

FB Newsletter

June 2006-Spring Edition

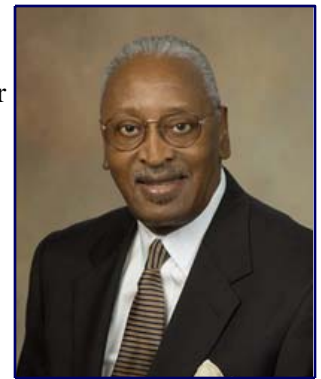
The Newsletter of Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

A PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS ON THE 113TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY. It was a weekday night that I was invited by the Baptist Ministers' Union to preach for the special service honoring S. Leon Whitney for his leadership as President of the Baptist Minister's Union. I had only a few weeks before met the then pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church to learn that he had resigned and would be leaving shortly to assume the pastorate of New Prospect Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. I was the new chaplain at Tougaloo College and my world was limited to Woodworth Chapel. To meet local pastors, I joined the Baptist Ministers' Union. The Union met every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. for Bible study, sermons and to swap stories. Oft times, the stories were better than the sermons. The president thought it would be good to have me, a newcomer to Jackson, to give the going away sermon. It was so long ago that I haven't the faintest idea what I preached that weekday night here in the Church House that Greer had built. I was honored to have been invited to preach for this special service honoring one so well deserving.

This was my first introduction to a great Church and to a great people. In the Summer of 1968, I was invited to serve as Interim Pastor of Farish Street Church. I preached at an early chapel service and arrived here just before eleven o'clock. I met men and women who would influence my life in ways that I could never imagine. I hold their names close to my heart and their memories as sacred. On the first Sunday in August 1968 I accepted the call to pastor and thus began a relationship that has lasted for more than three decades.

Five pastors were before me: E.B. Topp, E.L. Twine, Chester Arthur Greer, Willie L. Varnado, and S. Leon Whitney. Two of them, I knew personally: Willie L. Varnado and S. Leon Whitney. Chester Arthur Greer, I know only through his writings. He left behind his unfinished autobiography. Part one, printed and bound, tells the story of a youthful Greer engaged in a ministry of teaching and preaching. Part two, the years just before his death, hand written, shows the pains of growing old and the labors the stroke had inflicted upon him. I feel a kinship with Greer, not only because of our long tenures, but also because our love for this congregation and its rich history. Greer unlike any other pastor has given to me a glimpse into the soul of this people. He left behind photographs and diaries. One entry in his diary I will not forget (perhaps, repeated before now): It



Dr. Hickman Johnson, Pastor



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FARISH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

"Located within the Farish Street Historic District"
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Reverend Eric D. Williams, Pastor's Assistant
619 North Farish Street
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WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Con't — dead of Winter and an unexpected snow storm had come on Saturday night. Snow blanketed the streets and made them impassible. Greer got to Church early and waited for the congregation to arrive. After a long and pointless wait, Greer returned to the parsonage and wrote this entry in his diary: "Snowed all night. Nobody showed up, except me and the Lord." There is no greater fear, indeed disappointment, that overshadows the preacher's Sunday, than the fear that nobody will show up, except the preacher and the Lord.

Willie L. Varnado I knew as a young preacher from my days in Memphis. When W. L. Varnado left Jackson, after having pastored College Hill, Mt. Helm and Farish Street churches, he went to Jackson, Tennessee. In 1949, he was called to Jackson Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. When urban renewal forced Jackson Avenue Church to abandon its East Memphis neighborhood, Varnado led the congregation to purchase a church building on Cummings Street (south Memphis) and changed the name of Jackson Avenue to Cummings Street Baptist Church. Varnado remained pastor of Cummings Street until 1962. During my seminary years, I would preach at Cummings Street for his successor on almost every return visit home. After I became pastor of Farish Street Baptist, Varnado preached for me on several occasions, the last being in the early seventies.

S. Leon Whitney and I were to serve the denomination as faculty members of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Prior to his coming to the pastorate of Farish Street Church, Sam was Vice President of Mississippi Baptist Seminary and a missionary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He served Farish Street Church during one of the most turbulent periods of modern Mississippi history. Farish Street Church was at the epicenter of the quest for racial justice and civil rights. This membership took its marching orders from a progressive and charismatic leader who dared to challenge the status quo. The freedom riders found refuge in this Church House: rest for weary feet and food for hungry bellies. A cadre of cooks fed those who were willing to lay their lives on the line for freedom and when this Church House received bomb threats, the men of this congregation stood watch by night to protect the House of God.

Sam Whitney was a missionary of the Home Mission Board of the SBC and the Seminary received much of its financial support from White Baptists. Any controversy might affect the financial support and it did. William P. Davis, former President of Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Director of Negro work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, tells in one of his last interviews before his death, the fall out over the dog biting incident—an interview that reveals both the integrity of Sam Whitney and the strength of conscience of Bill Davis. Bill Davis says:

...The vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary was attempting to be present at the trial of some Negro young people. Some of them were students at Tougaloo College and members of his church and they had gone to the public library in Jackson for a sit-in. Well, of course they were arrested and put in jail. The time came for their trial and when they brought those young people out, for some unknown reason the police dog was turned loose on Dr. Whitney and it bit Dr. Whitney several times. Well, immediately that hit the press, you know. So it brought the seminary right in the center of one of the freedom movements and of course Dr. Whitney didn't want to involve the seminary. I was in south Mississippi the day it happened; [as] soon as I got back I found a wire from him offering his resignation. I went to see him and I said, "Dr. Whitney, don't resign right now; I'm suggesting that you just take a leave of absence." I said, "I don't know what I'd do if a dog had bit me like it did you. I just don't know and I can't tell you what to do. But I suggest you just take a leave and then decide what you're going to do." Well, he took the leave and he was gone about two weeks and I wondered what in the world would happen. Well immediately, after I had talked to Dr. Whitney and had his resignation, which I didn't recognize, I began to get telephone calls - anonymous calls - wanting to know what I was going to do with that so and so smart alec Leon Whitney, and if I was going to keep him and would the Baptists keep on supporting him and so on. I don't know whether I ought to put this in the record or not but one man called and he said, "I've caught the man that you fired, Leon Whitney." I said, "You go to hell" and I just hung up the telephone. [Laughter]

Mr. Gower: I suppose you felt like that and that's about the best thing to say.

Dr. Davis: That was. Then there were many other calls. So, I went to church one Sunday while Dr. Whitney was absent; I went to the First Baptist Church in Jackson - I was terribly upset. All during the service I had no awareness of what was going on, I was simply praying that we would go through the crisis victoriously. That was the only way I felt that I could pray. So right at the very last of the service I had a calm assurance that everything was going to be all right and I felt much better. Although I didn't have any guarantee, it was just something on the inside that made me feel that way. Several days later Dr. Whitney called me said, "I've decided to stay with the seminary." I said, "You have?" "Yes." "Well," I said, "that's fine." So he came on back and we had a meeting with the board of trustees.

(Con't On Page 7)

WEDDING NEWS

Miss Catherine J. Poole, the daughter of Mrs. Shirley J. Jackson was recently united in holy matrimony to Elder Talmadge D. Edwards , the son of Larry Edwards and Ms. Virdene Johnson at Progressive Baptist Church with Rev. Arthur Sutton serving as the Officiant.

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love I am

The ceremony was witnessed by many friends and family members, including the godparents of Elder Edwards: Mrs. Gwendolyn Loper and Mr. Talmadge Anderson .

Following the services, a reception was held at Windsor Lake Apartment Clubhouse in Brandon, MS. We extend our warmest best wishes to the newly weds.



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and



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Lori Johnson, Graphic Designer

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened by the deaths of **Mr. Issac Oliver** and **Mrs. Dessie Price Warren**. Both were longtime members of our church and they will be sorely missed. Please keep the Oliver, Price and Warren Family in your thoughts and prayers.



OUR QUARTERLY WORD

“BE PRAYERFUL & PATIENT”

Even though it is often difficult for us to pray when we find ourselves in the middle of great trials, that is exactly the time when we most need prayer. Every time we pray, whether it feels like it or not, we are brought into the very throne room of heaven. Jesus himself ushers our prayers into the presence of the Father, and that alone assures us that they will be heard and answered. Prayer is a matter of obedience, but it is also a matter of survival. Prayer is the lifeline of the soul, and we cannot afford to do without it. Be prayerful to the God who hears and answers and be patient for His answer. Jesus has promised he will see to it that our requests get God’s personal attention.

“God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer of withheld his love from me!” *Psalm 66:19-20*

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” *James 5:16*

“Christ, Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life— is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” *Romans 8:34*

“Jesus said, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” *Matthew 21:22*

JUST FOR FUN: Bible Trivia

- 1.) David's best friend was
 - Jonathan
 - Abner
 - Absalom
 - Saul
- 2.) Who was David's father?
 - Solomon
 - Jesse
 - Abraham
 - Moses
- 3.) What was the name of David’s oldest brother?
 - Hophni
 - Shammah
 - Abinadab
 - Eliab
- 4.) What animals did David slay as a young shepherd?
 - Bear and leopard
 - Leopard and lion
 - Wolf and bear
 - Lion and bear

MISSIONARIES IN ACTION

Healthy Mind, Body and Soul. The Young Matron Auxiliary, a group of energized young women, adopted the 2006 Body and Soul Health Awareness Initiative for their special mission project. Catering to theme “A Healthy Mind, A Healthy Body, A Healthy Soul” the circle has implemented many activities for feeding good health to your mind, body and soul, while being spiritually feed. Some of which include: Sampling of delicious and nutritious fruits and vegetables, a walk-a-long, gospel aerobics, yoga, motivational words for the soul, and a Body & Soul Health Fair. These missionaries pray that through their creative and innovative presentations, they have truly placed an impressionable impact on the active lifestyle of our congregation.

Woman’s Missionary Society Salute. The Woman’s Missionary Society honored Mrs. Minnie Malone as its 2006 *Sadie Hendricks/Rosie Mitchell Woman of the Year* recipient. As is tradition, this tribute was announced at the annual Woman’s Day celebration April 23, 2006.

Mrs. Malone and her family moved to Jackson, MS in 1976 where she worked as a nurse at St. Dominic Hospital and attended Jackson State University. Upon graduation in 1980, with a Bachelor of Science in Education, she began teaching Special Education in the Jackson Public School District. She received her Master of Science Degree in Education and later received Gifted Certification from Mississippi College. She taught Gifted Education at Blackburn Middle School from 1984 until she retired in 2001. While there, she served as sponsor/coach of the National Junior Honor Society, Chess Club, Challenge Bowl and Odyssey of the Mind. Her sincere and genuine love of students was obvious by her support of all activities sponsored by Blackburn Middle School. She spent her summers working with the Summer Youth Program for Gifted and Talented Students and “Kid’s Kollege” at Jackson State University and Tougaloo College.

Mrs. Malone and her family became members of Farish Street Baptist Church in 1980. As in other aspects of her life, she immediately began working in the church. Over the years she has served as a member of the Woman’s Missionary Society and E.B. Topp Circle, Secretary of the Woman’s Missionary Society, Chairman of the Youth Department, Deaconess Board Member, Girl Scout Advisor and Church Choir Member. She has worked tirelessly on countless Youth Day, Christmas, Easter and Woman’s Day Programs.

Mrs. Malone’s life exemplifies the Christian principles of caring, love and generosity of spirit. She has motivated countless youth with her winning example of selfless commitment to projects that she believes in. She is truly an inspiration to all women. She celebrated 50 years of marriage to Brother LaSalle Malone in February, 2006 and they are the parents of four children.

Progressive Matrons on the Move. The Progressive Matrons Auxiliary has completed one of its two goals for 2006: the purchase of a refrigerator for the church. Its second goal is to provide aid for a family displaced by hurricane Katrina. A family has been located and the Progressive Matrons will assist with the necessary items to make its living experience in Jackson a comfortable one. The family includes a mother and daughter, who since moving to Jackson have lost their parents and grandparents.

A brunch will be held for the family on June 10, 2006 in the home of George and Mary Terry. This activity will allow the auxiliary to meet and bond with the family. Assistance for the family will be ongoing until the end of the year. The Progressive Matrons will continue to work with the Woman’s Missionary Society in attaining its goals. Additionally, they will provide refreshments for Vacation Bible School on June 12, 2006. Mrs. Danella Catchings is the Leader of the Progressive Matrons Auxiliary and Mrs. Violet Williams is the Assistant Leader.

Women’s History Month. The March 30-April 5 issue of the *Jackson Advocate* newspaper paid tribute to Women’s History Month with a special edition. The front page was a beautiful collage of 101 African American women from across the state of Mississippi and the nation, “Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams.” Church family pictured were Dr. Alferdeen Harrison, Dr. Cleopatra Thompson, Mrs. Dorothy Stewart, Mrs. Ethel Mangum, Mrs. Gwendolyn Loper, Mrs. Mary Burciaga and Mrs. Sadie Hendricks. Several tributes were featured throughout the newspaper from husbands to their wives. Church member Mrs. Terryce Walker received a salute from husband LeRoy.

CHURCH NEWS

Farish Street Historic District Development. The Farish Street Baptist Church Economic Development Committee for the Farish Street Historic District (with the assistance of Talmadge Anderson and Dr. Alferdteen Harrison) is providing leadership for the development of the "Farish Street/ Main Street" project. The Farish Street/Main Street will be an advocate for the economic and spiritual collaboration of the District. Among the stake holders of Farish Street/Main Street are the seven churches in the historic district, the businesses, residences and cultural institutions that will become financial members on its board. The next meeting is June 13, 2006, 5:30 p.m. Farish Street Baptist Church.

The Farish Street/Main Street will collaborate with the JSU Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center in piloting the "Farish Street Museum of Street Interpretive Marker Project" June 14, 2006, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Smith Robertson Museum. You are invited to participate in this free one-day planning session led by Joy Bailey, Consultant, LORD Cultural Resources Planning & Management Inc. of New York. There will be a \$15 registration fee to cover the cost of refreshments and lunch. Since seating is limited, please immediately express your plan to attend by emailing: alferdteen@aol.com., or calling Alferdteen at 601-355-3052 or 601-979-2055.

Continuing A Tradition. The Woman's Missionary Society, under the leadership of Mrs. Mattie T. Stevens, celebrated its 54th Woman's Day Observance on Sunday, April 23, 2006. The theme was "Women of Faith Giving Praise and Adoration to Our Heavenly Father Through Our Words and Deeds" and the scripture came from James 2:12-26.

The speaker was no stranger to us. She was former Associate Pastor of our church, The Reverend Doctor Marian Y. Talley, who brought us a powerful message: "Hush, Someone is Calling Your Name." Dr. Talley is currently an Academic Dean at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS, and Associate pastor of the Strawberry Missionary Baptist Church in Holly Springs.

Mrs. Vera Bullock chaired the Woman's Day Observance. A sea of white flowed through the sanctuary from the women dressed in white, many in beautiful hats, and the corsages of their "circle." More than twenty-five invited guests were present to help celebrate this occasion. The 2006 Sadie Hendricks/Rosie Mitchell Woman of the Year Award recipient was Mrs. Minnie Malone. Following the morning celebration, a delightful reception was held in the Maggie Little Turner Fellowship Hall. Kudos to the planning committee for a job well done.

40th Anniversary Birthday Project Update. The 40th Anniversary Birthday Project is well underway. This project is a part of the celebration and preparation for the pastor's 40 years of service to this congregation and community. Birthday groups were organized at the beginning of the year and each month was assigned a tribe name (i.e. as in the twelve tribe of Isarel). Each tribe has designated leaders. The goal for each tribe is to raise \$1,111 per year for three years for a combined total of \$40,000 by 2008. These funds will be used to offset the expenses for the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Tribes have scheduled numerous ways to reach the designated goal. Most recently, all the tribes participated in a Mother's Day activity. Tickets were sold for a beautiful Mother's Day Gift Basket which was given away on Mother's Day. Our own member, Mrs. Ester Anderson, an October Birthday Girl, (smile) was the lucky winner!

This month, June, marks the beginning of the halfway mark for this year. To date, every month has contributed to this event. As of the second Sunday in May, the month of June is the leading tribe in total contributions. A full report for the second quarter which ends on the 4th Sunday in June will be provided on the first Sunday in July.

If you have not been contracted by the Birthday Month Leader for your respective birthday month, please contact Dr. Delores Hopkins at 601-362-6194. Thank you for your wonderful participation and cooperation thus far.

Links Present Outstanding Young Men. On Saturday, March 27, 2006, The Links, Incorporated, Jackson Chapter presented twenty outstanding young men from the Jackson metropolitan area at its Biennial Beautillion. This gala activity, which marked the formal passage into manhood, was held at the Walter Payton Health and Wellness Complex at Jackson State University. Beautillion is the major fundraising event for the organization and a development program for young African American males. We are proud to recognize Beau Daren Rashad Walters as one of these outstanding young men.

Daren, a 10th grader at Murrah high school, plans to become a and is already focused and on the right path. Ranked in the Top 10 at Peeples Middle School, Daren was in the National Jr. Honor Society and received the Outstanding Academic Excellence President's Educational Award. An Eagle Scout, Boys Scouts of America, Daren says, "my assets are time management, perseverance and cooperation with others." A young man with diverse interest, he enjoys basketball, pool, deer hunting, reading and music. Not one to shy away from responsibility, Daren is very active in volunteer activities from Gateway Rescue Mission to holiday clean up in the Farish Street District. Daren believes that he has a responsibility to share knowledge and encourage financial independence. His proud parents are Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Pennie Walters. His Belle (escort) was Miss Mea Elizabeth Ashley, the daughter of Mr. Darek and Mrs. Frances Ashley.

Daren joins other Beaux in the Farish Street Family. They are Malcolm O. Harrison (1986), Monroe A. Stewart, III (1986), Ojinga Harrison (1988), Bruce O. Bullock (1990), Gary A. Wynter (1992), Eric Bullock (1996), Jonathan Lee (1996), Jason Taylor (1996), Brian O. Wynter (1996), Jonathan King (1998), Jharick Shields (2000), Jared Taylor (2000), Ryan Hopkins (2002), Jerry Walters (2004).

2006 GRADUATES

Congratulations are extended to these individuals who graduated this year in the 2006 Graduating Classes. May God open all the doors leading to great success in your future endeavors.

Morgan King	Pecan Park Elementary
	Fifth Grade Class
Ashley Stewart	John Hopkins Elementary
	Fifth Grade Class
John Eze Uzodinma	Madison Station Elementary
	Fifth Grade Class
Victoria Edwards	Clinton Jr. H.S.
	Eighth Grade Class
Chloe Elise Jones	Callaway H.S.
	High School Diploma
Megan Dorothy Stewart	Murrah H.S.
	High School Diploma
Christianna Jackson	University of Mississippi
	B.A. – English
Brian Johnson	Alcorn State University
	B.A. – Business Administration
Jharick Shields	Ripon College/Wisconsin
	B.A. – Communication
Jared N. Taylor	Tougaloo College
	B.A. - Biology
Dentia N. Smith	Tougaloo college
	B.A. – Political Science
Tonia Johnson	Jackson State University
	M.S. – Education/Reading
Lori Johnson	Jackson State university
	M.S. – Chemistry
Alexandria Bahl	Univ. of AL/Birmingham
	Doctor of Optometry
June Hardwick	Mississippi College
	Doctor of Jurisprudene

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Con't-Sam Whitney served as Vice President of Mississippi Baptist Seminary while serving as Pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church. He and William Penn Davis along with others organized the Committee of Concern that rebuilt 52 churches burned in the flames of racial prejudice; the period forever known as "Mississippi Burning".

Topp, Twine, Varnado, Greer and Whitney—they all have joined the Church triumphant and rejoice with the angels that sit about the Celestial throne. There are a few who remain who were baptized or married by Varnado, Greer and Whitney. Those who joined this Church during the pastorate of Topp and Twine have long since cross the tides of Jordan and are numbered with the saints above. But we shall forever remember their sacrifice and their labor of love.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

An Oxford Graduate. Reverend & Mrs. Phil George recently traveled to Oxford, England to attend the graduation of their daughter, Phyllis L. George. Phyllis graduated from Oxford University on May 20, 2006 with a degree in Communication Disorders/Sociology. She is also a second year doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WS. Hats off to Phyllis for this stellar accomplishment.

Congratulations. Jharick Jon Shields graduated from Ripon College on May 14, 2006. Jharick has decided to reside in Appleton, Wisconsin and has started his career as a Public Relations Specialist with the Mid West Community Blood Services. Jharick sends his love to the Farish Street Family and he continues to ask for our prayers during his transition and beyond. In addition, in the fall, Jharick will begin studies toward his masters degree in Communication at the University of Wisconsin. His ultimate plan is to obtain his Ph.D.

Best wishes to Jharick from our church family. If you would like to send him a note, he can be reached at the following address:

Jharick Shields- 60 Blue Mound Court Apt. # 7
Appleton, Wisconsin 54914

Happy Retirement. Dr. Inez Morris-Chambers retired in May from Jackson State University. She served as Chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

Dr. Morris-Chambers enrolled in high school at Campbell College on Jackson State's campus because her hometown did not provide schooling beyond the eighth grade. She attended Tougaloo College, where she sang in the choir under the direction of Sarah B. Turner. Dr. Morris-Chambers completed her formal education at Indiana University and the University of Mississippi, earning her Masters and Doctorate degrees respectively. Her professional career includes teaching experiences at Carthage, Bassfield and Jackson's Jim Hill High School. She began her university experiences in 1968 at Jackson State University serving in numerous areas.

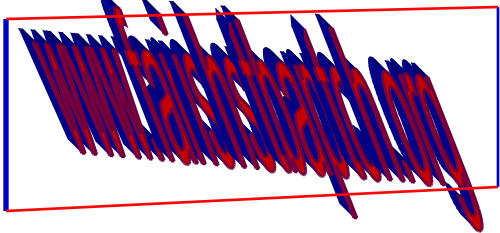
The Farish Street Chancel Choir and Congregation salute Dr. Inez Morris-Chambers for a distinguished career as an educator. Please offer her well wishes as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

FSBC



619 North Farish Street
Jackson, MS 39202

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FARISH STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Located Within the Farish Street Historic District”



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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.