



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN MINISTRY AND THE COMMUNITY

BY RACHEL MANN

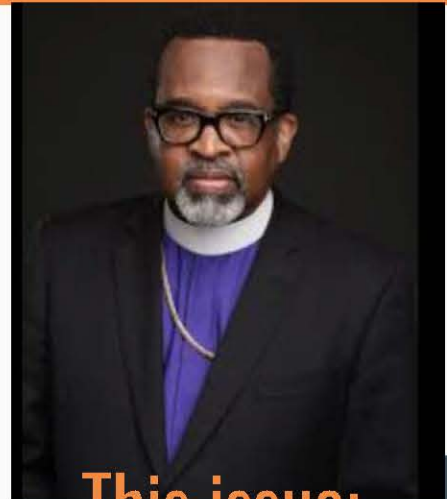


It is a blessing for a ministry to be active for decades; but what is more significant is for a ministry to be active in the same community for the entirety of its existence. This speaks greatly to the divine purpose of Carter Memorial Church of Baltimore, which has been a critical partner and resource in the Poppleton community for over 82 years. Carter is called to this neighborhood to evangelize the gospel of Jesus Christ, serve the hopeless, encourage the lost, and welcome all those who seek the Lord. As a ministry, Carter is called to bridge the gap. In 82 years, the ministry has made great progress. Recently, I had the great privilege to speak with our leader, Bishop Carl A. Pierce, Sr. about his vision for the ministry as we move forward in excellence.

“Our mission is to be a motivating ministry designed to advance the Kingdom of God. That has to be the basis of what we do,” said Bishop Pierce. “Now, how do we do that? There are many components of that advancement. If we are singularly focused on just having church, if we are singularly focused on just staying in the huddle, we'll never run the play.”

For Bishop Pierce, running the play, or imparting ministry, is contingent upon many components; some of which include infrastructure, manpower, passion, professional development, and skill set. All of these and more impacts how the church ministers internally and externally. But he is quick to remind the congregation that the mission must remain at the forefront; to be a motivating ministry designed to advance the Kingdom of God.

“I really want us to be holistic. A place of refuge. A haven of deliverance. I want for Carter to be a place where people can find love, hope, forgiveness, and guidance,” said Bishop Pierce. For him, this means embracing some change while maintaining the foundation of Bible-based beliefs and principles of holiness. It also means that the ministry doesn't have to look like every traditional holiness, Pentecostal, or Church of God in Christ church.



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CARTER CONNECTION

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS: DIVERSE MINISTRIES CALLED TO ONE PURPOSE

BY RACHEL MANN

Not all ministries are the same. There are unique qualities to various ministries that sets them apart from one another because they are called to fulfill certain needs and to bridge the gap in its own way. This doesn't take away from the spiritual foundations and Biblical principles of the church. Rather, the unique qualities of a ministry are like the church's fingerprints. Bishop explained further, comparing the concept to local grocery stores.

"Giant is not interested in being Wegmans. Wegmans is not interested in being Shop N' Save. They're all supermarkets. There are some things that you get in all of them that are the same. But there are certain things that I can find at Wegmans that I can't find at Giant," he said.

Understanding who you are and what you offer as a ministry is just as important as understanding your purpose as a ministry. They must be in alignment. Bishop Pierce often recalls the wisdom of his grandmother, who coined the phrase "Be the be that God called you to be." This godly wisdom is applied in many elements of the life and ministry of Carter Memorial Church of Baltimore and helps to maintain focus in the ministry. "My desire is that we are uniquely who God has called us to be," he explained. Why would anybody come to your church if you don't know what you're offering or if they can't get their needs fulfilled?"

The needs of the people of God are great. The last three years of a global pandemic caused more needs to surface, and resurface in some cases. Churches everywhere had to make a choice; either to hold tight to tradition and stay the same or to address the needs in this present world and change. For many churches, the decision has impacted how they navigate the enormous challenge of the pandemic, bridge the gap, and how they come out on the other side.



"Our mission is to be a motivating ministry designed to advance the Kingdom of God."

BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR.





CARTER CONNECTION

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS: EMBRACING CHANGE

BY RACHEL MANN

"We have to understand that ministry looks a little bit different in this season than it did prior," Bishop Pierce explained. "And we have to make absolutely sure that the gap is not wide."

Between the increase of virtual services and the decrease of in-person attendance, it is easy to assume that people are no longer seeking God. It's easy to also assume that young people are not hungry for Christ. But Bishop Pierce sees it differently. He's not afraid of the expansion of virtual church or virtual membership. "Young people want to have church! Young people are churchin'... and I mean, going in. It's a balance that we have to have and it has to start at the top and it has to filter down," he explained.

Striking the balance is hard. It takes embracing change personally and then leading a congregation to embrace the same change. Bishop Pierce sees a critical need for change and balance today. "I feel in this season, the heaviness of ministry, the weight of ministry...because ministry as it was pre-pandemic is not necessarily ministry as it is post-pandemic. And we know we're not out of it, but it's different even with regard to people coming to church."

The pandemic has not changed everything. It has not changed what the church is called by God to do. The work of the church and believers of Christ is no different today as it was three years ago, ten years ago, or 50 years ago. The gospel of Jesus Christ must and will still go forth. The changes are appearing in the tactics used to meet the people where they are. Holding tight to the traditions of how things have been done in the past would cause more souls to be lost. As Bishop describes it, shifting those tactics is how we bridge the gap to find the lost and minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Tradition is frozen success. Even the Bible talks about tradition. We're in a season now where a lot of the traditions of the church don't hold the same credence that they once did. We're dealing with a different mindset. We're dealing with individuals that are looking for something. And of course, if we become entrenched in our old way of doing things, then I think we can miss a generation."



"Tradition is frozen success...if we become entrenched in our old way of doing things...we can miss a generation."

BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR.





TEAMWORK, COOPERATION, AND HARMONY: HOW IS TEAMWORK AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

BY ELD. KENNETH YOUNGER



I'm a Vietnam War Veteran. When I joined the U.S Army in July 1967, I went to Basic Training. This is where the military began training people from every walk of life to unify and become one well-oiled machine. We were trained to hear and immediately respond to given orders. Our lives depended on each of us doing our individual part to preserve the unity, oneness, and success of our mission. We followed a code of conduct, which if correctly adhered to, preserved our strength and success. That, my brothers and sisters, is what GOD requires of each of us!!

UNITY: COOPERATION, FELLOWSHIP, TEAMWORK

How does the bible describe the unity that should exist between Christians? Christian unity is based on each person's connection with Christ. We are united with Christ in two ways:

- * Believing that Christ's death (the sacrifice of His Flesh) and His resurrection delivers us from the penalty of sin.
- * Devoting ourselves to live as He requires, depending on His teaching for guidance, and trusting in the Holy Spirit for power to live a successful Christian life (*John 15:1-15*).
- * Jesus prayed to God the father that His disciples, including us, would become one. He wanted His followers to be unified as a powerful witness to the reality of God's love and God's ability to save (*John 17:6-26*).

BRIDGING THE GAP THROUGH COOPERATION

- * Christians are not intended to live out their faith in isolation. We are to be connected (*Philippians 1:9 - 11*).
- * For we are God's fellow workers - - His servants working together. You are God's cultivated field, His garden, His vineyard, and God's building (*I Corinthians 3: 5 - 9*).
- * God's work involves many different individuals with a variety of gifts and abilities. There are no superstars in this task, only team members performing their special roles (*Philippians 2:3 & 4*).

When God calls you to task remember that He also calls others to work with you. Together our individual efforts are multiplied. Look for those people and join with them to build a beautiful house for God.



"When God calls you to task...He also calls others to work with you!"

ELD. KENNETH YOUNGER





BRIDGING THE GAP: UNITY, DIVERSITY, AND UNDERSTANDING

BY NICOLE LAW



Bridging the gap and extending help to others is important to not only create a more inclusive atmosphere, but to also encourage others within the church and surrounding community. Bridging the gap is beneficial for building up and encouraging those around you. Stepping out and providing assistance to others can improve relationships, increase skills, and boost key networking opportunities. These opportunities can help to bridge the gap even further by putting people in a position to also succeed, helping others to connect their own unique gaps with other parties, and increasing the chance to learn about different perspectives. Unity, diversity, and understanding are developed when bridging the gap.

Ways to bridge a gap include finding common ground. Finding a common purpose is helpful for developing solutions that actually address the issue/matter at hand. It can also provide perspective taking and empathy opportunities. These actions will help to create solutions that will increase unity and inclusion between parties.

Creating opportunities is also a great way to bridge the gap. As a church, we go out in the community and create opportunities for unity and spiritual uplifting. Developing programs like *The Summer Intensive Enrichment Program* and other outreach efforts help to increase relationships with the surrounding community and decrease those gaps.



**"Opportunities
can help bridge
the gap...by
putting people in
a position to
succeed..."**

NICOLE LAW





BRIDGING THE GAP: A HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

BY SIS. VASHAWN MCDUGALD



You are never too young to start planning, and never too old to have a plan! We are now beyond the two-year mark and are slowly rebuilding; seeking to identify a new normal. COVID-19 case spikes and lulls are changing in sync with holiday and milestone gatherings.

Virus variants are evolving and we are inundated with news breaks adding to the stress of it all. We must maintain our vigilance, hand hygiene and health monitoring; not becoming too lax, in an effort to get back to normal.

Just like the common Flu, the COVID-19 virus may never go away completely, and knowing what should change and how to respond to life's circumstances is critical. As we seek to stabilize and achieve "normalcy," we must identify what we have learned and implement positive changes that will be sustainable. Likely the most impactful lesson learned - - We have survived on purpose, and for purpose. We must be empowered to maintain our posture, even when our current circumstances may be unpredictable and beyond our control.

There are many ways that we can respond positively within our new normal. While incorporating good healthy habits we must seek to incorporate all generations. As Christians we are the bridge of unity between generations. The following steps can be effective for all generations:

- **PLAN:** Discuss and develop life plans and goals for yourself and with your family. This may be as simple as regular health check-ups, exercise, or healthy meals. Planning may also be a conversation about what to do if you have an unexpected health event or prolonged illness.
- **PREPARE:** Put your plans into action! Obtain appointments, get an accountability partner/family member to share your ideas with or become your Health Care Agent. Engage someone you don't know in conversation, or offer to assist someone that you may only know informally. Prepare to go beyond your comfort zone to connect with another person.
- **PROTECT:** After planning and preparing, we must protect the value of the relationships and normalcy that we have gained. This will solidify your new normal. Maintaining healthy habits and choices; protecting your assets and legacy with proper financial planning or protection plans, and guarding one another in Godly love and respect.

There are many avenues to enhance our efforts to plan, prepare, and protect us along our spiritual journey. Utilizing these resources will also assist in supporting your spiritual growth!



"After planning and preparing... guard one another in Godly love and respect."

VASHAWN MCDUGALD





UNITY AMONG CHAOS

BY EVANG. KENDRA BROWN



Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. One may wonder how this can be achieved in the midst of chaos within our world.

From a biblical perspective, there are 3 core principles that can guide one's approach to social justice, building unity among chaos.

LISTEN - In the midst of chaos, we must still hear God.

"Making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding." – Proverbs 2:2

UNDERSTAND - Wisdom is a foundational principle in ensuring understanding.

"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:" – Proverbs 24:3

ENGAGE - The key component of social action is, in fact, action.

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?" – Matthew 25:35-37

Challenging times illuminate the importance of helping people and communities, and also ensuring authenticity in serving. Answering the call of social justice is always possible and is even more needed during turbulent times. We do this by listening for understanding, and through utilizing wisdom with divine guidance in intentional and thoughtful engagement, allowing us to cut through the noise and chaos to ensure proper alignment with the needs of all we serve. "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance."

- Proverbs 1:5



"LISTEN - In the
midst of chaos we
must still hear
God."

KENDRA BROWN





CARTER COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER: WHY WE SERVE

BY SHARON LAW

The number one reason that most people volunteer in a church setting is to strengthen their relationship with God and unify the body of Christ. Beyond bible study, praise, and the worship experience, spending increased amounts of time in the church enhances our ability to do our duty — God's work.

Six Benefits of Volunteering at Your Church

Have you considered signing up as a volunteer or working in a ministry at the church? Don't hesitate, you should do it! Whether you say, "my life is too busy" or "I'm afraid of the challenge", unfortunately, there are not enough church volunteers as is needed. That's why we are always looking and asking for more. Volunteering your time, talent and resources yield countless physical, mental, and spiritual benefits. Here are just a few.

Get Closer to God

The number one reason that most people volunteer in a church setting is to strengthen their relationship with God. Spending increased amounts of time in the church enhances our ability to do our duty — God's work. We have all been called on by the Lord to serve and spread the Word of God, so volunteering represents the basis of Christian relationships...serving others. Your time spent volunteering will have a huge impact. The church relies on the hard work of volunteers, and is very appreciative, so do your part to set an example for your children, and their children while spreading the gospel.

Help Your Community

As a lifeline for many community members, a smoothly running church is essential for all. Church ministry jobs can range in expertise, but there is certainly a way that you can help facilitate a fully functioning church community that supports the elderly and needy while educating and rearing the next generations.

Your kids who don't yet work officially could lend a hand for church work on Sundays and get a strong sense of work ethic from a young age. Or, despite how busy your schedule may feel, why not dedicate a few hours a week yourself? We can all spare a few hours for God.



"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another..."

1 PETER 4:10





CARTER COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER: WHY WE SERVE

BY SHARON LAW

Increase Self Confidence

On top of helping your community immensely, working in volunteer positions can help to increase self-confidence too. By doing good for the community and spending your time fulfilling the real needs of the people around you, you will discover a sense of accomplishment like never before. Know that your actions are helping the people around you and feel good about it! Find pride in the life you're living, build character, and develop a strong sense of identity through your role as a volunteer. Plus, the better you feel about the person you are, the more likely you are to be successful and achieve your personal life goals. The benefits of volunteering aren't limited to just within the church.

Build Your Skillset

Pushing yourself out of your comfort zone in a volunteer position will inevitably help you acquire new skills too. Whether it's gaining in-depth knowledge about children's ministry curriculum or useful organization strategies needed to plan a good fundraiser event, the benefits of volunteering are huge. Plus, you can add your newfound areas of expertise to your resume, putting you at a level above the rest for any future jobs you may apply for. Employers love to know that they are getting a dedicated addition to their business who knows how to work as part of a team.

Get a Sense of Purpose

There is a reason why volunteering is recommended to people who are losing their way in life. Whether you are struggling with depression or simply can't find the path you're looking for, the consistency and community that come with volunteering can be incredibly helpful to those who aren't in the best place. Having a sense of purpose in your life at a time when you truly need it can help you stay on track. The mental health benefits of volunteering are powerful. Keeping you in regular contact with a support system while showing you that you are a valued and loved member of the community, volunteering can help relieve depression for some.

Keep Physically Fit

Volunteering in the church environment can be varied and exciting. This makes it an ideal way for those who are struggling with their weight or fitness goals to spend their free time. This is especially relevant for older volunteers, who may lack the motivation to stay mobile every day. Signing up to volunteer with the people of your community could do incredible things for your everyday health, keeping you on your feet well into your old age.

Are you ready to take the plunge and better your community while working on yourself? Start slowly if you need to but know that every minute spent helping is a minute spent with God.



"Having a sense of purpose in your life..can help you stay on track..."

SHARON LAW





CARTER MEMORIAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT

BY ELD. DEVIN ROBERTS



The Carter Memorial CELLART Children's Department has focused primarily on the Life of Jesus written in the Gospels.

Unit Memory Verse: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path...Accept, O Lord, the willingness of my mouth, and teach me your laws."
(Psalm 119: 105,108)

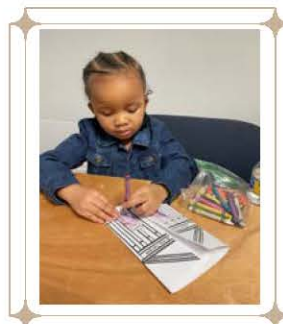
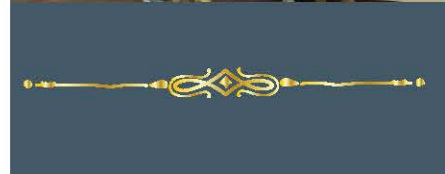
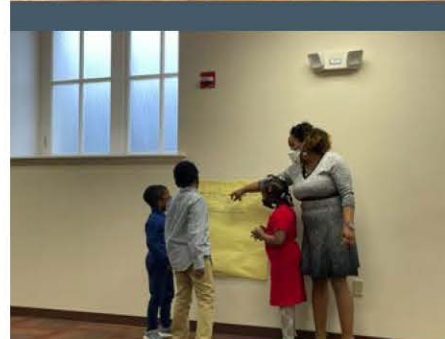
Jesus' Ministry, The Great Commission, and The Holy Spirit



We have learned about Jesus as a teenager and His time in the temple. Jesus taught in the Temple at 13 years old. When his father Joseph and His mother Mary asked Jesus why He stayed behind, Jesus replied "Why are you looking for Me? I am about My Father's business."



Jesus' baptism: John baptized the people in the Jordan River with water and said that the One coming was mightier than him. When Jesus came up from the water the Heavens opened and Jesus saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove. A voice from Heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."





ADOPT-A-MOTHER BRUNCH



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



BISHOP'S PRAYER CALL

Join Bishop Carl Pierce, Sr., for a refreshing start to your day with prayer.

WHEN: Every Monday

TIME: 6:00 am EST

DIAL: (717) 401-9985 Access Code: 5905#

WEEKDAY SERVICES



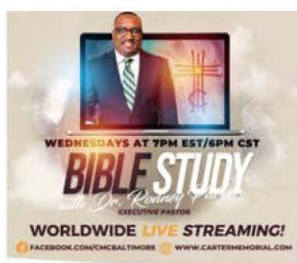
Join the Carter Memorial Church family in the Virtual Living Room for Worship and the Word every Sunday at 10:00 am EST.

www.Facebook.com/CMCbaltimore
or www.cartermemorial.com



The time to unite in prayer is now. Join us in bombarding Heaven every Monday at 7:00 pm and Wednesday at 12:00 pm EST.

DIAL: (667) 770-1523
PIN: #737082



Join us for mid-week Bible study every Wednesday at 7:00 pm EST.

www.Facebook.com/CMCbaltimore
or www.Cartermemorial.com

FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS

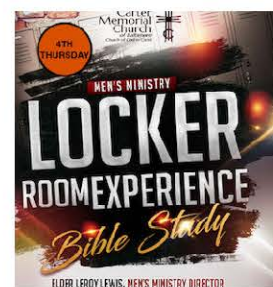


For an engaging discussion in the Word of God, join our Sunday school on "Saturday" at 6:00 pm EST.

[SS Registration](#)



"Women's Fireside Chat," a time for the Women's Ministry to connect every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



"Men's Locker Room" conversations inspire and challenge men for Kingdom assignments every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



Children's Church (ages 3-11) meets every 2nd & 3rd Sunday in lower sanctuary.

Teen Church (ages 12-18) meets every 1st & 4th Sunday in lower sanctuary.

Toddlers (ages 3-4) will meet in the conference room.



CARTER WOMEN IN MINISTRY BOOK CLUB



You are cordially invited to join the Carter Women In Ministry Book Club, comprised of a diverse group of women (young and seasoned), who not only love to read, but enjoy connecting with other women to impact lives and grow together through Christian-based books. Our book club theme is, "Women Impacting Women for Abundant Living." Our goal is ministry through reading and conversation to be healthy and whole women for Kingdom assignments.

Beginning Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 3:00 pm, and every 1st Saturday thereafter, the book club will meet and have deep dive conversations about the selected book.

Our inaugural book selection is, "Women Evolve: Break Up with Your Fears and Revolutionize Your Life," by Sarah Jakes-Roberts. We welcome Christian-based titles for review and approval for our future readings.

For more information and to register for the book club, please contact the Carter Women In Ministry team via email on CWIMbookclub@gmail.com, or team member Nikki Younger at Bookclubnikki@gmail.com. The first thirty (30) women who register will receive a wonderful gift!! We look forward to connecting with you...We are *Women Impacting Women for Abundant Living!*

Together
We Can!



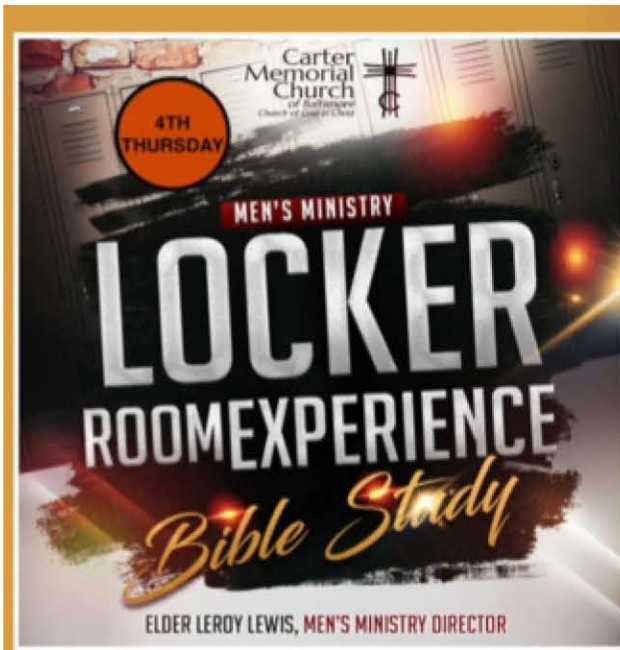
"Ministry through reading and conversation...for Kingdom assignments!"

CWIM BOOK CLUB





CARTER MEN'S MINISTRY



"Men's Locker Room" conversations inspire and challenge men for Kingdom assignments every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



Got a Sweet Tooth?

The Men's department will sponsor a bake sale following morning worship, 12:30 pm-1 pm. Mouth watering sweet potato pie, pineapple upside down cake, apple cobbler, and carrot cake are just a few of the yummy treats!

Every Fourth Sunday throughout the Summer

5/22, 6/26, 7/31 & 8/21



UPCOMING MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARYLAND CENTRAL ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

MAY 24-26
7:30 PM NIGHTLY

BISHOP CARL A. PIERCE SR.
JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE

56th ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION

DR. DIANA CHANDLER BANKS
SUPERVISOR DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN

TUESDAY NIGHT
DR. DIANA CHANDLER BANKS
SUPERVISOR DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY NIGHT
BISHOP CARL A. PIERCE SR.
JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE

KINGDOM BUILDERS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, 1489 MATTHEW TOWNE DR, HANOVER, MD

"ALL THINGS NEW"

EAST REGION

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT

ELDER JAMEL L. STUART

SUPERINTENDENT NATHANIEL L. GREEN, SR.

EVANGELIST NICOLAYN KENNEDY

EVANGELIST ARELLE WARD

Baltimore, Maryland
REGIONAL RALLY & YOUTH EXPLOSION
SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022 @ 12NOON

CARTER MEMORIAL
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
13 S POPPLETON ST, BALTIMORE, MD 21201
BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR., Host Pastor

EAST REGION

#ALLTHINGSNEW • MARK 2:22

PENTE
COST
SUNDAY
ALL ROADS LEAD TO
Baltimore

SAVE THE DATE | SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH
CARTER MEMORIAL CHURCH
GREATER PARADISE CHRISTIAN CENTER

