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# Upon This Rock

A Publication of Faith A. M. E. Zion Church  
Rev. Jawwad J. Love, Pastor

FAITH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH: WHERE FAITH COMES TO LIFE AND LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED.

## Joint Watchnight Service Promises Blessed New Year

Wednesday, December 31, Faith A. M. E. Zion Church participated in a joint Watchnight Service hosted by the United Ghana Christian Church (UGCC).

With voices raised and jubilant hearts, the UGCC Calvary Gospel Band and Praise Team proclaimed the goodness of God through song and dance. Liturgist and UGCC Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Y. Larrey, presided over the evening's activities.

**Faith's Sandra M. Burt Chancel Choir** (formerly known as the Mass Choir) prepared worshippers for the year's message delivered by **Pastor Jawwad J. Love**.

Guided by Matthew:1-11,

Pastor Love focused on verse 8, the third temptation of Christ, and reminded us all that there is nothing that Satan can offer us in his sermon, "It's Already Mine in 2009."

*"It's Already Mine! The devil can't offer me anything that my Father has not prepared for me!"*

Steering away from the popular prosperity teachings that focus on the accumulation of material things, Pastor Love emphasized the eternal riches tied to salvation. Closing just after the stroke of midnight, the sanctuary erupted with celebration.



## CED MID-WINTER MEETING

December 27 though 30, The Christian Education Department journeyed to Washington, DC for the annual CED Mid-Winter Meeting. This year's theme, The Next Level: Spreading the Message through Shaping Disciples, Strengthening Families, Sharpening Skills, and Sharing Resources was accentuated with training and planning for the conference year. Faith's attendees included: **Jennifer Allen, Jasmine Fillmore, Betty Stephens, Akosua T'Ofori - Atta, Pamela Perkins, and Tamara Perkins.**

## The Night That Christ Was Born



December 14, the Faith community was again blessed by a production of the *Night That Christ Was Born: A New Reason to Celebrate*. Written and directed by Christian Education Director, **Victoria Meredith**, the Faith Players reaffirmed the true meaning of Christmas through a modern interpretation of the birth of Christ through prose, music and dance. While all of the talented cast performed exceptionally, standouts included **Franshé and Corey Booker**, during the *The Infamous King Herod's* scene, liturgical dance and musical solos by **Mary Elizabeth Meredith and Princeton McGrady** and **Willie Jones, Jr.**, as "Grandpa", who learned his lines in just one week. As the program closed, **Pastor Love** reiterated that *The Night that Christ Was Born* is not just a program, but a ministry.



*The innkeepers oversee the birth of Christ*

The cast, choirs and crew included: **Delores Johnson, Willie Jones Jr., Kira Leggins, Jecorey Leggins, Jasmine Filmore, James Philpot, Oneida Johnson, Roseanna Brannon, Mary Elizabeth Meredith, John Richardson, Alfred McCrary, Franshe Booker, Cory Booker, Erica Waller, Ray Daniels, John Steele, Solomon Missouri, Paris McGrady, Alexandria Love, Elisha Love, Erin Gates, Jazmine Leggins, Christopher Carter, Antoinette Carter, Precaria McGrady, Princeton McGrady, Precaria McGrady, Calise Tucker, Christina Brannon-Carter, Cynthia Jones, Scriven Thomas, Tony Myers, Clara Gates, Tammi Love, Jennifer Allen, Bobby Burt, Jason Tucker, Royce Mason-Deese, Clara Gates, Joe Waller, Alexis Johnson, Ottis Johnson and Brandon Williams.**

## YAMS Toy Drive



Hoping to spread some Christmas cheer, the Young Adult Missionary Society (YAMS), under the leadership of **A. Scriven-Thomas**, reached out to the congregation to support a toy drive for children who would be spending Christmas in the hospital. Obedient to the call, the congregation supplied over 50 toys to Children's Hospital of Atlanta. Santa's helpers, **Leslie McCrary, Toni Reid and Michael Cooper**, delivered the bounty of unwrapped gifts on December 22.










## The Progressive Christmas Party



The Christians In Action (CIA) from A. M. E. Zion Churches throughout Metro Atlanta joined together in fellowship on Saturday, December 6. With games, carols and plenty of food, partygoers traveled from home to home to partake of appetizers, entrees and desserts at the homes of Joyce Smith, Rhonda Sweeney and **Gladys Reid**.

# JANUARY 2009

“GO A LITTLE FARTHER WITH GOD” – MARK 14:35

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat   |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|
|   |   |   |   | 1 Leslie McCrary<br> | 2   | 3   |
| 4 EPIPHANY<br>Mattie Edwards<br>           | 5 Elaine Pittman,<br>Tammi Love  | 6   | 7 Paula Burks,<br>Sharon Ingram<br>and Angelica<br>Morris <br>12p Noonday<br>Bible Study<br>7p Bible Study | 8   | 9   | 10 Willie Jones,<br>Jr.  |
| 11 Eric Polite, Mary<br>Chapman          | 12<br>7:30p Girl Scout<br>Meeting   | 13  | 14<br>12p Noonday<br>Bible Study<br>7p Bible Study<br>Monique Upshaw<br>                                 | 15 Kira Leggins<br>  | 16  | 17<br>Angel Food<br>Distribution  |
| 18 Y's Anniver-<br>sary—Victoria<br>Richardson<br>Day<br><br>General Claims<br>Due \$60                                     | 19  | 20 Asa Heard<br> | 21<br>12p Noonday<br>Bible Study<br>7p Bible Study  | 22<br>10A-10P South Atlantic Episco-<br>pal District Convocation<br><br>←————→                          | 23  | 24 1st Check Up<br>Meeting @ Shaw<br>Temple   |
| 25 Buds of Promise<br>Anniversary -<br>Marie L. Clinton<br>Day<br>8:45a New Mem-<br>bers Class<br><br>6PM Prayer<br>Service | 26<br>7:30p Girl Scout<br>Meeting   | 27  | 28<br>12p Noonday<br>Bible Study<br>7p Bible Study  | 29  | 30  | 31  |
| ←————→ 7 Days to Change: Fasting & Prayer (January 25—February 2) —————→  |   |   |   |   |     |   |

Our Deepest Sympathy  
Faith Celebrates the lives of Zionites . . .



Sandra Burt  
1944-2008



Mary Norris  
1925-2008



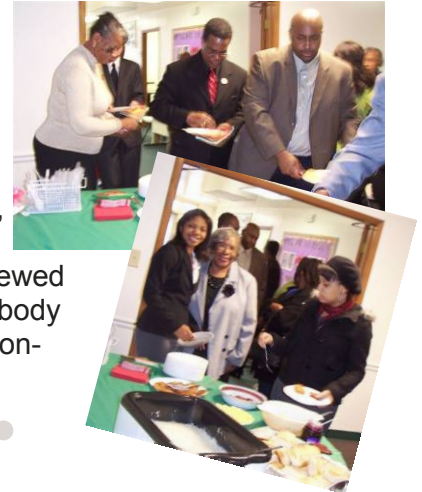
Asa Heard  
1926-2008



Sadye Potter  
1907-2008

## Sunday School Roundup

In an effort to boost attendance at Sunday School, the Christian Education Department, under the leadership of Sunday School Superintendent, **Victoria Meredith**, sponsored a Sunday School Roundup on December 21. With 35 people in attendance, participants learned what Sunday School is all about from teachers, **Erica Waller** (Primary), **Delores Johnson** (Juniors), **Ottis Johnson**, **Joyce Thomas** (Youth), **Michelle Morton**, **Johnny Green**, **Mattie Edwards** and **Isaac Gates**. Guests also completed commitment cards to signify their renewed desire to attend Sunday School. A breakfast buffet was served to help fill both body and spirit. If you are interested in learning more about Sunday School, please contact Victoria Meredith or join us at 8:45 am each Sunday morning.



## Faith Celebrates Advent Season

Faith thanks it's laity for their participation in lighting the Advent candles last month. The first candle symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God (**The McGrady Family**). The second candle shows that Christ is the way (**The Leggins Family**). The third candle confirms that lasting joy can only be found through Christ (**The Gilbert Family**). The fourth candle reminds us that Jesus comes to bring peace (**The Ingram Family**). The fifth candle represents Christ who was born to save us from sin. All of the candles are relit during the final lighting.

## Organizational Meeting

After about a month of learning the strengths of the church, **Pastor Love** initiated an organizational meeting on December 5 to sure up his leadership team and strengthen Faith's focus on Membership, Ministry and Missions.

### Our Motto

The Faith Church: Where Faith comes to life and lives are transformed!

### Our Theme

"Go A Little Farther With God" – Mark 14:35

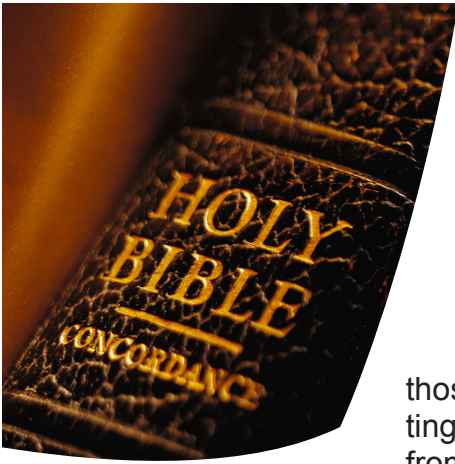
Other meeting highlights included the passing of the 2009 conference budget and acceptance of the enhanced mission and vision of Faith A.M. E. Zion Church. Members can obtain copies of these documents from **Leslie McCrary**.

## Faith Shares Advent Teachings

Honoring a commitment to missions, **Pastor Love** ministered to women and children of the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children, Inc. on Christmas Eve.

The Day Shelter is a part of the 2009 Women's Day Committee year-long missions project. Chairperson, **Toni Reid** and Project Coordinator, **Joyce Thomas** joined the Pastor in celebrating Advent with the shelter occupants.

Following the ceremony, Faith's team fellowshiped and prayed with shelter participants. Two people gave their souls to Christ following the ceremony.



# The F.R.E.A.K.S. Come Out At Night (Bible Study Series)

*Bible Studies at Faith are held Wednesdays at Noon and again at 7 pm.*

December 3, Pastor Love began a six-part Bible Study entitled, *The F.R.E.A.K.S. Come Out at Night*, while the title may have been inspired by the rap group Whodini, the acronym F.R.E.A.K.S. has divine origins. Those who have participated since day one have already learned of the peculiarity of Christians and that

those desiring to distinguish themselves from the secular must be **Faithful** (week 1), **Repentant** (week 2), **Equipped** (week 3) and **Annoited** (week 4).

With only two weeks of this sensational lesson to go, members and friends are encouraged to investi-

gate the meanings of the **K** (01/14), and the **S** (01/21) at 7:00 pm each Wednesday.

*“Are you alright?  
Are You living  
right?”*

*“Are you a  
FREAK for  
JESUS?”*

Remember to bring your Bibles and open hearts and minds. Prepare to be blessed

by testimonials, stimulating discussion and the word as read, interpreted and taught by our Pastor.

**FAITH A.M. E. ZION CHURCH**  
38 HAMILTON E. HOLMES D)R.  
ATLANTA, GA 30311  
(404) 691-4075  
(404) 699-7471 fax



**Rev. Jawwad J. Love**  
Pastor

**Rev. John Paul Ruth**  
Presiding Elder, Atlanta District

**Rev. Kenneth Monroe**  
Bishop, South Atlantic Episcopal District



**Faith A. M. E. Zion Church**

38 Hamilton E. Holmes Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30311