THE HISTORIC BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

1635 DR. HYLTON L. JAMES BOULEVARD (BERGEN STREET), BROOKLYN, NY 11213

DR. ARLEE GRIFFIN, JR., SENIOR PASTOR

REV. TREVOR HYDE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

THE BROADCASTER
IS BACK!!! WE
WELCOME YOU
TO JOIN OUR
MINISTRY

TRY GREAT RECIPES FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER THE MEMBERS
OF BEREAN
BAPTIST
CHURCH......
IN PICTURES

Q & A WITH BEREAN'S YOUTHS OF THE YEAR



a Letter from the Editors

We pray that you had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the New Year. Greetings Berean & Friends!!!

The Broadcaster has long been a Berean essential, providing information useful to and for the church community. Our vision is to serve God with our gifts, creating a As you can see, WE'RE BACK!!! platform where literature, art, and original pieces can be shared with the intent to educate, rejuvenate, and stimulate the mind, heart, and soul.

Our returning issue is centered on the theme of love, as it pertains to the black community. Love should be pure and kind, but has been used as a weapon by society. In a time where self-reflection and examination are most opportune, let us meditate on what love should truly look like and be according to the WORD. In this issue, you will enjoy a beautiful love story of one of our couples and uncover the thoughts and feelings of two of Berean's youth in a fun and revealing Q & A. If you think you have what it takes to whip up some good grub, have fun Cooking with Coleen.

The Broadcaster is all about community and relationships. Many of you have the gift of storytelling and artistry - how great would it be to share those talents with others! And after reading this issue, we WANT to hear from you!!! We welcome your input, advice, and fresh ideas. If there is a feature you wish to see, tell us about it!

Our hope is that you find a wealth of useful and interesting information within these pages. For the present, continue to stay warm and toasty as you happily read on !!!

Elizabeth Duplessy, Editor

Joseph Jones, Diaconate Advisor



Annie Hickson, Special Contributor





Maureen Williams, Photographer





PAGE 2 | Love is patient.

27 YEARS AND COUNTING.....

The work of Pastor Arlee Griffin, Jr. here at Berean Baptist Church has been nothing less than outstanding, tremendous, and extraordinary. We have been so blessed to call him leader, preacher,

brother, and friend.

the greatest visionaries

his many roles,

promoting

African

people.

dedicated and

of lives people

an established

Dr. Griffin is without a doubt, one of and trailblazers of our time. Among

Dr. Griffin serves as an educator;

higher learning, particularly for

Americans and young

And as a missionary, he is devoted to changing the around the world through relationship with Christ.

Berean has the privilege of being part of such a powerful legacy that will be remembered by generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS

Pastor Trevor Hyde became full-time Associate Pastor at Berean.



As a Brooklyn native, Pastor Hyde brings an insight and perspective unique to our community. Wise, perceptive, inspiring - words that barely skim the surface describing his character. Let us pray for him and give him the support that he needs to continue making our great church, a successful and prosperous community.







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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			Lillian Allen			
			Joshua Cannon	Lisa Alleyne		
			Wayne Jordan	Deatriss Fulton	Lillian Allen	Patricia Baker
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						Tonya Fuller
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Hazel O. Worley	William Hayes	Čecil Stokes	Victoria Worfield	Tyre Pearson	Mary Jamerson	Keturah Williams
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Annie Hickson				Marvin Anderson	
	Karen Hodnett				Wilbur Ford, Sr.	Johnathan Gore
371 1 341	Audrey Jackson			George Thom	Isa John	Marva Roberts
Vivian Minter Jared Watson	Rodney Walden Philip Wheatle	Sherrie Griffith	Ashley Hampton	Pamela Wiggins Jhanique Williams	Shavonne Jones Tammy S. Williams	Gabrielle Steward Elden Williams
		Sherrie Griffith	Ashley Hampton	Juanique vv mianis	Tammy S. Williams	Elden Williams
28	29	Notes: Do something great.				
		It's your birthday!!!!				
Christopher Espinal				TT'S	your bir	rnaay!!!!
Aisha Garrett-Jones Eria Jones						
Dauval Jones	Shakeyla Crawford					

WORD OF THE MONTH

AUSPICIOUS

(aw-spish-uh s)

adj. favorable, promising success

The marriage was off to an auspicious start.

Tip of the Month

Have a grease stain on your favorite outfit? Don't Panic! Put some powder on the stain and let it sit for as long as you can, or until you are ready to wear it. The longer you leave the powder on, the more grease it will absorb. For immediate results: Apply the powder to affected area, lay a paper towel over it, and iron. Voila! Stain is gone.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

1 John 3: 16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with action and in truth.

N۱۱

Food for Thought

Would you walk away from a \$37 million sports contract to become a farmer? Well, St. Louis Rams center Jason Brown did just that! Mr. Brown quit his professional football gig to be full-time farmer. His mission was to feed the impoverished residents of North Carolina. But this was not a rash decision. He says he was inspired by God and believes that service to others is the most fulfilling. In preparation for his life on the farm, he spent much time watching YouTube videos, reaching out to local farmers for advice, and in meditation with God. Named "First Fruits Farm" because he donates the first fruits of every harvest to local pantries, the farm is also responsible for giving 100,000 pounds of food to the needy. Mr. Brown is motivated to continue on with his mission, hopefully one day eradicating hunger for good, from the great state of North Carolina.

The Joseph A.E. Jones Youth of the Year Award is given out to two deserving Berean teens at our annual Youth Day. The recipients have shown tremendous leadership, unwavering devotion and commitment to serving God and their community. Vermell Hooks and Juwan Jones have made the 6-month mark of their service as Youth of the Year.

YOUTH MEDEFIN

We wanted to check in on them and gage their thoughts on God, family, and social issues. We had two envelopes with different questions and they flipped a coin to determine who got which envelope.

➤ It was a pleasure interviewing them. They were engaging, candid, and super funny. And while they may still be in the process of discovering who they are, it is without a doubt that they know who they want to be in Christ.

Our Q & A with......VERMELL & JUWAN

Topic: GOD

Responder: Juwan

Q: Do you worship God? If so, why?

A: Yes, I do. Worship is a personal thing, a deep relationship with God.

Q: At what time of day, do you become the most aware of God's presence?

A: Morning times - an hour of pure quietness!

Q: What is your favorite characteristic of God?

A: Humor. He made me, so he has to be funny!

Q: Have you ever been mad at God? If so, when and why?

A: Probably the time when I broke my ankle. I was sitting in the ambulance, saying, God, I sing your songs, I worship you, how could I break my ankle. Haha!

Responder: Vermell

Q: What would make God the most proud of you?

A: Being open and accepting of everyone.

Q: How has God used pain and sorrow to help you grow?

A: When people enter and leave my life, it is for a reason. There are obstacles in my life for a reason.

Q: Who is the model of Christ-likeness in your life?

A: Rev. Marsha

Q: What is one question you would like to ask God?

A: I would ask, why is He is always testing me. Sometimes, it's like 'Back to Back', for real.

Topic: Family & Friends

Responder: Juwan

Q: With which family member are you the most similar? **A**: My dad.

Q: Name three qualities you want your friends to have. And would you drop those friends that did not have these qualities? A: 1. Honesty; 2. Patience; 3. they must have a relationship with Christ. And of course, I would drop friends that do not have

these qualities. If you are my friend, you have to be honest, patient, and have a relationship with Christ!

Responder: Vermell

Q: What is the quality you admire most in your parent/guardian?

A: My aunt trusts God in everything she does.

Q: What family member/friend would you like to restore a relationship with?

A: My grandmother, who passed away, was my best friend. So much of what I do in church, is because of her.





Topic: Matters of Society

Topic: **Introspection**

Responder: Juwan

Q: Are you frightened of the possibility of being confronted by a police officer?

A: No! I'm not frightened. I am doing the right thing, so, no I'm not frightened!

Q: Do you think that white and black people could live together peacefully?

A: Yes, I see it every day. Some of my family members are in interracial relationships. We still have our times of racial inequality, but I think it is getting better.

Q: What would you change about today's music? A: There is no meaning behind the words - I would change that!

Responder: Vermell

Q: How would you handle being confronted with racism?

A: I would say something in my head, and then pray for God to handle the situation. (chuckles)

Q: If it was in your power to do so, would you re-introduce prayer in school, even if it might offend those who practice other religions or do not believe in God at all? A: Yup! I do that now! If I do not like the vibe in my class, I pray.

Q: Name three positive and negative aspects of social media.

A: The positives are 1. you can spread the word about God,

(Juwan: Yeah, but people kill me with their preaching on Facebook) 2. you can find new ideas, 3. and you can find people you lost contact with. The negatives are there is too much fighting and bullying, it can cause low self-esteem, and it takes up all you time and money. We do not even play the way we used to because we're always on social media.

Responder: Juwan

Q: What Biblical character do you most relate to?

A: Hmmmm, very interesting. I don't know. I think I am between Peter and Samson. I'll say Peter.

Q: What would you like for your life to be like in two years? A: I would love to be in theological seminary. I'm not rushing to the pulpit though!

Q: What is something that you do that most people would not know? A: I draw. I just don't do it very well, but I love to draw.

Q: What is the biggest challenge you are facing in your life at the moment?

A: Preparing for college and college life!

Q: If you were in a burning building and only had time to grab one item, what would it be?

A: My iPad. Haha! I'm sorry. I've got my Bible on my iPad!

Q: What has been your biggest challenge and biggest reward being Youth of the Year?

A: Well, the biggest challenge would have to be......having to always be present, so that the younger kids will look at me in high regards. My biggest reward is definitely being co-Youth of the Year with Vermell!

Responder: Vermell

Q: What advice would you have given yourself five years ago? A: I would have told my 13-year-old self to trust God more, instead of taking on problems myself.

Q: What is the best thing you have ever done for someone without getting anything in return?

A: I'd say, being a sister to other young girls.

Q: What is your greatest strength and weakness? A: My great strength is allowing God to work in me. My weakness is letting things get to me.

Q: When you think about the future, what are you most excited about? A: Becoming a social worker. Send your kids to me if they need someone to talk to!

Q: What goals do you have for your education?

A: Graduating high school and then getting my doctorate.

Q: What has been your biggest challenge and biggest reward being Youth of the Year?

A: My biggest challenge is trying to make it to church consistently and my biggest reward was being Youth of the Year. It was a total surprise!

Member of the Week

Courtesy of Maureen William

Joshua Cannon

Joshua is an intelligent, loving, and mature-minded young man. He is an active member of his community and church and is devoted to serving God. He has a desire to make a difference in the world and recognizes the need to make sacrifices for the greater good. Congratulations!!!

JUST FOR FUN

Responder: Juwan

Q: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

A: Bora Bora!!! I don't know where it is, but I love it. A house on the water - it's beautiful!

(Are you going to pay for me to go, Liz? Liz: Hahaha! Yeah, sure!!!! Haha.)

Q: If you could be on any Reality TV show, which one would it be? **A**: Preachers of LA, but it would be called Preachers of NY. And if Rev. Trevor could be on it, that would be awesome!

Q: If you were to write a book, what would it be about?

A: I will write an autobiography. It will be an interesting book, I know that!

Q: What age do you consider old?

A: I don't want any church folks coming after me, but maybe.....65.

Responder: Vermell

Q: Would you rather see the future or change the past?

A: I would rather see the future because my past has helped me grow.

Q: If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about? A: I would talk to him about why I feel so different to everyone else. Sometimes I feel like I am weird.

(Liz: You are not weird, V!!! You're awesome!)

Q: Who do you admire as a leader?

A: Tasha Cobb. I love her worship. She seems to have a real connection to God.

Q: If all social media was gone today, how would you communicate with your family and friends?

A: I would have to hop on that train! Haha!

I would write to them or get on a megaphone and say "Hello, Helloooooo, I am coming to your house today" (laughs).



WHY MLK DAY IS MORE THAN JUST A DAY TO SHOP

Excerpted from The Liz Report

"Who is Martin Luther King, Jr?"

This question was asked of me by a 1st grader who attends the school where I work, when I told her why there was no school on Monday.

I think I was more surprised at my surprise that she did not know who he was. I suppose I should have known better. I always assumed that Martin Luther King was someone everyone spoke of, and while one may have not memorized his oeuvre, a good idea of who he was existed.

As I begin to explain to the 1st grader who MLK was, a kindergarten student overhears us talking and asks "who's that?" My conversation has now attracted the eager ears of other adorable tykes who are also curious about this man. They were intrigued by the information I relayed to them and wanted to know more. I told them as much as I could before having to table our conversation for another time.



I realized that there was a serious problem. Not only are our children not being taught important American history at school, they are not being exposed to it at home either. High school and college should not be the FIRST TIME our children learn our history. The time is now.

I am deeply concerned that our children not having the necessary exposure to Dr. King's rich history and legacy, will lead them further down a path where the future looks bleak because the past has not been learned. It is important for us to tell our youth the stories of those who lost their lives fighting for us, in hopes that one day we will be free.

These are extremely difficult times for the Black community, as we work to "survive" police brutality, lack of employment, deplorable housing conditions, and attacks on our humanity. We must aim to do more than survive; we must live. But in order for us to that, we must equip ourselves with the Word of God and learn our history to prevent repeating the same mistakes.



HOW WE GOT HERE

The Lynn & Doug Nelson Love Story

It wasn't exactly love at first sight, well; it might have been for him. It was 1966, at a high school party after the football game. Perhaps, something deep down inside told him that she was his future. There was only one problem - her boyfriend. That was not going to stop him, though! He did not think he was good enough for Lynn, but the concerns that Doug had about his worthiness and his upbringing would soon become a thing of the past.

Doug was persistent. He called Lynn.....and called......and called some more. She did not answer, but her MOM did! Doug asked Mom if Lynn still lived at the residence. And Mom said, "She's still here, she just does not want to speak to you." A lesser man would certainly be deterred from continuing to pursue any relationship, but not Doug! He knew.

Some time had passed until Lynn and Doug saw each other again. They had both married other people and had children, but God had other plans. They met again at a party in 1985.

Five years later, a budding romance developed between the two, in a manner most unexpected. They wrote letters and poetry. Doug "went Shakespeare on her." It was beautiful.

As he got on the train to go back to Iowa, he asked her to marry him and she said......YES!

They still have boxes of the old letters. Doug loved writing poetry and Lynn was instrumental in that.

They hung out some months later, when Doug was back in New York City. It was like they were transported to an old black and white film - Casablanca? Roman Holiday, maybe? Doug saw Lynn and he knew. As he got on the train to go back to Iowa, he asked her to marry him, and she said.....YES!

Lynn was everything that Doug wanted in a woman. And their union was kismet.

Lynn was/is beautiful and had a kind heart, which he could see in how she took care of her parents.

Doug thought Lynn to be wise and insightful. Lynn thought Doug to be nurturing and determined, making them a remarkable pair.

So she said yes. Have we mentioned that already?

They were married in March in a small intimate ceremony. Their children were the attendants and it was picture-perfect - just the way one would imagine. With every marriage comes hardships. Six months after the happy couple tied the knot, Lynn's father passed away and her mother died at 103 years-old two decades later. And Doug faced a few challenging times with his children. They stepped up and stepped in for each other in ways that both will be forever grateful.

Spirituality played an important, if not the most important role in their union. Lynn and Doug were wholeheartedly committed to God, their marriage, family, and creating a godly home.

So what's next for Lynn and Doug? They are looking to soon retire. So you know what that means! More time to continue being fabulous, travelling to amazing places, and who knows - maybe more feelings of being transported every now and then to a classic black and white romance.







HARD WORK FOR THE HEART AT WORK

Valentine's Day is around the corner and with every holiday celebration these days, comes the overwhelming cadging by marketers to go completely nuts shopping for the one you love. Today, there is an emphasis placed on showing love through artificial means while matters of the heart are handled negligently.

What is love exactly? Webster's has its own definition of the word, but perhaps, it is wiser to refer to the actual Word.

1 John 3:18 (NLT) says, "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

Love simply put, is an action.

While it can produce an emotion, in its purest and truest form, it is shown.

We are bombarded with societal definitions of love - Love that is physical, love interpreted as lust, and love that is conditional. But God's command of love superposes that of, any temporal dictations made by the world. If we are showing true love, it is most likely the hardest thing we do.

We are even commanded to "love thy enemy". How can we love those that hurt us, pray for those that persecute us, or even worse, bless them that curse you?

But is it really unreasonable for God to ask this of us?

Consider this, just like you, your enemy is also a child of God and is loved by Him unconditionally. So if you hate your enemy, you would be hating a child of God, and God Himself.

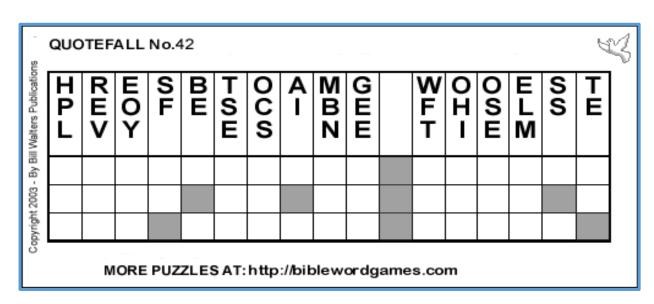
God showed us the greatest love of all when He sent His son to die the most painful death for us. Is that not love?

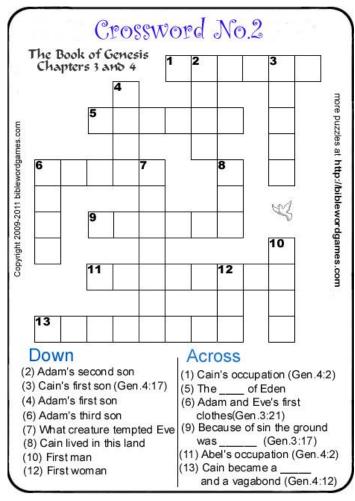
Love, indeed, is a tall order, but it is a necessary one. As Christians, we must make a commitment to putting our words to action.

Say "I Love You" and then mean it!!!

-ED







Solutions will be in next month's issue

Riddles & Jokes

- 1. How do you make Holy Water?
- 2. At what time of day was Adam created?
- 3. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Courtesy of www.revelation.co

- J. You get regular water and boil the Devil out
 S. A little before Eve.
 S. Samson. He brought the house down.
 - Answers:

Did you know?

The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9 with 90 words. The shortest is John 11:35 with 2 words, "Jesus wept."



Cooking with Coleen

A VALENTINE DINNER FOR TWO

STRAWBERRY GREEN SALAD

Take off stems from strawberries and slice in half or quarters. Toss all greens together and garnish with strawberries, craisins or raisins. Chill until ready to serve. Italian dressing is delicious with this, but you can use a dressing of your choice.

PORK LOIN

Heat 4 tablespoons of oil in skillet. Sautee 3-4 crushed cloves of garlic in skillet. Remove garlic cloves from skillet. Place pork loin in skillet and brown lightly on both sides. Remove pork loin from skillet. Add 1 cup water to pork loin, onions, garlic and black pepper (season to taste). Simmer for about 5 minutes (after the water comes to a boil) or until the liquid becomes a gravy consistency. If you want the gravy to be a little thicker, you can add potato flakes as needed.

SPAGHETTI WITH CABBAGE

In medium pot bring at least 4 cups of water to a boil add a pinch of salt. Place spaghetti in boiling water stirring occasionally to prevent spaghetti from sticking together. Cook al dente. Drain and rinse in cold water to stop the cooking process. Place spaghetti in a medium bowl. Slice one medium onion. Shred ¼ of 1 small cabbage. In small skillet, sauté onions and cabbage together in margarine or butter as needed, until cooked firm. Pour over spaghetti and toss lightly.

Garnish with chopped parsley or scallions.

What you'll need:

6 strawberries

2 fist full of Romaine lettuce

2 fist full of spring greens

2 tablespoons of craisins or raisins

3-4 fresh garlic cloves

Salt

Black pepper

2 medium onions chopped

4 tablespoons of oil

1 cup of water

4 slices of center-cut pork loin

seasoned with salt

1 box of spaghetti

1 small cabbage

Margarine or butter

Optional:

Potato flakes

Chopped parsley or scallions

AIM & HEUNEULA BILES

RED VELVET CUPCAKES DONE EASY!

Ingredients:

1 cup of buttermilk

2.5 cups of flour

1 cup of sugar

2 eggs

1 and 1/2 cups of vegetable oil

1 teaspoon of baking soda

Pinch of salt

1 teaspoon of vinegar

1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Sour cream

1 ounce of Red food color

1 cup of butter

8 ounces of cream cheese

3 cups of confectionary sugar

1 teaspoon of vanilla

1 teaspoon cocoa powder

Frosting





Combine dry and wet ingredients. You may use an electric blender. Place paper cupcake wrappers in cupcake mold. Grease well. Bake for 18-30 minutes (depending on your oven) at 275-300 degrees. Let them cool before decorating with icing. Enjoy!

FEBRUARY EVENTS

The Legacy of African-American **Public Service**

The Arsenal in Central Park 830 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, Manhattan

January 21st through February 26th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: Free

Artists in this exhibit offer broad interpretations on the theme of African Americans in Public Service.

Film Screening: Ghosts of Amistad, In the Footsteps of the Rebels

Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning Black Box Theatre 161-04 Jamaica Avenue, Queens February 19th 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: Free Explore the Amistad ship rebellion 177 years later with a screening of the documentary,





Harlem Sunday Gospel Tours

690 Eighth Avenue, Manhattan Sundays

9:15 AM - 1:15 PM

Cost: \$59 (advance booking required) No shorts, tank tops, or flip flops allowed on this Harlem Spirituals Tour. Listen to some soul music and then fill up on some soul food.

Taste Harlem Food Tour

Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Cost: \$95 (advance purchase required) Feast on Dishes from Africa, the Caribbean, and beyond. Come hungry!

Weeksville Hunterfly Road Historic Houses

1698 Bergen Street, Brooklyn Tuesdays through Fridays 3:00 PM

Cost: \$5 (6 people max for tours, schedule ahead) weeksvillesociety.org

Visit an African-American namesake park! www.nycgovparks.com

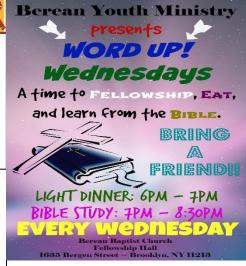
Arts, Culture & Fun: Preview Screening of the Black Panthers

St. Mary's Recreation Center St. Ann's Avenue at 145th Street, Bronx February 12th 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: Free

The screening will be followed by a discussion with Brittany Williams, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice, and former Black Panthers.

FOR THE KIDS



Mid-Winter Recess Workshops: **Celebrate Black History Month George Washington Carver Workshop**

Queens Botanical Garden 43-50 Main Street, Queens February 16th 1:00 PM - 2:30PM

Cost: \$6 registration fee per child Students will follow in Dr. Carver's steps, using plants to paint and to create a healing lotion to take home.



Thank you for reading the 2016 Love Issue!!! What did you like? What was missing? We want to hear from you.

If you would like to make comments about this issue, email us at bereanbroadcaster@gmail.com.

Write YES at the end of your email if you would like your opinion featured in our Reader's Comments page for the next issue.