FIRST COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FIRST COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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Reverend William Richardson Pastor

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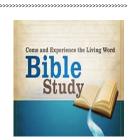
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Important Dates

May 14 Mother's Day Service

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Bible Study resumed on April 4, 2017, at 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Please bring your Bibles and study with us.

A Tribute To Sister Louise Murphy

The word thank you hardly seems adequate as you move forward to retirement. Congratulations Sister Murphy, you did an outstanding job as owner and manager of the Villines Rest Home.

Your remarkable career in serving this community is unparalleled, marked by solid efficiency. The outstanding care you gave your patients has been a blessing to so many families far and near. So many can very candidly say, that during your time as owner of the Villines Rest Home, Louise went above and beyond her regular duties to provide comfort for both patients and staff. She fostered an environment where families around the county felt safe in knowing that their loved one was under her care and supervision. She held high expectations, for herself, creating the standards for her staff to perform in. Two thoughts stand side by side in this thank you note for Sister Murphy for her diligent work with so many sick people under her care. First, she expressed God's love in a very special way by caring for the least of these. Secondly, she went beyond caring for the least but put herself into all of her patients. She cared for them as if she was a patient who needed special care and love herself.

In early April at the Masonic Lodge, Louise was surrounded by family, friends and some out of town quests. They gathered in recognition of her retirement and years of great service at the rest home. It was a wonderful evening banquet. It was enlightening to listen to so many individuals expressing their affection of her, her work and care for their family members. Those wonderful expressions were very warm and endearing, however, I knew in detail what they were describing and reflecting upon concerning Louise's care for their family members. Sister Murphy's work ethics were driven by the moral values of her parents, Sister Martha Villines and Brother Ira Villines. They held each one of their patients in high esteem and loved them dearly. They too, gained business respect throughout the community and county. Their business and patient care was so disciplined, it was inevitable that they would be successful in their work. Conversely, Sister Murphy moved within their concept of loving patient care until her wonderful and well deserved day of retirement. We thank you again for your consistent advocacy of meaningful love to every patient and family that was under your supervision. This note is just for you, for your wonderful time in retirement. It has been a joy to see your work among the invalid that you served. At this milestone in your life sit back and enjoy the rest of your days. "It is as one writer states that every duty that lies in your path, that you would rather not do, that it will cost you pain and struggle or some effort to do, has a blessing in it, not to do it, at whatever cost, is to miss the blessing. Every hard piece of road on which you see the master's foot print and along which He bids you follow Him, surely leads to blessings, which you cannot get if you cannot go over the steep, thorny path. Every heavy load that you are called to lift hides in itself some strange secret of strength." J. R. Miller

> I cannot do it alone; The waves run fast and high, And the fogs close all around, But I know that we two shall win in the end, Jesus and I.

"I could not guide my boat of life's wild sea; There's one who sits by my side, " Who pulls and steers with me. And I know that we two shall safe enter port, Jesus and I."

In closing, it is a joy to be your Pastor, it is my prayer that God will Bless you with many more good years in your retirement.

Your Pastor, William Richardson





Jennifer Corbett



SICK & SHUT-IN

Sister Esther Jeffries Sister Mary McCauley Sister Katie Roberson Sister Nancy Villines Brother Henry Whitted Sister Geraldine Wilson Brother James Wilson Brother Donald Young, Jr.



JOSHUA JOHNSON

First Community is praying for our member, Joshua Johnson, who is serving in the US. Navy. We pray that God will keep him safe, keep him in good health and that he will return home soon.

KEEP YOUR HAND IN GOD'S HAND!

Love you Josh!

Who do YOU

say that I a

Holy Living in the Spirit

What does it mean to live holy lives in the Spirit? First, let us broaden our concept of the word "holy." Holiness is often equated with purity, but it also can be defined as "set apart." God wants us to be holy. He desires that we are literally set apart. In other words, do our words, our actions, and our attitudes differ from those who have not been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb? Sinners are going to act like sinners. It is confusing when the saints are more adept at behaving the way sinners do than they are at behaving the way children of God should.

Warning and promise

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." There are two ways to look at Galatians 6:7: as a warning and as a promise. If we live our lives based solely on our desires, with no regard for anyone else, this verse is a warning. However, if we seek God and walk in His Spirit, this verse is a promise. This is why Paul urges us not to get weary in doing good toward others. It is going to pay off!

If we believe that the Bible is true, then we can be assured that God keeps tabs on how we treat one another, God is not mocked. As we strive to be a blessing to others, we will be blessed.

> Bible Expositor and Illuminator Winter Quarter Lesson 13

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Martin Luther King, Jr.

1939 - 1968

First Community Celebrated the 88th Birthday of Dr. King on January 15, 2017. A litany was read titled, "Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Two very heart warning songs, "We Shall Overcome" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" were sung by the congregation. Facts of Dr. King's accomplishments from 1955 to 1968 were printed in our Sunday Bulletin. A poem titled, "King's Plea for Justice" by Addie C.B. Draughan, was also printed in the Sunday Bulletin.

Dr. King's Birthday was observed at the Orange County Correctional Center. The Kings of Harmony rendered the music.

Dr. King was the First Black American Honored By A National Holiday. We shall always be indebted to Dr. King for his work for the equality of all people.



"Speak up for those who cannot speak for **FROM THE** themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9

FOOT RALLY



First Community held its Annual Foot Rally on February 5, 2017. Members made donations according to what size shoes they wear. We had a good laugh and a little fun when the shoes sizes reached a large number. This rally is one of our fund raisers.



February 14, 2017

Valentine's Day Is for Christian Love

Valentine's Day is for honoring love;

To show those we love we care. Red hearts with tender sentiments We send, our love to share. So on Valentine's Day we're reminded Of our very first Christian goal: To love the Lord with all our heart And all our mind and soul.

To love our neighbor as ourselves We are also told to do. So let's live our love by the Bible; It's God's word, flawless and true.

If we give this Christian Valentine first, We'll never run out of love. For infinite love will come to us From God in heaven above.

By Joanna Fuchs



February has been designated as a time to recognize the achievements of Black Americans. The Theme is "A New Millennium" Standing up for a better tomorrow. Our speakers were **Ms. Devana Turner** and **Mr. Donald McIver**, **Jr**. On the second and third Sunday First Community youth recognized great leaders past and present.

February 5, 2017 COMMUNION

First Sunday of every month is an invitation to the Lord's table so that we may receive the love of God and consecrate our life afresh to Christian obedience and service, to discover and do the will of God in humble faith.

> February 12, 2017 Presentations by:



Amayah Johnson recognizing Rosa Parks Diondra Johnson recognizing Michael Jordan Cyani Jacobs recognizing Katherine Johnson

February 19, 2017 Presentations by:

Elijah Johnson recognizing LaBron James Graesyn Goodman recognizing Martin L. King, Jr.

Nakaylah Johnson recognizing Horace Johnson Kennedi Richardson recognizing Michelle Obama



SPEAKER Davana Turner Introduced by Deniya Turrentine

Davana is a member of First Community and is a second semester Junior in biomedical engineering student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She is the daughter of **Demetrice Turner** and **Delmar Breeze**. She stated that in order to get the results she wanted, she needed to let go and let God, trust that God will order her steps and trust in God's plan. **Davana's** favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through him who gives me strength. We at First Community pray that **Davana** will be successful and continue to be a productive citizen in our church and community.

Black History Month Continued;

Devana Turner's Family, Reverend Richardson And Friends



Donald McIver Jr. And Family



February 26, 2017 <u>SPEAKER</u> Donald McIver, Jr. Introduced by Ashlyn McIver

Donald is a member of First Community and has received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in History from Clark Atlanta University. He is currently pursuing his masters Degree at Drexel University in Educational Improvement and Transformation Program. He is also working at Rutgers University at Camden. **Donald**, the son of **Rita** and **Donald McIver**, **Sr**. **Donald** stated that you should say what you really think, speak the truth and speak from your heart. Everything should be for a purpose. Let God take over your life and let it flow because you are a child of God. I pray every day so that I will not fall by the wayside. We at First Community pray that **Donald** will continue to be successful and a productive citizen in our church and community.

Dream Big - Work Hard - Never Give Up Rise Every Time You Fall - Stay Humble Think Positively - Never Hate Just Ignore Be Proud of Who You Are - Believe in Yourself Be Grateful - Whatever You Do Always Give 100%

February 26, 2017 culminated our Black History Month Celebration. Members and Friends gathered in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and our Annual Soul Food Dinner. Thank you to all the participants of Black History month. You did a great job!

2017 YOUTH MINISTRY LOCK IN March 31, 2017 Theme: Breaking the Cycle Speaker: Mark Beasley



There were 16 First Community youth in attendance and their ages range from 4 years old to 15 years old. There were 6 adults acting as chaparones. Mark asked for five volunteers. He ended up with six. He commended the youth for being so eager to participate. He told them that they should always raise their hands and not be afraid to be out front. He stated that no one wants to be in the back of the bus, not even Rosa Parks. Mark suggested to them to continue to be out front and never isolate themselves. He told them this is a good cycle. Mark then went on to tell them about good cycles and bad cycles. Mark gave personal examples of bad cycles. He had a nephew that was murdered a few months back. Mark spoke about his nephew, who started making bad choices. His nephew chose bad cycles in life. He wanted to fit in with other people that were caught up in bad cycles. Mark also spoke about the fact that at the age of 40 he never drank, smoked or had been in jail. He stated that one of the reasons why he chose to keep his life in a good cycle is because he had grown up in a household where his father abused alcohol and it made it real bad for the family. He wanted to break that cycle.

After the speaker the youth were put into groups. First, the youth were asked about how they took a break from things and what types of things that they did when they took a break. Did they take naps, listen to music, read a book, go for a walk, or play with their pets? The youth were given a handout that asked 50 Ways to take a break. Then the youth learned the five finger prayer. How to pray for their family, friends, teachers, government leaders, sick, the poor and themselves. They were also given the opportunity to demonstrate what they had learned about five finger prayer. After the group sessions, they played games such as musical chairs, freeze dance, night at the museum and a host of other games. Thank you to all those who made this endeaver a success. Everyone had an enjoyable Lock In.

Submitted By: Sister Novella Baines





New Hope Church

The World Day of Prayer was held on March 4, 2017. The theme: Am I Being Unfair to You? Members that attended from First Community were: Sister Shirley Byrd, Sister Ronda Graham, Sister Ann Johnson, Sister Beulah Johnson, Diondra Johnson, Sister Cherba Torain, and Sister Marjorie Vanhooke,



FIFTH DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

West Durham Baptist Church March 9, 2017 "The Obama Years"

"Change will not come if we wait on some other person some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." **President Barack Obama**

Devotion and Music was done by the West Durham Baptist Church.

The Mt. Zoar Baptist Church had twenty-eight members present and they were presented the Trophy. First Community had seven members to attend, Deacon Lloyd Roberson, Sister Mary Villlines, Sister Shirley Byrd, Sister Marjorie Vanhooke, Sister Lacey Mtumwa, Brother Nkosi Mtumwa and Sister Connie George.

The Presentation Topic: "How has **President Obama** inspired and motivated me and what has his accomplishments meant to me?" Two youth from St John's participated in the presentation. There was an Obama Trivia Contest where questions were asked and West Durham and St. John youth competed. West Durham had fourteen correct answers and St. John; the winner had eighteen correct answers.

The Convention was concluded with announcements and remarks by **Deacon Lloyd Roberson**, 5th District President and remarks and benediction by the pastor of West Durham, **Reverend Dr. Lamont Johnson**, **Sr.**



January

Marjorie Vanhooke	4
Asia Latta	6
Wandra Richardson	12
Arissa Duff	13

Jeffrey Brooks 18 Devana Turner 20 Lester Whitted 24 Shirley Byrd 30

Tameka Bethea 31

February

Elizabeth Mayo Torenda Duff Jaquel Jackson Sebastian Brice 11Isaiah Johnson1817Kareem Bethea2017Barbara Jones2017Justine Riley26

March

Linda Snipes	4	Geraldine Fennell	15
Doniel Bullock	5	Aiden Wilkerson	26
Crystal Wade	7	Christina Harris	27
Cyani Jacobs	12	Annie Bell Jarrett	31

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January

Nkosi & Lacey Mtumwa	19	(15 years)		
Anthony & Shereen Johnson	22	(40 years)		
Leon & Dorothy Lea	27	(49 years)		
March				
Leonard & Elizabeth Mayo	15	(42 years)		
Johnny Sr., & Annie Bell Jarrett	31	(45 years)		

When A Parent Is About To Snap

It's the secret next door, or even in your own home. Someone has reached a breaking point, and now a child is in danger. In an exclusive visit to a national child-abuse hotline, we learned from trained counselors who take anonymous calls from desperate parents-and find ways to keep children safe.

"There's a stigma to not being able to handle parenting. Even when people have family members nearby, they don't want anybody to know they're feeling overwhelmed, or stressed, or have feelings of anger toward their kids."

Who's At Risk

Violence against children continues to be an epidemic, according to the most recent report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2012 nearly 680,000 kids were victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse, as well as neglect. Of nearly 1,600 children who died from abuse neglect, most were under the age of 3. Among infants, the incidents often involved vigorous shaking by a caregiver or parent whose child wouldn't stop crying. The U.S. government estimates that each year 1,200 infants are seriously injured as a result of shaken baby syndrome.

Unfortunately, there's no clear profile to predict who's at risk for harming a child. "Child abuse occurs across all communities and all socioeconomic groups," says Dr. Karen Kay Imagawa. The HHS report estimated mothers to be the abuser in 27 percent of cases and fathers in 17 percent of cases. In approximately 20 percent of cases both parents acted together. Parents who abuse their kids often have low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and the sense of not having control over one's circumstances.

How To Report Child Abuse And Neglect

If you witness abuse happening in the moment, or you're worried about a young child who's unsupervised and unsafe for a length of time, dial 911. If you suspect abuse is occurring, or if a child has confided in you about abuse at home, call Child Protective Services in your area. You can Google your nearest office or find it by dialing 800-4-A-CHILD (800-422-4453).

4 Ways To Stay Calm

As a parent, you will feel utterly spent at times and it is normal says Dr. Mary Pulido. She offers these suggestions to help parents keep from reaching a breaking point

Pick the person you'll call.
Don't feel guilty about "me time."
Change the scenery.
Create a support system.

Losing Our Religion

Humility has always been a key virtue that religions teach-but fewer children than ever are having their character shaped by faith. The Pew Research Center had found that more than a third of millennials don't identify with any organized religion, so millions of children aren't exposed to age-old ideals like Christianity's "love thy neighbor as thyself" or Judaism's tikkun olam, which means people are obligated to help improve our imperfect world.

However, the connection between religious beliefs and good values isn't necessarily clear-cut. While a study in 2010 from the University of Michigan showed that people who attend church were on the whole more humble than those who don't, a 2015 study from the University of Chicago found that nonreligious children were actually more altruistic than religious ones. Certainly, we have the power to shape our kids' values regardless of what, or whether, we believe.

Black and Blue

A BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SPEAKS CANDIDLY ABOUT TEACHING HIS BOYS HOW TO RESPOND TO THE POLICE

One day, my older son changed his clothes right before going to school. When I asked him why, he said he didn't want anyone to think he was a bad kid, which meant shedding his usual hoodie. I then realized he thought wearing the wrong type of garment would give someone the right to judge him. That led to a heartfelt talk about stereotypes, and ultimately, I let him know he could wear a hoodie or dress in whatever fashion being a young Black man meant to him. I also made sure one thing was very clear; It was NOT his duty to go out into the world each day making sure he didn't "fit the description."

I've been in law enforcement for 21 years, including eight years as a patrolman and another four as a detective in a large urban city. Although I'm proud of my career, I also know there's racism and cultural insensitivity in my field that have led to the deaths of young Black males. My boys, ages 10 and 8, are at the point where I've had to start the conversations about how they conduct themselves when they're out on their own. I imagine my advice is like that of many other Africa-American parents: If you get stopped by police, have a respectful tone, show your hands, say "yes, sir" and "no, sir." Give them your name and date of birth, and answer all questions.

Are there cops who are biased against Black males? Of course. I prep my sons because I can't ignore the obvious: They may not receive the same treatment from law enforcement as their friends in our nearly all White neighborhood. That concerns me, as it does so many African-American officers. But what can we do?

Creating a real shift in the way Blacks experience the police will require moving beyond cultural sensitivity training and teaching patrollers to respect the communities they safeguard. At work, we take classes on how to handle being pulled over as officers and making sure we prevent "blue on blue" shootings. But how does that translate beyond our peers? Are we doing enough to ensure every officer protects and serves all citizens, not just those deemed worthy or those who are colleagues?

For the sake of my sons-and all our youth-we need to make that our mission. Unfortunately, that's easier said than done.

By Michael Smith As Told to Aliya S. King (Ebony)

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION. SEE BROTHER KEITH COOK TO GET REGISTERED.

By Kate Ledger (Parents 76)

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Our website: firstcommunitymbc.org



Please call the church office, when...

- A member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- You have death in the family so that you can receive helpful advice and assistance from the pastor and the church family.
- Your group plans to have a meeting or program so that it can be placed in the church bulletin.
- Your home phone number is changed or you have a new address, so that the church records can be corrected.

Please feel free to call the church. We are here to serve. May God Bless You.

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The First Community Spotlight is edited by Connie George Co-Editor Linda Snipes All Contributions are welcome!

CROSSWORD

