



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

BY BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR

Few would characterize our days as free of trouble. As we consider the tension in our world, we often cannot help but feel a tinge of fear. We look to the heavens and ask, "God, what are you up to?" We may even momentarily wonder if the God we look to as Sovereign Creator hasn't, for a time, lost control. But it is just at those times that we must listen to His answer through the pages of His Word. In fact, the answers to all of our concerns are in His Word.

I was recently asked by an individual that was experiencing some frustration concerning an adverse situation that had occurred in his life, as to whether or not God is actually listening when we cry out amid our troubles. And to the question, I responded that God's hotline is always open! There is never a busy signal and He is never too busy with anything; not even managing the world to listen to our every need. God has both a listening ear and a caring heart and He will answer us. Jonah, in testifying of God, said in chapter 2 verse 2 "I cried out to the Lord in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the world of the dead, and Lord, you heard me!"

My friend, it is good to know that we serve a faithful God who has keen ears that are attentive to His people. Although being faithful to Him will not necessarily spare us from adversity, it will secure us in it. When you believe in Jesus, Satan becomes your enemy, and will try to block and stop you from following God by giving you all manner of adversity. He hopes that he can at least make you doubt God and be unable to witness for Him. Thus, you must recognize that adversity can at times be a sign that you are being faithful to God. So continue to be faithful, even through times of adversity. Continue to trust Him and never doubt He of whom has declared to be with you till the end.



## This issue:

Pastor's Reflections  
PAGE 01

Ministry Matters  
PAGE 02

Health & Wellness  
PAGE 03

Community News  
PAGE 04

Children's Corner  
PAGE 05

Social Justice  
PAGE 06

Announcements  
PAGE 07



## GIVE THANKS - Psalm 34:1-3; Psalm 92:1-5

BY MOTHER ANNIE WORSHAM

Expressing thankfulness to the Lord honors Him by acknowledging all He has done. As we anticipate the holiday season in a year like none we have ever witnessed before, it is our nature to approach them with some apprehensions or concerns because of the experiences we have had in 2020.

In spite of all of the overwhelming circumstances we have witnessed, we can still give thanks to God. We have all shared experiences like no other year, and while we have had some unfortunate experiences, our God is yet alive, is ultimately in full control.... and guess what? We are still here, so why not "Give Thanks!" God is Fighting for us.

The benefits of thanking God: It glorifies and magnifies Him, refocuses our attention, relieves our anxiety, refreshes our relationship and reinforces our faith. When we keep our focus on God, His goodness can sustain us. David said in Psalm 34...."I will bless the Lord at all times; His praises shall always be in my mouth." In Psalm 92, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High." So as we approach this holiday season lets do as the Psalmist has suggested, "O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together!"

## HEAD TO TOE PRAYER SERIES

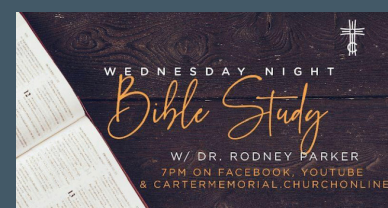
BY EVANG. KAY N. HARDING

Jesus said "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint..." (Luke 18:1) What is prayer? Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Prayer may seem overwhelming or intimidating if we don't know where to start or what to pray for. In this series, we will focus our attention on learning how to pray for our mind, The head is defined "as the upper part of the body in humans ..." As we take this journey, let's consider the following scriptures to help us focus our prayers:

- **Renewing the Mind** – "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).
- **Meditate on Word of God/Mind of Christ**– "... in his law do [we] meditate both day and night" (Psalm 1:2) ;"... but we have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor. 2:16)
- **Peace** - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

This month, you are encouraged to continue to find additional scriptures on the mind. Memorize and pray those scriptures over yourself, family and others as we journey through the Head to Toe Prayer Series. God longs to have a deeper relationship with you, which is fostered through prayer and the study of His Word.

**WELCOME TO CARTER MEMORIAL CHURCH**  
OF BALTIMORE  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST





## STAYING HEALTHY DURING THE PANDEMIC

BY NICOLE LAW

Amid the pandemic, it is important to take care of your health. Doctors have found that more people are ignoring the crucial signs of an underlying problem. This is troubling because conditions such as cancer and other various diseases need to be quickly addressed to receive the proper treatment. Currently, the third wave of Covid-19 cases is sweeping the nation and it is important to know the facts to stay safe in these challenging times.

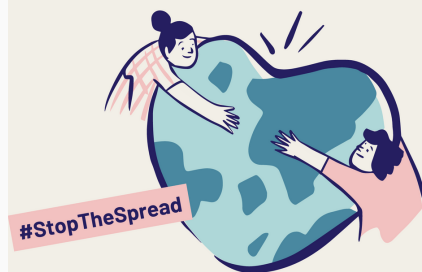
During a recent women's "Fireside Chat", Jessica Queen, MD Ph.D., shared valuable information on how to stay healthy during the pandemic. While men and women are equally likely to contract Covid-19, men are 1.5x more likely to die from the viral infection than women. More women than men have reported taking Covid-19 precautions throughout the pandemic. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, these precautions include changing or canceling travel plans and plans that involve large gatherings, staying home, wearing a face mask, and stocking up on needed supplies, food, and medicine.

Even with precautions, there are still concerns. The virus has hit the African American community hard with 2.6x more cases than its Caucasian counterparts, according to the CDC. Hospitalization and death rates are 4.7x and 2.1x higher in the community, respectfully.

## MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE PANDEMIC

Covid-19 has greatly impacted mental health. Due to quarantine requirements, increased social media usage, the inability to adapt to sudden changes, and increased sleeping problems, mental health is taking a hit as increases in anxiety, depression, and stress rise. It is important to take care of your mental health during this pandemic. Prioritizing mental health is just as important as keeping routine check-ups and vaccinations. Finding strategies for stress management and seeking professional help for the anxiety that may be dictating our life is crucial to staying mentally healthy during this time.

*Even Though*  
**WE'RE APART**



*You're in*  
**MY HEART**

**If you need to  
stay at home,  
maintain a healthy  
lifestyle  
Including  
proper diet,  
sleep & exercise.**



## POPPLETON COMMUNITY NEWS

BY SHARON LAW

In the spring of 2018, the former University of Maryland Baltimore President, Jay Perman, MD, made a compelling appeal to Bishop Carl A. Pierce, Sr. and the Board of Trustees to purchase the 16 S. Poppleton property to expand programming and services vital to the southwest Baltimore region. Unbeknownst to many, the plans aligned with Bishop Pierce's Power Center" vision for the community. The program's offerings include after school activities, a workforce readiness program, legal advice, health screenings, fitness classes, fresh food market, community meals, computer lab, and a Police Athletic League (PAL) program for the children of Southwest Baltimore. On Friday, September 18, 2020, CEC Executive Director, Tyrone Roper, led Bishop Pierce and a small group of people on a full tour of the UMB Engagement Center facility, located across the street from the landmark campus of Carter Memorial Church. The tour boasted state of the art amenities including classrooms with high-tech equipment, auditorium, dining hall, health suite, quiet space, and more.



Today, the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the center from opening to the public. Despite the setback, members of the CEC have worked continuously to provide limited programming and resources to neighbors using virtual platforms. Zumba classes, line dancing, yoga, Workforce Wednesday, and other essential resources have been virtually operational throughout the pandemic. The CEC's newest virtual program, Rec2Tech, was created through a partnership between UMB, James McHenry Elementary/Middle School, and Baltimore City Parks and Recreation. This program teaches students ages 11 to 15 about science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). Through virtually hosted classes, the participants learn to use different technologies such as a 3D printer, a laser cutter, and digital design software to make their own creative designs. You can find updated information about programming and community updates with the weekly CEC newsletter.

"Thou shalt  
love thy  
neighbor as  
thyself..."

MATTHEW 22:39



## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



*Brooklynn is a ray of joy and light! An active Kindergartener, she enjoys problem solving, reading, singing, painting, soccer, participating in Carter Memorial Children's Church, being a new member of her Girl Scout Daisy troop and learning about U.S. elections. Since the age of two, she has been committed to becoming an Obstetrician, thus she is active in various STEM-related activities. Gifted with an entrepreneurial spirit, she is full of personality, assertiveness, and is ready to take on any obstacle in her way. Her favorite song is "Jesus Loves Me" and she truly loves her Carter Memorial family.*

BROOKLYNN BROWN



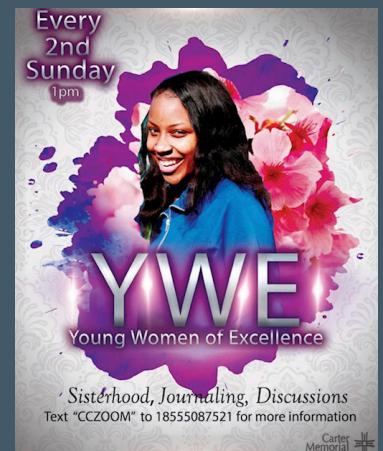
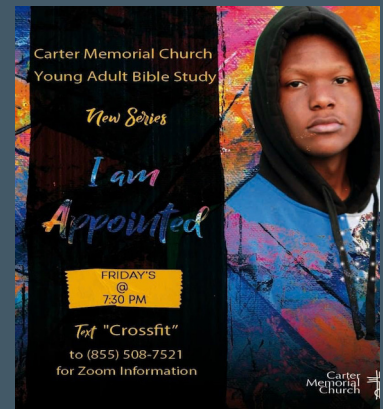
## THE GROW UP IS REAL!



*Jesus used many parables in the Bible, especially those that include analogies related to nature. Throughout this unit, we will compare the growth of a plant to our spiritual growth in Christ.*

YOUTH PASTOR  
Elder Devin Roberts

CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
Sis. Lanette Lee





## THE HISTORIC 2020 ELECTION

BY EVANG. KENDRA BROWN/SIS. RACHEL MANN

As the dust settles from the election, many see the landscape of our country with greater clarity...and even greater concern. Division, hatred, racism, bigotry and violence are prevalent throughout the land, ushering in the spirit of fear, depression, and anxiety that can overwhelm even the most seasoned Saint. As Bible believers, we know these are the times prophesied in scripture as the last days before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but this is hardly the time to become apathetic or indifferent to the crises and hardships among us, particularly when it comes to social justice.

The solutions do not solely rest on those in leadership or our government. We must be the beacon of light and hope in these very dark times; the church must be the church. By rededicating ourselves as the body of Christ to the work of social justice, and putting our faith in action in our own neighborhood and in our own communities, we will be able to bring a healing balm to our hurting communities and win souls to Christ in these last days. How can we do this?

- **Organize community resources** - Our communities need resources, from food banks to school supply drives. Contact Sister Sharon Law, our Community Services Director at [slaw7764@gmail.com](mailto:slaw7764@gmail.com) to make donations, inquire about what donations are needed, or coordinate a donation drive.
- **Hit the streets...and volunteer** - The church is greater than its four walls and many may never sit in the pews of Carter, but they can still have an encounter with God. As born again believers, volunteering in our communities should be a regular practice. Whether it is picking up trash, serving meals to the poor or helping a neighborhood school; take the opportunity to lend a hand and share the good news of Jesus Christ while you are there. You just may be the only "Jesus" someone sees.
- **Follow policy** - We must stay informed about the policies that are being drafted, proposed and voted on that will impact our homes, communities, families, cities and states. The policies that will have the most impact in our lives are from the local levels of government. Get to know the members of your community by attending (even virtually) your local council meetings or Ward meetings. The more informed you are, the better you will be able to advocate for yourself and your community.

As people of God, we have work to do in the field of social justice and now is the time to lean in. The words of our Lord describe what it means to be a Christian in the fight for social justice. In Matt 25:43-45, Jesus gives clear instructions on how to treat the poor, the hungry, the immigrant, and the incarcerated. While these instructions were given thousands of years ago, they still apply to our work as Christians today. "I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me...Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

"The  
people of  
God must  
take  
action..."

BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE





# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

