dorothy T. Stewart and her committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing this exceptional event.

The Expo celebrates our church's continuing and expanding commitment to the preservation of African American History, heritage and culture. It is designed to showcase local merchants and artists who sell Afrocentric art, clothing, music and other items from the homeland and the African Diaspora. Keeping black money in black communities is a positive outcome of the event. The Expo promotes local economic development by highlighting small businesses and assisting them in marketing their products to the general public; a diverse array of products, from hand crafted quilts to metal sculpture filled the hall waiting the eager shoppers.

Movement, action and drama started the event with the power of tribal drums, led by drummers Edward Butler and Napoleon Campbell. When the beat of the drum signaled the opening of the Marketplace, joyfully the public came to participate and to celebrate. The official greetings were brought by the Jackson Chief of police, Ms. Shirlene Anderson the first female to hold that post. Mrs. Gladys Marie Johnson extended a warm welcome from the church. Griot and vocalist, Mrs. Lannie Spann-McBride set a spiritual focus for the Expo through her music and oratory. The Expo recreates the vibrant and busy lifestyle of a native African village marketplace where artists performed and griots told stories. Premier seamstress, Mrs. Lola Weakley taught basic sewing, Mrs. Mamie Buchanan and others provided survival and soulful cooking, and Mrs. Christine Rhodes closed out the demonstrations with a dramatic presentation of Paul Laurence Dunbar's poem, "In the Morning."

Our goal is to promote understanding and preservation of our culture by telling our story through films and eyewitness accounts. The following special sessions provided in depth information: Eyes on the Prize, We Can Fly, and The African Presence in the Bible.

COMMUNITY NEWS

JPS CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. On February 22, 2007, the Jackson Public Schools District held its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Creative Writing, and Speech Contest in Woodworth Chapel on the campus of Tougaloo College. Each year since 1991, FSBC members LeRoy and Terryce Walker have sponsored this event. Students in elementary, middle and high school compete for monetary awards in the areas of Art, Essay, Poetry and Oratory. Participants are asked to write about or create a poster of someone in their lives who best exemplifies the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A panel of judges reviews all entries and selects winners from each category. Winners received \$200, \$100, and \$50 for first, second, and third places respectively. Through the years this event has evolved into a highly anticipated and competitive experience that has been strongly supported by the Jackson community.

FSBC JOINS ENTERGY AND KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL. Farish Street Baptist Church was invited by keep America Beautiful to join them on the steps of the capitol on March 6, 2007 for a press conference, and a march to the Farish Street Historic District for a two hour clean-up. During this nationwide celebration, volunteers were challenged by Entergy Mississippi (sponsors of the kickoff at the capitol) to join in helping keep America—and Mississippi—beautiful by being part of the Great American Cleanup's national community improvement program. Company employees joined other local volunteers in a cleanup of the Farish Street district immediately following the celebration. School children and other volunteers assisted in the clean-up with more than 20 Entergy employees including FSBC member Gloria Johnson. Entergy president Carolyn Shanks, Mississippi's First Lady Marsha Barbour and Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall spoke at the press conference. Barbara Dorr, Executive Director of Keep America beautiful also gave comments. Lunch was provided on the Farish Street Green Park at 1:00 p.m.

Entergy Mississippi's on-line address is www.entergy-mississippi.com

For more information on the Great American Cleanup, visit www.kab.org

FARISH STREET MAIN STREET BAZAAR. The second Farish Street Main Street Project Bazaar was held on Saturday, March 24, 2007 on the corner of Hamilton and Farish Streets from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Booth space (10 x 15) was available at cost of \$10. More than 22 vendors participated with a variety of items for sale which included books, jewelry, food, clothing, crafts, and home decorating items among others. Members of The Brotherhood of FSBC provided free refreshments and children's entertainment included face painting. More booths are welcome and all are invited to be a part of the success of this festive and flourishing event. Proceeds will assist the Farish Street Main Street Project and your support as a visitor or vendor is needed. Also, please tell others about the bazaar and encourage them to attend or reserve a booth. This is a great start for small businesses to exhibit their merchandise. If you missed this one, you may start getting your items ready for the upcoming bazaar scheduled for July 21, 2007.

CHURCH NEWS *(con't)*

SPRING EMPHASIS: SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH. Under the leadership of the Pastor and the Board of Trustees, the Sunday School is carried out as an integral part of our Christian Education program. Sunday School is a wholesome setting where children and adults come together to learn more about how to put into action our faith in the Lord Jesus. The Spring 2007 emphasis is "Our Community Now And in God's Future." As with the Pastor's weekly Bible Study our spring lessons are taken from the book of Revelation. We are learning what it means to live in a community in Christ and not of the world; and, what it means to prepare for living in God's new world, Heaven. Our Sunday School teachers come prepared to guide the discussion based on God's word. We encourage your participation. Join us each Sunday from **9:30-11:45 a.m.** Dr. Ivy Lovelady is Superintendent.

40TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS: First Quarter Report – January – March 2007
The 40th Anniversary Birthday Month Project is off to an excellent start for 2007. The goal of this special project is to raise \$13,333 each year for three years. This will be done via a "birthday month project" with each month organized as one of the Twelve Tribe of Israel and raising \$1,111 per month. These contributions will be used to fund a 40th Anniversary Celebration for our pastor in 2008 for 40 years of dedicated and devoted service to this congregation, community, state and nation. The following information is the first quarter report for 2007. Thank you for your continued support for this project. Please contact Dr. Delores Hopkins at 601-362-6194, if you need additional information.

January - \$700 February - \$325 March - \$488 April - \$268 May - \$0 June - \$64.80 July - \$86.00 August - \$450
September - \$320 October - \$100 November - \$50 December - \$60

Total - \$2,643.80

FSBC



619 North Farish Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Check Out Our Ministries on the Web

www.fsbccjackson.com

FARISH STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Located Within the Farish Street Historic District”



619 NORTH FARISH STREET
JACKSON, MS 39202
PHONE: (601)355-0636 • FAX: (601)961-9560

Please Come and Join Us in Lifting Up The Name of Jesus!!

Sunday School
Sunday Worship Service
Mid-Day Wednesday Bible Study
Prayer and Praise Service
Wednesday Bible Study

9:30 a.m.
11:00a.m.
12noon
6:30p.m.
7:00p.m.