

To complete the evening, Dr. Clarence Lovelady read the poem *The Night Before Christmas* and First Lady Marie Johnson led us in a closing Christmas carol.

There was plenty of tasty food and Barbara Davis distributed prizes to several guests. Each child present received a *Colors of Faith Bear*. Thanks are due to Mrs. Vera Bullock for coordinating this most pleasant evening of family fun. Also, thanks are due to all who donated items or assisted in making this social activity a success.

MONEY FOR A GREAT CAUSE

This Fall FSBC was busy with fundraisers. Various organizations around the church implemented money making ventures to support their goals. The Boy Scouts sold delicious tins of popcorn. The May Birthday Club offered beautiful Holiday Aprons for the Christmas Season. The Circle of Faith offered delicious Rio Queen Fruit (grapefruit, oranges, and apples) for our eating pleasure. Oh yes, it is now Girl Scouts Cookie Time! When asked, please support the various organizations as they seek to raise funds for many worthy projects.

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

FSBC has a new Committee. The Newcomers Committee was formed to reach out to visitors and new people who have moved to the Jackson area. A special **Newcomers Day** will be added to the calendar. Mr. DeShawn Martin will serve as Chair and Mrs. Gloria Johnson will serve as Co-Chair.

KUDOS...

Dellwyn Smith and Denita Smith are second year law students at Mississippi College School of Law (MSCOL).

Prior to attending Law School Dellwyn received her Masters in Business Administration from Mississippi College. Dellwyn served as the Black Law Student Association first year representative during the 2006-2007 academic school year. Also, during her first year she received the award for Best Paper in Criminal Law. Dellwyn interned at Cosmich, Simmons, & Brown, PLLC and the Mississippi Attorney General's Office.

Denita received a full academic scholarship to attend Mississippi College School of Law. She is currently the Vice President of MSCOL Black Law Student Association. She is in the top of her class. Denita also competed in the fall 2007 Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush (CCTB) Moot Court Competition. The competition was three weeks with 95 second-year students competing for Moot Court Board membership. Denita made the Moot Court Board and advanced to the Octofinals. She received an award for the Best Respondent Brief. She will be competing in the National Fredrick Douglas Moot Court Competition. This competition will be held in Columbia, South Carolina. During the summer of 2007, Denita interned at Daniel, Coker, Horton & Bell and the Mississippi Attorney General's Office.

Congratulations to Ashley Davis for making the Sonic Boom Marching Band at Jackson State University. JSU are State SWAC Champions. Go Tigers! —Love Mom

Congratulations to Bria & Briane Davis who attends Clausell Elementary, a school that recently received Level 4 status. Kudos ladies for your hard work! — Love Your Grandmother & FSBC

FSBC



January 2008—Winter Edition

The Newsletter of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

2008 may be remembered as the year of change. The possibilities are many, including the possibility that we may elect the first woman president or the first black president. But this year may also be remembered as the year when the status quo won; the year when the resistance to change was overpowering. The election of 2008 will test America's sense of justice.

As challenging as this new year is for the nation, it is even more so for us believers. Will we seek to preserve the status quo or will we be agents of change? The writer of the Hebrews challenges us to: "...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1b-2a). This race is not a sprint, it is a marathon. It is not quickly run and we take our bow to the adoring and applauding grandstands. If we would run this race successfully, then we must lay aside every weight and sin that would hinder us from reaching the finish line.

Weight and sin! What is the weight? The sin? It may be an attitude. Nothing hinders more than a negative attitude. A negative attitude will make the most attractive woman ugly and will consign the most handsome man to a life of loneliness and pain. No one has time for a person whose attitude is negative. Negative attitudes are for quitters. Winners are those with a positive attitude. Change your attitude and you will change your life.

This is a new year! Like a babe fresh from its mother's womb, without blemish and scar. This is a new year! Like new wine, without age. This is a new year! Like the first snow of the season. Like the first rain of spring. **DON'T BRING INTO THIS NEW YEAR THE PAIN OF PAST YEARS.** Lay aside every weight that would hold us back; every sin that would trip us and let us run the race that is set before us.



Dr. Hickman Johnson, Pastor

FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Hickman M. Johnson, Pastor

619 North Farish Street

Jackson, Mississippi 39202

(601) 355-0636

E-mail: farishstbaptch@worldnet.att.net

Located within the Farish Street Historic District and a Warm Welcome

Always Awaits

NEWSMAKERS MAKING GREAT HEADLINES

- ◆ Dr. Hickman Johnson. One of Rev. Hickman M. Johnson's sermons was featured in the October 18, 2007 issue of the Jackson Advocate in an article by its publisher, Alice Thomas-Tisdale. His sermon on Sunday October 14, 2007 was inspired by a shooting incident at Cleveland (MS) High School. His text was from II Kings 6:16.
- ◆ Rev. Eric Williams. Congratulations to our Pastor's Assistant, Rev. Eric D. Williams on his appointment as pastor of Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church in Nashville, TN. His pastoral installation services were held on Sunday, November 25, 2007 and our church family traveled by bus to be there to support him.
- ◆ Dr. London Branch. You are invited to attend "Java 'N' Jazz" at the Eudora Welty Library on the first and third Thursdays of each month. From 6-8p.m. a program of poetry and live music is presented free to the public along with coffee and cookies. Dr. London Branch, FSBC Orchestra Leader, is a frequent participant. Dr. Branch is a well-known jazz bassist and trumpeter and it would be a treat to enjoy his music.
- ◆ Mrs. Ethel Mangum. The Jackson Medical Mall Foundation recently sponsored a "Give Back to the Community" awards program. The "Give Back to the Community Award" was presented to Mrs. Ethel Mangum, Administrative Assistant in Ward 3, and Part-time City Employee. This award is given annually to a person nominated by the community. Congratulations to Mrs. Mangum on being involved in the community!
- ◆ Mrs. Vera Bullock. Mrs. Bullock continues contributing to the ambiance by providing beautiful floral offerings in various location throughout the church. Mrs. Bullock can be counted on for her expertise in decorating for all occasions. Please join the newsletter staff as we say a hearty "Thank You" to Vera!
- ◆ Vateria and DeShawn Martin. The Martin Law Group, PLLC has opened its doors at 5709 Highway 80 West. Congratulations to Vateria and DeShawn Martin.
- ◆ Mrs. Dorothy Stewart. The 2007 Kwanzaa Celebration honored Mrs. Dorothy Stewart. It was held on the Farish Street Green, December 26, 2007, 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Stewart provided the leadership and initiated the first Kwanzaa celebration on the corner of Hamilton and Farish in 2005. Her leadership and cultural pride has been instrumental in keeping this event alive. Mrs. Stewart is also founder of *Women for Progress* which hosts an annual Kwanzaa celebration at the home of Jackson attorney Issac Byrd.
- ◆ Mrs. Lottie W. Thornton. Mrs. Lottie W. Thornton was featured in the Spring/Summer issue of *The Jacksonian*, a publication of Jackson State University. Past leaders of its Student Government Association were recognized for their dedication and devotion to JSU. She was cited for her excellent service which resulted in the Lottie W. Thornton Early Childhood Center on campus being named in her honor. Mrs. Thornton was also the first female SGA president.
- ◆ Malcolm Harrison. In the January 3, 2008 Letters to the Editor section of *The Clarion Ledger*, Hinds County Judge William Barnett applauded Hinds County Prosecuting Attorney Malcolm Harrison for his unselfish service of taking on additional work to assist the county in prosecuting cases. He described him as "a public servant in the true sense of the phrase."

Very Night" created by Karla Worthy and published in 2007.

Farish Street Baptist Church was represented very well. Dr. London Branch was one of the three music directors. He directed four parts of the musical production. Catherine Harris was director for the Children's Choir and one of the soloists for "Who Would Imagine a King?"

Members of the children's choir included Gerald Ross and Mary Cork. Sopranos included Inez Morris Chambers, Annie Jean Denham, Marie Johnson, Belivira Junior and Minta Uzodinma. Altos were Esterline Anderson, Ruby Bryant, Catherine Harris, Amelita {Poochie} Ross, Gloria Shields, LaRuth Wilson and Clemontine Whitaker. Tenor was Celestine King, and Alfred Junior and Albert Newsome sang Bass.

Choir members from the eight churches began practicing on the cantata in October each Sunday afternoon at Central United Methodist Church. They really enjoyed the well-organized rehearsals and were very pleased to see the church filled to capacity for a successful performance!

EMMA L. PALMER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Emma L. Palmer Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who supported this year's fund Drive. Each high school graduate who is a member of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church is eligible for an Emma L. Palmer Scholarship upon entrance to a community college, a four year college, or university following high school graduation. The scholarships are funded from the interest from the Scholarship Fund.

May 2007 High School Graduates, Amber Stewart and Ashley Davis were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$500 each on Christmas Morning. Amber is attending the University of Southern Mississippi and plans to become a Physical Therapist. Ashley is attending Jackson State University and plans to become a Certified Public accountant. Thanks to all individuals and organizations, for your contributions make these scholarships happen.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The Annual FSBC Christmas Social was held on December 21, 2007. The fellowship hall was filled as guests enjoyed a wonderful program sponsored by The Woman's Missionary Society and The Brotherhood. Mr. Matt Thomas served as the Master of Ceremony and led us through a very enjoyable program that embraced children as well as adults. The theme for the evening was "A Season of Gladness."

A prelude of Christmas music was provided by violinists Kisa Harris and Guy King. Mrs. Vera Bullock welcomed all and Mrs. Mattie Stevens reminded us of the occasion. Mr. Billy Roby presented a fun and thought-provoking meditation that was followed by a prayer by Mrs. Gloria Smith. A quartet from the Youth Choir (Angelica Bullock, Brianna Davis, Cameron King, Andrea Smith), led by Mrs. Gloria Shields, shared their beautiful voices. As we enjoyed delicious refreshments prepared by the Social Committee, guests were invited to share their talents. Mr. Edward Butler amazed everyone with his skill on the bongo drums. Antonio Dorsey, II played a piano solo, and John Eze Uzodinma played the violin. The Young Matrons invited all children to the Nursery to enjoy a Christmas movie. Belivira Junior and LaRuth Wilson led guests in amusing games. A rousing rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was performed, which included Rev. Johnson in one of the roles. Ada Robinson and Cheryl Turner shared Christmas memories from their families. Pamela Smith read a Christmas story that involved audience participation. We were even treated to a dance routine by "The Holiday Dancettes" (Lori Johnson, Tonia Johnson and Ashley

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS (CON'T)

FSBC USHER BOARD

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Psalm 84:10b

The **Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church (FSMBC) Usher Board** has actively greeted members and visitors alike since the church was formed over 100 years ago. Ushering is an opportunity to serve God by serving God's people, and is a marvelous way to actively and faithfully participate in the functioning of our church. Ushers are responsible for welcoming worshippers, assisting worshippers and maintaining an orderly presence in the church.

Our **Usher Board** is steeped in rich history. Several long-term ushers have semi-retired, yet continue as graceful alternate members of our service flock of stewardship. If you look closely, it's easy to identify them as former doorkeepers by their smiles and cheery disposition. These alternates are Mamie Buchanan, Bennye Henderson and Ernestine Junior.

As a little known FSMBC black history fact, the following women upheld the standard set for ushers for over 160 years of combined service!

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Essie Broadwater | Mable Bariah | Sadie Hendricks | Belivira Junior |
| | Elma Summers | Lola Weakley | |

The **Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church Usher Board** seeks to provide an atmosphere of comfortable positive worship for each member, and we look forward to continually working with each of you to foster a spiritually conducive worship experience. We likewise, ask that you assist us as we strive to establish an environment conducive to worship. As you worship with us, please be reminded of the following:

- The bulletin designates entry into the sanctuary; additionally worshippers may enter during the opening hymn.
- Walking should be kept to a minimum and only when necessary. In doing so, please see that our smaller worshippers partake of water and the rest rooms prior to service.
- Worshippers will not be allowed to enter or exit the sanctuary during prayers, scripture, as the pastor offers his text, nor during Invitational.

The FSMBC Usher Board:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Angelica Bullock | Mamie Buchanan | Brianna Chatmon |
| James Chatmon | Clarence Clay | Justin Collins |
| Mary Cork | Michael Halligan | Ursula Harris, Secretary |
| Bennye Henderson, Instructor | Gwen Horton | Ernestine Junior |
| Doug Luster, President | GeoVunn Miller | Eleysia Perkins |
| Gerald Ross | Pam Smith | Nettie Stowers, Vice Pres |
| Cheryl Turner, Treasurer | Eze Uzodinma | Jaylon Uzodinma |
| Daren Walters | Jerry Walters | |

CHANCEL CHOIR

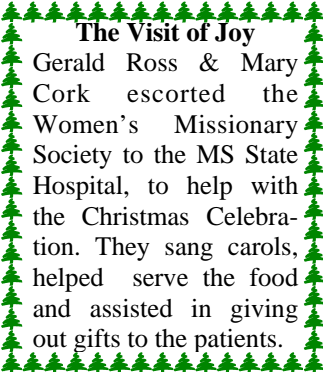
On Sunday, December 9, 2007, choir members from eight metro area churches participated in a Christmas musical at Central United Methodist Church on Farish Street. The Cantata was "On This


CELEBRATIONS

- ◆ Congratulations Belivira and Alfred Junior! Belivira and Alfred Junior celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.
- ◆ Congratulations Sebrena (Catchings) & Reginald Tillman! Sebrena Catchings Tillman and Reginald Tillman announce the newest addition to their family, Abigail Elizabeth Tillman. She joins big sisters Danyelle and Gabrielle.

JUST FOR FUN


Unscramble these Biblical Books of the Old Testament and then place them in order.

| | | | |
|------------------|----|----|--|
| THERES | 1. | 6. | |
| SHOAUJ | | | |
| MAELUS | | | |
| HISIAA | 2. | 7. |  |
| CLAMAIH | | | The Visit of Joy |
| CLUIVETIS | | | Gerald Ross & Mary |
| REVBROPS | 3. | 8. | Cork escorted the |
| RUMSENB | | | Women's Missionary |
| HOJAN | 4. | 9. | Society to the MS State |
| | | | Hospital, to help with |
| | | | the Christmas Celebra- |
| | | | tion. They sang carols, |
| | | | helped serve the food |
| | | | and assisted in giving |
| | 5. | | out gifts to the patients. |



In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of Mrs. Minnie Malone & Mrs. Barbara Thames. Please Remember their families along with our Sick & Shut-In Members in your thoughts & prayers.



Lunch in the Park

The FSBC Brotherhood is continuing its Lunch in the Park on Farish Street at 11:00 a.m. every 3rd Saturday of the month. Please come and show your support.

FSBC Newsletter
Committee Members

Ruby Bryant
Deloris Hopkins
Bruce Bullock
Belivira Junior
Terryce Walker, Chair
Dr. Hickman Johnson,
Pastor
Lori Johnson, Graphic
Designer

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

CIRCLE OF FAITH SPECIAL HOLIDAY VISTS



In keeping with its mission of visiting the sick and shut-in members of the Farish Street Church Family, Circle of Faith members and friends of Lorma Miller joined with her family and hosted a special birthday party for her on Saturday, December 29, 2007. She was showered with well wishes and gifts. Needless to say, everyone enjoyed seeing her and sharing this special time with her. She looked great and was overjoyed by all of the attention, even giving a few directions from time to time!

In addition, the Circle of Faith gave special care packages to all of the sick and nursing home members of the Farish Street Church Family. Each Circle member was assigned an individual member to visit and share in the joy and giving of Christmas. It was a special time for both Circle members and recipients.



E. B. TOPP HONORS GOLDEN ROSES

On October 28, 2007 the E.B. Topp Circle held its annual day. Members participated in the church service and took a moment to reflect on the mission work done over the year. The Circle has an active Tape Ministry where tapes of sermons are delivered to the sick and shut-in, and a Transportation Ministry where seniors who need transportation to Sunday Service are accommodated. They also provide support to a tutorial program for Sudanese and Haitian students and Bible Study visits to some sick and shut-in members. A highlight of this special day is the recognition of the Circle's Golden Roses, who are members of the congregation who are seventy-five years of age or older. The Golden Roses received a special salute and were presented with a token of appreciation from their Circle Sponsor. Mrs. Amelita R. Ross is the E.B. Topp Leader.

SENIOR MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The Senior Ministry has been busy with service activities this year. During the month of November, they delivered groceries to the Community Welfare and Health Center so that the residents could enjoy a complete traditional meal for Thanksgiving. While there, the Ministry's Chaplain, Mrs. Annie Denham, led the group in a spiritual praise service. The participation of the residents provided an uplifting experience for all.

After Thanksgiving, the Ministry assisted other organizations in the community by providing items for a garage sale at the center. Funds generated from this project were used to purchase gifts for residents of the center.

To end the year, members of the Senior Ministry traveled to downtown Jackson to view the Timbuktu Exhibition. They received a grand tour of this fantastic exhibit by its Co-Founder and Director Okolo Rashid. Through video, audio productions, interactive media models, hands-on

activities and artifact displays, members experienced the rich, intellectual and cultural blend of African and Islamic heritage. They were further enlightened as they viewed rare African manuscripts. A high point of the exhibit was viewing the display model of the Great Djenne Mosque, reconstructed from the 13th Century Mosque built by the first Muslim ruler of Timbuktu. Mrs. Lola Weakley is the Senior Ministry President and Mrs. Nellie Tolliver is the Ministry's Trip Coordinator.

FSBC CHOIR

There have been some changes in the Music Department of the church and all of the members hope they served to enhance the total program. It is the desire of the Choirs to play a vital role in the worship services each Sunday. They welcome your input and solicit new members so that they are able to continue providing quality and enjoyable music. If there are special selections that members of the church family would like the choir to perform, please give the information to a member of the group(s) and they will try to honor the request. The Music Department is very excited about the Male Choir. Their melodious voices and dapper appearance are a welcomed addition to the music ministry. The Music Department/Choirs feel that music has a definite place in the total worship experience. They are constantly attempting to upgrade and provide the type music which has long been a part of the rich tradition of this great church.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Let's hear it for the Youth Department at FSBC. They have really been a great representation of what being a Christian is all about. They collected non-perishable food items for the months of November and December to be given to Operation Shoestring's pantry. The Youths entered this project willingly and with great enthusiasm. They proved that they are Christ-like and that the reason for the season is the gift of life.

Also in December, the Youth Department had its annual Christmas Program with a twist. They performed the cantata piece "One Small Child" (with a few alterations). Many of them displayed their hidden talent of song, with solo performances. They were all decked out in their black bottoms, white tops, large red bows and voices of Angels. The program was started with a piano solo from Antonio Dorsey, II and ended with a magnificent liturgical dance from Sandi Marie Sadler to Whitney Houston's "Joy to the World". The featured soloists for the Cantata were Angelica Lee-Bullock, Andrea Smith, Sykemeron Smith, Gerald Ross, Mary Cork, James Chatmon, II, Jaylon Uzodinma, John Uzodinma, and Brianna Davis. Kisa Harris was the narrator for the program. The welcome was done by Dominic Dantzler, Brishunna Davis, and Alexis Smith. All of our youth participated in the choir. Please let them know how much you enjoyed their program, for they worked very hard. Also, thanks Ms. Shields!!!!!!

GREER CIRCLE

Greer Circle hosted its first Movie Night for elementary age children on December 14, 2007. "Ratatouille" was displayed on the Fellowship Hall Wall with surround sound. There were approximately 25 children in attendance. They were served hotdogs, chips, cupcakes, drinks and candy. The night ended with a Bible lesson on the birth of Jesus. It was a great time had by all. Can't wait until the next movie!