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# PEACE PIPELINE

*Our Motto: "This is the place where love reigns supreme,  
God's love to us and our love to one another."*

January 2009

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## **A Word From Our Pastor**

### **See The Providence Of God In 2009!**

*"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"*

**"The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

Psalm 118:23-24

Happy and blessed New Year to one and all! As citizens of the USA, the beginning of 2009 places before us the historic inauguration of our first African American President, Barrack Obama. This day for many in our country – regardless of race, creed or color – is a day that many thought they would never see in our lifetime. Yet, it is approaching and it will be "marvelous in our eyes."

Although I quote Psalm 118:23 above, let me put the quote in its proper context. As we march into 2009, with all that is before us, good and bad, it is my belief that we as the people of God would do well to see the hand of God at work throughout the history of His people. When we do this we are able to see and say "the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Consider biblical and American history and recall times when God's people in Old or New Testament times or even in the history of this country recall when the hand of God moved and he helped to provide or deliver his people.

When put in this context it allows us to enter a New Year with the divine hope and assurance that God is with

us...and as we "be still" and allow his divine providence to be at work through his love, grace, mercy and forgiveness he provides in such a way that we can only conclude "it is marvelous in our eyes."

I invite you this New Year to experience anew the great provisions of God. Know that as he delivered the children of Israel, he is still in the business of helping his people. Let us join the hymn writer who wrote; *"Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long: this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long."*

Let us live 2009 looking through the eyes of our Lord at life and all of humanity so that we may say "it is marvelous in our eyes." May God bless you and your family throughout the New Year.

**Pastor Wiggins**

## **"Set ABLAZE: The Greatest Birth Ever"**

Our Sunday school had a very successful Christmas Toy Drive thanks to the generous donations of our congregation. We far exceeded our goal, collecting 162 toys and gifts for foster children which were delivered to the DC Child and Family Services Agency on December 8.

On December 14, the Sunday school presented the play "Set Ablaze: The Greatest Birth Ever". Assistant Sunday School Director Ms. Shea Patterson secured and directed the play, using the Adult Sunday school class as the choir. Our support staff, Teddy Oldes, Evelyn Russell and Jossalyn Ford prepared and served a scrumptious breakfast.

Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Kimbrough prepared 75 gift bags that contained fruit, candy cane with a card

explaining the reason for the candy cane, and pencils and pens with a religious statement printed on them. I know we had more than 75 people, because we did not have any bags left. What a blessing! This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season. We are demonstrating to the church and community that Jesus is the reason for the season.

**Mrs. Carolyn Kimbrough, Director of Sunday School**

## **Toastmasters Open House**

Are you tired of being passed over for promotions, job opportunities, or business deals? Peacetimers Toastmaster Club can help you. Come join us and see how Toastmasters can position you for opportunities. We invite you to an Open House Monday, February 2, 2009 @ 7:00 PM - Guest Speaker: Linda Tompkins, DTM, Lt. Governor. Light refreshments provided. You don't want to miss this great event!

**Tamaria Allen**

## Reflections on Election Day 2008

### The Election of a Black President (As Seen Thru the Eyes of a 90-Year-Old Black Man)

I thought I would never live to see the day! In my 90 years of living, I never dreamed that a Black man would be elected President of the United States of America. But now that it has happened, I have a better understanding of Matthew 19:26, "...With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Growing up in the south, as the son of a sharecropper, I was always being told by my elders that we had to "stay in our place" when it came to existing with Caucasians. My father always told me that prosperity would come, but not in his lifetime. I grew up believing it would not be in my lifetime either. In the south, everything was segregated, the blacks stayed on one "side of the railroad tracks" while the Caucasians lived in the better neighborhoods closer to town. Everything was segregated and the Blacks always got the "short end of the stick"; we had separate schools, bathrooms, water fountains, and churches. We had to sit in the back of the bus when traveling and give up our seats to Caucasians if the bus got crowded. We could not browse around the general store to select our groceries; the clerks brought the items we wanted to purchase to the counter. We could not eat in the same restaurants, or stay in the same hotels with Caucasians. We heard about horrible lynchings, suffering and great hardships imposed upon Blacks who "stepped out of their place." When I joined the army, we ate, slept, washed and even had separate drills and maneuvers than our Caucasian counterparts, even though we were fighting in the same war.

It's no surprise that we never talked about or dared to think that a Black man would ever be President. I guess we thought of segregation as the way things were supposed to be and always would be. Of course when Martin Luther King, Jr. came along, it gave all Blacks a new hope, vigor and vision of what could be and what we could become.

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As is our family custom, I spent this past Thanksgiving with my family in Lake Gaston, NC, just four hours north of where my grandmother, Bernice Holley Crisp was raised. The holiday season is typically one of reflection and of giving thanks. This Thanksgiving was particularly exciting for my family as we prepared to celebrate Mrs. Crisp's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, the various blessings we have received as a family, and the election of our country's first African-American president. Over the course of the Thanksgiving weekend, I talked to my grandmother about her life and particularly about her thoughts on President-Elect Barack Obama. True to her character, Mrs. Crisp's response was short and to the point.

When asked about her thoughts on Barack Obama being elected the first black president, Mrs. Crisp simply stated, "it was a miracle." She went on to say that she never thought she would live long enough to see a black male president. For a woman born in 1909 and raised in the segregated south, the election of

In my lifetime I have seen good, indifference, ugliness and mean spirited people especially after spending almost 4 years in Italy, Africa, Germany and France. I have read through the Bible at least 4 or 5 times, and today people are living as though they were living in biblical days. Now the hope and vision that Dr. King stirred up has become *Alive* and taken on a new meaning with the election of Barack Obama. I believe it was God's divine intervention that placed Barack Obama to run for President and win at this time in our history. I can't help but think that the scripture in Matthew 19:30 which states, "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first" is coming to pass. I believe that God saw that we were falling far away from Him again, and is using President Obama as another instrument to reach out to us, His children of all races, nations and creeds to unite as brothers and sisters. He wants us to get back on track to loving one another and helping one another and stop being so greedy and selfish. Personally, I would like to see us get back to basics and acknowledge God in schools, Congress and public places again without being chastised. I also want to see peace and unity in our church and uphold the name of our church which is "*Peace*", and to truly make it a place where love reigns supreme.

I am proud of our President elect, Barack Obama and I am proud that God has given me these 90 years to first claim Him as Lord and Savior of my life and that He let me live to not only get to vote for a Black man for President, but to see one get elected. I only wish my father and mother could have witnessed this as well and feel as proud and joyful as I feel today. As we continue to give God the glory for the good things He has done, let us also always keep our President-elect, his family and our nation and world in our prayers for guidance and protection. I believe that it *is* time for change and the change *is* here!

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Albert Adams, Father of the Church**

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Barack Obama was truly a miracle from God. She went on to say that she was praying for Obama, and she hoped Barack Obama would be better than any other president, although she did express some concern about his age!

Mrs. Crisp often talked about the racism and discrimination that she witnessed and experienced. She always felt it was unfair that blacks were often denied the same opportunities as others. When asked what she thought Obama's election meant for African Americans, she referred to the power of prayer to change lives.

While the world's greatest minds speculate about the implications of this election, Bernice Crisp seems to have the most insightful commentary- God is at work every day and through Him we have the power to change anything.

**Kelly Crisp**

## **“The Audacity of Hope”**

On the morning of November 4, 2008, I anxiously waited in line to cast my ballot. I was overwhelmed and bursting with pride at the prospects of voting for an African American presidential candidate. As I stood in line, I was struck by the energy of the crowd. Although we waited for over two hours, people were happy and energized, but determined. As I entered my voting booth, I reflected on the significance of this moment. I became emotional with the thought that I honestly never thought I would have the opportunity to vote for a Black person in my lifetime. I left my polling station feeling blessed. Twelve hours later, I gathered with friends and prayed while awaiting the results of the presidential election. Approximately 3 minutes after 11pm I was jumping for joy, crying, laughing, and hugging my friends as we learned that Barack Obama was elected the first African American president of the United States!

When I returned to work the next day, I was not sure what to expect from my clients. For years I have worked with a population that often feels disenfranchised; they feel their voices do not matter, and that the "system" does not care about them. When I asked my group members to share their thoughts, many of them proudly spoke of voting for the first time! They were moved to vote because they could no longer afford to sit back and become victims of injustice; they had faith that this time, their voices would be heard. For the first time they felt connected to something bigger than themselves. I was moved to tears when they shared that now they truly believed that if they worked hard, they could achieve their goals. Just one day, one election, has restored people's faith in themselves and in their community!

Less than a week after a historic election, I am still overwhelmed and bursting with pride. I have had dozens of conversations this past week with people who also never thought they would see an African American president. For some, the election of Barack Obama has given them hope that anything is possible. For others, it is a reminder that hard work, conviction, and an unwavering faith in God will help people achieve their goals. While I was waiting in line to vote, I sent my father a text that hailed the generations past for paving the way for us. My father responded simply, "I love you." For my father, Barack Obama's victory was a victory for all parents who love their children and want them to be treated as equals, and to have every opportunity available.

As I reflect on this election year, I am struck by the power of hope and faith. I believe that God's hand guided all of us this year. God gave us the power to make a difference in our families, our communities, and in the world. Imagine how powerful we would be if the people of God came together to do His work with the same vigor and enthusiasm that we displayed on November 4, 2008! The audacity of hope says yes, we can – and yes, we did!

**Kelly Crisp**

## **From the Discipleship Ministry**

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The meeting was opened with prayer by President Preston Blue on October 28, 2008. Devotions were given by Carolyn Kimbrough and Yvonne Brown concerning leadership and peace. Asst. Secretary Thelma Mackel read the meeting minutes for September 30, 2008.

Pres. Blue introduced our guests, Angela Johnston and Nicolas Coutroupis from Career Team in Washington, DC. PLC currently has one employee from the Career Team and she has been at PLC for seven months in the Food Bank Ministry. They explained that the goal for the Career Team employee is for the employer to hire the employee after they have been on the job for nine months. [Editor's Note: At the December Congregation meeting, the congregation voted to continue the employment of our Food Bank worker.]

The Community Legal Clinic held their first meeting on October 22, 2008, 5-7 pm at Peace Lutheran Church [Editor's Note: There are plans to further publicize the next Legal Clinic in order to reach out to our neighbors in the community.] Pastor Wiggins and Pres. Blue agreed to call Pastor Fangmeier and set a date to

resume conciliation at PLC. [Editor's Note: At the December congregation meeting, Rev. Fangmeier presented his report. The congregation voted for conciliation to continue with Rev. Fangmeier or another conciliator.] PLC needs a volunteer for the SED Convention in Norfolk, Virginia; it is to be held on May 1-3, 2009. An announcement will be placed in the church bulletin for volunteers. [Editor's Note: Sherry Edmonds has expressed an interest in serving as the lay delegate to the convention. A member of the Discipleship Ministry will serve as an alternate.]

Treasurer William Cary distributed and read the treasurer's report. The Finance Ministry is in the process of preparing the 2009 budget. [Editor's Note: The budget will be voted on at the next congregation meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 21.]

Lastly, New Business included the Food Drive for Thanksgiving baskets and Toys for DC Families for Christmas. [Editor's Note: See the Sunday School article on page 1 for more information on the Toy Drive.]

**Lynda Bowles, Vice President**

## **The Four Blessed Looks**

Look back and Thank God.  
Look forward and Trust God.  
Look around and Serve God.  
Look within and Find God!

I asked God, "How do I get the best out of life?"  
God said, "Face your past without regrets.  
Handle your present with confidence.  
Prepare for the future without fear!"

"Without God, our week is:  
Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday,  
Thirstday, Frightday, Shatterday, and Sinday.  
So, allow Him to be with you everyday!"

Life is short, so forgive quickly.  
Believe slowly, Love truly.  
Laugh uncontrollably.  
Never regret anything that makes you happy.  
And have a wonderful journey!!!  
LOVE AND BLESSINGS

## SICK AND SHUT INS

Please remember our members below in prayer and send them a card:



**Veronica Bennett**  
 Future Care Pineview  
 9106 Pineview Lane, Room 222  
 Clinton, MD 20735

**Bernice Crisp**  
 2597 Purnell Drive  
 Baltimore, MD 21207

**Cornell Dancy**  
 9313 Eldon Drive  
 Clinton, MD 20735

**Olivia Dixon**  
 1521 Fort Dupont Street, SE  
 Washington, DC 20020

**Linda Edmonds**  
 2105 Maryland Ave., NE Apt #4  
 Washington, DC 20002

**Virginia Horne**  
 4022 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
 Springdale, MD 20774

**Earlean Hyson**  
 101 50<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
 Washington, DC 20019

**Betty Jackson**  
 3336 Croffut Place, SE  
 Washington, DC 20019

**Elouise Johnson**  
 1139 46<sup>th</sup> Place, SE  
 Washington, DC 20019

**Linda Martin**  
 505 Goldleaf Avenue  
 Capital Heights, MD 20743

**Denitra Hawkins**  
 7705 Klovstad Drive  
 Ft. Washington, Md 20744

**Simeon Miller**  
 4645 Hunt Place NE  
 Washington, DC 20019

**Mary Patton**  
 14040 New Arcadia Lane, #106  
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

**Dorothy Peters**  
 1704 Peachtree Lane  
 Bowie, MD 20721

**Beverly Thomas**  
 13237 Whiteholm Drive  
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

**Fannie Timmons**  
**Odell Lee**  
**Deborah Reeder**  
**Sharon Ross**  
**John Smith**  
**Vanessa Hubbard**  
**Elijah Dozier**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO . . .

Deborah Crawford 1  
 Renee Powell 1  
 Jordan Bolder 2  
 Lawrence Coley 5  
 Chinara Anderson 5  
 Simeon Miller 6  
 Kirsten Morgan 6  
 William Cary, Jr. 8  
 Amir Xavier Hall 9  
 Sheila Valentine 10  
 Sharon Ross 10  
 Margaret Carson 12  
 Diane Murray 12  
 Larry Hawkins, Jr. 12  
 Tyler Graham 12  
 Epiphany Smith 12  
 Jeanene Hall 13  
 Antonio 13  
 Vaughn-Reynolds 13  
 Kevin Woodruff 16  
 David Fowler 16  
 Daevon Greene 16  
 Makiyah Brown 16

Walter Person, Jr. 17  
 Briana Hayes 18  
 Jayden Parker 18  
 Patricia Young 18  
 Veronica Smith 19  
 Tanisha Williams 20  
 Daniel Fox 20  
 Donita Hubbard 22  
 Kevin Hawkins 22  
 JoAnn Mobley 23  
 LaDonnia Lee 25  
 Greta Johnson 26  
 Madison Keys 28  
 Lorraine Neal 29  
 Daniel Petgrave 30



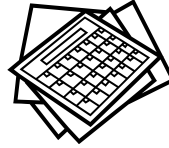
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*Vision: Compelled by the Holy Spirit and the WORD we exist to be a growing and maturing church and community for spiritual empowerment, transformation, and the renewal of God's people. (Revised January 4, 2007)*

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**Rev. James Wiggins, Jr., Pastor**  
**Cora Boone, Church Administrator**  
**Georgetta Watts, Assistant to the Pastor**  
Sunday School: 9:30 am; Adult Bible Class:  
9:45 am  
Worship Services: 8:00 am and 11:15 am  
Fifth Sunday Unity Service: 11:15 am  
Church Office: (202) 398-5503  
Fax: (202) 388-4667  
E-mail: Peacedc@msn.com

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**January 1:** New Year's Day  
**January 6:** Epiphany  
**January 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
**January 20:** Inauguration Day

**Pipeline Publication Schedule:** Articles for the **February 2009** issue of the Pipeline newsletter are due on **January 11**. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to Jo-Anne Dooley at [jamtrans36@verizon.net](mailto:jamtrans36@verizon.net).

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