

SPRING/
SUMMER
EDITION
2015

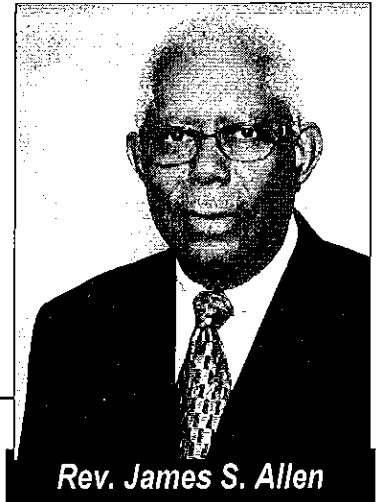
Vol. 22 — No. 2

Keeping In Couch Newsletter

VINE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

5600 W. Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131
215-472-1189 * 1-888-878-2080
www.vinememorialbaptist.org
Reverend James S. Allen, D.D., Pastor

2015 THEME: "Aiming for higher ground"
Scripture: Philippians 3:13-14



Rev. James S. Allen

Pastor's
Corner

From the Pastor

Luke reports that one day when Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1). There is a prime possibility that a modern request of the Lord would have been phrased in another fashion. It probably would have been, "Lord, teach us how to pray..." But pharaseology of this request lends itself to personal interpretation. The modern focus probably would have been focused on method rather than on desire and commitment. The commitment to pray will lead one to engage in prayer because there is a deep motivation born from a desire to commune with the Father, even as Jesus did. They wanted Jesus not only to deal with method, but with motivation. When they saw Jesus before his prayer-time, and after his prayer-time, they sensed something different in him, and they wanted to experience that difference in their lives so that they would be able to pass it on to others as they ministered in the name of the living Christ.

Is it not one of the grand absences in the contemporary churches? Most churches have regularly scheduled times of prayer, but the attention given to that time of prayer is minimum. Prayer does not seem to be a priority in churches today. We are busy rushing here and there doing things that may be considered secondary in the mind of God. Often when we are engaged in doing things, there is no spiritual power because we have not spent time in the presence of the One who can and will provide the power to make what we are doing productive. Thus, our individual and collective prayer life is limited and weak. We forget that the Holy Spirit fell on the early disciples after they had waited for a period of time. Would it make sense for the churches of today to dispense with some of the secondary matters for a while, and spend more time in prayer? We are in serious need of a new visitation of the Holy Spirit. I am convinced that the need is critical, the time has come, and the Holy Spirit is available. Why not dispense with some of the secondary things, and spend time both as a collective body of Christians, and individually in our homes, in prayer. Maybe this will be an excellent way to announce that "Black lives really do matter." It is a challenge that we should consider.

REGULAR
SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9:00 a.m. Church Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Devotions
- 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship Service

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

- 10:30 - 12:00 Noon..... Bible Study
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Hour of Power
- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Mid Week Worship

Baptism (Every 5th Sunday) * Lord's Supper (Every 2nd Sunday)

Radio Broadcast — can be heard: Saturdays 10:00 a.m. on WNAP (Gospel Highway 11) 1110 on the AM dial AND
Sundays 3:00 a.m. on WURD (900 AM dial)

F.Y.I.



D'VINE REFLECTIONS



**GOD'S BLESSINGS;
GIFT-WRAPPED**

As I woke up on the day I was born, April 9, I smiled with such joy of the gift of 58 years. And as I began to listen to the birds singing and felt a beam of sunshine on my face, my smile transformed to joyful tears. He has brought me a Mighty Long Way.

From Poverty, to traveling the music world, from that to addiction, to pain and suffering, to such joy, that I would not change. I am fully aware, of the fact it is through my trials and tribulations, that I have become a child of the King. No, No, No, I Would Not Change A Thing. Today my spirit is Joyful, Today I can Rejoice, Today! OH How I Love Jesus. Today I watched my 7 year old seed of my seed get baptized on Easter Sunday Morning. Ohhhh! The Joy that filled my soul! So I no longer look for the packages in a pretty little box. No, I Acknowledge Him in all thy ways and have realized that, I Am The Present! I Am God's Blessing! And on top of that, I'm shiny with a cute little bow, from the inside out, "So don't be surprised if you see me Jump Shout, Run, and yes, my feet may tap. Just remember! God's Blessings are Always Gift-Wrapped!!

Deaconess Lorraine Gilliam

EVERYBODY EXERCISE

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own. For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthian 6:19-20 (NKJV)

Please join us for fitness enhancing exercises suitable for all ages and levels of fitness. Initiated by the Young Adult Ministry, beginning March 2, 2015, this weekly class will be held every Saturday at 10:00 am and will be led by the dynamic duo of Tamara Bloom and Cheryl Morris. Loose fitting clothes and athletic footwear are suggested. We look forward to seeing there as we get fit for 2015!

SENIOR MINISTRY

Seniors want to fellowship with other life enthusiastic seniors? Then you want to join Vine Memorial's senior ministry! The invitation is extended as we said before, we are not a sit down or slow down ministry. We are energized and busy. Some of our activities include, health fairs, workshops and let's not forget the theater, plays and host of other action oriented events. We recently saw The Lion King and toured the Art Museum Special Works of Black Artists. We meet every third Thursday of the month (except summer). See Sister Mazie Pearson, president for further information.

*Submitted by
Deaconess Mary Crockett*

**DEACONESS DINE & PRAY IN
CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS**

The Deaconess Ministry held its annual pre-mother's day prayer breakfast on May 9th in the fellowship hall. The Deacons served and everyone feasted on a scrumptious breakfast.

There were several visiting deaconess from sister churches. The speaker of the day was Minister Wanda Allen who delivered a spirit filled message. The theme was "As the Servants of Christ, Doing the Will of God from the Heart" Ephesians 6:6. Well done Deaconesses Joya Allen and Arthurea Smith, co-chairs and Fannie Campbell, president.

**ANNUAL DAY OF MUSIC SALUTES
CHARLES R. JONES,
MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR**

Music excellence was presented at Vine Memorial. On Sunday, May 3rd the Sanctuary Choir of Vine Memorial presented our annual day of music. This year was especially moving as it paid homage to their retiring director, Charles Robert Jones. The guest choirs who are now friends like family to Vine included Sanctuary Choir of Pinn Memorial Baptist Church and Sanctuary Choir of Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist Church. The afternoon provided hymns, anthems and gospel all in heavenly order. It was an afternoon for Charles Robert Jones to remember.

*Yours In Christ,
Trustee Marion Langdon, President*

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS A REFILL

Attention all Christ like people of God! Due to the continued decline in our economy Vine has been faced with fewer food donations. In order to continue to assist our community your donations must be more frequent. The Missionary Ministry is accepting food market gift cards and cash to use for replenishing the food cupboard. Food items such as can goods and non-perishable goods is preferred. Canned meats, tuna, vegetables and boxed or bagged rice, cereal, pasta and spaghetti sauces are favorite items. We thank you but even more importantly God is appreciative of our acts of love and kindness to others.

**NURSES & USHERS
RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

Vine had the opportunity to recognize our Ushers & Nurses Ministries on Sunday, May 3rd. Pastor Allen reminds us that these particular ministries are faithful and least recognized for the tremendous service rendered. The ushers are the gatekeepers and the nurses provide comfort and care as needed. Pastor Allen preached a sermon "When Jesus Won't Go Away" scripture based Matthew 27:19-23. The Nurses presented a donation towards the Media Ministry and the Ushers Honored Sister Richardeen Smalls for her dedicated service.

Thank You and Blessings of Gratitude
to our beloved

REVEREND CLIFTON BUNDICK
for your many years of faithful service to

Vine Memorial Baptist Church as Assistant to the Pastor!!

D'VINE REFLECTIONS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY HOLDS INTERNATIONAL TEA

On Saturday, April 25th Vine family and friends were led on an international travel to different countries by the Young Adult Ministry. Various dishes and history of countries were presented and a diverse internationally themed program was offered. Those who attended were introduced to several countries. This event was coordinated by Sister Kayla Cohen. A job well done.

*Submitted by
Donna Carter, Coordinator*

* *

GOOD NEWS FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY

The Vine Memorial Baptist Church Prayer Conference Line began on Saturday, March 28, 2015. All members of Vine Memorial are encouraged to participate on Saturday mornings at 11AM. You can participate by leading a prayer, listening to the prayers, and/or submitting to your prayer requests to us. Beginning in May each ministry will be assigned a different week to lend the conference calls. The Prayer Conference number is 712 775-7300 and the code is 343538#. We need you on our prayer line and remember to invite your family and friends to join us. Here are some of the topics we are praying for ...

- Church leaders and ministries
- Church growth, reaching the unsaved and unchurched
- Our city, state and national governmental leaders
- Our communities: the citizens, schools, and police
- Crime in our communities robberies, murder, gun control, and terrorist in and out of our nation
- The sick, bereaved, and incarcerated
- Specific prayer request from the congregation and listeners

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Thomas Clay or prayer captains Deaconesses Dottie Whiting (215 476-3982) and Ida Lowe (215 849-2623).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There's a special place for you in Sunday School. Come to learn more about Jesus and how to live as a Christian aught. Classes begin every Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Congratulations to Caillou and Adalis Davidson. They represented Vine Memorial at the Poster and Poetry Contests, winning Third Place in their respective divisions.

Kudos to our Young Voices of Vine who sang at the Speakers Contest on Saturday, March 21st. Although few in number, they did a spectacular job.

We are very proud of our children and youth. Let's support and encourage them to do nothing less than their best.

Thank you Vine for graciously hosting the West Philadelphia Baptist Congress of Christian Education's Poster and Speakers Contests on March 14th and March 21st, respectively. Special thanks to those who served in various capacities to assure that our guests were welcomed.

Look forward to another Super Summer Sunday School during the months of July and August. Stay tuned for further information.

*Submitted by, Deaconess Maxine McCall
Superintendent, Sunday School*

* *

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Leaders. Can you spare 30-45 minutes one-two days a week for the devotional segment of the daily program? The devotion script is ready and prepared. Please see Deaconess Sandy Lawrence or Deacon Sam Grant to learn about this portion of the VBS daily program. For actual signup see Rev. Lorina Blake or complete the VBS Registration in the church herald or church office.

* *

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY EDUCATES

Vine Memorial has an active Community Outreach Ministry involved in sponsoring events to keep the community at large informed. On April 23rd a free public event was held to provide an opportunity to learn about the issues of the May 19th primary election. This forum was co-sponsored by Vine's Men & Women's Ministry and Holy Cross Baptist Church. Pastor Allen has shared that our outreach events are highly respected throughout the city and it is following our Mission Statement for social actions to the betterment of human kind. Trustee Jettie Newkirk is chairperson of the ministry.

* *

ADDICTION RECOVERY

Recovery is not a battle that anyone can win alone. Our goal is to help others to live in new ways. Alone, we are vulnerable to temptation, however, together we form a shield of protection for one another. We are a support group that is here for you whenever you need us. Our focus is on God and trusting on his healing powers. Our mission is to accomplish healing and trust among one another in the group.

It is also to listen, share our feelings and lift one another in prayer. Moreover, our purpose is to minister to the born again recovering, substance abuser, person with compulsive behavior and to encourage saints to use their God given power for deliverance and permanent healing. {Ephesians 1-19}. To help root, ground and teach members in the word of God and to prepare for spiritual warfare. We meet every 2nd Saturday at 10:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you.

*Submitted by Mary G. Crockett
Leader - Lorraine Gilliam*

KULTURAL KORNER

KULTURAL KORNER

By Anita Barnes Cauthorn

BLACK WOMEN'S CLUB MOVEMENT

In 1896, seeking greater unity and effectiveness, the National Association of Colored Women Clubs was established. This was due to the merger of many smaller clubs, and in large part to Ida B Wells traveling the country lecturing about lynching and racist violence. The same issues that continue to plague our people and communities today.

Mary McLeod Bethune wanted to gather even more women's clubs under one collective voice and in 1935, established the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). She wanted an "organization of organizations" that would represent the national and international concerns of Black women. Their mission was to improve the quality of life for Black women, their families and communities. They achieved their mission through research, advocacy, national and community-based programs and services in the US and Afrika. This was a visionary call for women working together with a "Unity of Purpose" (Nina) and a "Unity of Action."

Today, the NCNW is a council of 39 affiliated national African American women's organizations and over 240 sections connecting nearly 4 million women worldwide! The current mission is still to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities.

Harambee! (Let's pull together)



AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER

BEFORE 1865

The History of Negro Spirituals before 1800's.

Rural slaves used to stay after the regular worship services, in churches or in plantation "praise houses," for singing and dancing. They also had meetings at secret places ("camp meetings" / "bush meetings"), because they needed to meet one another and share their joys, pains and hopes. In the late 1700s, they sang the precursors of spirituals, which were called "corn ditties."

MISSIONARY

MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

Matthew 25:35 reads, "For I was hungry, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."

Our hearts were again humbled by feeding 82 homeless men and women, Tuesday, April 28th at the Women's Baptist Center, 1428 Poplar St.

Share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining the Missionary Ministry.

*Deaconess Kathleen Coleman,
President*

MISSIONARY INVITATION

The theme for the Missionary Ministry's Close-Out Luncheon, June 20, 2015, 12pm, is "Order Our Steps". Please bring a friend and enjoy good food and good Christian fellowship. Contact any member of the Missionary for tickets. Donation \$10.

*Submitted by
Deaconess Joya Allen*

*In the sentence of life,
the devil may be a comma,
but never let Him be the period.*

DRAMA MINISTRY PREPARES FOR NEW SEASON

The Vine Drama Ministry will soon begin alternate Monday evening rehearsals for the upcoming theatrical season. Exact dates for rehearsals will be posted in the church herald. We invite both new and experienced actors to participate. Onstage and behind the scenes opportunities are available.

If you are interested in joining please see Sister Anita Barnes Cauthorn or Deaconess Sandy Lawrence co-directors. Caution...this ministry contains lights...cameras and lots of action!

The season production is titled "The Waiting Room". The portrayal of characters will feature the lifestyles of the saved and unsaved! It is a special room of judgment and salvation. You will soon be invited to witness the mystery of this special room unfold into an evening of drama, laughter and evangelism.

YOUTH CORNER

A VINE YOUTH HONORED

Vine youth, Savannah Harris recently traveled to Michigan with her "Odyssey of the Mind Team" from Delaware. Her team won the local and state awards to advance to the "Worlds Competition" held at Michigan State University. Her project solving question was "The Run Away Train" (the challenge was in not using electric or battery in the solution.). Her school district paid for all expenses. To continue her awards and honors, youth Savannah has been accepted into the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme for 2015-2016. The parents Keith & Yolanda Harris appreciate the Vine Memorial Village who encourage and pray for our youth. Pastor Allen is beaming with pride. Yea Savannah!!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know...

- Sewing & Crochet class meets on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30.
- Trustee Marcella Gartrell is the proud grandmother of twin girls born in April to Mr. & Mrs. John Gartrell Jr.
- Vine's son Rev. Freddie Smith Jr. visited from South Carolina on Sunday, April 26th and both sang and preached. Scripture text Matthew 4:1-11.
- On Sunday April 26th Pastor Allen preached at Mt Ephraim Baptist Church for the 7th Pastoral Anniversary of Vine son Rev. Julius Renwick. Congratulations Rev. Renwick.
- Women's Day Committee held a fabulous Diva's Dinner after church on Sunday, May 17th. Women be inspired by co-chair ladies Trustee Geneva black & Sister Tina Harvin.
- Vine members received free income tax services in February & March sponsored by the Busy Bee Business Solutions LLC. The Tax Lady.
- Pastor Allen features Daily Scripture Readings in the weekly church herald.
- Vine Men's Ministry has an upcoming Men's Conference scheduled for June 26-27th.
- The Inspirational Chorus celebrated its 41st Anniversary with a Gospel Concert on Sunday, April 19th.
- SHARE Food Packages are available monthly and the package costs vary between \$10 & \$20.00. Sign up in the church office.



POTPOURRI



I AM
B.A.D.

BLESSED AND DELIVERED

Submitted by
Deaconess Evelyn Parker

A PERFECT CONVOY OF "DREADNAUGHTS"
FOR THE CHRISTIAN

"FEAR NOT . . . Unto you is born a Saviour which is Christ the Lord" — Luke 2:10, 11

"FEAR NOT . . . I have redeemed thee" — Isaiah 43:1

"FEAR NOT . . . I am with thee" — Isaiah 41:10

"FEAR NOT . . . I am thy shield" — Genesis 15:1

"FEAR NOT . . . I will help thee" — Isaiah 41:13

"FEAR NOT . . . The LORD shall fight for you" — Exodus 14:14

"FEAR NOT . . . The LORD thy GOD . . . Will not fail thee" — Deuteronomy 31:6

FEAR NOT: believe only — Luke 8:50

A SERVANT

Oh holy One I thank you every morning and I thank you every night for making me a servant because that other life was so full of so many distractions that I couldn't focus on Your name. But now that I am a new creation and old things have passed away, the narrow road is the one I choose because it leads directly to Thee. My main purpose now is to only serve and bring glory to Your name and when they look they don't see me only the servant.

Respectfully submitted by
Pat Evans

A CAREGIVER PRAYER

Dear Lord,

As I begin my day, I pause for a moment and reflect on the beauty of all that you have given to us. I offer thanksgiving for that beauty, as well as the gifts of faith, family and friendship. I ask now for your help as I care for my loved one.

As a "caregiver," the caring often finds me overwhelmed and filled with many unexpected and sometimes unwanted emotions. Some situations have arisen in which I find myself happy, sad, confused and even angry. It is only with your help that I am able to continue ministering with love and sensitivity.

Please hear my prayer and bestow upon me the gifts I need to care for my loved one until Your healing comes, or You call them home from their earthly journey. Watch over them and keep them free from pain, harm and loneliness. I offer this prayer to You with faith, love and praise. Amen

Submitted by
Teresa McCausland, RN

CAST YOUR CARES
UPON THE LORD

I won't worry "about tomorrow, Lord,
I'll leave that up to You.
I place my faith and trust in You
In whatever You decide to do.

My frets and fears of yesteryear
And sins of my distant past
Are needless things to worry about,
For upon you they were cast.

Today, I promise to do my best
To please You in every way.
I'll hold steadfast and keep the faith
And never give in to dismay.

To shine Your light within my hear
Is my heartfelt earnest prayer.
I'll cast my cares upon You, Lord,
For I know that You are always there.

By Shirley Hile Powell
Submitted by Burwlyn G. Anderson

THE POEM

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
Had to hurry and get to work,
For bills would soon be due

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,
And jumped up off my knees
My Christian duty was now done,
M soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time,
To spread a word of cheer.
No time to speak of Christ to friends
They'd laugh at me I'd fear;
No time, no time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need
But at last the time, the time to die.

I went before the Lord,
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.
For in His hands God held a book,
It was the Book of Life.
God looked into His book and said,
"Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down . . .
But never found the time."

Author unknown

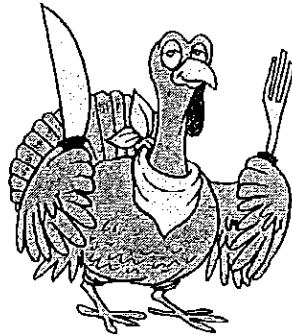
To Your Health . . .

ELLA'S TURKEY MEATLOAF

LARGE MEAT LOAF SERVE 4-8; SMALL MEAT LOAF SERVE 2-3
CUT INGREDIENTS IN HALF FOR A SMALL MEAT LOAF

Ingredients:

- 1-pkg.GROUND TURKEY MEAT
- 1-GREEN/RED/OR YELLOW PEPPER
- 1-SWEET ONION
- 1-SHALLOT
- 1-2 GARLIC CLOVES
- 1-TBSP.FRESH OR DRIED PARSLEY
- 1-TBSP.ITALIAN SEASONING
- 1/3c.OLIVE OIL
- 1-2 EGGS
- 1/2c.BREAD CRUMBS
- 1/4c. KETCHUP
- 1/4c. BROWN SUGAR
- TO TASTE GARLIC POWDER
- TO TASTE BLACK PEPPER
- TO TASTE SEASONING/MORTONS/OR SEA SALT
- TO TASTEPOULTRY SEASONING



PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES; BAKE FOR 1-HOUR;
SQUARE BAKING PAN

MINCE YOUR GREEN PEPPERS, ONIONS, SHALLOT, AND GARLIC CLOVES

IN A MIXING BOWL COMBINE YOUR TURKEY MEAT, SEASONINGS, MINCED PEPPERS, GARLIC CLOVES, SHALLOTS, AND SWEET ONIONS; EGG (S), OLIVE OIL AND BREAD CRUMBS. MIX WELL. PLACE IN A SQUARE BAKING PAN AND MOLD INTO A LOAF. MIX KETCHUP & BROWN SUGAR IN A SEPARATE BOWL; WISK UNTIL SMOOTH; AFTER BAKING MEAT LOAF FOR 45 MINUTES REMOVE FROM OVEN AND TOP WITH KETCHUP & BROWN SUGAR MIXTURE. PLACE MEAT LOAF BACK INTO OVEN AND ALLOW TO COOK FOR THE REMAINDER 15 MINUTES WITH THE BROWN SUGAR/KETCHUP MIXTURE ON TOP OF THE MEAT LOAF. ADD A GARLIC MASHED POTATOE OR FRESH GARDEN SALAD AS A COMPLIMENT AND ENJOY SOME MEATLOAF SANDWICHES!!

BON APPETITIE,
VALERIE L. GRANT, MS,RD,CD

CRAB FRITTERS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound jumbo lump crab meat
- 1 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 tablespoon oregano, chopped
- 1 tablespoon rosemary, chopped
- 2 lemons, juiced and divided
- 1 cup Bisquik baking mix
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cups vegetable oil



Sauce:

- tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon horseradish
- 1/2 cup light mayonnaise
- cloves garlic, peeled and minced

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Toss the crab meat with the Old Bay, oregano, rosemary and half of the lemon juice.
- In a separate bowl, combine the Bisquik, eggs and milk to make a batter.
- Fold the crab into the batter until just combined.
- Heat the oil in a deep pan until it registers 350°F.
- Carefully drop generous tablespoons of the crab mixture into the oil. Do not overcrowd the pan. Fry fritters for about 3 minutes, until golden brown and hot through. Remove from the oil with a slotted spoon and let drain on a paper towel lined sheet pan.
- Make the sauce. Combine the juice of the remaining lemon with the mustard, horseradish, mayonnaise and garlic. Puree until smooth.
- Serve 2 to 3 fritters per person with a side of sauce for dipping.

CALENDAR DATES

JUNE 2015

- Sun. 21st - *Men's Day*
10:00 a.m.
- Sun. 28th - *Graduates Day*
10:00 a.m.
- Mon. 29th - *Vacation Bible School*
Fri. 7/10 Bible School ends

JULY 2015

- Sat. 25th *Musical Tribute/
Charles Robert Jones*
Springfield Country Club
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

AUGUST 2015

- Sun. 2nd *Pastor's Anniversary*
10:00 a.m.

† † † †

Alfred Spinner Evangelistic Park Crusade
August 3rd through August 6th
Carroll Park

† † † †

- Sat. 15th - *Young Adult Amusement Park*

- Sun. 30th Friends and Family Day

NEWSLETTER STAFF

- James S. Allen, *Pastor*
- Sandy Lawrence, *Coordinator*
- Burwlyn Anderson
- Leslie Carter
- Anita Barnes Cauthorn
- Valerie Grant
- Cheryl Hawkins
- Bernice Palmer
- Evelyn Parker
- Amanda Smith
- Regina Vaughn