

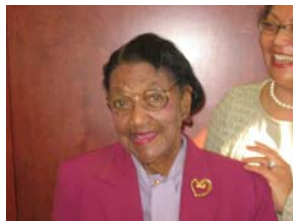
◆ Jackson State University's Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center coordinated the 39th Birthday Convocation Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Tuesday, January 15, 2008. The featured speaker was Lerone Bennett, Jr., Executive Editor Emeritus of *Ebony Magazine*. FSBC members who were directly involved in this special observance are as follows: Dr. Alferdteen Harrison, Director of the Center, Ms. Angela Stewart, Archivist, Ms. Nettie Stowers and Mrs. Dorothy Stewart and Ms. Nettie Stowers, board members.

◆ Africana Studies Conference. The Africana Studies Conference was held at Jackson State University on March 9-11, 2008, in the Dollye M.E. Robinson College of Liberal Arts Building. The conference celebrated Forty years of Black Studies and the legacy of Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander. It is the first conference to offer a retrospective of the Black Studies movement, and was presented by the Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center.

The conference reviewed the historical context from which Dr. Alexander became a leader of the Black Studies Movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Participants also analyzed black studies developments since 1968 and suggested projects for the future of black studies. Our pastor, Dr. Hickman M. Johnson, presided at the session on "The Black Aesthetics in the Black Church." Former Pastor's Assistant Rev. Eric Williams, pastor of Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church of Brentwood, TN, was also a participant. Mr. Larry Robinson, our former Music Director, led the session on "The Black Aesthetics in the Music of the Black Church." The conference itinerary included an art exhibit, silent auction, a book signing and a reception.

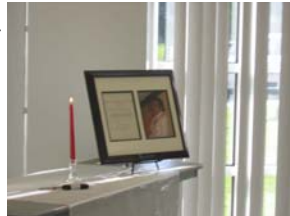
◆ MLK Contest. Jackson Public Schools held its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Creative Writing and Speech Contest at the Capital City Alternative School Gymnasium in February. Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Walker have been sponsors of this contest since 1991 and are proud to participate in this much anticipated event. Students in elementary, middle and high school compete for monetary awards in the areas of Art, Essay, Poetry and Oratory. The theme for the contest is "Only Light...Only Love," and students 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. Participation is voluntary, entries are judged and winners are selected in each category. First place receives \$200, Second place receives \$100 and Third place receives \$50. Over the years this event has become highly competitive and is strongly supported by the Jackson Community.

◆ Tougalooian Honored. On October 28, 2007, at the General Membership meeting of the Jackson



Chapter of the Tougaloo College National Alumni Association (TCNAA), Mrs. Sadie Miller Hendricks was presented with a plaque of commemoration. In 2006, Education Chairman, Carlos D. Smith (Class of 2005), initiated an educational luncheon for graduating seniors of Tougaloo College to congratulate them for their success and to encourage their activism as alumni. This luncheon, held the Wednesday before Tougaloo College Commencement Graduation Exercises, was named the! "Sadie Miller Hendricks Eaglets to Eagles" Luncheon for Mrs. Sadie Miller Hendricks, Class of 1938 and Courtesy

Chair for the Jackson Chapter. Mrs. Hendricks has demonstrated the type of dedication to and service for Tougaloo College that all alumni should aspire to possess. Mrs. Hendricks, a National Alumna of the Year Recipient, was very grateful and surprised. With a smile, she remarked, "I am overwhelmed with this honor and very grateful, but at my age, I can't take being too overwhelmed...so don't do it again!"



FSBC Newsletter

April 2008—Winter Edition

The Newsletter of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Forty years ago (April 4, 1968) Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, the city of my birth; my home town! Memphis will forever be remembered as the place where "the King" died an untimely death. But it will also be remembered as the place where the spirit of a saint hovers over hallowed ground. That night, forty years ago, is scarred and seared in the collective consciousness of a people, indeed, a Nation, as deeply as any scarring and searing can be. He led us out of the wilderness of our despair into the bright light of promise. How hopeful we were! We, who had seen our dreams deferred, dared to dream a second time. Never again would our dreams dry up as raisins in the sun. "The King" had been to the mountain top and had seen the promised land. It was a vision that we all, in our travail, had grasped firmly, in spite of its fainting and fading passage. No assassin's bullet, no racist's bigotry, no "killer of dreams" could rob us of this vision. It was the vision that had guided us by night and by day. Tho the reality was often frustrated by the resistance of opposing foes, the vision faithfully guided us through the storms of our mid-night and the strong winds of our mid-days. Today, we remember and pay homage to the greatness and gentleness of a man who believed that one day this Nation would live out its creed. The preacher asked the question, "Has this day finally dawned?"



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

- ◆ Miss Adiola Olugbala Braxton is a participant in the Mississippi Children All Star Talent Search. She has a beautiful, strong singing voice and has advanced to the finals. We wish her the best. She brought us to our feet on Boy Scout Sunday with a rousing solo.
- ◆ Mr. Jerry Walters has retired as Cub Scout Master at FSBC after thirteen years of service. Kudos, for the fine job he did of training the young men of our church. Mr. James Chatmon will take over as the new Cub Scout Master. We know he will do a great job also.
- ◆ Congratulations to our new church leaders: Deacons Bruce Bullock and Deshun Martin; Deaconesses Pennie Walters, Annie Archie, Jean Lee and Minta Uzodinma.
- ◆ Dr. Robbie Bingham, a former member of FSBC, presented a check to Rev. Johnson on Sunday, March 9, 2008. The amount of the check was \$5000.00 and was designated for scholarship or other needy causes. The church family extends its thanks to Dr. Bingham for her generous contribution.
- ◆ Music on the First Sunday of February was dedicated to Mrs. Mabel Reynolds who is 90 plus years of age. Mrs. Reynolds was a member of the choir for many years and enjoys the spiritual uplifting of music.
- ◆ Jonathan J. Lee, son of Mrs. Jean Lee, received the 2008 Young Alumnus of the Year Award from the Mississippi State University Alumni Association. This annual award recognizes a former MSU student 32 years of age or under who is making significant achievements to both the local community and the alumni association. The award was given at the MSU Alumni Association's Leadership Conference held in February. National Alumni President David W. Jones of Jackson made the presentation. Jonathan is a 2000 Marketing graduate who also completed a Master's degree in Business Administration in 2002. He is President and CEO of Mississippi Products, Inc., a family owned and operated business. Congratulations Jonathan on this outstanding achievement!
- ◆ Kisa Harris, a ninth grade student at Sumner Hill Junior High School, was among 1,200 high school students who put their knowledge to test on February 8, 2008 as they competed for scholarships at the 34th annual Mississippi College Science and Mathematics Tournament. Students were given two 50-minute written exams chosen from the fields of biology, chemistry, computer science, math and chemistry. Kisa placed in the top twenty percent on the biology test and will be offered a scholarship to Mississippi College ranging from \$300 to \$2000 per year. Way to go Kisa!
- ◆ Mrs. Lottie W. Thornton received the H. M. Thompson Humanitarian Award at the last annual meeting of the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge/Heroines of Jericho of Mississippi held in December. H. M. Thompson was a former Grand Master of the Masons and a deacon at FSBC. Mrs. Thornton was also the First Place winner in the first Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Masons and Heroines of Jericho held on December 4, 1939, where she received a college scholarship. She has been a member of the organization for more than 70 years and has served as Director of Education for more than 30 years. Congressman Bennie Thompson, second congressional district, was the banquet speaker where she received the award.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY TEA The FSBC Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) held its Annual Membership Tea, Saturday, March 29, 2008 in the church's fellowship hall. The WMS Third Vice President, Mrs. Belivira M. Junior presided. The purpose of the Membership Tea is to showcase each Circle and their projects, and to increase the number of women who participate in the mission work of the church.

The theme "A Taste of Tea," was beautifully carried out by each Circle, whose tables were decorated in their colors. Tasty appetizers and different kinds of tea were served by each Circle. Superb musical and literary performances were done by Ashley Davis, Guy King, Brianna Davis, and Morgan King. The Membership Tea Committee, (Barbara Davis, Ada Robinson, Clemontine Whitaker, LaRuth Wilson, Lottie Thornton, Belivira Junior), did an outstanding job of organizing a very successful event. Dr. Benny Henderson, WMS President, gave congratulatory remarks to the ladies for their diligent work and extended appreciation to all who attended.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized at FSBC in 1934 to bring women together to embrace common issues. The organization is divided into smaller groups called Circles, thus allowing for further opportunities for women to grow in their relationship with God. These groups offer women support, fellowship and mission study. There are six Circles that comprise the WMS at FSBC: The Young Matrons, Progressive Matrons, Royal Circle, E.B. Topp, C. A. Greer, and Circle of Faith.

BIRTHDAY PROJECT 1ST QUARTER REPORT: January-March 2008 The Birthday Project was established to support the 40th Anniversary Celebration in recognition of 40 years of service to this congregation by our pastor, Dr. Hickman Johnson. This is the third year of this project. As a reminder, the goal is for each Birthday Month to raise \$1,111 per year for three years to reach the \$40,000. The support has been tremendous and all members are encouraged to continue to contribute and we seek to meet our goal The First Quarter Report for 2008 (January-March 2008) is listed below.

January - \$835	February - \$508	March - \$250
April - \$254	May - -0-	June - \$95
July - \$77.50	August - \$45	September - \$250
October - \$380	November - \$25	December - \$275

COMMUNITY NEWS

- ◆ The *JSU Interfaith Gospel Choir* sponsored a pancake Breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant in Madison on Saturday, March 8th to raise funds for a tour this summer. Candace Davis, a member of the FSBC Orchestra will be traveling with the group. Other fundraisers will follow and members are asked to lend support.
- ◆ The Farish Street Historic District's Annual Joint Passion Week Services were held on March 17-19, 2008. Services were held on Monday (3/17) at Mount Helm Church, Tuesday (3/18) at Central United Methodist Church and Wednesday (3/19) at Christ Temple Church of Christ Holiness.

CHURCH NEWS (CON'T)

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY "Preparing our Future; Reaching, Teaching and Leading," was the theme of the annual Boy Scout Celebration held on the second Sunday of February. Mr. Darren Walters, Cub Scout Master, presided as the Farish Street Baptist Church Boy Scout Troop #55 played an active role in the morning service. From the Flag Ceremony, Boy Scout Law (morning litany), Invocation, Prayer and Recognition of Visitors to the Morning Message, the Boy Scouts exuded pride, patriotism and respect.

Former Boy Scout Mr. Bruce Bullock was the speaker for the occasion. His topic was "Who is Tending the Garden" with a scripture taken from Luke 13:6-9. He brought a thought-provoking and timely message using an analogy of farming in how we may raise our children today.

Boy Scout Troop #55 was founded in 1925 by Mr. John Wesley Dixon. The Troop continues to meet the demands of the church and community for service to God and mankind, and appreciates the Farish Street Baptist Church family's support over the years.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY The second Sunday in March was heralded as Girl Scout Sunday. The Guest Speaker was Mrs. Helen F. Hannah from Walls, Mississippi, who is a member of Brown Missionary Baptist Church of Southaven, MS. She captured our attention with a motivational message on responsibility and service. The theme, "Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place through Christian Living", which the girls exhibited by participating in the morning service.

Girl Scouts of all ages played a role as they discharged their duties and speaking parts with confidence and poise. Several of the younger scouts presented a gift to the guest speaker. Kudos are due to all who were on program. Special commendations are extended to Zsakira Gibson for a great job of presiding and to Mary Cork for her lovely solo.

A special presentation from the Girl Scouts, the 2008 Green Angel Award, was made to Mrs. Patricia Edwards. The award was given in recognition of her untiring service to the organization. She also received an engraved paperweight from the Girls Scouts at FSBC. Additionally, Rev. Johnson presented the coveted FSBC Service Award to Mrs. Edna Harris for her outstanding job as Girl Scout Leader. Girl Scouts meet on the second Saturday of each month. The leaders are: Mrs. Patricia Edwards (Brownies), Mrs. Barbara Davis (Juniors) and Mrs. Edna Harris (Cadets and Seniors). Keep up the good work, you are exceptional young ladies!

COMMUNITY SERVANT AWARDS New Horizon Church International, where Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr. is Senior Pastor, presented its annual Community Servant Awards on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. First presented in 2002, the awards express thanks and appreciation to individuals who consistently give of themselves and their resources to help others. Recipients selected are those who exemplify Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy on community involvement. We are pleased that our church had three members to be honored: Rev. Hickman Johnson (Religion/Clergy), Mrs. Annie Archie (Education) and Mr. Howard Catchings (Business). Each honoree received a commemorative plaque and a pewter lapel pin which feature a likeness of a wooden beam plow. The plow is biblically and historically a symbol of hard work and committee service. Hats off to these worthy recipients!

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Forty years ago, Dr. Johnson became the sixth pastor of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church. He has provided uninterrupted service as pastor and leader of this church longer than any of its former pastors. Dr. Johnson has served this community, city, state, and nation as a messenger for God's mission and purpose. In addition, he has provided relentless dedication and commitment to numerous social and economic developments on countless occasions. This is Dr. Johnson's Fortieth Anniversary and it is time to celebrate!

Initial plans for the 40th Anniversary Celebration were approved in the January 1996 Annual Church Meeting. One of the first goals was to raise \$40,000 over a three-year period. Birthday Clubs were organized and named for one the Twelve Tribe of Israel, with the goal of raising \$1,111 per year for three years. The participation in this project has been tremendous.

This is the year for the focused events that have been planned as a part of the culminating celebratory activities. Each major activity on the church's calendar will, in some manner, acknowledge the 40th Anniversary Celebration. Committee chairpersons are already at work. All members are encouraged to become involved in some manner in this history making event.

JUST FOR FUN

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

TEAHWMT
SEJMA
SSSOCAOLNI
STAC
NAEVLREIOT
BERWEHS
YOTMHIT
NLHIMEOPN
NASRMO
REETP



In Memoriam

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

CHURCH NEWS

FSBC RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Let's get excited about our church Renovation Project." It is on target, but in 2008 let's strive to move this project to a new level. Each of us can help with the pastor's vision by pledging to contribute more.

As an overview, the church pays \$10,900 per month, which is \$130,800 per year. In 2007, only 43 members pledged, but 84 members contributed. More members are needed to pledge and contribute to meet our financial obligations. To date 76 members have pledged. We are anticipating more.

As a suggestion for 2008, if 200 members pledged \$1500.00 each, we could generate \$300,000.00 per year and pay off our debt in two years. This is just half of our 400 member congregation. Just think what we could do if everyone made a pledge. To simplify your giving, you could contribute annually (\$1500), monthly (\$125.00) or weekly (\$28.85).

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

On Wednesday March 26, 2008, the Commissioners for the Jackson Convention Complex presented the first in a series of networking conferences and workshops at the Mississippi TelCom Center located at 105 E. Pascagoula Street in downtown Jackson. The conference entitled "**Movin' on Up! Business Opportunities and Networking Conference,**" is designed to enhance economic empowerment of small minority owned businesses.

Mr. LeRoy Walker, Vice Chairman of the Convention Center Complex sees this as a great opportunity to help small and minority owned companies to reach their goals of building successful enterprises. Information presented at this conference covered products and services needed for the Jackson Convention Complex operations as well as other projects for which business owners may be able to provide products and services, how to obtain financing for business expansion, and information to help small business owners understand how to establish fair and equitable joint ventures.

BLACK HISTORY PRESENTATION

African rhythms were the theme of the black history presentation on Sunday February 17, 2008. We were treated to drum rhythms and dance as we learned about the origins of drum rhythms and African dance from narrator Lori Johnson.

In Africa, where drums originated, they are used to produce rhythms that are an integral part of musical tradition and culture, and are often used to communicate and express feelings. The feelings are experienced in the movement of African Dance. The rhythm in dance may express joy, love and sorrow. The movements are spontaneous and voluntary. The rich cultural rhythms of Africa can be found today in hip hop music and the rich expressive movements of popular dances. Mr. Edward Butler demonstrated the Conga drums & Kari Harrison demonstrated the Djembe drum for our enlightenment. Dancers Angelica Bullock, Brianna Davis and Kalimba Say moved to their rhythms as they demonstrated traditional African dance of celebration.

BLACK HISTORY EXPO

On February 23, 2008 the Maggie Little Turner Fellowship Hall was transformed into a bustling and exciting "African Marketplace." This annual event began with the entrance of the Royal Court which included our Pastor and First Lady who were elegantly dressed in their regal African attire. They were heralded by the FSBC Little Faithful Spirits Praise Team accompanied by drummers which included one of our newest members, Mr. Edward Butler.

Entertainment included poetic readings, instrumental music and storytelling by local artist Mrs. Rosia Wade Crisler. The afternoon sessions were most informative and enjoyable. Two outstanding speakers were featured; Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr., author and Professor Emeritus of Politics at University of Virginia and Dr. Ivory P. Phillips, author, Jackson School Board Member and former Chairman of the Department of Social Science Education at Jackson State University. Both engaged the audience in lively discussions related to the theme for this year which was "Carter G. Woodson and the Origin of Multiculturalism."

Several local vendors were present who offered a variety of wares for sale that showcased their talents, skills and craftsmanship. This shopping event was a favorite part of the day as well as the presentation of a tasty variety of ethnic cuisine. These delightful foods were prepared by some of the most versatile culinary artists from our congregation and there was plenty available for sampling.

Mrs. Alberta Smith and her committee are to be highly commended for planning such an extraordinary extravaganza. Additionally, our deepest appreciation is expressed to Mrs. Dorothy T. Stewart who orchestrated this celebration several years ago.

WHO IS THE BEST?

There are many excellent cooks in our church, many known for their delicious dishes. The Young Matrons of FSBC presented the opportunity to prove who the best cook is by hosting their "Best Man, Best Woman Cook-off." The contest was held on February 24, 2008 in the Maggie Little Turner Fellowship Hall immediately after service. The activity was a fund raiser with a \$5.00 entry fee. Additionally, for a \$2.00 fee, you could sample the savory dishes and vote for the best cook. Men were asked to prepare a meat dish and women were asked to prepare a dessert. The winners were: First Lady Marie Johnson for her "Melt in your Mouth Pineapple Cake" and Mr. Homer Tillman for his "Tasty Slow-Cooked Quail." Winners received a set of cooking utensils and all participants received a "Cooking up Something Fun" apron.

MEMBERS VISIT HISTORIC ALABAMA

Historic Montgomery, Alabama was the site of the 76th South Eastern Regional Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, held on March 13-16, 2008. Members of FSBC who attended were Mrs. Belivira Junior and Mrs. LaRuth Wilson, who sang in the Regional Choir, and Mrs. Terryce Walker, who served as a delegate. A highlight of the conference was a salute to the mother of the civil rights movement, AKA Honorary Member Rosa L. Parks.

At a press conference and special ceremony on March 13, a historic marker was placed at the exact site where she boarded a city bus and refused to relinquish her seat to a white passenger. This incident sparked the modern day Civil Rights Movement in this country. Also present for this official unveiling of the Rosa L. Parks Memorial Marker were AKA International President Barbara A. Mckinzie, Alabama Governor Bob Riley and South Eastern Regional Director Juanita Sims Doty.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, one of the world's leading service organizations, was founded in 1908 and is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary this year. Other members of AKA in our congregation are Mrs. Lottie Thornton, Dr. Delores Hopkins, Mrs. Exie Williamson, Mrs. Alicia Smith-Washington, Mrs. Edna Byrd Harris, Mrs. Gloria Johnson and Mrs. Ann Moore. All except Mrs. Moore are members of Beta Delta Omega Chapter here in Jackson.