

### Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Honors Members

The Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented 22 of its members with the Legends Award on January 12, 2008, during the Chapter's Founders' Day Luncheon, celebrating 95 years of sisterhood and service. These recipients were honored for exemplifying qualities of strength, courage, hope, wisdom, beauty, and femininity-- qualities portrayed by the 22 Founders of the sorority. In addition, the recipients have also demonstrated leadership, exhibited commitment to the principles and ideals of Delta, made exemplary contributions and involvement in Delta's programs and activities, evidenced outstanding commitment to sisterhood and service, and displayed noteworthy professional lives.

Farish Street Baptist Church is happy to congratulate two of its members who were honored as recipients of the Legends Award--- Mrs. Gwendolyn N. Loper and Dr. Bennye Henderson. We are proud of you and we salute you!

### Sorority Celebrates 60 Years at Tougaloo

Graduation is always the highlight of the year on college campuses. Alumni from across the country gather to fellowship, share experiences, celebrate achievements and simply "remember the good times." This year part of the festivities of the Tougaloo College graduation weekend was the celebration of the founding of Gamma Phi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Founded in 1948, 60 years ago, Gamma Phi was the first Greek letter organization on the campus of Tougaloo College. More than 200 outstanding women and community leaders attended a brunch on Saturday, May 10 to celebrate this milestone, including two of the chapter's three living charter members: Mrs. Gwendetta Magee of Prentiss, MS and Mrs. Helen Hamilton Washington of Savannah, GA.



In addition, the Delta alumni pledged to donate a total of \$60,000 to Tougaloo College. During the brunch, a check for \$40,000 was presented to President Beverly Hogan, with a promise to deliver the remaining pledge by June of this year. It was a grand affair as the sorority satisfied its goal of reuniting members and raising funds for scholarships. Farish Street Baptist Church members who participated in this very special event were Mrs. Gwendolyn N. Loper, Dr. Bennye Henderson, Ms. Denita Smith, and Ms. Dellwyn Smith. Other members of the congregation who are Delta Sigma Theta members are Ms. Lori Johnson and Ms. Cheryl Turner.

### Homecoming 2008

This year's Homecoming will officially begin the celebration of the Pastor's 40th Anniversary Celebration. The guest preacher is the Reverend Dr. Keith Whitney, son of the former pastor, Dr. S. Leon Whitney (1958-1968). A special feature of this year's celebration is the recognition of former and current members baptized by Dr. Johnson during his forty year tenure. Help make this a memorable occasion by inviting former members to return to Jackson for this celebration. Homecoming 2008 is the beginning of the annual revival. Revival services are scheduled Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Dr. Whitney will preach Sunday at 6:30 p.m. and Monday—Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. Remember to mark your calendars and be sure to invite a friend.

FSBC

# Newsletter

July 2008—Spring Edition

The Newsletter of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church

## WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

39 years, 11 months, 7 days and counting! The May commencement signaled the close of the academic year and my first year as College Chaplain had ended. I had made new friends, overcome a health crisis, and had been voted Interim Pastor of the historic Farish Street Baptist Church. Significant achievements by any standard. I had preached each Sunday, since my appointment as interim pastor. Marie's commencement was scheduled for June 3, 1968. She had completed her senior year at Fort Valley State College and I had planned to drive to Fort Valley on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Because I would be out of town, the Pulpit Committee invited Reverend Leon Bell to preach on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following Marie's graduation, we returned to Jackson. I preached the next Sunday. During the month of July, the Joint Board met with me to discuss my views of the pastorate. The Joint Board, deacons and trustees, had begun their joint meetings some years before as a way to minimize conflict between boards. We discussed my qualifications, calling, and understanding of pastoral leadership. The meeting went well. One of the trustees, Oscar Wolfe, asked me: "how much salary did I want?" I thought for a moment and responded, "at least the salary that I am making at Tougaloo." President Owens had offered me a raise, although I had not signed a second year contract. Unlike faculty, the College Chaplain was on a twelve month contract and my contract did not officially end until August.

Near the end of July Marie and I left Tougaloo and drove to Memphis. While in Memphis, the congregation met and the Pulpit Committee made its recommendation. The recommendation was accepted. Allen Davenport, Chairman of Deacons, called me in Memphis to inform me of the decision and said that "I should receive a letter within a day or two." The letter arrived and I returned to Jackson to preach my first sermon as pastor on Sunday, August 4, 1968. That was thirty-nine years, eleven months and seven days ago!



Dr. Hickman Johnson, Pastor

### FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Located within the Farish Street Historic District"*

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## NEWSMAKERS MAKING GREAT HEADLINES

- ◆ Miss Adiola Olugbala Braxton won second place the Mississippi Children All Star Talent Search. Congratulations Adiola!
- ◆ Kisa Harris, a ninth grade student at Sumner Hill Junior High School, recently excelled on the college ACT entrance exam with an outstanding score of 27. Kisa is the daughter of Ursula Harris and the granddaughter of Annie Archie. Way to go Kisa!
- ◆ Belivira and Alfred Junior's grandson, Alvin Rashard, is the reigning Mr. Tougaloo College.
- ◆ On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Amelita Ross, Immediate Past President of the E.B. Topp Circle, presented matching crystal ladles for the two crystal punch bowls previously given to the church. The punch bowls were donated last year as a service project of the circle.
- ◆ On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Rayborn traveled to the Greater Enoch Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Florence, MS. Their son, Wallace O'Neal Rayborn, was ordained as a Deacon of the Church. Also attending the service was Mrs. Belivira M. Junior.
- ◆ Kudos to Briana Davis, who was a participant in the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Annual Spelling Bee, held on April 19, 2008.
- ◆ Congratulations to Morgan King, seventh grade student at Blackburn Middle School. Morgan was the First Place Winner at the Post Level of the 2008 Patriot's Pen Audio-Essay Competition sponsored by the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. Morgan presented her essay during Loyalty Day at Brooks W. Stewart Post 9832 on Sunday May 4, 2008. She received a check for \$100.
- ◆ Sunday, May 4, was a day of gratitude and celebration. Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church marked 115 years as a church and as a landmark on Farish Street.
- ◆ Many thanks to the Young Matrons who prepared breakfast for the men of Farish Street Baptist Church in honor of all fathers on Father's Day. It was a delicious and enjoyable affair held in the Maggie Little Turner Fellowship Hall.

### Jackson Retired Teachers Travel to Memphis

Thursday, May 15, 2008 was an exciting day for the Jackson Metropolitan Retired Educators Association (JMREA). Getting an early start (6:00 a.m.) the group traveled by bus to Memphis, Tennessee to visit several historical sites. On the trip's agenda were the Civil Rights Museum, Mud Island River Park, Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, Mississippi River Museum, and the W.C. Handy Memphis Home and Museum. Participants from FSBC were LaRuth Wilson, Belivira Junior, Joe Wright, Celestine King, Inez Morris-Chambers, Lela Rayborn, Annie Archie, and Annie Denham.

### Con't from page 7. 2008 FSBC Woman of the Year

Club, Mississippi Public Retiree Employees Association/Hinds County Board Member, and a Hinds Behavioral 2001

Health Services Board Member. Her oldest son, Eze, describes her as a humble servant to her family, church and community. She truly lives her motto: "If I can help somebody while I am traveling along, then my living will not be in vain."

### Woman's Day Observance

The Woman's Missionary Society of FSBC held its 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Woman's Day Observance on Sunday, April 27, 2008. The sanctuary was filled with guests, and the women of the church were dressed in white, accented with lovely red corsages. This year's theme was "Christian Women: Winning Souls for Christ," with the scripture taken from Luke 9:1-6. All Circles of the church were represented on program and the Woman's Day Choir provided beautiful music.

A highlight of the program was the presentation of the *Sadie Hendricks/Rosie Mitchell Woman of the Year Award*. This year's recipient was Mrs. Minta Uzodinma. The rotating award for *Circle of the Year* went to the E. B. Topp Circle for outstanding missionary participation and commitment to its special project, providing assistance to Sudanese Students. Additionally, the Circle of Faith gave an inspirational tribute in memory of members who have passed away this year (Mrs. Ada Miller, Mrs. Minnie Malone, and Mrs. Barbara Thames)

The Guest Speaker for the occasion was Reverend Denise Donnell, Associate Pastor of Broadmeadow United Methodist Church. Reverend Donnell gave an inspirational message from the subject "Stirring up the Gift." She compared our roles in winning souls for Christ to combining ingredients in a recipe. The message focused on three ingredients: surrender (answer the call), simplify (don't sweat the small stuff), and shout (tell the world).

The celebration was a wonderful observance of the missionary efforts of the women of the church. The Woman's Missionary Society President, Dr. Benny Henderson, is to be commended for her leadership. Program Chair, Mrs. Danella Catchings, and her committee did a great job of coordinating the program. The celebration ended with a reception in the fellowship hall.

### 2008 FSBC Woman of the Year

Each year on Woman's Day, our congregation waits with anticipation for the presentation of the *Sadie Hendricks/Rosie Mitchell Woman of the Year Award*. Named for church members Mrs. Sadie Hendricks and Mrs. Rosie Mitchell (deceased), the first recipients, this coveted award is presented to Christian women at FSBC who have worked untiringly in providing leadership and service to the church and community. This year's recipient is Mrs. Minta Uzodinma.

Mrs. Uzodinma joined FSBC in 1975. She has held several positions in the church including but not limited to clerk, assistant clerk, trustee, choir member, secretary/treasurer of the choir, and E.B. Topp Circle member. She was recently selected to serve as a deaconess. She and her family moved to Jackson in 1964, so that her husband could begin his career at Jackson State University.

Mrs. Uzodinma was the first African-American to graduate from the University of Mississippi Nurse-Midwifery Education Program in 1970 and later served as Director of the Program. She earned a Master's Degree of Nursing from the University of Mississippi in 1975. She was the first African American President of the Mississippi Board of Nursing, was inducted as a 'Fellow' into the American College of Nurses Midwives and served as Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing for the Mississippi State Department of Health. Respect in her profession has earned her numerous awards for her work with women and babies including the Mississippi Nurses Association "Nurse of the Year" in 2001. Additionally, she was selected Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care in 2006-2007.

She is now retired and enjoys traveling, visiting with her grandchildren, cheering the Jackson State University Tigers to victory and continuing to serve the community. She is a former President and current Vice President of the Jackson League of Women Voters, Co-chair of the Jackson Heart Study Health Education Committee, and a member of the Mississippi Nurse Association, Mary Church Terrell Literary

## ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS (CON'T)

### Mississippi Gulf Coast Exploration

The Senior Ministry of Farish Street Baptist Church explored the scenery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast on an overnight bus trip June 3 & 4, 2008. There were 26 members of FSBC who joined with other churches across the city for this exciting, informative mini-vacation. Reverend Johnson saw the group off with a prayer for their safe journey.

The trip included a tour of Palestine Gardens "A Replica of the Holy Land" in Lucedale, Mississippi and a scenic tour of Biloxi via the Biloxi Tour Train. Highlights from this tour included seeing the markings on light poles of the water height during Hurricane Katrina (6 to 7 ft.), the Biloxi Courthouse made of marble, and the tree sculptures of birds along the beach done by a local artist. Another interesting sculpture was of a witch on a weathervane atop of a building in an area that beautifully preserved its 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture in the homes and office buildings that lined its streets.

The trip was capped with a shopping spree at the Prime Outlet Mall. After shopping, there was dinner and live entertainment in Biloxi. Participants were amazed at the "Y," a show of Chinese acrobats and Russian dancers in colorful costumes. It was a very entertaining spectacle. The next day the group headed back to Jackson, having enjoyed an enlightening experience of pleasure and entertainment. The trip was coordinated by Nellie Tolliver and Lola Weakley.

### Special Donation

Dr. Robbie Bingham, a former member of Farish Street Baptist Church, recently shared her generosity with a donation of \$5,000 to be used for scholarship and to promote the continued growth and development of programs of the church. We extend a warm "thank you" to Dr. Bingham for her kindness, love and Christian spirit. May God continue to bless her and keep her in His care.

### The Ordinance of Baptism

On Sunday, June 1, 2008 FSBC added two new members to its congregation. Baptismal services were held during the morning worship service and two young people pledged their faith and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Master Antonio Dorsey, II, son of Ms. Brendsha Roby and Grandson of Drs. Billy. & Brenda Roby; and Miss Sykemron Smith, daughter of Ms. Kensye Smith received the Ordinance of Baptism. After the Service of Communion, they received the right hand of fellowship from the Deacons and Deaconesses and were presented to the congregation. Congratulations and welcome to the Church Family. We look forward to their growth in Christian faith, love and service.

### E.B. Topp Circle

Reaching beyond the walls, the E.B. Topp Circle provides aid to the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program, sponsored by Catholic Charities. Currently, there are six Sudanese in the program (4 boys and 2 girls). All of the youth are enrolled in an appropriate academic setting and did extremely well this past academic year. Of the six youth enrolled, one completed his first year of college at Holmes Community College. Another youth graduated from Murrah High School on May 28, 2008, scoring 23 on the ACT and was awarded a full scholarship to Belhaven College. Another youth made high honor roll at Murrah High School for three consecutive nine weeks.

The Haitian youth also benefit from the tutorial services that are provided. One Haitian graduated

## CELEBRATIONS

### Wedding Bells

Challise Burciaga and Noah Johnson Brittain were married on Waialae Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, April 26, 2008. A reception was held for them in Jackson on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at the Mississippi Telecommunication Conference Center.

Jonathan Lee and Davetta Nicole Cooke were married in Paradise, Islands, in The Bahamas. Their reception was held on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at the Jackson Yacht Club in Ridgeland, MS. Congratulations to both of the happy couples!

### It's Graduation Time!

Spring not only brings showers and flowers, but graduations as well. Our church has members graduating from several levels:

#### Head Start Graduates

Austin McCalpin  
St. Thomas Head Start  
Brishunia Wesson

#### High School Graduates

Darren Walters  
Murrah High School

#### Holy Ghost College Graduates

Candace Davis  
Ashley Gilyard  
Jackson State University  
Jackson State University

#### Elementary Graduates

Congratulations are extended to all the 2007-2008 graduates. May God's grace and blessing be with you in your future endeavors!

### Con't E.B. Topp, p. 6

from CM&I High School on May 18, 2008. Another youth will be a senior in the fall after passing all of his required classes. The refugee program is anticipating the arrival of minors from Myanmar (formally known as Burma) and Iraqi minors who have been orphaned due to the ongoing war. Catholic Charities still needs foster parents (long-term, short-term and respite) to take these youth into their homes. Catholic Charities is eternally grateful for the financial support the Circle has provided over the years to further the academic needs of the refugees.



### 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

### Annual Youth Day

It was a day of celebration for the youth at FSBC on June 8, 2008. Youth of all ages participated on program and led the morning service. Whether in song, prayer or service, all youth had a charge during the program. They chose as their theme "Christian Youth in a Changing World." The Guest Speaker was Reverend Marvin K. Myles, Jr., Youth Minister of Christian Liberty M.B. Church in Kosciusko, MS.

Rev. Myles spoke from I Samuel 17:32, using the subject "I Ain't Never Scared." He used the story of David and Goliath to illustrate that God is always with us and will give us the strength we need in the face of adversity. His message encouraged youth to develop a relationship with God.

Youth representatives presented an appreciation gift to Rev. Myles. Youth Ministries Chair Ameita "Poochie" Ross made special presentations. LaRuth Wilson and Nellie Tolliver received plaques for their untiring service to the youth and church. She also thanked the Youth Ministries Committee and others for their help with Youth Day. Several youth who have been faithful in their attendance at Bible Study received FROG (Fully Rely On God) Bracelets. In addition, all youth received a bookmark and were encouraged to read a Christian book this summer. After the morning service, the congregation joined the youth and guest speaker in the fellowship hall for a reception.

### From the Brotherhood

Father's Day 2008 was a blast! We would like to thank the Young Matrons for the Father's Day Breakfast, it was a delight to be pampered and honored by your efforts. Our speaker for the day was Rev. Reginald Buckley, Executive Pastor, Cade Chapel Baptist Church of Jackson. His message challenged men to become more aligned with the teachings and real life examples of Jesus. Thanks to Dr. Billy Roby, Program Committee chair, and the men of FSBC for putting together such an invigorating event.

We commend the efforts of Brother Edward Butler, Bro. Tal Anderson and Bro. George Terry for their commitment to the young men of Rowan Middle School through the Mentoring Outreach. We hope their efforts will help the community grow closer and stronger.

The Lunch In The Park ministry is still growing strong. This effort has grown to reach almost 100 patrons a month. We commend all of the volunteers and sponsors for making this mission possible!

Congratulations to Brother Doug Luster, the 2008 recipient of the Lee, Wilson, Buchanan Award. Doug is truly a valuable asset to the FSBC family.

### COMMUNITY SERVANTS AWARDED

Three of our members received the Community Servant Award from New Horizon Church in February: Rev. Hickman Johnson (Religion/Clergy), Mrs. Annie Archie (Education) and Mr. Howard Catchings (Business).



### Vacation Bible School, June 9-12, 2008

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School was "Walk It Out: Together in the Way of Jesus", along with the daily scripture, Walk about Zion... that you may tell the next generation that this is God (Psalm 48:12-14), motivated more than eighty-eight people to participate. The four day program was served by a committed and efficient staff of officers and leaders from Farish Street Baptist Church.

The youth and adults shared togetherness through devotion, music and rhythm, study sessions, arts and crafts. This program focused on the lessons of liberation and how movement and singing helps to effect change, moving us forward in faith, in self, in community, and in God. Participants enjoyed making the connection between biblical and cultural heritage, learning to move forward in faith and in life, and walking in the love of Jesus Christ.

A special thank you is extended to all that served, supported, donated and help lead a successful and rewarding, Vacation Bible School 2008 at Farish Street Baptist Church.

### EXCELLENT HEALTHY ORGAN AWARENESS



The Young Matrons Auxiliary busied themselves this spring with their Annual Health Awareness Initiative. This year's theme was "Healthy Organ Awareness" because healthy organs form healthy individuals and communities. Each Sunday, a member of the organization presented "10 Seconds of Healthy Organ Awareness." This was done by talking about a different organ each week and offering vital information on the organs relevance, affected diseases, and prevention methods. Highlighted organs were eyes, heart, bones and pancreas. Women's health issues covered the breast, cervix, and ovaries. These 10 second presentations correlated with the YM Health Tip of the Week which was printed weekly in the worship bulletin.

To culminate the eight week project, the Young Matrons sponsored their Annual "Health Fair in May" which was a GRAND success. Several health community representatives came and offered free health screenings, and the organization provided nutritious, yet, delicious food samples. More than 75 people attended the fair. As a follow-up to the initiative, the organization sponsors inserts in the worship bulletin periodically throughout the year to keep the healthy body and soul on our minds. Without a doubt, this group of young, energetic, Christian women is truly committed to assisting the congregation and community in keeping our bodies clean and healthy to be useful in God's mission.

**GREAT JOB YOUNG MATRONS!**

