

# The Amen Chronicle



## The Newsletter of New Sardis

October 2017

[www.newsardischurch.com](http://www.newsardischurch.com)

### MAN OF THE YEAR



Left to Right:

Deacon David Muskin, Bro. Curtis Montgomery and Rev. Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr.

**“Life Focused, Bible Based, And Christ Centered With A Mission And Message”**

# FROM PASTOR'S PEN



**Dearly Beloved,**

**As we go through a tender period of pastoral transition, I invite you to join me in the following prayer:**

**Our Heavenly Father, Maker of heaven and earth; you who have formed our inner-most being, and called us to ministry: we give you thanks, honor and praise for all of the blessings that you have strewn in the lives of the New Sardis Ministry. We thank you for staying close by our side and directing our path! Thank you for calling us into deeper waters, keeping us together in your Spirit of unity, calling us out of ourselves to serve others.**

**Grant us the transition that will be acceptable in thy sight. Bind us together in Christian love. Let our transitional behavior always be decent and in accordance to your will.**

**Grant us the knowledge and wisdom to know the mission of the church is bigger than any single pastor, local congregation, or district association. Strengthen us, God, to remain your church in all times and seasons; a place where all of humanity feels welcome, and the Word is preached and shared.**

**Help us to be the church you want us to be. Help us to tell the redemptive story of your love, mercy, and grace.**

**We offer this prayer in thanksgiving for the past 25 years, and we beg of you to lead us on.**

**It is in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit that we pray. Amen.**

**This prayer has been a source of comfort and reassurance, that we will please God and stabilize New Sardis for the next 100 years.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**L. LaSimba Gray**

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We welcome comments, letters to the editor and articles for consideration.

**Mission Statement**

God the Father, Jesus the Son and we, the members of New Sardis M.B. Church, reaffirm our faith in the Holy Spirit. Within the Church Universal, we subscribe to the priesthood of all believers and to the autonomy of the local congregation of baptized believers in matters of church organization and governance.

We acknowledge that we have a mission to preach, to teach, and to bear witness to the faith to all people throughout the world and to urge all to be reconciled to God through Christ. We accept the testimony of the Apostle Paul who wrote, "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

We shall strive to be Christ Centered, Bible Based and Life Focused to the glory and the edification of humanity.

**PREAMBLE**

We the members of New Sardis M.B. Church, Memphis, Tennessee, reaffirm our faith in the fatherhood empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Within the church universal, we subscribe to the priesthood of all believers and to the autonomy of the local congregation of baptized believers in matters of church organization and governance. Thus we commit ourselves to the Christian way as that is understood and practiced by Baptists.

We acknowledge that the church has a mission to preach, to teach, and to bear witness to the faith to all people throughout the world and to urge all to be reconciled to God through Christ. We accept the testimony of the Apostle which he wrote to the Corinthians (11,5:17-20), "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us."

## BRIA BROWN - A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR GRAY



Being asked to write and perform an original poem in tribute to Pastor Gray was a grand and terrific honor. Although nervous, I started thinking of the many memories I have of and with Pastor. I grew up attending New Sardis Baptist Church, and has since been my home church. As you can imagine, I possess thousands of fond and loving memories. I thought about how Pastor was there for my first time voting, as well as his prayers and gifts to me as I left for college. And again, when I graduated from college. Pastor Gray has always offered an open door and open heart for myself, my family, and my community. I cannot express the honor felt while sharing a poem of my childhood baptism. I am elated to have been part of such a great event honoring such a great man.

My poem is entitled “Wading”.

he wore a white robe.

Like mine. Except mine was little.

I was little. I was 12.

standing in a pool of water

calm all around.

warm wet with each step

into a large pool and then a hand

grabs my arm. steadies me.

i look up to a big man smiling. He says

‘you ready?’

with butterflies swarming

he says, real loud,

“and Jesus went down to Jordan ... where the people were”

the next step, warmer than the last

water at my hips

Christ’s spirit closing in

my heart beating

i wonder if he can hear it;

he speaks low tome

“grab your nose

on the count of three

I’m gonna dip you”

I turn to face a congregation of believers

“we gather here to baptize Bria ... once for the father..”

i grab my nose

“and for the son”

I suck in as much air as possible

“and for the Holy Spirit”

I close my eyes and trusted a leader

to lead me to my savior

and he did.

and he walked with me

taught me

prayed for me

never letting me go astray

I thank God for rising with all power

I thank God for trusting

some of that power with Pastor LaSimba Gray.

-Bria Brown

## 25 YEARS WITH PASTOR GRAY AS OUR SHEPHERD

For the past 25 years, Dr. LaSimba Gray has been the shepherd of this flock. We asked some of the members what it has been like for the last 25 years.



**Rev. Deborah Finley**

Everything has been moving forward in a new direction. After he had been here about two years, I told him I had been called to preach. He told me he had been waiting on me. It's been a good experience. I was the first woman to be ordained by Pastor Gray at New Sardis. I have learned a lot from him. I continue to hold him in high esteem and keep him lifted up in prayer that he will allow God to continue to lead him and that he will have a long, healthy prosperous life.

**Sister Geraldine Burton**

When Pastor Gray came, he was so inspiring. Sister Dorothy Sinclair and I asked him about a tutorial program and he allowed us to develop one. From it we had failing students starting to make the honor roll. It went so well because we had great teachers working with us. It was then that we decided to take the seniors out. The Grad's Night Out came out of the tutorial program. We began recognizing the grads in college who had been in the tutorial program.

I thank Pastor Gray for being so encouraging and inspiring. He would always say, "Go at it," and that's what we did. I have learned more in the 25 years that he's been here than I learned in 70 years. Thank God for Pastor Gray.



**Sister Karen Clark**

I've only been here about five years, but I've grown to love him as my pastor and my friend. He is inspirational and he always uplifts you. Anything that you ask of him, if it is within his means he will try to do for you. He is a blessed and sanctified pastor.



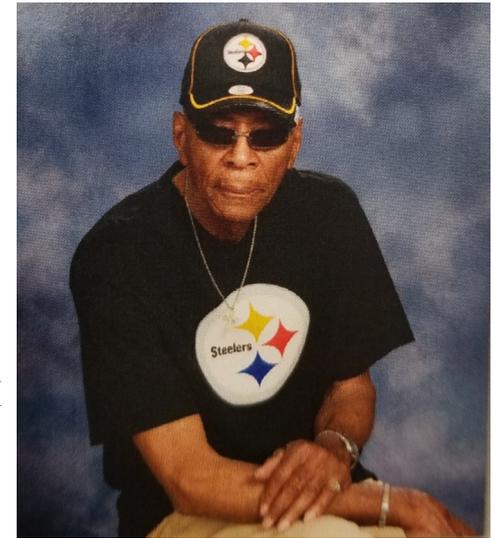
# 25 YEARS WITH PASTOR GRAY AS OUR SHEPHERD



## 25 YEARS WITH PASTOR GRAY AS OUR SHEPHERD

### Brother Frank Campbell

Great. I think he has done a wonderful job. You cannot describe the things he has done. They are all good. Anything I have to say about him would have to be great. I've known him since his sickle days. A great man. He came to me one day while we were working in the garden and talked to me about me becoming President of the Usher Board. He hung on with me all the way during my usher board tenure. Turned it around, and through his prayers and support, we had the biggest Usher's Day Program at New Sardis. He has not only been my pastor, he is my friend. And I mean that from my heart.



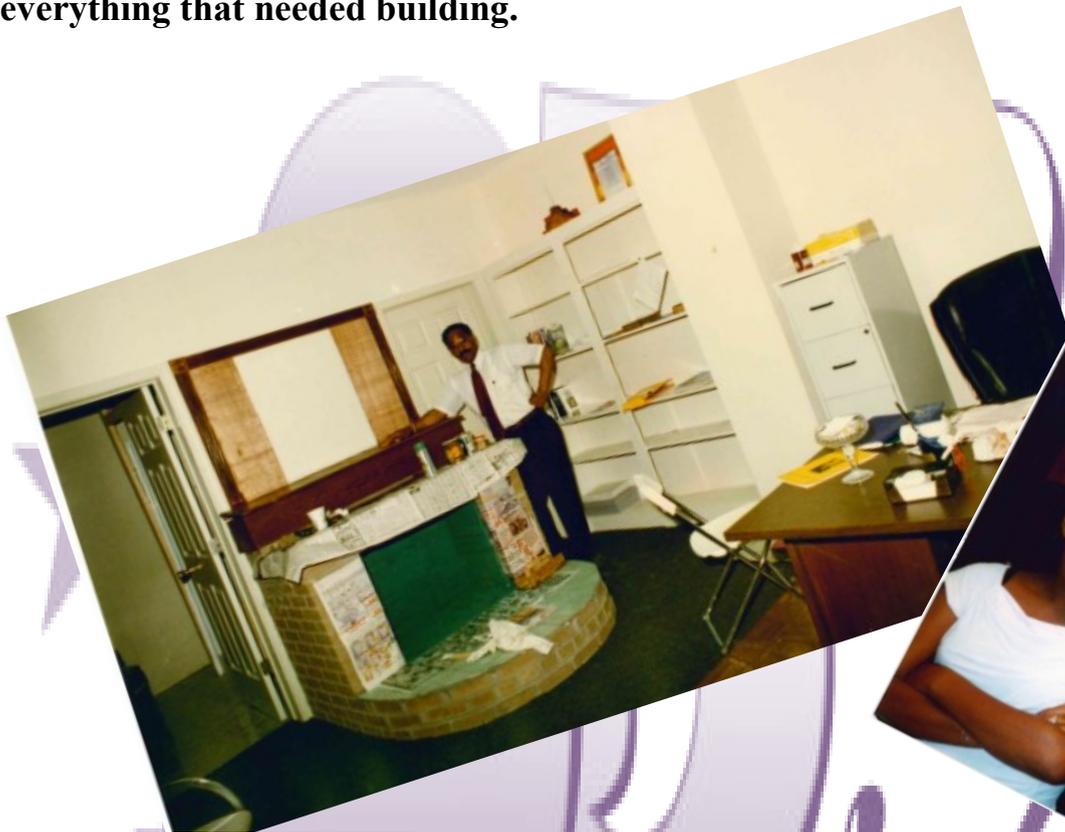
### Brother Michael Gray

Pastor Gray has provided bold innovative leadership and clear direction. He is a very strong black man. He has been that beacon that we have needed to take us to the level that we are now, and, as we move forward, his leadership is still here through the people that he has trained and taught.

## 25 YEARS WITH PASTOR GRAY AS OUR SHEPHERD

### Sister Stevie Nolan

I just want him to keep on living and keep on preaching. We have had no problems since he's been here. He has been no trouble. He helped build a lot of things up things here; built up the church, built up the Golden Circle, built up New Sardis, the motorcycles, the membership, the finances, the money. He built up everything that needed building.



### A note from Sister Maggie Barnett

The Lord sent you to us and you have blessed us in so many ways. To name a few: Increased our membership. Built a new sanctuary. Added many new ministries. For all of these things we are forever grateful. I have always prayed for you and the church. I will continue praying because I know God will hear and answer my prayer.

Be blessed.

Sister Maggie Barnett

## A TIME SUCH AS THIS



*By John Glaze*

In the Bible a king, unable to sleep, ordered a servant to read to him from a record of past events in the kingdom. His attention was captured by the story of a Jew by the name Mordecai who helped to prevent an assassination attempt on the life of the king. Realizing that nothing had been done for this hero, the king consulted a member of his staff as to what could and should be done.

In the year leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the most significant strike in the history of Memphis, Mayor Jim Strickland consulted with members of his staff as to what they should do. The plight of sanitation workers would be a sure source of interest for the national media. It was for them that Dr. Martin Luther King had come to Memphis and sacrificed his life.

Ken Moody, Special Assistant to the Mayor, and Alex Smith, Human Relations Director, were instructed to contact community leaders for ideas. “The first two I thought of”, said Ken, a deacon at New Sardis, “were my pastor and Rev. Dwight Montgomery”. Moody knew that Pastor Gray is an advocate and the former director of Operation Push Memphis. Rev. Montgomery is the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the organization that Dr. King founded.

During the brainstorming session that ensued, ideas flowed fast and furious. The eureka moment was a question from Dr. Gray. “What specifically,” he asked, “are we doing for the surviving workers from the strike of 1968?”

It was a question that begged to be asked. Treated like garbage in 1968, these men have become folk heroes in much of the free world today.

Treated like garbage by an administration that did not allow them to participate in the city’s pension fund in 1968, these men have become folk heroes in much of the free world today. Based on that feculent decision, the only retirement benefit available to these men to this day is their social security.

“A good gesture,” Dr. Gray suggested, “would be for the mayor to consider the city putting together some kind of financial package for these survivors, many of whom are still working today, some because they want to, some because they have to.”

“The Human Relations Chief and I thought his was a wonderful idea and took it right to the Mayor Strickland,” said Ken. “A meeting with the mayor and senior leadership ended with a charge from the Mayor. ‘I want it done. Let’s figure it out.’”

It took several months, but they did. Each of the surviving families will receive a tax free \$70,000 grant. “We know that it is not enough and that we could never repay them,” said Moody. “But, as the mayor would say, ‘there is never a wrong time to do the right thing.’” Asked how he feels about being a part of this, Moody said, “Great! My role was small but I don’t know if I will do anything more satisfying in my career.”

Small, but very important. Deacon Ken Moody, Special Assistant to the Mayor, may be a Mordecai or perhaps even an Esther of sorts in another wonderful act of grace. To re-phrase the Scripture that is Esther 4:14, “Who knows, maybe he was made Special Assistant to the Mayor for just such a time as this.”

# MEN'S MONTH 2017

*By Deacon David Muskin*

The annual New Men's Month theme for the year was "Men walking with God" from the scripture Micah 6:8. Our goal was to get the men more involved with the church, their families and communities. Whatever men do, they should do it knowing that God is watching.

The month's activities started with a game and movie night. Men came out to enjoy a night of fellowship, food, good clean fun and to watch a movie. The competition got very lively and entertaining during board games of spades and bid whist. There is nothing like a good game of bid whist to get everyone laughing and getting to know each other better. The movie of the night was "Get Out". Although this was an event for men, the entire church was invited to see the movie because it contained an important message.

The next event was the annual Charlie Wilson Memorial Golf Scramble. This was the fourteenth year that we have held the event in honor of New Sardis member, Charlie Wilson. Mr. Wilson was instrumental in making sure that black golfers in the city of Memphis had a decent place to play. If it had not been for discrimination during "Mr. Charlie's" prime, he would have been the first Tiger Woods. The day had perfect weather and a good time was had by all.

We had two dynamic preachers who brought the Word for our annual Men's Day. Rev. Ike Ambrose Hentrel and Rev. Russell Bailey. Their messages blended perfectly with our theme and had a positive impact on all who heard them. The highlight of each Men's Day is bestowing one of the highest honors at New Sardis and that is naming the Man of the Year. This year's honor went to a well deserving individual, Brother Curtis Montgomery. Brother Montgomery has served in many capacities during his twenty-plus years as a member of New Sardis Baptist Church. He has been a part of the shepherd ministry, men's choir, mass choir, security ministry, trustee board, drama ministry and maintenance supervisor to name a few. Although Brother Montgomery doesn't do what he does for recognition, he is very deserving of this honor.

Our final activity was a trip to the Mississippi Delta to visit historical black locations and to visit the Til Trail of Terror. Additional details and pictures will be found in another story.

Thanks to the guidance and leadership of our pastor, Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr., this Men's Month was another success and another example of New Sardis Men doing what is right and trying to make a difference. Next year's Men's Month is just around the corner and we will start planning soon for another great time. To God be the Glory.



## FUTURISTIC REFLECTIONS OF A YOUTH

*By LeDarius Dunlap*



**My name is LeDarius Dunlap and I am 17 years old. I was born October 15, 1999, in Memphis, TN. I have been living with my grandmother since I was two years old but my mother has been in my life also.**

**I grew up living with my grandmother along with two of my sisters and my brother. I got the feel for playing sports at the age of six when I started playing pee wee football under the coaching of Anthony Bridgeforth, who was my first male inspiration. Coach Bridgeforth used to always tell me, “I can teach you how to be a man but I can’t be a man for you.” I played under the coaching of Coach Bridgeforth until the age of eleven. I had a few more years to play pee wee football but I decided to move up and play middle school football where I attended John P. Freeman Optional School. During my sixth grade year I also decided to play basketball and run track, which was my first time doing both.**

**I attended John P. Freeman from the first grade up until the seventh grade. My eighth grade year, I attended Lanier Middle School to be under the coaching of Coach Bridgeforth again. I led the Lanier Lions to the City Championship where we ended our season eleven and one. I ended my season with 27 rushing touchdowns and was honored as Most Valuable Player. I then played basketball under the coaching of Coach Johnson who was my second male inspiration. Coach Johnson used to always tell me, “You’re the most athletic player on the team. No player in our division can run or jump with you.” At the end of the season, I was named Most Athletic Player.**

**Next was track season which was my favorite. I ran the 100 meter dash, four by one, and four by four. Our boys track team started and finished with eight members. Havenview Middle School was our only competition but we still had enough to come out on top. When it came to the 100 meter dash, I was the king. I came in first place EVERY track meet. If our team was down in any relay, I was the guy to depend on. A lot of coaches used to tell me, “You’re not just an average runner. You run with a passion.” I ended up winning the state championship in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.19 seconds.**

**I lost my great grandma at the age of 11 on New Year’s Day in 2011, so everything I do, I do it to make her smile from up above. My life changed when she passed away and the effect on me was major. I thought about crashing out at times, but I can’t disappoint her or my Granny. Out of my whole life, all I ever wanted to do was make my Granny proud. I don’t feel like I’ve made her proud enough out of the 17 years.**

**My ninth grade year, I met a man by the name of Mr. J.R. Futrell who has been the biggest influence on my life. He is an ex-crip gang member who was facing 53 years in the federal prison, but only served eight months. He is the person who has understood me and my lifestyle the most. Before I met him, I was on the road of going down the wrong path. We formed a bond, then started a program called Young Man University. Being in the program made me think of life differently and made me a better individual. I became a young entrepreneur and photographer. We recently opened a restaurant across from the airport called the Pre Flight Café.**

**My plans after high school are to hopefully play college football or run track. I plan on attending either Tennessee State University, The University of Tennessee Knoxville, or Mississippi State University. I also plan on majoring in photography or photo journalism. I also want to be a personal trainer. If I don’t make it to the NFL, I want to be in the Olympics.**

## USHER OF THE YEAR

*By John Glaze*



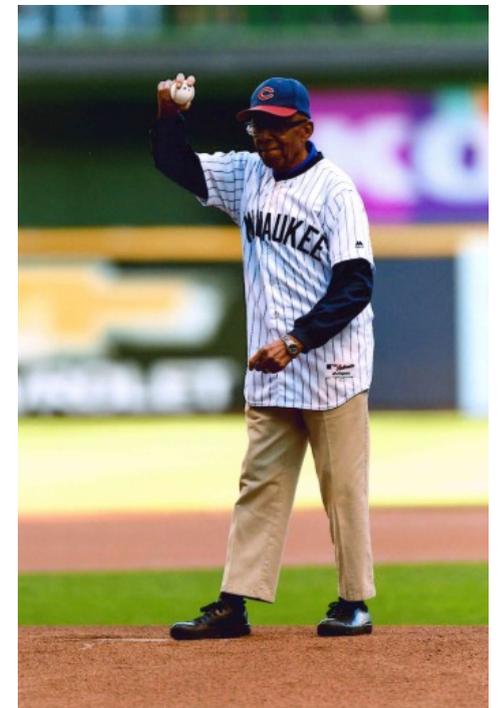
To be a church usher is a heavenly privilege. To be an effective church usher requires a heavenly spirit. All one needs is a desire to serve the Body of Christ, a warm and welcoming attitude, and, most of all, a desire to serve that is greater than your desire to be served. In other words, to Let the same spirit be in you that was in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself and became .. an usher.

The ushers of New Sardis were celebrated on the third Sunday of September. Sister Paula Crockett, the chairperson of the usher board, announced Sister Amelia Mattix as the Usher of the Year. “Sister Mattix is an humble servant with great standing in the New Sardis church family,” says Pastor Gray. “I am extremely proud of her and pray God’s richest blessing for her. I am thankful for her dedication and commitment.”

## BASEBALL PIONEER REGGIE HOWARD HONORED

*By John Glaze*

Reggie Howard is, in the truest sense, one of the last of the Mohicans that made up the Negro Baseball League. Called by some the greatest assembly of players ever, they played professional baseball in a league in which only the ball was only the ball was white. Major League Baseball did not accept black baseball players in those days. An historic treasure for the knowledge and inside information that he possesses, Reggie played second base for the Indianapolis Clowns in the late 1950’s. In a tribute to the Negro Baseball League, Reggie and Don Porter, who played for the Indianapolis Clowns and the Black Yankees, were recently inducted into the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Wall of Fame.



## ANOTHER HIDDEN FIGURE

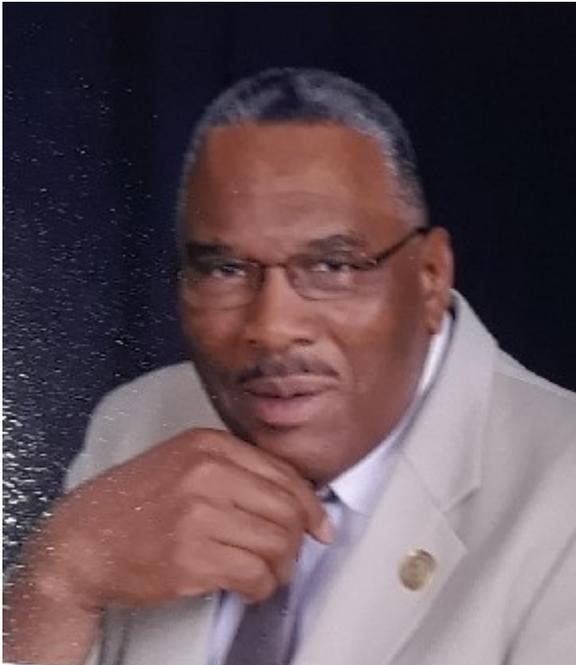
*By John Glaze*

With his height and his heft, it's hard to think of Deacon Henry Ezell as a hidden figure.

He would appear to have more in common with Deacon David Jones, a member of the NFL's Hall of Fame, than the deacons of New Sardis Baptist church, or the human computers who are called by Margot Lee Shetterly in her myth-shattering book, "Hidden Figures".

Truth being stranger than fiction, however, he has much in common with both of the latter two. He is one of the deacons at New Sardis, and, he is one of the hidden figures that racist America tries to convince the rest of America do not exist.

Deacon Ezell began his career with the United States Government in 1971 in the COBOL programming Database Unit at the Navy Annex in Arlington, Virginia.



In 1972, he moved on to a new opportunity at the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Maryland as a Computer Specialist in the Office of Research and Statistics Division. He was responsible for Micro Data Sets for multiple input fixes in both Mainframe and Desktop PC's. He was also experienced in Mainframe and PC Languages.

As he advanced at the Social Security Administration, Deacon Ezell moved to their Washington D.C. office where he worked in the Economics and Long Range Studies in the Office of Research and Statistics.

One of his notable achievements was implementing the Social Security Administration's Spouse and Children's Beneficiaries program that impacted beneficence with income less than 50% of the property line.

Throughout his career, Deacon Ezell was a constant student of his craft. He received the AMS COBOLT Training, IBM 708 Data Processing Concepts and operations, SAS Programing Data, Fortran training, and, he was honored with numerous awards in database concepts and COBOLT program techniques. His training and education include Okolona College, Okolona, MS; AA, Mathematics and Chemistry; University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Computer Programming and COBOLT Training.

In 2006, after 42 years of government service, Deacon Ezell retired from the Department of Human Services after a long and success career.

We thank God for the distinguished service of Deacon Ezell, a gentle giant who walks softly among us, modest about his accomplishments, humble before his God. But, according to God's Word: "... nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither anything hid, that shall not be known and come abroad". Luke 8:17.

# SCENES OF SARDIS



## GOLDEN CIRCLE MEMBERS PARTICIPATES IN AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION



Golden Circle member, M. Joyce Spight, announces scholarship Recipients at OMIK Convention banquet

*By M. Joyce Spight*

Golden Circle Member, M. Joyce Spight, who is the 2017-2019 custodian of the OMIK scholarship Fund, took part in the 65<sup>th</sup> annual July convention of the OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc. in Memphis. The three-day convention's major activities were geared toward promoting fellowship while advancing the art of amateur radio.

Publisher James K. Grubbs welcomed the radio operators to the Bluff City. Other program participants included: New Sardis Pastor, Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, State Representatives G.A. Hardaway and Johnnie Turner, along with Clinical Psychologist Dr. Yvonne H. Osborne. The annual convention is held in a different city and state each year.

Convention participants took part in workshops, seminars, a city tour, and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) testing where those interested could obtain a license or upgrade their license as an amateur radio operation. Mrs. Spight has been a licensed amateur radio operator for many years. Her FCC call is n9xym. The OMIK Scholarship Fund is the companion organization to the OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

One of the fundamental purposes of the OMIK Amateur Radio Association is to provide scholarships and financial assistance to youth. Through its companion organization, OMIK Scholarship Fund, \$6,000 in scholarships was awarded at the 2017 annual banquet.

In keeping with providing public service and goodwill, OMIK donates a monetary award to a social program in the convention city. The Memphis social program, A.M.E.N. for Women Ministries, was the recipient of the \$500 award. A local 2017 high school graduate, who will be attending the University of Memphis, is the recipient of one of OMIK scholarships.

OMIK is the largest predominately Black amateur radio association in the country. It was founded on August 17, 1952 as the OMIK Electronic Communications Association by Black amateur operators from the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky. The major goal was to deal with discrimination in the dominate culture and to assist Black travelers with information on places where they could eat and lodge.

Because membership in many other amateur radio organizations was denied, a Black amateur organization, with its own nets and other activities, was clearly needed. The first meeting of the group of eleven operators that would become OMIK was held at the home of Henry Garcia, a Wilberforce College instructor, near Dayton, Ohio. Presently, the membership exceeds 500.

After much debate, the first letter of each participating state was used to form a name sounding much like the electrical unit of resistance – ohm. OMIK (pronounced “O-Mike”) Electronic Communications Association was born. It was later incorporated in the state of Michigan. This name was sustained until it was proposed and changed to OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc. in 2001.

All licensed operators and others of good character are welcome to become members. OMIK is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League. Today, although still a predominantly African American organization, OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc. and the OMIK Scholarship Fund are multi-racial, multi-cultural organizations with members across the United States as well as DX (Distance Exchange) entities.

## THE POETS IN AUTUMN EXPERIENCE

*By Camille Walker*

On September 15, 2017, the youth and young adults of New Sardis Baptist Church went to World Overcomers Outreach Ministries to experience Poets in Autumn (PIA). For most this would be their first time at an event like this. PIA is the largest Spoken Word tour in the world. It features Ezekiel, Preston Perry, Jackie Hill Perry, and Chris Webb. Spoken Word, centered on Christ, is not something you see or hear very often, but more young people are beginning to share their faith in unconventional ways that are truly refreshing and inspiring.

There were nine poems performed that night ranging from a variety of topics that included father and daughter relationships, marriage, the New Woke Christian, and five reasons why Christians need to laugh more. These poems were executed with zeal complete with visual and audio effects as well as costume and stage changes. It was obvious these artists are experts in their craft. All of the poems were unique and they intrigued our hearts and minds in different ways.

After discussion with the attendees from the church, “Thought Life” by Chris Webb seemed to be the crowd favorite. During that poem, the poet was speaking to the audience while his thoughts were speaking to him on screen. I believe that particular poem speaks to so many because as human beings, we are in a constant battle to keep our thoughts under control. The poet’s thoughts were ruthless, even accusing the poet of being a hypocrite by “speaking holy English but thinking curse words”. The poet combatted his thoughts by saying, “The God who is making all things new does so with minds too”.

Lastly, Grammy nominated recording artist, Jonathan Reynolds, performed at the end of the event. He even sung a song from his upcoming album that is set to be released next year. Having him lead worship was a great experience. The New Sardis Youth and Young Adult Ministry had a great time at the event. Many who attended PIA this year are already looking to coming again next year.



Through this experience, I was reminded that God desires to use us in unique ways, and whatever our gifts are we should keep God in the center of them all.



## TIL TRAIL OF TERROR

*By David Muskin*

New Sardis Men's Month 2017 ended with a trip to the Mississippi Delta to experience the black history of that region and to learn more about the Emmett Till murder and trial. Nine men from the church; Brothers Larry Price, Clarence Jones, James Higgins, Nathaniel Hill, Raymond Owens, Lee Owens, Elmickyo Duncan, myself and our driver, Brother Otis Burnett left the church campus at 8 am on July 29<sup>th</sup>, and arrived back at 5:30 pm.

Our first stop was in Tutwiler, MS where we got to see the funeral home where Emmett Till's body was taken once it was pulled from the Tallahatchie River near Glendora. There is also a mural at the train depot showing pictures of Sonny Boy Williamson and other great blues men. Our trek continued on to the town of Sumner where the trial of the murderers of Emmett Till; J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant, was held. The courthouse is still in use and we were able to see where the black reporters, lawyers and citizens were allowed to sit in a segregated area during the trial. Directly across the street from the court house is the Emmet Till Interpretive Center which houses pictures, artifacts and news stories from the trial. One of the pictures is of Emmet Till's uncle, Moses Wright, pointing out Milam and Bryant as the men who abducted his nephew. That was the first time in history that a black person in the south openly accused a white person in court.

After our tour of the courthouse and the Interpretative Center, we went to Glendora where the Emmet Till Museum is located. It is located in the same gin where the giant fan that was tied around Till's neck came from. There was a video presentation that had interviews of people who were alive at that time, even some of the black people who were accused of being involved with the killings. We got to hear stories from their own mouths. From the video and touring the museum, we learned that Emmett was kidnapped from his uncle's home in Money and driven 27 miles away to drew, where he was taken to a gin that was owned by Milan's cousin. There Emmett was beaten, shot and mutilated. His body was then driven 26 miles to Glendora where the fan was tied around his neck and he was thrown off a Black Bayou bridge into the river. We actually had a chance to walk on the bridge and to see where he was thrown into the water. Our next leg on what has become known as the Emmett Till Trail of Terror was Money, MS, the site of Bryant's Grocery Store, where Emmett was accused of whistling at a white woman which started the chain of events that led to his murder. The remnants of the store still exists, but it is falling apart and covered with vines.

We left Glendora heading to Ruleville, MS, my hometown and the home of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hammer. She is considered as important to the Civil Rights Movement as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We toured Ms. Hamer's Memorial Park and burial site. The main street in Ruleville has been named Barak Obama Avenue. After a stop in Cleveland for some of the best soul food this side of heaven, we continued on to our final stop in Mound Bayou. The first all black city in the Unites States, it was founded by Isaiah Montgomery and his cousin, Benjamin Green. The Taborian Hospital opened in Mound Bayou in 1942, and was the first where the staff was all black. It was a place where blacks in the region could get quality care and be treated with dignity. We finished our tour by visiting the mansion of Isaiah Montgomery. During our return trip to New Sardis, the one thing we were all in agreement was that more money needs to be invested in maintaining these historical sites.

The state has only provided makers but the townspeople are trying to keep the history alive using their own meager means. The caretaker at the Interpretive Center said there is an immediate need of two million dollars to stave off the decay of many of the buildings. The trip was very educational and emotional at times, especially when we viewed the museum, video and stood on the Black Bayou Bridge. The men shared many laughs about life and upbringing. We will be planning more fellowship trips in the future for the men and the entire church congregation. To God be the Glory.

## GOLDEN CIRCLE MEMBERS WITNESS THE UNVEILING AND REVEALING OF A SECRET

*By. M. Joyce Spight*

After taking a one month vacation from study, regular meetings, and the extreme heat, thirty Golden Circle members and their bible study leader, Rev. Norma Meadows, returned to the Neshoba Resource Center full of energy and ready to begin another quarter of fun and inspirational time together. At least three members knew that this would one of those “Special” days”. They knew the secret.

They knew the reason behind the cloth draped over one of the Golden Circle’s designated parking spaces; however, the Golden Circle president, Ms. Maggie Barnett, did not know.

It has been noted that it is difficult to keep a secret from her. She has a way of saying, “Now darling, you can tell me. What’s going on here? What’s this for?” No one told her that there would be an unveiling and revealing of something special on the first day back.

As Rev. Meadows finished her lesson, Pastor Gray entered the meeting room. Ms. Maggie explained that the thought from her at the time was, “He is just checking on us”. So, she stated, “Glad to see you, Pastor. Come on in and say a few words”. He did. He stated that he wanted all thirty of us to come outside. Reluctantly, we did. It was very hot outside.

Golden Circle Members, looking perplexed, quietly assembled in a semicircle near the covered parking sign. As Pastor Gray made a short presentation speech on behalf of Golden Circle members for a special lady who began her journey at New Sardis in a horse-drawn wagon, moved to a red pick-up truck, and later to cars, now has her own space to park her car; it was obvious that he was speaking of Ms. Maggie. When the covering was removed, she was overwhelmed! My own parking space!” She exclaimed!

After composing herself, Ms. Maggie said, “I love all of you. I have always felt that it is better to give than receive, but I am so grateful for this. I don’t have to walk down that hill on Sunday morning anymore with an aching knee”.

Ms. Maggie is the only lady in the Golden Circle ministry over ninety years young and still drives to where she needs to be. She stated, “To God be the glory. This is truly a blessing.”



# NEW SARDIS HEALTH FAIR

*By Linda Peete*

**“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” I Peter 4:10**

**On Saturday, August 12, more than 20 agencies, businesses, and health professionals shared their gifts of knowledge and skills with 86 members of the New Sardis community. Once again, the New Sardis Health and Wellness Ministry successfully orchestrated a forum where visitors were provided a wide range of information on health, beauty, nutrition, and more, while also getting a change to interact with community servants from Shelby County Police and Fire Departments.**

**Lifblood of Memphis, a steadfast participant in this annual event, secured a total donation of nine units of blood. As Lifblood representatives often report, there is always high need and low donations, especially during the summer. Thus, donors at the Health Fair helped to fill a great need. Yet, even more could have been provided if 63% of those who attempted to donate had not been unable to do so due to Lifblood guidelines. This just means that potential donors must continue to come out in large numbers to support Lifblood, which requires 300 donations daily to effectively provide the needs of area hospitals.**

**In addition to Lifblood donations, a central service of the Health Fair is the many health screenings provided. As they do each year, members of the Health and Wellness ministry provided glucose and cholesterol screenings. They were joined by CVS Pharmacy and Christine Malone of Caring Nurses who both provided blood pressure screenings and literature.**

**Other participants shared their knowledge on myriad health and safety topics: Dr. Gena Granger of the Chiro Place; Kris Sharif of Firestone Dental Clinic; Cedric Walker of Well Care; and William Perry of Hello World, a home monitoring service. Vanessa Griffin, RNBSN, provided information and a popular interactive exercise on breast cancer awareness. Zoe Simpson of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) shared literature on this organization’s mission and services.**

**But health and safety were not the only topics addressed. The importance of physical fitness was highlighted through free yoga and Zumba classes led by Answorth Robinson. Beauty was the focus of Lavern Miller, Mary Kay consultant; Stephanie Yates, Avon representative; and Valeria Bryant who shared the jewelry of Touch of Beauty. Linda Peete shared nutrition information, along with tiny treats by All About Cheesecake. Anthony Coran relieved the stress of many through his well-attended massage therapy sessions. Clearly, the New Sardis Health Fair provides a service to both the church and the larger community by bringing together so many agencies and individuals focused on improving health, wellness and quality of life.**

**The New Sardis Health Ministry extends heartfelt thanks to Walgreens Pharmacy for their information packets and free book bags, and to the Memphis Health Department which always provide a wealth of literature and useful giveaways promoting health and wellness. The ministry also thanks Aldo’s Pizza Pies and Olive Garden Restaurant for the lunches provided for event organizers.**

# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS FRIENDS

## NS New Sardis Baptist Church

Organized  
1874

Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr.  
Senior Pastor

7739 E. Holmes Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38125  
(901) 754-3979 Phone  
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Greetings Breast Cancer Awareness Friends:

New Sardis Baptist Church will host its Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fashion Extravaganza on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Our purpose in presenting the fashion extravaganza is three-fold:

- ▲ To promote breast cancer awareness
- ▲ To raise funds for breast cancer research
- ▲ To celebrate cancer survivors and pay tribute to those who've succumbed to breast cancer

We also honor the memory of one of our former church members, Mrs. Dianne Walls, founder of this event, who succumbed to the disease in 2003.

We are seeking your assistance in making this year's fashion show another success. We are in need of contributions through donations of monetary support, door prizes and /or food items for the complimentary reception that is held prior to the show. All sponsors will be recognized in the fashion show's program. We are happy to boast that over our 16 year history, the fashion extravaganza is a recognized sponsor of Susan G. Komen Foundation donating tens of thousands of dollars. We were fortunate enough to present \$10,000 to SGK in both 2015 and 2016 (our most successful years)!

Our efforts cannot be a success without your support and we would like to emphasize that **ALL** proceeds minus event expenses are donated to the Komen Foundation. Please contact us at the phone numbers below if you have any questions or concerns. On behalf of New Sardis Baptist Church and the Fashion Show Committee, thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Linda Redd-Burrow*  
Mrs. Linda Redd-Burrow  
901-406-5823  
Financial Support Chair

*Brenda J. Rosser*  
Mrs. Brenda J. Rosser  
901-218-0575  
Hospitality Chair

*"A Church on the Move with a Mission and a Message"*



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



## OCTOBER - WOMEN MONTH

7th - Annual Breast Cancer Fashion Show

8th - OctoberFest

22nd - Women's Day

22nd - Night in White

28th - Quarterly Meeting

29th - First Lady Mary Gray Luncheon

31th - HallowHim



**W** Wonderful  
**O** Outstanding  
**M** Marvellous  
**A** Adorable  
**N** Nice



## NOVEMBER

5th - Day Light Saving Time

7th - Election Day

11th - Veteran's Day

12th - Veteran's Luncheon

23rd - Thanksgivings



## DECEMBER

3rd - 144th Church Anniversary

17th - Christmas Program

25th - Christmas Day

26th - Kwanzaa Celebration

31st - Watch Night Service

31st - New Years Eve

