

The Truth Clinic

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The Gazette

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On the Homefront:

The following event will be held at the Plano Centre located at 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

Divine Consign is the metroplex's largest twice yearly children's consignment sale specializing in the highest quality gently worn children's and maternity clothing, toys, books, games, videos, baby equipment and baby & children's furniture. Admission is free. For more information contact Tina Teutsch at 214-513-2839 or email divineconsign@hotmail.com or visit www.divineconsign.net.

For women who want to build a village, but don't know where to start, as the 2005 national underwriter for Habitat for Humanity International's Women Building Program, Lowe's is hosting how-to clinics April 26, 2005 at its 75 & Spring Creek location in Plano to prepare women volunteers to build a Plano-area house this spring. For more information about Habitat for Humanity International's Women Build Program, visit: www.habitat.org/wb or call 972-567-8447.

The Plano Symphony Guild invites young women in Collin County and surrounding communities to the 2005-2006 Debutante Presentation Program. The Plano Symphony Orchestra's debutante program is a two year program open to high school sophomores to expand their cultural, social and volunteer opportunities. Activities begin in the fall of 2005 and end with a Presentation Ball in November 2007. For financial obligations and more information visit www.planosymphony.org.

On April 28, 2005 there will be an Adoptions International—Information Seminar, an educational and informational seminar on foreign adoptions from the following countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Guatemala and China. Admission is free to the event. For more information call 214-342-8388.

Collin County Community College District is offering a new advanced-level Java programming class at its Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development (CYC), 4800 Preston Park Boulevard in Plano. The new class, Custom JSP Tag begins this spring. Check out the continuing education schedule online at www.ccccd.edu/ce for more information.

Collin County Christian Prayer Breakfast will be in full spirit. The keynote speaker will be Cindy Brinker Simmons, President of Levenson & Brinker Public Relations. Admission is \$15 per person or \$150 for a table of 10. Price includes buffet breakfast. For more information call 214-757-7259.

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Low Turn Out At City Of Plano Council Orientation Not A Factor In Voting Process



(Back to front) Mr. Harry LaRosiliere (candidate for Place 5), Mr. Tom Muehlenbeck (Plano City Manager) Ms. Loretta Ellerbe (candidate for Place 3).

By: Camika Spencer

The only item to appear in full on Tuesday's council orientation was the agenda itself. Only two of the five candidates and only seven

council members were in attendance for the Council Candidate Briefing at City Hall in Plano.

Loretta Ellerbe, who is running unopposed for the

Place 3 seat, and Harry LaRosiliere who is running for the Place 5 seat were the two hopefuls present. Candidates not present were Shep Stahel (Place 1), Warner A. Richeson (Place 5), and Jean Callison (Place 7).

Tom Muehlenbeck, Plano City Manager, resided over the four and a half-hour briefing, giving the candidates a quick but candid overview into the organizational structure and functions. In much the way a normal city council meeting would run, Ellerbe and LaRosiliere received reports regarding city finances, the commission and board

Plano Council Meeting Page 4

Another Great Spring Musical Concert



Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale sings "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

Sunday, April 10th at New Mount Zion Baptist Church of Dallas, Dr. Robert E. Price is the pastor, and he is a member (Class of '54) of the North Dallas, Denton, and Collin Counties (NDDC) Alumni Chapter of Prairie View A&M University that sponsored the great Spring

Musical Concert by the University's Concert Chorale Ensemble that was directed by Mrs. A. Jan Taylor.

Anticipation was high as the crowd entered the beautiful sanctuary of the church, and they were not disappointed with the

Spring Musical Page 2

Legal Bank Robbery

By: James Clingman

Remember the old movies where the outlaws robbed banks for a living, or the gangsters did "bank jobs" as they moved from town to town? Noted bank robber, Willie "The Actor" Sutton is said to have responded to the question, "Why do you rob banks?" by saying, "Because that's where the money is." Indeed, banks are where the money was and still is. There was a time in history when men and women made careers and established reputations by robbing banks for various reasons. Now the tables have turned; in many cases, banks are now robbing the people, no doubt under the same rationale that Willie Sutton used: "That's where the money is."

Yes, I said "robbing" the people, and I did not stutter – if that's possible to do in writing. Your friendly local bank of the past has now become a monstrosity made up of impersonal, disingenuous, mega-merger, egomaniacal, greedy, discriminating hucksters, bent on squeezing every dime out of their customers – and anyone else who has the audacity to come into their bank asking for change for a dollar.

Banks have become robbers of the poor and refugees for the rich. They have grown into bastions of powerful, angry, competitive bullies vying to see who can charge the most, rather than the least, for their services. If you are fortunate enough to be "accepted" as a customer, after having been subjected to a battery of

questions that would make the Inquisition look like child's play, you are saddled with a myriad of charges and fees. There are transaction fees, analysis fees, usage fees, over-usage fees, excess deposit fees, and a host of others that make your monthly statement look like your local telephone bill.

Maybe banks are paying us back for being robbed in broad daylight by bold, brash, unremorseful fortune-seekers, by morphing into those same kinds of characters. They are so greedy and so arrogant with their greed and actually flaunt it for all to see. Remember when ATM's came on the scene, how they were marketed as "conveniences for our valued customers." Of course, we

Blackonomics Page 6

African American Pastors' Coalition Opposes Blackwood Proposal

Dallas – The African American Pastors' Coalition, a prominent group of 70 ministers representing over 50,000 members announced on April 4, 2005 that they are opposing Proposition One or the Blackwood Proposal as it is commonly known. The announcement was made at a news conference commemorating the 37th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by Dr. Jerry L. Christian, Sr., president of the organization and senior pastor of Kirkwood Temple CME Church in Oak Cliff.

"After carefully studying the issues, we have determined that this proposal does not help make Dallas a better city," said Rev. Christian. The ministers group used their Political Development Ministry headed by Rev. Alfred Walker, Jr. Coalition Vice President and senior pastor of New Hope Baptist Church to do due diligence on the proposal. The ministry brought its findings back to the organization's executive committee for action. The Coalition cited the Charter Review Committee Report as a starting point for dialogue on the issue.

"We are not taking sides," said Christian as he noted the ministers have no opinion on the City Council's current alternative plan "we just know more thought and discussion need to be had."

The Coalition plans to use the same techniques employed for its Super Sunday effort in 2003 to mobilize voters. Pastors' Oppose Blackwood Page 3

The Alarming Cost of Gasoline

By: Bill Fletcher Jr. - NNPA Columnist

As fuel prices rise at the pump, quite predictably the news media has begun to ask questions about why this is taking place and what, if anything, can be done about it. There are some hard truths that we have to face, and some of this has a direct impact on the foreign policy pursued by this country.

Most objective observers of the oil industry will admit that we are fast approaching the point where the amount of oil in the ground will begin to decline until it ultimately vanishes. In other words, oil was never limitless, though we in the U.S.A. especially acted, and were trained to act, as if it were. So, by the mid-21st century there will likely be a severe oil crunch.

What is obscene about this situation is that experts have known this fact—regarding the inevitable disappearance of oil—for years, yet the oil industry and their political allies have largely hidden or dismissed such notions as alarmist. Well, the alarm is now beginning to ring.

The second fact is that growing numbers of countries are demanding oil for their own internal needs. This may sound self-evident, but the US government

Cost of Gas Page 4

Interfaith Conference



(L to R) Sister Tarpley, Religious Editor, MON-The Gazette; Mr. Ram Chandra, the Haray Krishna Temple; Mr. Maulana Lutf-ur-Rahman, Islam – Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Dallas; Mr. Akram S. Chaudhary, President, Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Dallas; Mr. Ramneek Singh Randawa, the Sikh Temple of North Texas; Ms. Penny Tang Hong, the Buddhist Temple of Central Dallas; and Rev. Brian McPherson, the First United Methodist Church in Allen.

By: Sister Tarpley
Recently, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Bait-ul-Ikram Mosque, on Hedgecove Road in Allen, Texas, held its first Interfaith Conference that featured speakers from various faiths that included Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Each speaker presented views on the topic: "Concept of God." The theme for the

conference was, "Love for All, Hatred for None."

The Interfaith Conference was designed to create awareness of the different beliefs in the different faiths, and how they are basically the same; they are sending out the same message: There is one God and oneness of all mankind. Each spoke about how one should respect their

Interfaith Conference Page 3

The New Pope: "I Can Be Obedient"

By: John Moody - Fox News

To see him striding across the piazza in front of St. Peter's one might mistake Joseph Ratzinger for just another white-haired priest in a hurry.

In fact, during the past 24 years, the man now known as Pope Benedict XVI carved out a reputation for slowing down the breakneck pace of change in favor of meditative reflection.

The new pope has an extensive track record from his two decades as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office in

charge of enforcing church teaching. Brilliant, bubbly and bristling at the same time, Cardinal Ratzinger was capable of spontaneous wit, charm and courtesy. He often stopped to talk with tourists in Rome, and could converse on almost any cultural topic with ease. At the same time, he was capable of dealing ruthlessly with those who crossed the doctrinal line.

Benedict XVI's papacy is likely to be more of the same.

When I interviewed him in 1993, Ratzinger and his boss

The New Pope Page 5



Dr. R.E. Price (center) and members of the congregation stand during the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing".



(L-R) Dr. R.E. Price (Pastor of Prairie View Alumni), Sis Tarpley (Prairie View Alumni) and Bill Heath (President of the North Texas, Dallas, and Collin Counties Prairie View Alumni Chapter).



Mrs. A. Jan Taylor gives directions to the Concert Choral.



Centered Sister Tarpley and Mrs. A. Jan Taylor (Director) along with the Prairie View A&M University Concert Choral.

performances of the ensemble.

Ms. Mary Joe Evans, Class of '62, played beautifully the Musical Prelude and set the tone for the program of sacred music by the chorale ensemble. Mr. Phillip O'Neal, Class of 2003 was the Master of Ceremony. Ms. Gwenda B. Jackson, Vice President of NDDC and Class of '81, enthusiastically greeted the audience.

Mr. James Atkins, Class of '99 read the Occasion; and Pastor Price gave the Invocation. Prior to the entranced of the chorale group, the audience was entertained by the high spirited and heavenly

selections from New Mount Zion's Youth Department and the Mass Choir. Ms. Ashley Smith did a beautiful solo number for the audience.

Mrs. Ada V. Hansford, a member of the church, did a wonderful job of introducing Mrs. Taylor, the director, who is a native of Houston. She is known for her work as an outstanding choral director and accompanist. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Houston, and her Master of Arts Degree in Vocal Performance from Prairie View A&M University.

The Concert Choral presented the program in two parts; the first part was Anthems and Hymns: Lift Every Voice and Sing, arrangement by Roland

Carter; The Lord's Prayer, Renee Clausen; The 23rd Psalm, Bobby McFerrin; Lamentations of Jeremiah, Z. Randall Stroope; The Word Was God, Rosephanye Powell; If I can Help Somebody, arrangement by Lela Anderson - PV Alumnae with soloists Ryan Knight, Andrienne Bible, Michael Dixon, and LaToya Stevens; and Precious Lord, arrangement by Roland Carter with soloist Julian Cleare.

After Intermission, the second part consisted of very lively African American Spirituals: Great Camp Meeting, arrangement by Lela Anderson with soloists Andrea Green, Chelsi Clark (granddaughter of Rev. C.A.W. Clark,) and Keisha Whittaker; Poor Man

Lazarus, arrangement by Jester Hairston; Rockin' Jerusalem, Andre Thomas; Witness, arrangement by Jack Halloran; Old Time Religion, arrangement by Moses Hogan with soloists Terence Shaw, Jesse Jones, and Jremekyo Anderson; Elijah Rock and The Battle

of Jericho both arrangements by Moses Hogan.

There was a presentation by Ms. Barbara Stephens, Class of '68 and Ms. Ada Raglin, Class of '92. NDDC President Bill Heath, Class of '62 recognized former NAA Presidents, and Ms. Monica Williams, Campaign Director, and Opal Johnson

Smith, Campaign Co-Chair updated the audience about Prairie View's 2005 Capital Campaign.

After the program and remarks by Pastor Price, the audience sang Prairie View's Alma Mater, Dear Prairie View, O. Anderson Fuller-Sibelius.

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In Touch with People
Randall & his wife are members of the NAACP. As a family they celebrate cultural diversity and participate in many ways.

(972) 495-9654 www.votedunning.org

Around The Town

Eyecare America urges seniors to call the Seniors Eyecare Hotline: 1-800-222-EYES (3937). The help-line is intended to remind the senior community about the value of sight and the eye care program is available all year round. For more information log on to: www.eyecareamerica.org.

The African Chamber of Commerce DFW chapter hosts weekly business luncheons every Wednesday from Noon - 1 pm, featuring guest speakers, networking, technical assistance, etc. Location: The Farmers Market Resource Center, 1010 S. Pearl Street—Dallas, TX. For more information call 214-670-5880.

PIP Productions, distributors of the new multi-station show, The Valder Beebe Show, announces The Valder Beebe Show broadcast on "KXVI FM The Bridge Network" each Sunday, from 6 - 7 pm.

City of Allen Teen Book Discussion Group meets the third Thursday of each month at the Allen Public Library, located at 301 Century Parkway. For more information, please call 972-727-0195. Collin County emergency preparedness hotline: 972-548-4114. You can also visit the web at www.co.collin.tx.us.

Teen Graffiti seeks good students who take school seriously. Who knows—you could be Teen Graffiti's Scholar Student of the Year! For contest rules and more information visit www.teengraffiti.com, call 972-496-9457 or email info@teensreachingteens.org.

Job seekers: Job seekers can attend weekly meetings held by TeamNetworking of Collin County. The non-profit group

oversees several chapters, group meetings from 11:30 am to 1 pm every Tuesday at Blue Mesa Grill, 8200 North Dallas Parkway in Plano. For more information, log on to the Plano Chamber web site at www.planochamber.org.

DISD is looking for qualified teacher applicants to begin employment in FALL, 2005. If you are interested in becoming a teacher, job fairs will take place in April. Call 972-925-4238 for more details.

Dallas County Community College District is looking for potential part-time instructors who can share their expertise and resumes, plus their college transcripts, to the admissions lobby in Building C. Recruiters are seeking adjunct faculty who would be interested in teaching at one of the system's colleges. Persons interested in teaching college credit course part time must have a master's degree and have demonstrable teaching skills. For more information, call Paul Forte in the DCCCD office of human resources at 214-860-2158.

General Information

The Urban League of Garland Community Service Center offers limited financial assistance for utilities, rent and mortgages, for local residents. Other services offered include housing counseling focusing on reverse mortgages, default mortgages, and financial literature for first-time home buyers is available by appointment only. For more information, please contact 214-413-1739.

PEAK Leadership Development - Information Luncheon-PEAK Leadership is an executive development program for corporate leaders and managers. Lunch is \$5 for individuals interested in an executive leadership development program. For more information contact Wm. Jan Daehnert at 214-808-0849.

The Dance Academy of Pathway of Life Church is registering applicants! Classes are held every Saturday from

10:15 am - 2 pm. Children ages 4 to adult are welcome to learn ballet, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip-hop and musical theater. For more information contact Cyinda Chapman at 214-275-7284 ext. 117.

The work of artist Annie Lee, "Annie Lee: The Artist, Her Life, Her Work" will be exhibited at James E. Kemp Gallery at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) January 16 - May 14. The artwork may be viewed Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday, Noon - 4:00 pm.

Girls, Inc. (Dallas) will be taking their participant's West Africa in June 2005 for the Rites of Passage. The cost of the trip for each individual is \$3500.00. The group is in need of extra volunteers and funds. If you are interested in supporting the organization it will greatly appreciated. Contact Emma Rodgers, Co-Owner of Black Images Book Bazaar at 214-943-0142 or by email at esrodriguez@aol.com.

The National Society of Black Marathoners' Association is pleased to present the NBMA Scholarship Program. This program will provide awards to two students for the 2005/2006 academic year. To be considered for these scholarships, students must complete an application demonstrating that all eligibility requirements are met. For more information contact the NBMA at 972-307-8731 or scholarship@blackmarathoners.org.

Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. is sponsoring an amateur poetry contest, FREE to everyone. Prizes will be awarded. Poems may be written on any subject, using any style. The deadline for entering is May 31, 2005. To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less: "My Own Words" Poetry Contest, P.O. Box 45271, Garland, TX 75045, you may also email your entry to info@teensreachingteens.org.

Women Empowerment Meetings and IESP Life Skills Training

(Supporting Others Through Mentoring) are two programs that provide life transforming, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and physical life skills training to the community. Meetings are held at 423 W. Wheatland Rd., Suite 101, Duncanville, Texas 75116. For more information call the SOTM office at 972-709-1180.

April 21-28, 2005

The 35th Annual USA Film Festival will be in full effect at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas, TX at 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane at Central Expressway (NE Corner). A complete schedule of all festival events may be obtained by calling the festival office at 214-821-FILM.

April 22, 2005

N.TheKnow.com invites you to attend... DFW's largest networking event at the Charles W. Eisemann Center: "Bringing out The Millionaire in You" 2005 motivational series, featuring Les Brown & Company. Location of the event will be at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX 75082 from 5 pm - 11pm. Log onto www.ntheknow.com or www.eisemanncenter.com to purchase tickets.

April 22-24, 2005

Flower Mound Writer/Illustrator, Robert James Luedke, will be attending the ArborDaze Festival in Euless. Mr. Luedke will be meeting the public and signing copies of his nationally acclaimed Christian themed graphic novel, Eye Witness: A Fictional Tale of Absolute Truth. The ArborDaze Festival is an annual event that features local artisans, craftsman, musicians, a carnival and national music acts. For more information visit: <http://www.ci.euless.tx.us/arbordaze/default.htm>.

April 23, 2005

Denton County Branch NAACP's 25th Silver Anniversary Freedom Fund Banquet: "The Struggle Continues: There is a Silver Lining." The keynote speaker for the evening will be Drew Pearson, former Dallas

Cowboy and author of "Hail Mary." Joe Trahan of Channel 8 Weekend Sports Anchor will be the toastmaster. For more information on tickets contact Elihu Gillespie at 972-347-1884 or gforce-i@msn.com.

"Putting It On Paper: A Teen Writing Seminar" is a fun-filled, activity-filled, interactive seminar that will be held from 9:00 am to 3:45 pm at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak, Dallas, TX. The low cost seminar of \$49.00 guarantees a work manual, writing materials, breakfast, and lunch. To register please visit: www.writersed.com or call 972-496-9457.

Mark your calendars from 11 am to 2 pm for the Meeting in the Ladies Room Conference at the Radio One Complex at Valley View Mall, 13331 Preston Road, and Suite 1180 in Dallas. The event will feature motivational speaker Dr. Lawana S. Gladney and Capital Recording artist Van Hunt. This event is free but seating is limited so register today to reserve your space. Go to www.945KSoul.com or call 972-331-5417.

April 24, 2005

Sunday Jazz Groove at ArborDaze presented by Club Oasis. The concert is FREE, but you must have a ticket to get in. Concert gates open at 1 pm and the festival begins at 10 am - 7 pm. Location: Arbor Daze is located at Highway 183 and Highway 360 in Euless. Paid reserved seating is available by calling the City of Euless at 817-685-1666.

April 26, 2005

The City of Garland will broadcast a Town Meeting for residents. The program, hosted by District 2 Council Member Terri Dunn and District 5 Council Member John Garner, will be aired live on cable CGTV-15 at 7 pm. Citizens without cable may attend the meetings in person. Questions will be taken from the audience following the broadcast. The meetings are held in

the Garland City Council chambers at Garland City Hall, First Floor, 200 North Fifth Street.

April 27, 2005

A diverse group of women communicators will have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of young women by participating in the "P.R.I.D.E. Women in Communications Forum" hosted by the members of the University of North Texas founding chapter of the Association for Women in Communications, founding chapter of the Association for Women in Communications. For more information about the event contact Tezlyn Figaro-Turner at 469-222-6588.

April 28, 2005

Spend an intimate evening with hip-hop diva Eryka Badu at Bass Hall. Badu a four time Grammy award winner and Dallas native will perform in Fort Worth from the first time in seven years. Event time begins at 8 pm at 4th and Calhoun Streets in Downtown Ft. Worth. For further information call the box office at 817-212-4280 or 1-877-212-4280.

Support Groups

"Healing Matters" Grief Support Group meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at Medical Center of Plano classrooms. This is a pregnancy loss support group for anyone who has lost a baby to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, newborn death or SIDS. There is also a share group for those pregnant again following a loss. For more information, call 972-519-1588.

DivorceCare meets at 7 pm each Tuesday at Fellowship Bible Church North, 850 Lexington, Plano. Call Bob Hornstein at 972-783-8800.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC Is Your Child's Next Home A Prison?

By: James W. Breedlove

If history is a predictor of the future then a large percentage of Black male children are destined to have a prison address listed on their life resume.

Department of Justice (DOJ) incarceration statistics are troubling and should galvanize every Black parent and the Black community into proactive measures directed at reclaiming those already incarcerated and reducing future incarcerations.

There are currently over 2.1 million inmates in Federal or State prisons or in local jails. These numbers reveal that America has the dubious distinction of being the world leader in incarceration. Comparing the incarceration rates per 100,000 of population shows a disturbing disparity for Blacks. The White rate is 681, the Latino is 1,778 and Blacks are incarcerated at a mind boggling 4,834 rate. Sixty-eight percent of prison and jail inmates are members of ethnic minority groups.

To put this in perspective, South Africa while functioning under apartheid was internationally condemned as a racist society. During that period South Africa incarcerated Black males at a rate of 851 per 100,000. America, as the world's foremost proponent for "equal justice" is incarcerating Black males at a rate 5.7 times greater than the formerly most openly racist country in the world?

While the overrepresentation of Black adults in the nation's prisons has been highlighted the disproportionate representation of Black youth has been relatively ignored.

The data for males aged 25-29 shows that 12 percent of young Blacks are in jails or prisons compared to 3.7

percent of Hispanics and 1.6 percent of Whites in that age group.

Studies have shown a direct correlation between the level of education and the increase in America's prison population. The impact of prison on young men with little schooling is greatest among African Americans. The draconian mandatory sentencing laws that swept the country in the 1970's has aided and abetted this monster prison system. The prison population has increased tenfold, creating a large and growing felon class - now over 13 million - that remains locked out of the mainstream even after paying their debt to society.

Reports by diverse organizations like the Justice Policy Institute, The Sentencing Project, and Human Rights Watch have substantiated that both the risk of incarceration, and the impact of incarceration has increased with the substitution of schoolhouse for the jailhouse policy.

Changing the oppressive sentencing laws and disparate prison policy is not a simple task because big money is now involved. The business of building and running the jailhouse has become a huge industry with powerful constituencies that favor the status quo no matter who is victimized by the inequities.

Politicians vie for new prisons in their districts because they bring desperately needed jobs and revive failing economies.

The data shows that minority youth are more likely than majority youth to become a statistic in the juvenile justice system and the disparity of treatment is most pronounced during this initiation phase. The racial disparities accumulate and become more damaging as these youth are processed into the juvenile

system and eventually transferred to the adult justice system.

While the statistics clearly tell a frightening story of past generations of minority youth being arrested and incarcerated it is only the tip of the iceberg. Filling in behind the current army of felons are children who grow up visiting their parents behind bars and thinking prison life is perfectly normal.

There are currently 1.4 million black males (which represents 14% of the 10.4 million black males of voting age) who are disenfranchised. The cumulative impact of such large numbers of black males being excluded from the electoral process will adversely dilute future political power of the African-American community.

The earning potential of youth stigmatized by membership in the justice system has been estimated at less than 75 percent of those without a justice system record when they can even find a job.

If the growing trend of derailing young Blacks from an academic track at the schoolhouse to a jailhouse address is to change Black parents must get involved. They must become active in the local schools and understand the policies that result in referring students to the justice system. They should get to know their child's teachers and forge relationships with them to keep apprised of changes that could impact the child. They must be aware that their child is not always the little angel they think they are raising and they would to well by incorporating the village as a parenting partner.

Saving your child and future generations from a prison home is the reward.

Email Comments to
Politics@MonTheGazette.com

Financial Strategies for "Empty Nesters"



Alix
A.
Desamours

If your children are grown and out of the house, you may have some adjustments to make in your life - especially in the way you save and invest. By taking the right steps, you can use your new "empty nest" status as an opportunity to help speed up your progress toward some of important financial goals.

Which types of financial moves should you make at this stage of your life? You could, of course, immediately get on e-Bay and sell all the possessions your children have left behind - but that could lead to a few awkward moments at your next family gathering. Instead, consider these suggestions:

Assess your level of disposable income - If your children have left home for college, you obviously may be incurring some big expenses. But if they're done with school, and truly out on their own, you might find yourself with some additional disposable income. Try to estimate about how much more money you now have each month.

Pay down debts - Assuming you have "freed up" some income, you may want to use some of it to pay off some debts, especially if you have high-rate credit cards. The

lower your debt payments, the more you'll have available to invest.

Build your retirement savings - The departure of your grown children may well coincide with some of the highest earning years of your life. If so, you may have the means to significantly increase the amount of money you put away for retirement. If you haven't already "maxed out" on your IRA and 401(k), now may be the time to do so. And if you are already putting in the maximum to these tax-advantaged plans, consider investing in a fixed annuity, which offers tax-deferred earnings and allows you to contribute virtually as much as you want.

Review your investment mix - Once you are through paying for college, you may want to scrutinize your investment mix to see if it still meets your needs. You might want to consider rebalancing your portfolio and taking a somewhat more conservative approach to investing, especially in the years immediately preceding your retirement. However, keep in mind that you will still need to diversify your holdings - and, even when you retire, you'll need to have some growth-oriented vehicles in your portfolio.

Consider buying a smaller house - If you are living in a big house,

and you no longer need all that space, you might want to consider "downsizing" your living arrangements. As long as you've owned and lived in your home for at least two years within the five years preceding its sale, you may be able to exclude up to \$250,000 in capital gains, or \$500,000 if you're married and filing a joint return. (See your tax advisor for the numbers that apply to your individual situation.) So, if you buy a smaller home, you could pocket a tidy sum, which you can then use for your retirement or to fulfill some long-held dreams of traveling.

Start "padding" your nest - You may find it a bittersweet experience when your children grow up and leave home for good. Yet, by following the above suggestions, you may discover that your empty nest may be full of opportunities for you to build your financial security.

Editor's Note:

This complimentary article is being provided by Edward Jones. Alix A. Desamours is a licensed investment representative and has been chosen as a consultant to MON-The Gazette in helping to dispense educational information pertaining to the investment industry. Mr. Desamours can be reached at 972-416-6269.

Pastors' Oppose Blackwood Page 1

The effort resulted in the largest voter turnout of African Americans in recent history. Those techniques included phone banks, mass mailings, church bulletins and announcements from the pulpit.

"We plan to be very active," he said. "We want our church and members to know our position and

acknowledging this day, Monday, April 4, 2005 as the 37th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., take this opportunity to announce our position against Proposition One (otherwise referred to as the Blackwood Proposal). We state for the record our absolute determination to resist any attempt

to prepare the budget and then submit it to the council.

• Would give the Mayor the power to hire and fire all directors and department heads, including the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief, and to create or abolish any city government or function as long as the action does not violate the city charter or state law.



African American Pastors' Coalition Press Conference at Kirkwood Temple Church in Dallas. (L-R) Wil McCall (Associate Pastor - Friendship West Baptist Church), Perry Crenshaw (Pastor - Warren United Methodist Church), Pamela Blair (Minister - Kirkwood Temple CME), Alfred Walker, Jr. (Senior Pastor New Hope Baptist Church & AAPCVP), Annette Lary (Minister - Kirkwood Temple CME), Alvin Green (Pastor - Rugged Cross Baptist Church), David Henderson, Jr. (Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church) and Dr. Jerry Christian (Senior Pastor - Kirkwood Temple CME & AAPC President) at the podium.

more importantly, vote in the upcoming election."

The Coalition and its members have a long history of community involvement citing its position on Affirmative Action, education and community development. It acquired and became the chief financial fiduciary sponsor of the financially challenged Common Ground Credit Union in 1996 eventually merging it with the now known Dallas Telco Credit Union in 2003. The organization also spearheaded the \$5 million Unity Estates project in Southern Dallas.

The affordable housing project in Oak Cliff is on 58 acres and is comprised of over 275 homes ranging from \$70,000 to \$130,000. A park and jogging trail are at the center of the development. The Coalition recently purchased another 6.7 acres to continue their housing project.

During the press conference, the AAPC issued a position statement on Proposition One. The following is their position.

Position Statement
We, the African American Pastor's Coalition, while

on the part of a few to undermine the governance of the people of this city. We life our collective voice and say NO to Proposition One. Therefore we say to each and every Pastor of Dallas, Texas, each and every member of each and every church in the Coalition, VOTE NO on the May 7th ballot. VOTE AGAINST PROPOSITION ONE!

"We issue this clarification call for our people to VOTE NO ON THE MAY 7TH BALLOT" because Proposition One:

- Conflicts with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 in that it weakens the representation elected by single member districts.
- Eliminates the authority and position of the City Manager.
- Would give the Mayor the power to hire and fire the City Attorney and the City Secretary.
- Would give the Mayor the power to appoint all members of boards and commissions (except those governed by state law) subject to council confirmation.
- Would give the Mayor the power to appoint the Mayor Pro-tem and all council committees.
- Would give the Mayor the power

power to hire and fire all 13,000 city employees.

• Would give the Mayor the power to issue and deny building permits and demolition orders.

• Would give the Mayor the power to create "orders" for the city without the checks and balances provide by city council members.

In an effort to proactively impact this election we shall endeavor to galvanize our member churches and community by utilizing phone banks, church bulletins, mass mailings, the pulpit, and other marketing communication techniques we deem necessary to educate our people concerning the need to VOTE NO ON THE BLACKWOOD PROPOSAL. We further intend to engage our people in dialogue concerning the future of Dallas as it relates to city governance. And we believe that the recommendations from the Charter Review Commission, dated June 18, 2003 are a good point of departure for substantive discussion on the city's future.

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Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north-

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones



often acts as if oil is being extracted for the benefit of the U.S.—and perhaps Western Europe—alone. As countries such as China, India and South Africa expand their economies, there is the unfortunate reliance on fossil fuels, oil especially. Thus, in a period where oil will be thinning out, there will be greater numbers of competitors seeking the oil.

The third fact is that oil producing nations want greater control over who gets their oil and at what prices. One can see this playing out right now in the hostility of the Bush administration

toward Venezuela. The government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has asserted that as a sovereign country they have the right to sell oil to who they wish in order to benefit the long-term growth of Venezuela. Is this outrageous? Apparently the Bush administration thinks so, and regularly takes the opportunity to threaten or taunt the Venezuelan government. Venezuela, however, is not by itself in wanting to use oil to help to advance their specific national objectives.

Recently former United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix noted that he now believed that the U.S. invasion

of Iraq had a great deal to do with oil. He said that he had not originally believed this to be the case, but he was now convinced. Join the club, Hans. It seems fairly evident that oil was at least a piece of the equation.

Yet Iraq is not the only site for U.S. interest in oil. As mentioned in earlier columns, greater Bush administration attention has gone to African oil producers, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea (such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea), Angola and southern Sudan. This interest has taken various forms. In the Sudan, the Bush administration played a relatively constructive role (I

know; don't fall out of your chair) in negotiating the peace settlement between the Khartoum government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army; in West Africa the Bush administration is seriously contemplating the redeployment of US troops for purposes of 'security,' in the case of Libya, with the repudiation of nuclear weapons by President Qaddafi, the Bush administration is treating the Libyans as long-lost cousins; and, in almost all cases, an oil producing country is immune from Bush administration criticism for any action so long as that country is prepared to play a subordinate role to the U.S.A.

In effect, this means that should governments come to power in oil producing Africa that are consistently in favor of self-determined political and economic development and may choose to disagree with the Bush administration over matters of foreign policy or the manner in which the Bush administration and their oil allies deal with their respective countries, those countries face

the prospect of increased tensions, perhaps up to and including the dreaded regime change.

This is all to say that the oil crisis is chronic and it is about much more than the cost at our fuel pumps. It could very well be about the contexts of major conflicts as we get deeper into the 21st century and deeper into the void left by disappearing oil.

Plano Council Meeting Page 1

hierarchy chart, council roles and responsibilities, laws governing the electoral process, and two major issues



(L-R) Mr. Bruce Glasscock (Plano Assistant City Manager), Mr. Frank E. Turner (Executive Director, Development Business Center), and Mr. Rod Hogan (Executive Director).

the council will be taking on in heavier measure in the upcoming year: The Capital Improvement Plan and the 2004-05 budget. Alternately, the two go hand in hand.

With a budget, totaling \$324 million for the year, the Capital Improvement take of that includes the City of Plano's major functioning entities such as: municipal facilities, parks and

recreation, street improvements, water and sewer program, DART Local Assistance Program and the Capital Reserve Fund. Monies

resident and volunteer in Plano well over twenty years. When asked why she wanted to be a city council member, Ellerbe gave a confident grin and replied, "I love Plano. I want to help preserve what we have."

Preservation of Plano's flourishing economy and rich history was a recurring theme with Harry LaRosiliere as well. Originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti by way of New York, LaRosiliere too seeks to maintain a certain traditional quality he sees in Plano. "I am prepared to commit myself to upholding Plano's high quality of life and to further the economic development in this city," LaRosiliere explained.

Only a resident since 1994, LaRosiliere has a good head start with getting to know the city he's petitioning a seat on the council for. His record of proven leadership, in Plano, stands alone and this husband and father of two has presented a boastful balancing act that includes his professional, family,

religious, and public service commitments. His resilience and willingness to open up about his candidacy is sure to make him a tough opponent.

However, when discussing his goals for the city, LaRosiliere, a man of color, had nothing immediate or specific on his agenda regarding the Black and minority communities of Plano, nor did he address any major political concerns facing the city regarding its cultural communities.

The meeting closed an hour early, possibly due to the low turnout of candidates, council and board members. When asked how he felt about the lack of candidate turnout, Tom Muehlenbeck shook his head and said, "I am not at liberty to say if this will affect who gets voted in or not. It's up to the people of Plano to decide. I'm in no position to make a statement regarding attendance."

Voting for new City of Plano Council members is May 7, 2005.

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Voting for new City of Plano Council members is May 7, 2005.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 12th, 2005

NORTH TEXAS JOB CORPS CENTER "GEARS UP" FOR NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICES DAY - April 15th-17th, 2005

Today more than ever, young people are pitching in to make a difference in their communities. National Youth Service Day is an annual national event celebrated by youth organizations and young people around the country to recognize the year-round service and volunteering efforts of millions of young Americans, recruit a new generation of participants and supports of youth service, and promote young people as resources to their communities. National Youth Service Day is sponsored by Youth Service America. Job Corps is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year and National Youth Service Day is one way students are giving back to the communities that have supported the program for 40 years.

The students of the North Texas Job Corps Center have selected three activities to lead in honor on National Youth Service Day.

On Friday April 15th, the students from the Landscaping and Home Builders Institute Facilities Maintenance classes will complete the Ross Cemetery Maintenance Project. The Ross Cemetery is one of the oldest African American Cemeteries in Collin County, and because of this, the families are unable to provide the Maintenance on a regular basis.

On Saturday April 16th, nearly 100 students and staff will volunteer for the McKinney City Wide Clean up, as well as a prepare property for Habitat for Humanity to build a very deserving family a new home.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the projects above, please contact: LaTressa Kinney, Business and Community Liaison @ 972-547-7772 or 469-446-8541 or by email @ Kinney.latressa@jobcorps.org

For more information contact:

LaTressa Kinney, Business & Community Liaison -
(972) 547-7772 (office), 469-446-8541 (cell) or by email: kinney.latressa@jobcorps.org

African American Entrepreneur Brings African American Consumers and Businesses Together On the Internet

Eric Brown the founder of the African American Art On-Line Store located at www.brownhorizonsart.com, which is widely considered on of the most popular African American art websites on the internet today, recently announced the opening of a new African American shopping portal titled African Shopping Today located at www.brownhorizonsshopping.com.

The African American

Shopping Today website was created to help solve two common problems that many African American consumers and African American businesses face on a daily basis.

The problem for consumers is finding reliable African American websites on the Internet that sell quality African American related products at reasonable prices. The problem for businesses is finding affordable and effective advertising resources

on the Internet that primarily cater to African American consumers who are actively looking to purchase African American related products.

The African American Shopping Today website will help solve both problems because it is a shopping portal specifically created for African Americans in the buying and selling mode.

It is a place where African American consumers can locate reliable, trustworthy, quality African American

websites, and at the same time a place where African American business can advertise and know that their advertising dollars are being spent effectively because the visitors to the website are primarily interested in locating and purchasing African American related products.

You can visit the African American Shopping Today website at: www.brownhorizonsshopping.com.

Marriott Works With National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers to Increase Minority Hotel Ownership

Marriott International, Inc. held an "Education Summit" for aspiring minority hotel owners this past week. The initiative is one of many that the company has implemented to double its 270 minority and franchises in five years, and one of the reasons Diversity Inc. recently ranked Marriott 12th in its annual ranking of the Top 50 Companies for Diversity.

More than 30 prospective minority owners and franchisees attended the workshop at the company's corporate headquarters. It

included information about how prospective sites are evaluated and how hotels are built, financed and operated. The workshops were led by Marriott executives, owners and franchisees, as well as experts from the lending community.

"Educating prospective owners and franchisees is key to the company's diversity ownership initiative because many candidates have substantial business experience, but they do not have a background in the lodging industry," said Norman K.

Jenkins, senior vice president of North American Lodging Development for Marriott. During the event, Jenkins presented a \$30,000 check to Andy Ingram, president of the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers, to help the organization reach its goal of increasing the number of African-Americans who manage, operate and own hotels.

More than 16 years ago, Marriott became the first lodging company to establish a diversity program, and it has

continued to set the standard for the industry. The National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP) has ranked Marriott at the top of the lodging industry six out of seven times in its annual lodging industry report card. In particular, the company has doubled the number of women and minorities in its top 400 leadership positions over the last six years.

For more information on the Marriott International, Inc. log on to: <http://www.Marriott.com/corporateinfo/supplier>.

The New Pope Page 1

(and predecessor), Pope John Paul II, had just published a new Catholic Church catechism, essentially a textbook of what Catholics must believe. Liberals were upset that it seemed to leave so little leeway for individual interpretation of matters of dogma. Ratzinger was unapologetic: "The Catechism," he said, "was not conceived as a means of control, but as an aid in perceiving what the Catholic Church believes. It is not the work of a spiritual police force but the result of cooperation among believers worldwide who want to publicly bear witness to their faith."

Note the finesse of that answer: not a police force, just a cooperative effort to get the facts straight. The key to Ratzinger's worldview was his profound disillusionment with what he considered the moral and theological anarchy of the 1960s. As a young priest in Germany, Ratzinger was a self-described progressive, who had great hope for the changes that the Second Vatican Council had brought to the Catholic Church. But when that period of

liberalization led to widespread challenges of basic church teaching — for instance, the celibacy of priests, firm condemnation of artificial contraception and homosexuality — Ratzinger turned into precisely one of his new titles as pope: Defender of the faith.

His justification for enforcing the church's magisterium — it's right to teach — is simple: "I can be obedient," he said, "because it is my fundamental conviction that my intelligence is limited and the church is wiser."

Benedict XVI will expect, similar humility of his flock of 1.1 billion. The weeks and months to come will probably not be comfortable for those who had hoped that with John Paul's death, the Catholic Church would steer a course of modernization and reform. The 265th man to sit on the Throne of Peter believes in the power of the word of God. Observant Catholics will not have to wait long to learn in what direction the new servant of the servants of God will move the Church, and whether he does so in a hurry, or at the slower pace he seems to favor.

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Business Toolbox Seminars

The NDCC Business Toolbox Seminar Series features quarterly small business seminars that highlight industry experts who offer current information that the businessperson can put to practical use. The presentations explore timely business issues, and speakers are available immediately following each seminar for questions.

Sponsor of the Business Toolbox is Comerica Bank. Co-sponsor is the Dallas Business Journal.

The May 5th seminar, "Rules of Engagement: How to Fully Engage the Employees You Have," will discuss how to get optimal productivity from your employees that results in long-term employee satisfaction.

Speakers will include Virginia Rose, Vice President, Human Resources, Medical City Dallas Hospital and Charlie Martin, President, The Martin Team. John Correll of The Empower Network will be the moderator.

The May seminar will be presented from 7:30 - 9:00 am.

The entry fee is \$15 for members and \$30 for prospective members and includes a continental breakfast. Register online or pay at the door with cash or with a check made out to NDCC.

Past seminars have addressed the following topics:

"Your Business Image: Creating One That Lasts."

"Employment Law Developments for the Small Business."

"Marketing for Your Success: Secrets of the Marketing Plan and Direct Mail."

"Is Your Small Business at Risk?"

"From Hyper-Growth to Profitability."

"Marketing - Recession Proof Your Business."

For additional information on the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce Toolbox Seminar Series contact Carol Short, Vice President, Public Affairs at 214-368-6696.

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Local Teens Vie for the Gold and the Chance to go to the Nationals

South Garland High School hosted the NAACP Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition earlier this month. Teenagers from across the city competed in categories in the sciences, humanities, visual and performing arts.

Participating students from Garland High School included Daphanie Taylor (Original Essay), Sasha Hampton (Original Essay), Preston Achilike (Original Essay, Poetry), LeRenzo Malcom (Instrumental Contemporary and Classical), Aryc Lane (Instrumental Classical), Cheryl Mitchell (Drawing, Photography, Poetry), Ashley Blanton (Drawing, Painting), Johnnie Frye (Poetry, Mathematics), Saviour Achilike

(Mathematics), Cameron Green, (Poetry), Jonathan Coffield (Vocal Classical), Treniece Hawkins (Dramatics), Annesia Wills (Original Essay), Jasmine Humphrey (Original Essay).

Natasha Egharevba (Photography, Poetry) and Anquetette Whiteman (Poetry) were participants from Rowlett High School.

Gold Medal Winners were: Preston Achilike (Original Essay), Lorenzo Malcom (Instrumental Contemporary), and Ashley Blanton (Painting).

Silver Medal Winners were: Sasha Hampton (Original Essay), Johnnie Frye (Mathematics and Poetry), and Jonathan Coffield (Vocal Classical).

Bronze Medal Winners were: Annesia Wills (Original Essay),

Ashley Blanton (Drawing) Cheryl Mitchell (Poetry).

Judges for this year's competition were: Kai Dupe, Paul Philp, Kathy Merritt, Pamela Lloyd, Karmon Wright, Stephanie L. Sunder, Michelle Tillmon, Anika Perkins, Larry Jackson, Mary Alsbrooks, Debra Bragg, Dr. Patricia Russell-Harrison, Leslie Horton, Gwendolyn Clemmons, Kirk deCordova, Subrena Hurd, Gertha Lady Johnson, Dr. Beverly Chinn, Garry Williams, Debra Anderson, Tiffanie Coleman, Shonna Pumphrey, Kelly Stewart, Deborah Boyd, Julie Anzelmo, Lynda Blake, and Andrea Lyons.

Corporate sponsors for 2004-2005 ACT-SO include State Farm Insurance Companies, Southwest Airlines, American Airlines,

Teens Vie For Gold Page 8

Church Happenings

ALL NATIONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 pm
English as a second language Class; call 972-424-8500 for more information.

All Nations UMC
Dr. Clara Reed, Pastor
3415 East 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-424-8500

BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 24, 7:00 pm
Come and experience "The Trial of Jesus," directed and produced by Pastor Dennis Webb and members of the church.
For detail information, please call the church at 972-313-9815.

Bear Creek Community Church
Rev. Dennis Webb Sr., Pastor
4021 Conflans Road
Irving, TX 75061
972-313-9815

BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 27 - April 29, 7:00 pm
We are having "The Move of God 2005 Spring Revival." Our theme is: The Kingdom of God is Not by Observation. Our guest speaker is Rev. Kenneth Spears, Pastor and Evangelist of First St. John Baptist Church in Ft. Worth. This is an open invitation for all churches and pastors.
For more information, please call the church at 817-626-7342.

For more information, please call the church at 817-626-7342.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Richard Jones, Pastor
3019 Rosen Avenue
Ft. Worth, TX 76106
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CAMP WISDOM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 23 - 24, 2005
We will celebrate the legacy of women of faith by presenting "Women of Color in Covenant with God." A Prayer Breakfast on Saturday @ the Thorntree Country Club in DeSoto featuring Dr. Sharon C. Patterson, Senior Pastor of St. Paul UMC in Dallas at 10:00 am. Our guest speaker for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 am will be Rev. Rochelle L. Carr, Discipleship Pastor, St. Andrew's UMC in Arlington; and a special "Women's Day Service," @ 4:00 pm featuring Rev. Sonja Dickerson, Co-Pastor of Dayspring Family Church in Irving. The public is invited to come.
For more information, call 972-224-4556.

Camp Wisdom UMC
Rev. L. Charles Stovall,
Senior Pastor
1300 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75232
972-224-4556

CARVER HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

April 24, 10:45 am
We will have our Annual Women's Day Service. Our theme is "Women Witnessing Through Faith and Praise" found in 1 Peter 1:7-9. The public is welcome to join us.
For more information, call the church at 214-371-2024.

Carver Heights Baptist Church
Rev. Daryl Carter, Pastor
2510 East Ledbetter Drive
Dallas, TX 75216
214-371-2024

COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

On-Going Mentor Program
Our host church, True Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435 where Rev. Donald Parish is the Pastor, is working with a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated. Come or call to find out how to get involved.
For more information, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

Coalition of Churches in Prison Ministry
Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator
P.O. Box 225863
Dallas, TX 75222-5863
972-235-6432 or
214-632-6519

Church Happenings Page 9

Blackonomics Page 1

were all willing to pay an extra 50 cents for each transaction. But \$3 per transaction in some cases? You can keep your ATM "convenience."

And have you heard about Check 21? In short, the banks can now process the checks you write almost instantaneously; no more "float" time for you. Folks who used to write their checks and make their deposits a couple of days later are now penalized for that practice even more than they were before. However, customers who deposit checks into their accounts, in many cases, still have to wait as many as seven days for those checks to "clear" before they can withdraw funds from them. Why doesn't Check 21 apply in those cases? Could it be another way for the banks to rob people by holding on to their money for a few more days, accruing interest along the way of course? If all checks can now be cleared instantly, why doesn't it apply to checks you deposit into your account?

Let's talk about a couple of the other fees that are strangling consumers. One is overdraft fees. I can understand charging a small penalty for the inconvenience of having to deal with a "rubber check," especially by the person to whom it is written; believe me, I have had my share of folks giving me checks that did not have sufficient funds. A lady in Chattanooga wrote a \$15 check for one of my books; the check bounced and I ended up losing \$25. (All she had to do was ask and I would have given her the book, as I have on several occasions - and saved that \$10 fee, the bank charged me for depositing the bad check.)

I can only imagine what that sister had to pay her bank for a measly \$15 check. You cannot convince me that banks incur costs anywhere near the \$30 charges they impose on some of their customers (the affluent

customers, their "homies" and their families' fees are waived of course) for bounced checks. And we won't even go there when it comes to the multiplier effect, when other checks start bouncing and other charges start mounting up. You can pay hundreds of dollars for a \$15 check if you are not careful.

Now for the most dastardly fees banks are using to rob the people, the dreaded credit card interest rates, over-your-limit-fees, and late payment fees. If Black folks especially are not moving swiftly toward being "plastic surgeons" they should be. We all need to perform plastic surgery by cutting our credit cards in two. The fees are nothing short of usury, and to add insult to injury, banks will charge outlandish fees if you inadvertently exceed your limit, the same way they do if you withdraw more than you have in your savings account from an ATM. Can't they deny the withdrawal if it exceeds the limit they gave you?

Banks penalize you excessively if you are just a couple of days late on your credit card payment, and they charge a yearly "maintenance" fee even if you have no balance. By the way, have you ever tried to close one of those

accounts? It's next to impossible - and they keep charging you fees while you're trying to get out their death grip.

I could go on, but you get the picture I'm sure, and probably have first-hand experience.

The recommendation: Use your collective leverage to stop these "bank robberies" in reverse. Ever heard of the Collective Banking Group?

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and has written several books, including: Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement - We have a Choice; Blackonomics; and the recently published Black-o-Knowledge-Stuff. To book Clingman for a speech or purchase his books, go to his Web site, www.blackonomics.com. He can be contacted by telephone at 513-489-4132.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY 15th Annual Church Anniversary



Banquet @ 6:30 pm
Embassy Suites Hotel-DFW
4650 W. Airport Freeway
Irving, TX 75062

Anniversary Service @ 4:00 pm
Community Outreach Ministry
526 Compton Avenue
Irving, TX 75061

~ Chief Apostle Dr. Lloyd Benson, Sr. ~
Banquet Keynote Speaker

~ Pastor Darin E. Floyd, Sr. ~
Banquet Toastmaster

~ Pastor B. J. Myers ~
Anniversary Keynote Speaker

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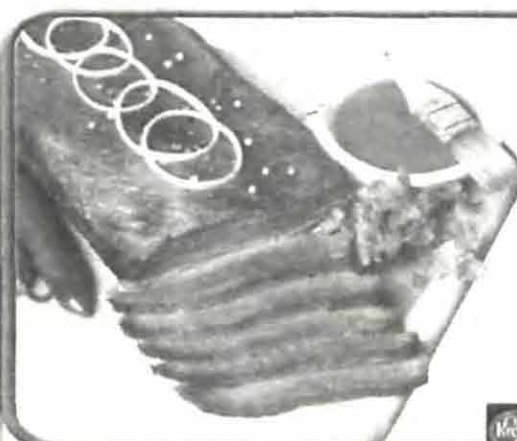
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Lengthy Feud Between OutKast and Rosa Parks Comes To An End

OutKast may have apologized a trillion times to "Ms. Jackson," but the duo probably should have worked in a "so sorry" to Rosa Parks along the way.

Now, the Grammy-winning Andre 3000 and Big Boi and their record company, Sony BMG, have made nice with Parks, ending their lengthy court battle with the civil rights pioneer.

Parks—who famously refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a white woman—sued OutKast in 1999, accusing the rappers of wrongfully appropriating her name for the song "Rosa Parks" off the duo's Aquemini album.

Under the terms of the settlement, Outkast and Sony BMG admit no wrongdoing, but have agreed to "enlighten today's youth about the significant role Rosa Parks played in making America a better place for all races," Parks' guardian Dennis Archer said in a statement Thursday.

Parks, who suffers from dementia, is happy with the terms of the deal, per Archer. So is Sony BMG, says lawyer Joe Beck.

"We think it will go a long way towards teaching a new generation about Rosa Parks and her accomplishments, and we appreciate Mrs. Parks' and her attorneys' acknowledgment of the First Amendment in protecting

artistic freedom," Beck told the Associated Press.

The settlement puts an end to five years of bitter back-and-forth between the two sides.

Parks originally filed her lawsuit in Michigan, accusing Big Boi and Andre 3000 and record company BMG of "profiting off her



moniker and falsely suggesting the song "Rosa Parks" was endorsed by her. In addition to monetary damages, she sought to have the track removed from all future pressings of the disc.

The lawsuit was tossed out by a lower court, then reinstated on appeal. Eventually, case found its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the reinstatement.

Last July, the ailing 92-year-old Parks was ordered by a

federal judge to testify about the emotional and mental distress she allegedly suffered. In August, Parks asked her doctor to go ahead and open up her medical file to show the judge she was unable to appear in court. The judge ruled the case would continue despite Parks' deteriorating condition.

The prospect of a coming trial expedited the two sides hammering out a deal.

While Sony BMG will not remove the track from future versions of Aquemini, the company did agree to produce a Parks tribute disc.

In addition, OutKast will collaborate on an educational television program about Parks' life and legacy that will be distributed on DVDs to thousands of public schools nationwide.

Further terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but Beck told AP Thursday that more details regarding the CD and the television show program "will be worked out in the months ahead." For more information on Outkast log on to: www.outkast.com.



Dallasite Erykah Badu joins company of Stars in "House of D"

(Associated Press) The "D" in "House of D" could stand for a great many things. It could stand for Duchovny, as in David, who makes his feature-film directing and writing debut, appears in bookending segments and generally smother the movie in voiceovers that strain desperately for nostalgic poignancy.

(Example: "My story starts where every man's story starts — with mom," he says, playing an American artist in Paris flashing back to his childhood. Here's another: "She was lost without my father, but sometimes I could find her ... and sometimes she didn't want to be found.")

It also could stand for didactic, derivative, directorially self-indulgent (sorry, that one's kind of a reach, but it's true) and just plain dull.

All those years of co-starring as Fox Mulder on "The X-Files" apparently did nothing to teach Duchovny about creative characters or inventive story lines. He gives us a well-worn coming-of-age story (set in 1973 in New York's Greenwich Village, where Duchovny grew up) populated by clichéd types.

Robin Williams functions as the magical simpleton, a

mentally retarded school janitor named Pappas (which as painful to watch) who's best friends with our young hero, Tommy Warshaw. Tea Leoni (Duchovny's real-life wife) gets little to do besides chain-smoke and cry as



Tommy's grieving, widowed mother. And Erykah Badu plays a prisoner in the Women's House of Detention — the real D behind the film's title — who guides Tommy through the perils of being 13 by shouting advice to him through a barred window.

While Badu's presence seems like a total contrivance — she's trapped in a cell, having conversations with Tommy (Anton Yelchin) whom she spies on "the

sidewalk below with the help of a shard of mirror — Duchovny has said these sorts of exchanges actually took place. At least the R&B singer perks things up with her unpredictable delivery and untamed 'fro, and her scenes with Yelchin, the poised young actor who previously appeared in "Hearts in Atlantis," are the film's only compelling parts.

The rest consists of a series of forced, whimsical moments. Tommy and his classmates make their French teacher say things that sound naughty in heavily accented English. Tommy and Pappas deliver meat for the butcher to senile old ladies and oversexed housewives. Dogs repeatedly pee on their

delivery bike, a gag which isn't particularly funny the first time.

Pappas himself is all over the place. Sometimes he'll steal something because he doesn't seem to know right from wrong. Sometimes he'll blurt out some totally inappropriate comment about the size of his manhood. And sometimes he comes up with nuggets of wisdom like, "I know what I know and I know what I don't know."

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NAACP Membership Drive Continues

The NAACP is currently holding a "Spring Forward Membership Drive." The goal is to have 60 new members by June 1, 2005. Adult membership is \$30 (only \$7.50/week) and youth membership is \$10 (only \$2.50/week). Please share this information with

an adult or young member not carrying a current NAACP Membership Card. Don't leave home without it! "We believe as a community we can achieve."

Freedom is not free so join the Garland NAACP Branch on Tuesday, April

26, 2005 at the Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin Street @ Glenbrook Drive in Garland, TX for its monthly meeting. The Executive Committee meeting will begin at 6:30 pm followed by the General Membership meeting at 7:30 pm.

STORY CORRECTION

Please note the following corrections to the "The Cheryl and Oprah... True Givers" story which was printed in the April 14-April 20, 2005 edition of MON-The Gazette. Cheryl Jackson's late grandmother's name is Helen Allen. The Touch Ministry was conceived by Mrs. Jackson's mother Minnie Hawthorne shortly after Mrs. Allen's death. Bishop Minnie Hawthorne is the Senior Pastor of DayStar Deliverance Ministries in Plano, TX.

Career Opportunities

Contact Marketing to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-509-9049 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

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Community Newspaper seeks Part Time Writer to cover Government Relations events (e.g. School Districts and City Council Meetings). Must be familiar with AP style. Bilingual English/ Spanish a Plus.

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Benefits package includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k), paid vacation and sick leave. Please fax cover letter and resume to David Darling, Operations Manager at 214-561-9662 or email to ddarling@ksky.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

The Word 100.7 FM is a subsidiary of Salem Communications, an equal opportunity employer.

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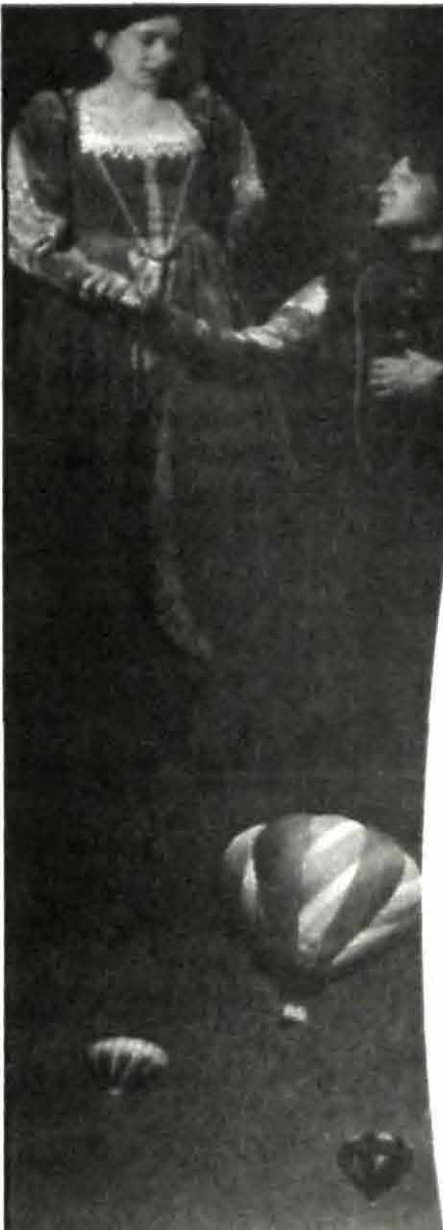
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Sister Tarpley

In my column last week I said, "It's Time to Pray." I still say there are too many angry people in this world and seemly over little or nothing. This week, I am talking about another great weapon in a crisis situation.

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. Psalm 4:4 (KJV).

When you have a disagreement with someone, don't be quick to rush toward a quick fix, to thrash things out then and there, and arrive at a solution—your solution; which will probably be the wrong solution; and most likely will not be the solution that God would want.

When you are angry, God says, "Don't sin." Please do not argue, but be quiet, and search your heart to understand your own feelings and motives.

When you are faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles and conflicts, **silence is golden**. It gives God a chance to work in your heart. Silence will provide space for anger, bitterness, and hard feelings to subside and mellow. Most important, it allows you a chance to seek God's wisdom and listen to God's advice. After a period of uncritical silence, meditation, and prayer, you should be ready to move toward conflict resolution. And often, after a time of reframing from hurtful words, and then acting on God's words, you will find that the walls of anger and bitterness will come down. Ask God to help you when tempers flare and arguments seem inevitable. Ask Him to help you to bring conflicts to Him and seek His wisdom to resolve them. If you take time and be silent, it will allow you to hear God's guidance in

Golden Silence

times of conflict.

God can speak to you in many ways. At times, you can hear God's voice in something that you will read, in an idea that pops into your mind, or in the words of those around you. Ask God to help you do what you can to bring the conflict to a peaceful solution. Ask God to help you listen as He speaks to you in amazing ways.

As all of us journey through daily life,



Picture of The Week

Sister Tarpley, Religious Editor for MON-The Gazette with Pastor and the lovely First Lady Rev. Clarence & Mrs. Hope Ford, Jr. of Carter Temple CME Church in Dallas at their Church's 110th Church Anniversary.

we can become disoriented and lose our balance if we focus on the swirling concerns of the day, then we are too quick to judge and too quick to become angry. But when we lift our eyes and focus on Christ, we can regain the stability and balance that God offers.

Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: Psalm 95:6-8 (KJV).

Helpful Insights & Inspiration:

It has been said, "You never saw a fish on the wall with its mouth shut." "You are the only person on this earth who can use your ability." "Forgiveness is the sweetest revenge." "You can't base your life on other people's expectations." "Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail." "Shared joy is double joy, and shared sorrow is half-sorrow." "An open mind collects more riches than an open purse." "Be kind. Every person you meet is fighting a hard battle." "Hate is like acid. It can damage the vessel in which it is stored as well as destroy the object on which it is poured." — Ann Landers. "You have the capacity to choose what you think about. If you choose to think about past hurts, you will continue to feel bad. While it's true you can't change the effect that past influences had on you once, you can change the effect they have on you now." — Gary McKay, Ph.D. "The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook." — William James. "One of the most lasting pleasures you can experience is the feeling that comes over you when you genuinely forgive an enemy—whether he knows about it or not." — A. Battista. "The only people you should ever want to get 'even' with are those who have helped you." — John Honeyfield. "An apology is the superglue of life. It can repair just about anything." — Lynn Johnston. "Pride is tasteless, colorless and sizeless. Ye it is the hardest thing to swallow." — August B. Black.

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Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Jabez, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

Church Happenings Page 6

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

April 30, 6:30 pm

Our 15th Church Homecoming and Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, DFW, 4650 West Airport Freeway, Irving, TX 75062. Chief Apostle Dr. Lloyd Benson, Sr. will be our Keynote Speaker and Pastor Darin E. Floyd, Sr. will be our Toastmaster. The public is invited to join us for a Holy Spirit joyful time.

For details and to register, please call 972-986-5552.

May 1, 2005

You are welcome and encouraged to join us in our 15th Church Homecoming and Anniversary Sunday Morning Service at the church. We will be looking for you!

Community Outreach Ministry

Pastor Lisa Tarpley, Overseer
526 Compton Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
972-986-5552

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

April (Entire Month), 7:00 pm

Wednesday evening class on "Spiritual Practices, Rev. Rev. Pricilla Richter will teach the class. The public is welcome.

On-Going

Hope Preschool, ages 2-5 has begun pre-registration for 2005. Call the church office on Tuesday through Thursday @ 972-424-8989.

For more information on the above classes, please call the church office @ 972-424-8989.

Community UU Church

Rev. Pricilla Richter, Minister
2875 East Parker Road
Plano, TX 75074
972-424-8989

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

June 1 - August 12, 2005, 6:30am - 6:30 pm

We will have a Summer Day Camp for Kids in grades K-6—Camp Stone!

For more information and registration, please call 1-817-468-0083.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Rev. Wm. Dwight McKissic, Sr.
Pastor
5415 Matlock Road
Arlington, TX 76018
1-817-468-0083

DAUGHTERS OF THUNDER MINISTRIES

April 28 - 30, 2005

The "Women Leading in Ministry" Conference will be held at The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC), 7710 South Westmoreland Road in Dallas, Dr. Rickie G. Rush is the Senior Pastor. This conference will be hosted by Dr. Ouida Lee of St. Luke Community UMC, Rev. Susan Stephens of Friendship West BC, and Lucretia Cooks of Jubilee UMC. The public is invited.

For more information, call 972-283-2264.

Daughters of Thunder Ministries

301 Frank Keasler Blvd.
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972-283-2264

DAYSRING FAMILY CHURCH

May 6 - 7, 2005

Dayspring will host our 10th Annual Women's Conference and Luncheon at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, TX. Our focus for the conference is, "The Time is Now!"

For more information and registration, call the church @ 972-399-7729.

Dayspring Family Church

Elder Kevin Dickerson, Pastor
618 North Beltline Road
Irving, TX 75061
972-399-7729

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

May 12 - 14, 2005

The Touch Ministry of DayStar Deliverance Ministries will sponsor a FREE, Women In Transaction (W.I.T.)

Conference @ the Adam's Mark Hotel, 400 North Olive Street in Downtown Dallas. The Conference is free, but donations are generously accepted for this powerful work of God.

For more information and registration, please contact Sister Jackie Hawthorne @ 972-769-8826.

DayStar Deliverance Ministries

Bishop Minnie Hawthorne, Senior Pastor
6205 Coit Road, Suite 336, PMB 142
Plano, TX 75024
972-769-8826

GREENVILLE AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST (GACOC)

May 7, 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

GACOC will host our 20th Annual Adolescent and Ladies Symposium. Our theme is "Twenty Years at The Cross." This FREE symposium includes a continental breakfast, luncheon, and prizes galore.

For early registration and further information, please call 972-644-2335.

Greenville Avenue C of C

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MT. HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH (THE MOUNT)

April 30, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

We will have a garage sale in our Academy parking lot; there will be clothes, shoes, appliance, etc. Donations will be accepted on site from 7:15 am to 8:00 am.

For detail information, please call Carolyn Primm @ 972-272-8095.

Mt. Hebron BC (The Mount)

Rev. Leonard Leach, Pastor
901 Dairy Road
Garland, TX 75040
972-276-5218

Church Happenings Page 10

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www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor
Schedule of Services:
Sunday
Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes
9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and
Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
4396 Main Street
The Colony, Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net
"The Church with a Vision"

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY
The Equipping Church, "Serving Together To Transform Lives"
Sunday Service Times
9:00 am - Corporate Prayer
9:30 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Morning Worship
Wednesday Night
7:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting,
Bible Study, & Mid-Week Service
2nd and 4th Tuesday: 7:30 pm - Family Night
526 Compton Avenue • Irving, TX 75061
972-986-5552
1-866-9-Outreach (Prayer Line)
Email: equippingchurch@sbcglobal.net

St. Andrew Church of God In Christ
Supt. Kenneth D. Davis, Pastor
608 Lakey Street • Denton, TX 76205
940-243-3797 (Metro)
www.standrewcogic.org
standrew.cogic@verizon.net
"Building to Reach...Reaching to Change...Changing to Impact"
Worship Celebrations
1st & 3rd Sundays: 8:30 am
Every Sunday: 10:50 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Evening Worship: 7:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:15 pm
Youth Bible Study: 7:30 pm
Friday Intercessory Prayer
Early Morning: 6:00 am to 7:00 am
Evening: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)
"Where we slam dunk the devil and serve up Jesus"
521 W. Avenue E
Garland, TX 75040
972.487.9703
Email: slamechurch@aol.com
Sunday
8:45 a.m. Church School
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience
Tuesday
7:15 p.m. Bible Study
Wednesday
6:30 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Church School
Thursday
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX
Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH
Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM
Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir
For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

The St. John Experience
St. John Baptist Church
1701 W. Jefferson St., Grand Prairie, Texas 75051
2805 Market Loop, Suite 300, Southlake, Texas 76092
Denny D. Davis, Servant
Our Church - Two Locations
Four Morning Worship Services
7:00 A.M. • 9:00 A.M. • 10:00 A.M. and 11:15 A.M.

MOCOP Mt. Olive Church of Plano
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972 633 5511
WWW.MOCOP.ORG
Serving the Plano Community for 12 Years
40 Days of Purpose
Purpose Driven Life Studies
April 9th thru May 22nd
Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy
Call Pastor Sam
LIVE ON: "Vision & Truth"
Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm-10pm
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KGGR 1040AM MONDAY - FRIDAY 10:25-10:30 AM

Community Outreach Ministry

The late pastor, Reverend Nathaniel Tarpley, was called into the ministry in 1980 under the leadership of Pastor T. W. Pope of Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church; and in 1985 he graduated from Southern Bible Institute of Dallas.

In 1985, Reverend Tarpley was called to pastor New Home Baptist Church; he remained there until 1990 when God led him to organize Community Baptist Church (CBC). In September 1990 Pastor Tarpley organized CBC in the home of Brother & Sister H. Smith with fifteen adults, six children and no money! Sis. A. Rogers and Sis. G. Ferrell were instrumental in helping the church rent the Head Start Center on Jackson Street in Irving. The congregation worshipped in the center for eight months for Sunday Services and weekly meetings. God then led Ms. Jackie Townsend, an Irving City Official, who passed away in the summer of 2003, to help the church acquire a house at 526 Compton Avenue in Irving. Pastor Tarpley and a few brothers renovated the house into a place of worship. When individuals said that it couldn't be done, with God's help and Pastor Tarpley's determination, dedication, and faithfulness to the ministry, a vision was born!

It has been said that besides every God-fearing man is a God-fearing woman. As a first lady, Mother Varnell Tarpley proved this to be true. A graduate of I. M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth; she attended Southwestern Christian College, Tarleton State University, William Barber College, and Harris School of Nursing. She is a Charter Member, and also a graduate of Southern Bible Institute of Dallas. Mother Tarpley was formerly a member of the Baptist Minister's Wives Association; and she is past President of the Sponsors for The Fort Worth City-Wide Choir.

She is currently a Sunday School Instructor for the Primary Class, President of Women of Purpose, and Administrator for Community World Outreach International Ministries.

In 1993, CBC was paid off and renovations began to enlarge the facility to accommodate the church's growth. As God continued to lead Pastor Tarpley in his teaching and preaching, church membership grew and the

ministries of the church were defined by a greater reach into the community, and changing lives through the Holy Spirit. In 1999 Pastor Tarpley was led by God to change the church's name to Community Outreach Ministry (COM); he entered a new level of his ministry and began teaching on the five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher.)

Being a very unique man that would go against the norm of what man expected, and hearing only what God instructed



Reverend Nathaniel and Mother Varnell Tarpley.

him to do; in May 1999, Pastor Tarpley Licensed Evangelist Lisa L. Tarpley, his only daughter, and his first church-daughter in the ministry. When Pastor Tarpley licensed Minister Tarpley, his words to her were, "Teach the children, teach the people." Remembering the story of Moses and Joshua, Pastor Tarpley began to groom his daughter to succeed him in the ministry. Pastor & Mother Tarpley also have two sons in the ministry, one in Texas and one in Georgia.

In 2000, the congregation broke ground for the new Worship Center. As Pastor Tarpley worked tirelessly in building the facility, he fell and broke his ankle. But God allowed him to continue ministering to the people; he simply preached from his wheel chair. In 2001, the congregation entered the new building, and Minister Lisa L. Tarpley brought forth the first message in the new facility.

Pastor Tarpley was a strong and powerful man with a fire to do the work of the Lord. In 2002, he had a vision of paying off the property that the new facility was sitting on; he made known his desire, which was to have the church's debt paid-off by January 2003. In January 2003, Ministerial classes began

to further equip the ministerial staff in their call, and ministry. On January 26, 2003 Pastor Tarpley preached his last message; and on January 28th he was admitted into the hospital. It was a struggle for the congregation to come together for Friday night programs, but our God worked a miracle! The property was paid off in March of 2003!

In April 2003, the facility was once again enlarged to include a Fellowship Hall, and a pantry. It was Pastor Tarpley's desire to return to the pulpit to preach a message, "Keep Hope Alive;" however, God had better plans for him, and on April 15, 2003, God called him home. On Easter 2003, God allowed Minister Lisa Tarpley to preach "Keep Hope Alive."

The Lord built COM using Pastor Nathaniel Tarpley, and truly his work was not in vain. Psalms 127:1(a) says, "Except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it" (KJV).

On June 22, 2003 Minister Lisa Tarpley was installed as pastor, and September 2003 COM celebrated its First Church Banquet. God expanded Pastor Lisa Tarpley's vision for the church and COM began a deliverance ministry; COM joined Heaven's Helpers to give away school supplies at a Back-2-School Rally. In November 2004, COM linked with World Link of Churches and Ministries, Inc. where Chief Apostle Dr. Lloyd Benson is the founder in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

January 2005 began "The Year of The Overflowing Harvest" and COM brought in the new year with the "Threshing Floor;" God brought in the harvest; and He is manifesting Himself daily. New members were added, and on February 13, 2005 Pastor Lisa Tarpley installed two daughter churches: Faith Evangelistic Temple (FET) in Fort Worth, where Rev. James and Rachel Killingsworth are the pastors; and Word of Faith Cathedral Center (WFCC) in Denton where Rev. Benny and Tammy Myers are the pastors. God led Pastor Tarpley to organize Community World Outreach International Ministries, which is a covenant ministry for COM, FET, and WFCC; she is known continuing the legacy and expanding the vision of her late father, Reverend Tarpley.

Send your church announcements to religion@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197 c/o Church Happenings. Deadlines are Fridays before publication date. (MON-The Gazette is published each Thursday.)

Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 9

MT OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

April 9, through May 22, 2005

You are invited to a church-wide "40 Days of Purpose" the studies on a Purpose Driven Life conducted by Pastors Sam and Gloria Fenceroy. Come and join the congregation for these wonderful services.

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
Rev. Sam Fenceroy, Pastor
740 Avenue F, Suite 303
Plano, TX 75074
972-633-5511

NEW OUTREACH CHURCH

April 23, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

We will have our second Annual Boys-to-Men Seminar. Guest speakers will include Fellowship Christian Athletes Eugene Lockhart, Jessie Penn, Angelo King (all Former Dallas Cowboys); Glen Sanders, Former Baltimore Colts; Friendship Baptist Church in The Colony, TX where Dr. C. Paul McBride is the pastor; and Marcus Harris, Former Law Enforcement.

There will be door prizes and lunch. Please RSVP.

For additional information contact Sister Wanda Seals @ 469-831-6507.

New Outreach Church
Elder Eddie R. Seals, Pastor
506 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX 75069
972-542-6993

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP IN RICHARDSON

On-Going Mentor Program

Operation Oasis sponsors a program that assists youth that are at-risk, and ex-offenders returning to society. The program's goals are to change lives of the formerly incarcerated person, to increase safety, and to spiritually fortify our communities. For more details about this wonderful project, please contact Juanita Lee, Administrative Assistant at 972-437-3801 or call Toll Free at 1-800-370-Oasis (376-2747).

April 2 through May 7,
9:30 am - 11:30 am

NDCBF's Christian Education Department will start their Session 2, Saturday Morning Courses: 1) Evangelism and Discipleship 2) Advanced Bible Study Methods 3) Proverbs and Ecclesiastes: Wisdom for the World, and 4) FDIC Money Smart.

April 5 through May 10,
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

NDCBF will start their Session 2, Tuesday Evening Courses: 1) Issues & Answers: A Biblical Perspective 2) Biblical Business Development Christian Ethics 3) The Book of Acts: From Religion to Relationship 4) Bible Study Methods (formerly named How to Study the Bible) 5) The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John 6) The Origin and Development of the Black Church: 1600-Present.

For further information about NDCBF's Christian Education Department and registration fees, please contact Associate Pastor T. Roche Coleman, Th.M. at 972-437-3437, Ext. 102.

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

April 25 - 29, 2005

Spring Revival with guest minister, Rev. Ralph West, Brookhollow Baptist Church in Houston, TX.

April 30, 6:00 pm

Our Worship and Fine Arts Ministry presents a FREE live recording of "Bring It To The Nations" (Revelations 5:9) The public is invited.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Dr. Curtis Wallace, Pastor
1819 N. Washington Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
214-823-7308

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH (IBOC)

April 28 - 30, 2005

The "Women Leading in Ministry" Conference will be held at IBOC Church. This conference will be hosted by Dr. Ouida Lee of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, Rev. Susan Stephens of Friendship West Baptist Church, and Rev. Lucretia Cooks of Jubilee UMC. The public is invited.

For more information, call 972-283-2264.

Sign Up Now

FREE Computer Training classes by Dominion Training & Support Center. For more information and registration, please call Rev. C. Greer @ 214-760-9575 or Email: Rnorag@aol.com.

Mondays, 7:00 pm

Monday School with Holy Spirit Bible Teachings

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC)
Dr. Rickie G. Rush, Pastor
7710 South Westmoreland
Dallas, TX 75237
972-572-IBOC (4262)

TRINITY PRAYER CHAPEL

Sign Up Now

Reynolds Wood Ministries is now conducting FREE GED and ESL Classes, Mentoring Program, and Dance/Ballet/Karate Classes (scholarships are available).

For more information and registration, please call 214-544-1886.

Trinity Prayer Chapel

Rev. Reynolds Wood, Senior Pastor

P.O. Box 650

Service Location is:

406 N. Tennessee

McKinney, TX 75069

Dallas, TX 75251

214-544-1886

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEWISVILLE

April 22 - 23, 2005

Our Mission Ministry will conduct a Women's Conference. Our theme is "Women Of Joy, Even In The Midst" (John 15:11).

April 30, 3:00 pm

The Youth Choir will perform a FREE concert. The public is invited. For more information and to register call the church @ 972-221-5668.

Westside Baptist Church
Rev. Kenneth Blake, Senior Pastor
802 Bellaire Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-221-5668

OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH



Rev. Don Bright, Pastor
M.A. Counseling, LPC

Sunday Services
9:00 am - Prayer Ministry
9:30 am - Sunday School
10:45 am - Morning Worship & Children's Church
Tuesday Service
7:00 pm - Bible Study

Our Hearts,
Our Arms and
Our Doors
Are Always
Open to YOU!

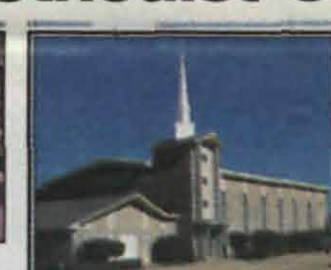
2701 Briarwood Drive • Plano, TX 75074

972-422-4248

All Nations United Methodist Church



Dr. Clara M. Reed
Senior Pastor



Dr. Bert Affleck
Hispanic Ministries

"Christian by Faith, Diverse by Design"

Sunday 8:45am Sunday School
Sunday 8:45am Estudio Biblico En Español
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Wed. 6:15pm Prayer Meeting

3415 E. 14th St.
Plano, TX • 75074

972-424-8500

www.allnationsumc.org

(Free Nursery Provided For Ages 4 and Under)
Other ministries include: "English As A Second Language" and "Spanish As A Second Language" Classes.

DayStar Deliverance Ministries

Our Services:

Sunday
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Midday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday
Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.
Service: 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by:

The Touch Ministry • Women in Transition (WIT)

Website: www.thetouchministry.com • Phone: 972-769-8826

Southfork Hotel • 1600 N. Central Expressway • Plano, TX

Hill Chapel

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 I Ave. Plano, TX. 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. James E. Larry, Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.



The Inspiring Body of Christ Church

7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237

Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.

Monday School: 7pm

Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibocjoy.org



Pastor Rickie G. Rush

BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

8:30 am - Sunday School • 10:00 am - Worship Services

MONDAY

6:30 pm - Missions • 7:00 pm - Brotherhood

WEDNESDAY

6:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting

7:00 pm - Prayer & Midweek Lesson

SATURDAY

10:00 am thru 1:00 pm

Youth Activities

6710 Webster Avenue • Dallas, TX 75209

214-352-3552 (Phone) • 214-352-6793 (Fax)

abethany@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



Sunday
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration... 11:00 am.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday
Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call
972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbc.com

stmarkmissionary@aol.com



Little Flock Baptist Church

Pastor Louis E. Laurent

Internet Broadcast: www.krgm.com

(Mon - Fri @ 12 Noon)

A Place Where a "Taste of the Word" is Guaranteed

Sunday School..... 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
Sunday Night Service 6:30 pm
Tuesday Night Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

704 E. Aimee Street • P.O. Box 903 • Forney, Texas 75126

Phone: 214-325-7021

Fax: 214-371-8922 or 214-372-2135

Email: thewordcuts@yahoo.com



New Life Fellowship of Hamilton Park

8219 Bunche Drive • Dallas, TX 75243

972-671-1096

Bishop Miller E. Johnson Jr., Senior Pastor

A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17

Sunday Morning Bible School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship (Agape Hour) First Sunday 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church



Dr. Jerome E.
McNeil, Jr., Pastor

"Where Jesus is the
Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience
8:00 am & 10:45 am

Wednesday Bible Study
12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road
Dallas, TX 75254

972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center
972-404-1412