



Pearlie Grove News

Celebrating Eighteen Years of Service!

by Sis. Wanda Clark

In *Philippians 2:3-4*, Paul reminds us that we must all be like Christ's in that we must put others before ourselves. Everything we do should be done to help others and not to gain glory or admiration for ourselves. We must be careful to consider others better than ourselves and do nothing out of vanity or selfishness. Looking out for the interests of others should be our goal. With this understanding, we know that every Christian is a servant. This is the message that we hear often from Pastor Stephen Mason. He teaches us to have the spirit of servitude as Christ did and he teaches by example. Pastor Mason and his Family exemplify service at all times and they encourage us to do the same. Joshua 24:15 (KJV) says - "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether

the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." This year, Pastor Stephen Mason and Family will be celebrating 18 years of service to Greater Pearlie Grove Missionary Baptist Church. The celebration will begin with a program honoring Pastor Mason and Family on Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. at GPGMBC. There will also

be a short tribute to Pastor Mason and Family on Sunday, May 19, 2013 during 11 a.m. service. The theme for the program is "Honoring Our Pastor with Love and Laughter". Please come and celebrate with us as we honor our Pastor and Family for 18 years of dedicated service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Greater Pearlie Grove. In closing, **Matthew 20:25-28** reads, "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. So, let us all follow Pastor Mason's example and become a church that is known for service.



A “Busy Body for Christ!”

by
Sis. Galean James

Sister Angenette Dixon makes it no secret that she is a very busy person and everything is done with 100% effort! All thanks to a great friend (Tekita Williams) and few visits, Angenette and her husband Thomas, joined Greater Pearlie Grove in June 2004 shortly after they were married. By the way, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dixon will be celebrating nine years of marriage on April 24th! No matter when or where you see Sister Dixon there is always a smile to compliment her beautiful personality. For those of you who do not know this, she also has a funny-side.

Sister Dixon’s involvement with GPG started as a member of the choir and has blossomed ever since. With that being said, she is now one of two Assistant Superintendents for “Christians Under Construction,” formerly known as Sunday School. Her voice echoes amazing harmony as an active member of the choir and praise team. Once a year, she gets to share those talents when she teaches and directs the women’s choir or ensemble. Her name was recently added to the Health Ministry. “Simply because I want to see us get healthier and if there is anything I can do to help, I will,” says Dixon as her motivation to get involved in this particular ministry. Not only is she a leader, but Sister Dixon is an amateur “boot camp” instructor with aspira-



Sis. Angenette Dixon

tions to become a personal trainer and health coach. A personal weight loss accomplishment is credited for Dixon’s ambition to lend a hand and voice to healthy living.

The Coldwater, Mississippi native is the “knee” baby of four children and comes from a musically talented family. In addition to singing, Sister Dixon played the flute and enjoys line dancing. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The University of Mississippi and Master of Science in Education Psychology with an Em-

extensive background in Social Services.

When asked how she spends her time outside of church, Angenette graciously shared that her ministering continues through song with Elder Kenneth Brandon and Vessels. Additionally, she serves as the current president for the Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter (Canton, Mississippi) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Acting is another talent of Sister Dixon and hopes to one day soon make it on the big screen in either a movie, play or gospel singer. There is also a business side to share about Angenette. She is a “Scentsy Consultant” which sells wickless candles; a safer alternative to candles. So, anyone interested in purchasing candles should contact Angenette Dixon when you see her at GPG or visit this website (<https://angenetedixon.scentsy.us/>).

3 John 1:2 is Sister Dixon’s favorite Scripture and it reads, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” She would like to be remembered “as someone who loves God, people and life; and as someone who lived life by serving God’s people through operating in my gifts and talents.”

aerobics
instructor



phasis in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from Mississippi State University. Angenette also has a very





Youth Singing Praises unto Christ!

by Sis. Jackie Wells

Does singing songs of praise and worship fill your soul? For some Christians, gospel or praise and worship songs literally fill their souls with hope and lift their spirits. Singing or listening to music makes some Christians feel closer to God and helps them make it through the day or hard times.

The youth singing in the Sounds of Unity Youth Choir have a willing spirit to sing and provide many Greater Pearlie Grove members and visitors with their gifts of song on the second Sunday of each month. Isaiah 12:5 says "Praise the Lord in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth." Youth, ages 9-18, wishing to join the

youth choir simply needs a willing spirit to sing and worship God. The blessing of a beautiful voice is a bonus but is not required.

Currently sixty-three members comprise the Sounds of Unity Youth Choir and they practice on the 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month. Led by choir director, Michael Robinson, for the past 8 years, Sounds of Unity Youth Choir is preparing to participate in several events this year. The choir committee is making preparations for this choir to participate in several community service projects and workshops.

The choir officers consists of soprano section leaders, Mar-

garet Mason and Kelli Walker; alto section leaders, Danielle Gaines, Kierstun Lipsey, and Ciara Davenport; tenor section leaders, Darien Priest and David Rhodes; and assistant director, Kimberly Walker.



Associate Pastor's Corner

by Rev. Arthur Bridges

Greetings to you Greater Pearlie Grove family. I consider it a privilege to have this forum to share with you. I write to you with great humility, for I certainly don't pretend to have any grand insight; nor do I possess the Wisdom of Solomon. I am just as many of you - fighting daily to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. So, just know that it is with love in my heart that I share my thoughts with you.

After seeking God, He has helped me to determine what to share with you - my church family. I begin by saying that just as it was with the children of Israel so long ago, we have entered into a "new land." Consequently, just as it was with them, this "new land" comes with a charge.

God said to the children of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy, *"When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there."* Based on appearances, one might believe that GPG is moving into the arena of the "Mega" church. I am certainly not saying that every big church and/or every church with a large congregation has detestable ways; but if we are honest, we know that there are some customs that have become associated with the "Mega" church culture that are not biblically sound (i.e., the prosperity doctrine). Though we have been blessed with a beautiful edifice and certainly have grown in number, let us remember not to allow pride to consume our thoughts. We should not think ourselves better than others. Let's keep in mind the sermon that Pastor Mason preached when we arrived, "It's a Church Ain't It." Let's strive to remain the family church that we have always been. Let us hold fast to the truth of the gospel and the principles in God's Word.

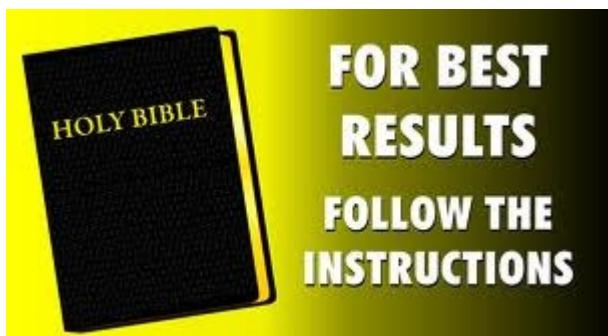
Another thought that I would like to share with you comes from just one word in the aforementioned passage of scripture from Deuteronomy; and that word is "imitate." We not only have to be cautious of imitating ways that are not pleasing to God, but we have to be careful not to imitate "church." Many churches today seem to be characterized and governed by a set of regimented practices and customs. As a result, people, become skilled at creating a persona that merely imitates our interpretation of Godly behavior that we choose to put on display on Sunday mornings. God's

us in Matthew 18 of the consequence we face when we do not choose to forgive our brothers and sisters of their trespasses. Further, we inflict damage to ourselves when we walk around with calloused hearts. So, let us freely forgive and love one another as God has forgiven and loved us.

I pray that we will exercise patience with one another and be tolerant toward the many personalities that we encounter in this body. We must keep in mind that not everyone is at the same place at the same time with their individual relationships with Christ. We should be careful not to condemn each other; but to hold each other accountable and to help one another in LOVE.

I pray that we will be a church that consumes the meat of God's Word to live by it and to grow by it; that our church family will be led by the Spirit and not by our flesh so that we might not manifest the lustful desires of the flesh; but the Fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Let us not forget the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

In Him,
Rev. A



design for the "church" has little to do with the customs and practices that we learn and exhibit on Sunday. The Church is the body of Christ, therefore we should function as such and not an imitation of it. God does not want us to "play church." Be careful that our Faith is a life that we live; and not a role that we play.

Just as the children of Israel were instructed to destroy everything that was associated with those nations residing in the new land, let us destroy the ideologies and immature ways that have been so long associated with "the church". We may not agree about everything; but let's be amicable even in our disagreements. We do not want to allow division to enter our church and to bring disgrace to God's kingdom. We are one body in Christ; so let us be of one mind. GPG, let's practice forgiveness. Sure, people will offend you and you may offend others, but the Bible tells

2013 High School Graduates in Motion

This is a time to pause, to celebrate, to share the joys, to give support, and to reflect on the goodness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our youths have traveled a long road from kindergarten to now, high school seniors. We honor your hard work with the late night studying and various homework assignments....but remember....."anything worth having is worth fighting for".

2 Peter 1:10, “So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away” (KJV)

Each year, Greater Pearlie Grove M.B. Church recognizes our youths who have reached a milestone in their lives. We are honored and privileged to present our 2012-2013 high school graduating seniors.

Forest Hill

Lanier

Graduation day is finally here,
And so now ends your high school career.
Always remember the friends you hold dear,
And look toward your future without any fear.

This is the day you've been preparing for
Since the day you walked through that first classroom door.
Now it is time to say good-bye,
And spread your wings - you're ready to fly.

So shed a tear and share a smile,
And be sure to remember all the while,
That although it may now be time to move on,
Today's memories will last your whole life long.

Ridgeland

Yazoo County



Aneisha Marie Allen
Murrah High School
College: USM in Hattiesburg, MS
Major: Nursing

CLASS OF 2013



Darrious Phillips
Murrah High School
College: Belhaven or Jackson State University
Major: Business Entrepreneurship

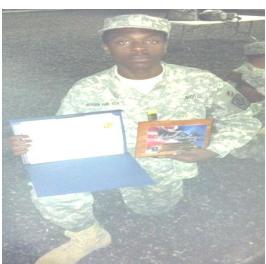


Ciara Danielle Davenport
Ridgeland High School
College MUW or MS State University
Major: Marketing

Harmoni Henderson
Lanier High School
College : Tennessee State University or University of Mississippi
Major: Biology



David Rhodes Jr.
Forest Hill High School
College: Hinds Community College in Utica, MS
Major: Pre Veterinary Medicine



Kourtney Jackson
Lanier High School
College: MUW
Major: Accounting



Matthew Spann
Jim Hill High School
College: University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)
Major: Music Education



Maya Lewis
Yazoo County High School
College: Holmes Community College
Major: Biology



Jordan R. Williams
Murrah High School
College: Jackson State University
Major: Computer Engineering

Greater Pearlie Grove Mass Choir Workshop

by Sis. Shermeka Haynes & Sis. Vickie Mason

Psalms 104:33 (KJV)

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

The Greater Pearlie Grove Music Ministry will hold a Mass Choir workshop June 6-8, 2013 for its current choir members. "It's been quite some time since our first and only workshop. This will be the first time for many of our choir members and we look forward to what we will gain from it", says Sister Vicki Mason, Mass Choir Director.

Our choir's purpose is to Worship, Praise, and Glorify God through song. Sister Mason says the aim of the workshop is to gain knowledge so they can be better at what they do. Since this is the first workshop in quite some time,

attendance is limited to the Music Staff, Choir Director, and Adult and Older teens of the choir ministry. Those interested in being a part of the choir ministry are also welcome to attend.

There are lots of events planned for the workshop and it is tentatively scheduled for 6:30 Thursday and Friday, June 6-7. On Saturday, June 8, events will occur from 8am – 12pm with a 5:00pm culmination of songs from the workshop. The mass choir will be using their own music staff and volunteers to assist in the workshop. There are lots of events planned during the workshop schedule.

If you would like to be a member of the Mass Choir/Music Ministry, here are the requirements:

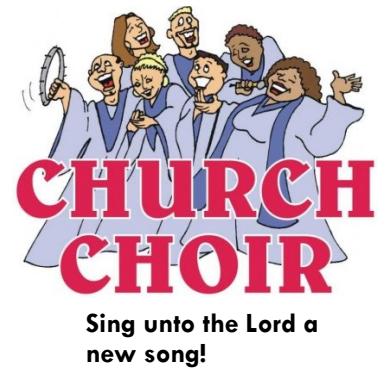
- Current member of

the church

- 18 years or older
- New member orientation with the Pastor for members deciding to be part of the ministry

No prior music experience is required.

For those that are not sure of their voice, a brief listening time will be set aside to help determine where you should be placed. Rehearsals are scheduled each Monday night at 6:30 p.m. and Rev. Tim Chambers brings a word every other Monday.



" Our choir's purpose if to Worship, Praise, and Glorify God through song."



**African American Art Piece!****Ms. Alisha Gibson,
Black History Program
Coordinator****Songs of Praise in Honor of
Black History!**

Greater Pearlie Grove's Black History Showcase

by Sis. Leslie Holloway

On Sunday, February 24th, Greater Pearlie Grove hosted its Black History Talent Showcase. Youth and adult members and visitors celebrated African American history by showcasing an array of talents including singing, praise dancing, musical compositions, poem recitations, and more.

The men of the church participated in the play *The Unemployment Tree*. This play encouraged everyone to not fall into

the generational curses or habits of unemployment, jail, complacency, etc. It reminded everyone to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to us all. As Elisha told the widow to "Go, sell the oil," (2 Kings 4:7) we must also "go" and take action in our lives.

Although this was a very entertaining play, it left us with many inspirational thoughts as it related to the betterment of our lives.

Each performance had an underlying theme

of faith in God, self-worth, and it showed that each person has a talent and gift that can be used to benefit others and glorify God. Kudos to Ms. Alisha Gibson and all those involved in the organization of this program. Job well done!

**Men of GPG giving homage to African American History!****Teens of GPG honoring their heritage!**



Jesus Using Sisters 2013 Annual Retreat

By Sis. Wanda L. Clark

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights... James 1:17. The JUS ministry is hosting their annual women's retreat on April 19 and 20, 2013. The theme is "Gifts Galore". The retreat will be energizing, funny, and spiritually rejuvenating. The weekend will include a breakfast, Keynote Address, 4 Breakout Sessions, Lunch, 1 Refreshment Break, Dinner, and a SILENT AUCTION!

The retreat will begin April 19 at 6:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 5:30 p.m. and April 20 at 7:30 a.m. The retreat will take place at GPG in the multipurpose room. We hope to see all women there!!! Remember the deadline is quickly approaching. Registration is required; adults \$40.00 and TWEENS (ages 12-17) \$10.00. The registration deadline is April 6, 2013 and to register you may see Nekia Adams, Nekesha Dunbar, Gail Hicks or Yolanda Kyles.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

The National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NHS and NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS). These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since their beginnings in 1921 and 1929 (Courtesy of the National Honor Society website: <http://www.nhs.us>). Greater Pearlie Grove has been blessed with two such honorees. **Sis. Tyra**

S. McCormick was inducted in the Billy Ray Smith Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society on February 26, 2013 at Clinton Junior High School. Tyra is in the 7th grade and the daughter of Ms. Teketra McCormick. **Sis. Margaret Mason** was inducted into the National Honor Society on March 20, 2013 at Murrah High School. She is a junior and the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Stephen and Vickie Mason. Please join us in congratulating both of these young ladies for their outstanding accomplishments! To God be the glory!!

School Uniform Collections

By Sis. Wanda Clark



School Uniforms are Needed!

The youth ministry will begin to collect new and used School Uniforms from June 1-July 24, 2013. The used uniform criteria is that they must be washed & have no holes. A collection box will be located in the Multipurpose Room. There will be a special offering on Sunday, June 2, 2013 to help purchase school supplies.

We are asking that you donate uniforms and school supplies to help those families who need some extra support. For more information about the school uniform & supplies donations, please see Sister Charity Thomas.

Meet Our January, February & March 2013 New Members



Mina Lewis



LaMelody Lewis



Antonio Elzie



Zandra Shorter



Donna Sanders



Italiana Anderson



Antoine Harrion



Georgie Coleman



Jaye Coleman

New Members Continued



Bianca Rainey



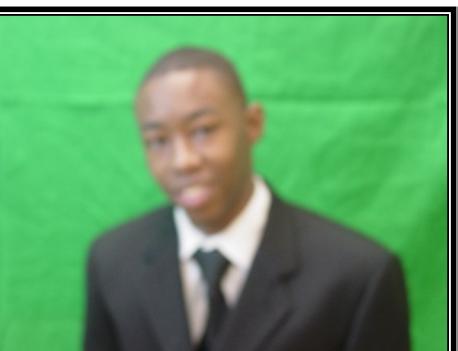
Napolean Rainey



Jeremy Watkins



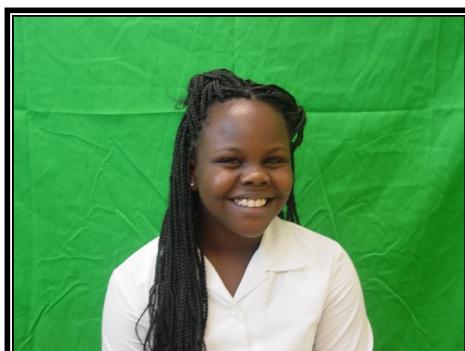
Purvis Jones



Jaylon Coleman



Sheneka Stamps



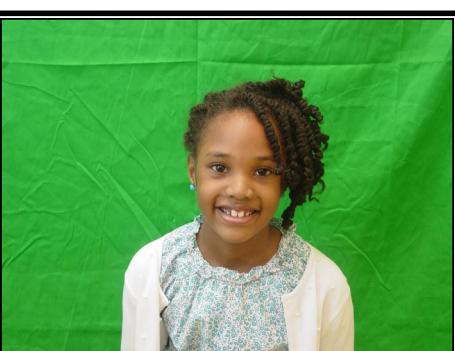
Kenya Tate



Hamp Hooten



Karla Hooten



Khanyla Hooten



Jada Hooten



Maurice Smith

New Members Continued



Brandi Shoemaker



Emerald Spann



Shaquesha Spann



Marshawn Martin



Ralph Davis



Jesse Brown



Charlie Vaughan



Deloris Vaughan



Jayden Vaughan



Alatrina Vaughan



Travis Earl Knight



Lionel T. Knight

New Members Continued



Eronisha Banks



Maggie Brown



Deborah Terrell



Natasha Brown



Antwuan Bass



Patricia Hughes



Willie Hughes



Ida Davenport



Lillie Brown



Freddie Weatherspoon



Cierra Hughes



Patricia Redmond

New Members Continued



Paulette Grim



Mark Grim



Robert Hodges



John Jones, Sr.



Flossietta Jones



John Jones, Jr.



Moscellious Morgan



Marlene Morgan



Janelle Allen



Arthur Bennett



Marcus Foster



Michelle Cage

New Members Continued



Candice Smith



Ludia Jackson



Christen Cunning

Who's My Deacon!

Here at Greater Pearlie Grove, all families are assigned to a group of deacons based on your last names. Our deacons are here to assist you with any questions or spiritual needs you may have and work on behalf of the Pastor. Below is a listing of the deacons and their assigned alphabet. Should you have any general questions regarding the Deacon's Ministry or your assignment, please contact Deacon Greg Walker or Deacon Andrew Moncure.

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS BY ALPHABET

A through F

Anthony Clay

Daryl Jones

Willie Tucker

G through L

Van Jefferson

Leonard Mack

Herman Mainor

M through R

James Hart

Jonas James

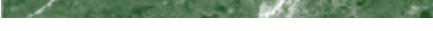
Michael Parks

S through Z

Greg Davenport

Levorn Lipsey





GREATER PEARLIE GROVE

1640 West County Line Road
Jackson, MS 39213

Phone: 601-354-2026
Fax: 601-969-6027
E-mail: secretary@gpgmhc.org

Our Mission

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen

It is the desire of this local church to fulfill the job description that has been given to us in

Matthew 28:19-20.

“Where Our Mission is to Learn, Grow and Serve”

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays

- Adam Moncure - 5th
- Andrew Moncure - 5th
- Charity Thomas - 5th
- April Clincy - 6th
- Annie Austin - 8th
- Crystal Smith - 9th
- Esther Sutton - 13th
- Linda Lewis - 18th
- Andre Armstrong - 20th
- Angela Noble - 24th
- Maggie Gibson - 24th
- Leonard Jackson - 30th

April Anniversaries

- Robert & Wanda Clark - 22nd



- Thomas & Angenette Dixon - 24th

May Birthdays

- Ta'Zarius Jones - 1st
- Theresa H. Parks - 5th
- Joycelyn Humes - 7th
- Michael Parks - 7th
- Alexus Dunbar - 20th
- Ebone' Woods - 20th
- Bryson Clincy - 27th

May Anniversaries

- Andrew & Lori Moncure - 9th (21 yrs)



- William and Joyce Humes - 23rd

June Birthdays

- Vickie Mason - 9th
- Andrew Moncure III - 16th
- Craig Thomas - 18th
- Domonick Dixon - 20th
- Nathan Mason - 21st
- Sarah Taylor - 21st
- Lori Moncure - 22nd

June Anniversaries

- Marvin and Tashauna Bolls - 23rd

