

## The Value of Community

*Pastor L. B. West, D.R.S.*



The Scriptures bear out the fact that in the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth and He filled the earth with different things. The different things were and are representative of Diversity.

God created all things diverse, even before introducing His most prized creation, Mankind, to the newly created scene. It is interesting to note that even when God made the reality of His plan known, by making the statement, "Let us make man in our image and after our likeness," that He had more than just one person in mind, even at the time of creation. Yes, God had COMMUNITY, in mind, and that COMMUNITY would be filled with diversity, even from the very beginning. No two people or even two species would be made exactly alike. Each "Being" would be equipped with his/her own uniqueness, the uniqueness that only a sovereign God could produce; the uniqueness that only a sovereign God could provide and the uniqueness that only a sovereign God could give out to each person in the measured manner that He did to provide diversity within every community.

Within COMMUNITY is a hidden strength that is realized only when individuals within the COMMUNITY come together to explore, examine, analyze, affirm and articulate a common cause. As a COMMUNITY, our collective strength is much stronger than any individual's strength. As a COMMUNITY, Our collective brain power is much more knowledgeable than any individual's know-how. Moreover, as a COMMUNITY, our

collective faith, worship and spiritual energy is much more favored, by the Lord than any individual's spiritual energy; as is noted when Jesus said, "Where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst." God honors diversity within Community that comes together in such a way as to bring His Divine presence. This is the very reason it is so important that those who believe would forsake not the gathering of ourselves together for worship and fellowship. Every time we, as people of God, get together, we open up the opportunity for the Lord to do something spectacular, within our midst, because we managed to come together under one umbrella, within COMMUNITY, to observe and honor His will.

The value of COMMUNITY is invaluable, as it relates to engaging the power of God in the lives of His people within COMMUNITY. After-all, He brought us all together to form His COMMUNITY.

Look for more to come on this very same subject. ■

## Happy 123<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Mount Airy!

*by Rosalind Larry & Diana Jones,  
Chairpersons, Mount Airy Anniversary  
Committee*

Over two years ago when Pastor West asked me to chair the anniversary committee for the next two years, my initial thought was, is he crazy. Does he really think I could pull this off? My daughter, Diana, was with me at the time, and she reassured both of us that I was ready. That is how she became my co-chair. I must admit that our two years as co-chair has been a real joy. We have had the pleasure of working with some amazing people.

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This year, the church celebrated its 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, and the kick off was a extraordinary cookout at Fort Washington Park. Each ministry was charged with bringing a dish, and I say that Mt. Airy has some very good cooks. I'm still thinking about the peach cobbler. There were also Bible trivia games and a big space for the children to play ball. Stephanie Glover (head of the Recreation Ministry) and her committee did an outstanding job. The cookout put all us in a pleasant state of mind, which carried through the entire anniversary celebration.

On the following Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we memorialized our members who went home to be with the Lord in the past year. We also recognized our Service men and women. Rev. Reginald Farmer of, a son of Mt. Airy, and the pastor of the True Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church, gave a very moving sermon. Light refreshments were served after the service.

That Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary committee tried something new DiY Night. It was an evening where anyone could come and learn a few new skills, like tying a bow tie, patching a hole in a wall, scrapbooking, gifting, puppetry, journaling, sewing, table setting, fuse beads, and crocheting. An additional highlight of the evening was the puppet show, given by our new puppet ministry, headed by Deloris Agee. She and her team presented an amazing ladybug show, which had all of us clapping and singing. Again, we all left on a high note, ready for what was in store for the anniversary service on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the anniversary was the same as last year, "Walking in divine authority-Doing greater & more wonderful works", with the scripture references being Genesis 1:26 and John 14:12. Rev. Clifford A. Jones, Jr. of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte North Carolina delivered an inspiring sermon. Once again, the dance ministry and the choir performed and sang

with grace and style. During the service, we recognized our 90 plus year young servants and awarded them a gift for their many years of dedicated commitment and service to our Savior, Jesus Christ, and to the church. I refer to them as the class of 2016. Although all 11 ladies and 5 men were unable to attend, for those who did, they were given a glass plate on which was written "Amazing Woman beauty of spirit so admired, shining faith, divinely inspired, or a tie with crosses on it. A class photo was taken, which I hope to display.

I am deeply grateful to my anniversary committee for their hard work and creative spirit. They made this experience truly rewarding. I thank my co-chair, Diana Jones, and the remaining members, Deaconess Ethel Peterson, Shryl Whigham and Deloris Agee. I also want to thank all of the Mt. Airy members who gladly and readily participated on the anniversary programs and the DiY Night. The church is blessed to have such warm hearted and cheerful workers. ☐

### **NBCCE Article Summary of Classes**



The National Baptist Congress of Christian Education was held in Tampa, Florida June 18-24, 2016. The delegates who traveled by motor coach departed on Friday in order to take advantage of area attractions such as Holy Land Experience and Disney's Magic Kingdom. Our primary focus was our biblical studies. The total attendance was 45. Our children participated in the Children's Rally which is also one of the

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highlights of the Convention. We are preparing now to attend next year's conference in St. Louis, Missouri, June 19-23, 2017. We cannot express our appreciation enough for the financial contributions which always help to defray the expenses for the children. Thanks again and again and consider joining us in 2017. ■

### **The Synoptic Gospels**

*by Warren Harris and Onizene Agee*

This is Deacon Agee's second year attending Rev. Dwight Mobley, Sr's class on the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. Rev. Mobley went over the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as portrayed by these three Apostles. This course helped the students gain more understanding of Jesus's ministry. He plans to sign up for this class again next year. ■

### **Developing Multi-Media Productions Through Puppetry**

*by Barbara Curtis and Deloris Agee*

This was the 4th year for Deloris Agee and 1st for Barbara Curtis. It has inspired both of us to want to start a puppet ministry for our Church. We have introduced a concept using paper and are in the process of creating a mission statement, building a team, begin training, attend workshops and festivals while continuing to practice and present meaningful presentations. Up next: "God is Love" and in the Spring "The Sunflower." Our presentations have two purposes: entertain and educate. Our aim is to be able to get the message across. One of our goals is to involve our youth to the degree that they plan, coordinate and operate this ministry. ■

### **The Gospel of John**

*by Barbara Y. Smith, Theresa Harris, Mary Johnson, Betty Johnson, Maggie Chism*

The Gospel of John is the fourth Gospel. It brings to us the needful person of the Savior.

In each of the other Gospels, Christ is viewed in human connection. Matthews present Him as the Son of David, Mark views Him as Workman of God, Luke as the son of man, but John unveiled His Divine glories.

### **I & II Corinthians**

*Irene Parker, Phillis Anderson*

I & II Corinthian were taught by Reverend Robert Butler. One thing that he explained was Gnosticism. He said that Gnosticism was a second century heresy claiming that salvation could be gained though secret knowledge. Gnosticism is derived from the Greek word gnosis meaning to "know or knowledge."

Paul wrote I Corinthians during his time in Ephesus before the Pentecost. He was there for 2 ½ years. The church at Corinth was gifted, but immature and unspiritual. Paul's purpose for writing to the church was to instruct and restore the church in its areas of weakness. His purpose was also to point out the churches' erroneous practices which were leading to division, immorality and litigation in pagan courts.

Paul wanted to correct false teaching about the resurrection and to give instruction concerning the offerings for the poverty stricken believers in Jerusalem.

This letter is timely for the Church today in giving instruction concerning immorality, division in the church, envy, jealousy, marital difficulties and the misuse of Spiritual gifts.

II Corinthians outlines the severe consequences of not being obedient to the teachings of Christ. Paul goes to meet Titus in Macedonia. He learns that all is well in Corinth and writes 2Cor.1-9 the letter of reconciliation. ■

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## **Financing and Budgeting, the Work of the Church/A Week in Tampa**

*by Rosalind Larry*

In June, my daughter, Diana, and I travelled with the other NBCCE participants on chartered bus to Tampa Florida. The first leg of the trip was an overnight ride with several stops. The next morning, following a breakfast stop, we arrived at the Holy Land Experience in Orlando Florida. It was an amazing place filled with exhibits and short dramas about Jesus and His times. We began our experience with Holy Communion and ended it with the crucifixion. I would recommend this theme park to everyone.

The hotel we stayed in was in a suburb of Tampa, so we had to take the chartered bus into the city every morning. Classes or a lecture started at 8:00 AM, so we usually arrived at the convention center around 7:30 AM. My class was in a beautiful hotel across the street from the convention center. It was located next to the river and had a comfortable riverside patio. I would lounge there before the lectures began.

My session began everyday with two lecturers. The first one, Dr. Orr talked about how to grow disciples. His first lecture was entitled "A Disciple Needs Family." He says that "since a disciple needs a family to grow, he must abide in Jesus Christ and be accountable to others." The second lecture was about a disciple needing food, that a healthy diet of the Bible is essential for spiritual maturity. Thursday's lecture was about a disciple needing facts. A disciple must be equipped with all the facts if they are to move from milk to meat. The last lecture stated that a disciple needs framework, "Our head must be governed by Jesus Christ; our heart must be guarded by the power of God; our feet must be guided by the Word of God; and our members must be glued by the Holy Spirit." Dr. Orr's lectures were insightful and very fulfilling.

The second lecturer highlighted Dr. Orr's message.

My class, Financing and Budgeting the Work of the Church, was taught by Rev Robert J. Thompson from Pine Bluff Arizona. Our textbook was Money Matters in Church: A Practical Guide for Leaders by A. Malphurs and S. Strobe. The objectives of the course were as follows: s to give a biblical description of God's plan for financing the work of the church; explain the relationship between the church budget and the plans for ministry by the church; teaching others how to compile an appropriate budget for their ministry; and describing at least three different types of budgets. Rev. Thompson emphasized that a good stewardship program was essential for a good budget. Bible stewardship and tithing is very important, as well as planning church finances, increasing programs and handling the funds in a responsible manner. He says that budgets must be flexible. If they are flexible, you will never be bent out of shape.

There were about 60 people in the class with people coming from all over the country and various size churches. Some people were very familiar with budgets, and others were just getting started, i.e. were asked to take over the finances of a church. Dr. Thompson was a very lively and spirit filled instructor. His class was easy to follow and full of fun facts and anecdotes.

It has been several years since I had attended the conference. I used to go with my mother. I enjoyed the fellowship with my fellow bus mates and the side trips. I appreciate the hard work that goes into planning these trips and I want to thank Sister Deloris Agee and her team for making this experience so very rewarding. ◼

## **Church History in Acts: Acts of the Apostles**

*by Deacon Gregory Anderson*



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The course focused on Chapters 21 – 31 concerning Paul’s third missionary journey thru Jerusalem to Rome. God spoke to Paul and promised him he would spread the Gospel not only in Jerusalem but also to the Gentiles in Rome, which was the heart of the Roman Empire. Paul’s missionary journey leads him to be imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. It also leads to him having to defend himself before his own kind. Many false charges were brought against Paul for preaching the Gospel. However, Paul being a Roman citizen insisted that he be brought before Caesar in Rome to answer the charges against him. Paul knew that because of God’s promise that he would be found innocent of any charges. Even though he was a prisoner, he still preached the Kingdom of God and taught those things which concerned the Lord Jesus Christ.■

### **Water Consumption**

*by Deacon Daniel Agee, Sr.*

When the body loses water, the consumption of water increases to maintain a healthy level (Grosvenor & Smolin, 2012). The need to drink gets recognized by thirsty sensation. The thirst is caused by the mouth becoming dry. Although water does not provide the energy, it is essential to sustain life (Grosvenor & Smolin, 2012). Water, in the human body, services as a participant and medium for regulation body temperature, metabolic reactions, provides protection, regulates acid-base balance, and transports nutrition and waste (Grosvenor & Smolin, 2012). The types of water reviewed include distilled, spring, and drinking water.

Distilled water goes through a filtration process that removes contaminants and natural minerals (Kirschner, 2013). The use of distilled water is in small appliances like steam irons or water pots. The water is free of mineral buildup that is present when using tap water (Kirschner, 2013). Distilled water is not the best water source for human

consumption since its natural, and sometimes beneficial, minerals get removed (Kirschner, 2013).

Bottled water mostly consists of spring water (Kirschner, 2013). “Spring water is from an underground source that may or may not have gone through treatment or purification process (Kirschner, 2013).” Although the name spring water sounds attractive, its human ingestion is questionable (Kirschner, 2013). Studies conducted by the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) recovered traces of arsenic, phthalates, and coliform. While the label on the bottle says spring water, the source is often a mystery (Kirschner, 2013).

Potable water is intended for human consumption. It is safe to drink and comes from a variety of sources (Kirschner, 2013). There no additional ingredients outside of what is considered safe and usual, like fluoride. Fluoride is essential to the growth of young children, so fluoride supplements get taken if not present in your water (Kirschner, 2013). Contact your local water company for more details.

The human body needs water to regulate temperature as well as transport nutrients and waste. Distilled water has no minerals and gets used in small appliances. Spring water may or may not have gone through a purification process, and the source of the water is a mystery. Drinking water is safe and may contain fluoride, which is an essential mineral in the growth of young children. For more information on your tap water contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Kirschner, 2013). Additional information on bottled water is available through the Environmental Working Group (Kirschner, 2013).

#### References

- Grosvenor, M., & Smolin, L. (2012). *Visualizing Nutrition* (2nd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Inc..
- Kirschner, C. (2013, January). Mother Nature Network. Retrieved from <http://www.mnn.com/your-home/at-home/questions-whats-the-difference-between-distilled-water-spring-water-and-purified>■

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## **Federal Diversity Internship Initiative**

*by Dr. Barbara Smith*

Are you looking for a paid internship? Are you interested in working for the federal government? If the answer is yes, then The Washington Center has the perfect opportunity for you with the Federal Diversity Internship Initiative!

This program offers a federal internship, free housing, a stipend, and professional development opportunities to all accepted students. Internships are available for the upcoming spring and summer terms, so submit an application for the chance to intern with the:

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- U.S. Department of Treasury
- U.S. Census Bureau
- National Archives and Records Administration

### **Application Requirements:**

- U.S. Citizenship (no exceptions)
- 3.0 GPA
- Be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program
- Strong interest in federal employment
- Available to intern full-time for 15 (spring) or 10 (summer) weeks
- November 16, 2016 deadline for spring semester
- January 18, 2017 deadline for summer term

To learn more and start an application, please visit <http://www.twc.edu/hbcu>.

## **S.M.A.R.T. Scholarship Program for Service – Now Accepting Applications**

*by Dr. Barbara J. Smith*

The Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program is an opportunity for students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines to receive a full scholarship and be gainfully employed upon degree completion.

Participants in the SMART Scholarship for Service Program will receive full tuition and education related fees (does not include items such as meal plans, housing, or parking), a stipend paid at a rate of \$25,000 - \$38,000 depending on degree pursuing, access to summer research internships, mentoring, and other allowances and benefits including employment placement upon graduation.

Students pursuing degrees related to the following are encouraged to apply:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering
- Oceanography
- Operations Research
- Physics
- Electrical Engineering
- Geosciences
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Information Sciences
- Materials Science and Engineering (technical tracks only)
- Mathematics
- Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- Biosciences
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry (technical tracks only)
- Civil Engineering

- Cognitive, Neural, and Behavioral Sciences
- Computer and Computational Sciences

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- All awardees must be:
  - o a U.S. citizen at time of application, 18 years of age or older as of August 1, 2017,
  - o able to participate in summer internships at DoD laboratories,
  - o willing to accept post-graduate employment with the DoD,
  - o a student in good standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of award and, pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in one of the disciplines listed on the About SMART page.
- Undergraduate applicants must be currently enrolled in a regionally accredited U.S. college or university and have a high school diploma/GED.
- Graduate applicants can be either currently enrolled in a regionally accredited U.S. college or university or awaiting notification of admission to such. If awaiting admission, you must be accepted for entrance in the fall 2016 term.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2017

How to Apply: For more information and to apply to this highly competitive opportunity visit the website on <https://smart.asee.org>. ■

### **Submitting Newsletter Articles**

*by Newsletter Ministry*



*To submit something for the Newsletter, you need to...*

Submit your articles on a thumb drive or CD in Microsoft Word

format and leave in the **Newsletter Box** in the Church Office. Articles may also be e-mailed to [newsletter@mountairybaptist.org](mailto:newsletter@mountairybaptist.org). We prefer that articles be typed and limited to 220 words or ½ page due to space. **We will no longer accept hand written articles.**

**Articles Due:** Sunday, December 18, 2016

**Next Issue:** Sunday, January 8, 2017

*The Newsletter Ministry reserves the right to edit all submissions.* ■

### **Inclement Weather Notification**

*by Newsletter Ministry*

We will soon be experiencing inclement weather. This means there will be delays, closings, etc. All Mount Airy members are reminded to tune into **NBC-4, WJLA-7, Newschannel-8, and WUSA-9** for any weather-related information. Postings will also be made on the Mount Airy website and Facebook page. ■

### **RECIPE: Balsamic Chicken**

*by Newsletter Ministry*



**You will need:** 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar, ½ cup chicken broth, 2 Tbsp. sugar, 1 garlic clove, minced, 1 tsp. dried Italian herb seasoning, 4-skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, 1Tbsp olive oil

Wisk together the balsamic vinegar, chicken broth, sugar, garlic, and Italian seasoning in a bowl, place the chicken breasts in the marinade (10 minutes on each side).

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the marinade and reserve the marinade.

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Place the chicken in the heated pan and cook until they start to brown and are no longer pink inside, about 7 minutes per side. Pour the marinade into the skillet, and cook until it thickens slightly, turning the chicken breasts over once or twice, about 5 minutes.

Other suggestions use either chicken tenderloins or cut your chicken breast over strips and serve over brown rice or pasta.

Enjoy!

*Recipe courtesy of Allrecipes.com 2016* 🍷

### **FOR YOUR MEDITATION... "You Reap What You Sow"**

"Good Morning", said a woman as she walked up to the man sitting on the ground. The man slowly looked up.

This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. Her coat was new. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life.

His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before... "Leave me alone," he growled....

To his amazement, the woman continued standing.

She was smiling -- her even white teeth displayed in dazzling rows. "Are you hungry?" she asked.

"No," he answered sarcastically. "I've just come from dining with the President. Now go away."

The woman's smile became even broader. Suddenly the man felt a gentle hand under his arm.

"What are you doing, lady?" the man asked angrily. "I said to leave me alone.

Just then a policeman came up. "Is there any problem, ma'am?" he asked..

"No problem here, officer," the woman answered. "I'm just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?" The officer scratched his head. "That's old Jack. He's been a fixture around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?"

"See that cafeteria over there?" she asked. "I'm going to get him something to eat and get him out of the cold for a while."

"Are you crazy, lady?" the homeless man resisted. "I don't want to go in there!" Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. "Let me go, officer. I didn't do anything."

"This is a good deal for you, Jack" the officer answered. "Don't blow it.."

Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the cafeteria and sat him at a table in a remote corner. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left and the lunch bunch had not yet arrived...

The manager strode across the cafeteria and stood by his table. "What's going on here, officer?" he asked. "What is all this, is this man in trouble?"

"This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered.

"Not in here!" the manager replied angrily. "Having a person like that here is bad for business..."

Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See, lady. I told you so. Now if you'll let me go. I didn't want to come here in the first place."

The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled..... "Sir, are you familiar with



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Eddy and Associates, the banking firm down the street?"

"Of course I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms."

"And do you make a godly amount of money providing food at these weekly meetings?"

"What business is that of yours?"

I, sir, am Penelope Eddy, president and CEO of the company."

"Oh."

The woman smiled again. "I thought that might make a difference." She glanced at the cop who was busy stifling a giggle. "Would you like to join us in a cup of coffee and a meal, officer?"

"No thanks, ma'am," the officer replied. "I'm on duty."

"Then perhaps a cup of coffee to go? Yes, ma'am. That would be very nice."

The cafeteria manager turned on his heel, "I'll get your coffee for you right away, officer."

The officer watched him walk away. "You certainly put him in his place," he said.

"That was not my intent. Believe it or not, I have a reason for all this."

She sat down at the table across from her amazed dinner guest. She stared at him intently... "Jack, do you remember me?"

Old Jack searched her face with his old, rheumy eyes. "I think so -- I mean you do look familiar."

"I'm a little older perhaps," she said. "Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry."

"Ma'am?" the officer said questioningly. He couldn't believe that such a magnificently turned out woman could ever have been hungry.

"I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. Finally I was down to my last few cents and had been kicked out of my apartment. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly starving. I saw this place and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said... "I was behind the serving counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against company policy."

"I know," the woman continued. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner table and enjoy it. I was afraid that you would get into trouble... Then, when I looked over and saw you put the price of my food in the cash register, I knew then that everything would be all right."

"So you started your own business?" Old Jack said.

"I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually I started my own business that, with the help of my Creator, prospered." She opened her purse and pulled out a business card.. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr. Lyons...He's the personnel director of my company. I'll go talk to him now and I'm

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certain he'll find something for you to do around the office." She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet... If you ever need anything, my door is always opened to you."

There were tears in the old man's eyes. "How can I ever thank you?" he said.

"Don't thank me," the woman answered. "To The Creator goes the glory. Thank The Creator."

Outside the cafeteria, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways...."Thank you for all your help, officer," she said.

"On the contrary, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget. And thank you for the coffee."

What is the moral of the story?

Be kind to the people whom you meet on the way up; you will meet the same people on the way back down! ■



### Upcoming Church Events:

- ❖ *Special Church Call Meeting  
Election of Officers  
November 12, 2016*
- ❖ *Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind  
Christmas Celebration  
December 3, 2016*
- ❖ *Angel Tree/Toy Giveaway  
December 17, 2016*
- ❖ *Installation of Officers  
December 18, 2016*

Peace and  
Blessings  
from God the Father  
and Our Lord  
Jesus Christ!

