



GOD'S FRIENDLY CHURCH

LILYDALE FIRST

BAPTIST CHURCHSM

LFBC CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of Lilydale First Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Alvin Love, Pastor / Editor



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A Message from Pastor Love

As May commences, the season begins to change. The grass is greening and the temperatures are mitigating. The dawning of Spring fills us with a sense of hope and excitement as we emerge from a long winter.

This is especially true in 2023. It seems as if we are finally starting to recover from a nearly 3 year pandemic. The national, state and local health departments are loosening COVID protocols.

Perhaps it is also time for the church to emerge . The world needs the hope of renewal that Christ provides. I encourage all of us to begin to make our way back to corporate worship, and to bring someone with you. Let's worship, in person, the God who has covered and protected us in, and brought us through a global pandemic. Let the joy of the Lord fill your spirit this spring.

"I was glad when they said unto me, come, let us go into the house of the Lord."

Rev. Ahin Love, Pastor

*Praying
for You*



To: Our sick, shut-in, and bereaved families;

Not only are your Pastor and church family praying for you, but we also have a great advocate in Jesus the Christ who,

"is at the right hand of God ... interceding for us" (Romans 8:34b NIV).

The writer of Hebrews further echoes this truth in that, *"He always lives to intercede for us"* (7:25b).

Therefore, continue to seek His face. For God through the Holy Spirit is still ever present with you.

God Bless You!



WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBER

Let me extend my formal thank-you and warm welcome to Sis. Carolyn R. Comer, for her willingness to serve as the Copy Editor for our "LFBC Connection Newsletter."

"For the body is not one member, but many"
(1 Corinthians 12:14a) in perfecting our Newsletter.

It is my belief that Sis. Comer's affinity for the importance of correct grammar makes her a perfect fit for our staff.

I am very much appreciative to Sis. Comer for being an extra pair of eyes. I look forward to having a long and great working relationship together for,

The Glory of God!

Sister Ruby M. Cooper

Director of Publication | Author



IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study Class resumed on March 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The class is being held in person (and on Zoom) at our Heritage Campus, 649 W. 113th Street, Chicago.

During this 4-Week Session:

STUDY TOPIC – "Christ on Trial"

SCRIPTURES OF STUDY–

- > Leviticus 24:14-16
- > Matthew 26:57-68
- > Mark 14:53-65
- > Luke 23:1-25
- > John 18:28-40

CURRENT STUDY TOPIC "Survey of Psalms."

The 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Session began on April 26th at the Heritage Campus with the same topic of study.

Come join us in class as *"a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:14b).

Following each class session, the lesson will be uploaded to our LFB Church YouTube Channel.

Pastor Love, Instructor





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)
CLASS DISCUSSION

During our Black History Celebration, the Christian Ed Ministry held its second of two, Virtual Roundtable Discussions on Wednesday Night, March 1, 2023, at 7 p.m. with 34 participants.

DISCUSSION TOPIC – “AP Class: Truth Telling in African American History” with special panelist, Mr. Steve Bumbaugh. Mr. Bumbaugh is a member of the National College Board that developed the AP African American History class. Mr. Bumbaugh shared with the group:

- 1) *The course development,*
- 2) *The course opposition from Florida’s Governor, and*
- 3) *The course future demographics.*

It was the consensus of the discussion group that *truth telling* of our rich black history must be made known worldwide and taught in schools *without* being whitewashed!

More information on the AP study can be obtained from the following website:

[www.https://theorg.com](https://theorg.com)

Dean Carrie Wyatt, Director of Christian Education

“A DREAM DEFERRED”
HBCU CONFERENCE

Chicago Marriott
Downtown Magnificent Mile | Chicago, IL
March 8-10, 2023



Pastor Alvin Love & Mr. Steve Bumbaugh

AFRICAN AMERICAN **HISTORY**
CLASS



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RETURN TO WORSHIP: Set Apart to a High Place

By Sis. Carolyn R. Comer

As we entered March 2023, I could hardly believe it marked three years since in-person worship moved to cyberspace. Having no concept of how widespread the disruption of a pandemic could be, I was not prepared for the length of time we would be apart. I missed Bible Class, Sunday School, singing hymns, chatting with members over church dinners and even trustee meetings. *God's Friendly Church* was my community, extended family and home away from home. But home was closed.

Suddenly, our little slice of the Body of Christ, and churches across America, were learning to navigate the complexities of pre-recording worship music, preaching sermons to a near-empty sanctuary, electronically cobbling them together and downloading the final product in time for an expectant congregation.

We gathered in front our Apples and Androids, many of us outfitted in our Sunday best, trying to recapture our worship experience as best we could. Our in-church "Amens" and "Preach Pastor" migrated to a YouTube chat box. Our pastor watched with us, greeting and encouraging us to worship together and invite our families to join us around the video communion table. Prayer Service was confined to the prayer line and we *Zoomed* through Bible and Christian Education classes.

Yes, *Bedside Baptist* was not just for raining Sundays anymore – it was the new normal. After-church fellowship found its way to Facebook, talking to members we may not have interacted with very much. Posts of pre-pandemic services, anniversaries and other celebrations reminded us of what we could look forward to on the other side of this crisis. For those who could join, ministerial staff held daily virtual Bible classes. It was wonderful hearing members' voices. This kept



us connected and was a perfect example of God growing His church despite separation.

I thought, "any day this will turn around," but each glimmer of hope for reunion was dashed by a new Covid variant, another wave of illness and more personal loss. We could neither celebrate nor mourn, laugh or cry, agree or disagree ... together. As months became years, I absolutely ached to return, having grown weary of watching church like a TV show -- talking back to an audience who could not hear the "Amens." When the video ended, church was gone. No chatter, no fist-bumping – nothing. With the frustration came a loss of focus and little desire to dress up for the computer as a congregation of one. And finally, I succumbed to attending Sunday School and Worship while propped up in bed.

We are fond of saying, "Joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5b). For me, that was the morning we returned to 8 a.m. service. It was an amalgam of 8 and 11 a.m. members, ready to praise the Lord as fervently as masks allowed. Gradually, we resumed the second service when we moved into our Legacy Campus. But as with hundreds of American Churches, many members have not returned.

Looking through the lens of my own enthusiasm, I did not understand why so many were still absent. I read research that discussed how a certain percentage of churchgoers have simply gotten out of the habit of going to church. While some are still fearful or perhaps medically comprised, others have simply lost the routine. I have even heard people admit they prefer to watch in their →



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pajamas with a cup of coffee.

While it is not my place to speculate about others' personal reasons for staying away, it caused me to examine my own motives. Viewing online church in my robe, drinking coffee, did not feel like fellowship or a "sacrifice of praise." I wanted to be with the Body and worship together. I wanted to hear the collective "Amen's" and "I know that's right." The truth is, I was video weary and *Zoomed Out* unless I had no other choice. At home, it was hard to ignore distractions or suppress the urge to nap during an online class after a long, hard day. *Bedside Baptist* was a blessing when it was the only option, but perhaps now, an obstacle to those who valued comfort over community. So, what about "not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together and encouraging one another?" (Hebrews 10:25)

In a world that is so *virtually* connected, in real life we hesitate to reconnect. For me, the longer we remained isolated, the greater was my impatience to return. I needed corporate worship, community and especially spiritual structure. I wanted *live*, not *Memorex*. After all, we are "the body of Christ, and members individually" (I Corinthians 12:27); members who are spiritually gifted to contribute to the body. We all have something to offer; and each spiritual gift makes us better and builds us up. After this health crisis, our church must not only learn to reconnect but rebuild.

In a recent sermon, Pastor Love beautifully captured what God does by gathering His church together. Our Father draws us to a place that is set apart from the world "*ekklesia*," to commune with Him. He designed one day in seven to bring us to a "high place," apart from everything else, to equip us to go back into our daily valleys. God brings us to this place, not alone, but with friends – where He shows us His glory. In the same way, when Jesus separated Himself to talk with His Father, He took His inner-circle friends – Peter, James and John.

That sermon encapsulated why church attendance for me was **not** just a habit or routine, and it clarified why I was

so passionate to return. This was my opportunity to be set apart from daily cares and the stresses of life and work, to worship with family. It is a weekly refreshing that I cannot live without. So, it was a privilege to resign my membership to *Bedside Baptist* and return to that "High Place" to worship side-by-side with all of you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

Unit III: The Birth of the Church

◇ May 7, 2023 | Fear and Trust

Devotional Reading: Psalm 16

Background Scripture: Acts 2:1-42

Print Passage: Acts 2:1-8, 14-24, 37-39

◇ May 14, 2023 | Healing a Man Who Cannot Walk

Devotional Reading: Luke 10:1-9

Background Scripture: Acts 3

Print Passage: Acts 3:1-11

◇ May 21, 2023 | Breaking Down Barriers

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 60:9-14

Background Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Print Passage: Acts 8:29-40

◇ May 28, 2023 | The Challenges of Change

Devotional Reading: Philippians 3:1-14

Background Scripture: Acts 9:1-31

Print Passage: Acts 9:9-17

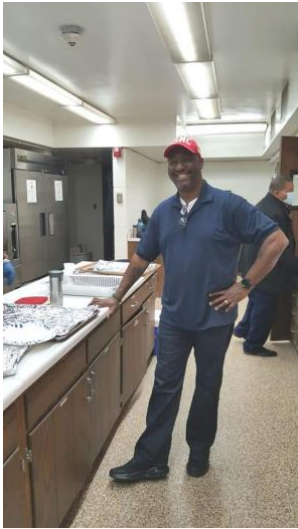
Sis. Vikki McKenzie, Sunday School Superintendent



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BROTHERHOOD FISH FRY, MARCH 25, 2023



CONGRATULATIONS!

To the Nurse's Aide Ministry on their 68th Anniversary that was held on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

Theme: *"Christian Nurses Serving God With Great Joy"* Psalm 100.

Guest Preacher and Church
Rev. Dr. Joel D. Taylor & St. Paul MB Church.

Sis. Michelle Johnson, President

Our first in-house social fellowship since emerging from the 3-year Covid Pandemic was the Brotherhood Fish Fry held at the Legacy Campus on Saturday, March 25th at 12:00 noon.

The Brotherhood graciously hosted us. Laughter echoed throughout fellowship hall with approximately 30-40 people in attendance. Gospel music provided a pleasant background for the many conversations and delightful chatter. Memories of past Fish Fries were shared and new acquaintances were made. All seemingly had a good time.

The menu included steaked catfish, perch, fried chicken, various side dishes, desserts, rolls, condiments, pop and water. KUDOS TO THE COOKS!

Many thanks to President Deacon Darnell Glenn and the Brotherhood for resurrecting the Fish Fry. We look forward to the next one.

Blessings!



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS

On Good Friday, April 7th at 12:00 noon, 6 pastors gathered at our Legacy Campus with host pastor, Rev. Alvin Love and powerfully preached the last 7 sayings of Jesus from the cross.

The Deliverance of Each Sayings:

1 st Word – “Forgiveness”	Luke 23:32
Reverend Victor Roland	<i>Mind, Body & Spirit Ministries</i>

2 nd Word – “Salvation”	Luke 23:43
Reverend Larry Tyler	<i>Second Bapt. Church Joliet</i>

3 rd Word – “Compassion”	John 19: 26-27
Reverend Stevie Powell	<i>Believers Fellowship MBC</i>

4 th Word – “Abandonment”	Mark 15:34
Reverend Antwon Funches	<i>St. Paul MBC Freeport</i>

5 th Word – “Anguish”	John 19:28
Reverend Charles Hamilton	<i>Pleasant Grove MBC</i>

6 th Word – “Victory”	John 19:30
Reverend Robert Jones	<i>Mt. Carmel MB Church</i>

7 th Word – “Committal”	Luke 23:46
Reverend Alvin Love	<i>Lilydale First Bapt. Church</i>

We are indeed blessed and indebted to Jesus for becoming the sacrificial Lamb of God, dying for our sins and defeating death as our Risen Savior, that we might have eternal life with Him.

AMEN!

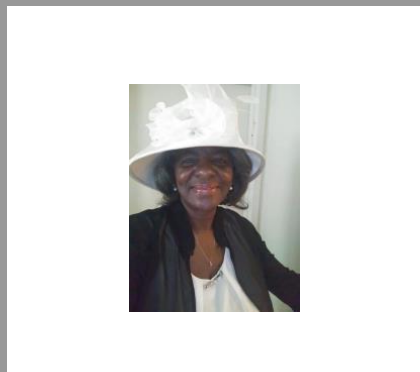
CONGRATULATIONS!

To the Mission Union on its 110th Anniversary that was held on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Theme: “*Our Mission, Doing As Instructed by God With A Renewed Mind,*” Matthew 25:35-39 and Romans 12:2

8:00 a.m. – Reverend Mary Momon, Preacher
11:00 a.m. – Reverend Jonathan M. Tennial,

Sis. Pamela Jenkins, General Mission President





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TO YOUR HEALTH: By The Nurse's Aide Ministry
MARCH | APRIL STRESS MANAGEMENT

Hello Lilydale, the Nurse's Aide Ministry would like to share a little information regarding stress and ways to manage it:

What Is Stress: Stress can be defined as a state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation. Stress is a natural human response that prompts us to address challenges and threats in our lives. Everyone experiences stress to some degree. The way we respond to stress, however, makes a big difference to our overall well-being. Stress affects both the mind and the body. A little bit of stress is good and can help us perform daily activities. Too much stress can cause physical and mental health problems. Learning how to cope with stress can help us feel less overwhelmed and support our mental, physical and spiritual health.

How Stress Affects Your Health: You are going to have some stress in your life – we all do, and it is normal. One of the best things you can do for your health is manage that stress, even when you cannot control the source of it. Some stress can be good. It can be a challenge that keeps us alert, motivated and ready to avoid danger. But too much stress can make us sick, and bring on or worsen certain symptoms or diseases, research shows. However, if you are constantly under stress, you can have physical symptoms, such as headaches, an upset stomach, high blood pressure, chest pain and problems with sleep. Stress can also lead to emotional problems, depression, panic attacks, or other forms of anxiety and worry. It is not just the stress itself that is the problem. It is how you respond to it. For instance, if you smoke, use drugs, overeat, gamble or spend too much money, that will cause more problems. Stress makes it hard for us to relax and can give rise to a range of emotions, including anxiety and irritability. When stressed, we may find it difficult to concentrate.

We may lose our appetite or eat more than usual. Chronic stress can worsen pre-existing health problems and may increase our use of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances. Stressful situations can also cause or exacerbate mental health conditions, most commonly anxiety and depression, which require access to health care. When we suffer from a mental health condition, it may be due to a sustained stress level that is affecting our daily lives, including at work or school. Yes, it is natural to feel stressed in challenging situations such as job interviews, school exams, unrealistic workloads, an insecure job, or conflict with family, friends or colleagues. For many people, stress reduces over time as the situation improves or as they learn to cope emotionally with the situation. Stress tends to be widespread during events such as the COVID pandemic or other disease outbreaks, major economic crises, natural disasters, war and community violence.

As believers in the Lord, this is not how we are meant to live! God's plan has always been that we live in perfect peace and ultimately find deliverance from trials. That is why God is totally against worry and stress. Jesus preached against it. Paul preached against it. The entire Bible is against stress and worry. These scriptures remind us of God's instructions regarding stress: "Do not be anxious about anything" (Philippians 4:6, NIV), "Don't let your heart be troubled" (John 14:1), "Don't worry" (Matthew 6:31). And that is just the beginning. Yet many of us still act as if it is an option. Stress is one of those things the Word of God directly commands us to not do.

How To Manage Your Stress: Notice that the command in 1 Peter 5:7 to cast your anxieties on the Lord is preceded by the statement that God cares. It goes like this: "Humble →



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yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God ... casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). Therefore, casting our anxieties means trusting the Lord's might and trusting His care to fulfill specific promises that He makes to His children in their various situations of life.

- Cast your cares by talking to God about them. Praying when stress arises will ease your mind and calm your spirit. 2 Corinthians 10:5

- Cast your cares by replacing your worry with the Word. Studying God's Word increases your knowledge and will be a reminder of God's promises to His children.

Joshua 1:8

- Cast your cares by finding a Faith Friend. Having a Prayer Partner helps with growth. We all need one person that can hold us accountable for our actions and thoughts.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

As Christians, 1 Corinthians 3:16 tells us our bodies are temples of God so let us care for our bodies both physically and spiritually.

Be Blessed!

REFERENCES: The Holy Bible

www.webmd.com

www.who.int

www.kcm.org



SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2023
PASTOR ALVIN LOVE
"40TH" PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!!!

May 6th—Paint & Praise Party
1pm for 1st Lady Carolyn Love



Lilydale First Baptist Church and Lilydale First Baptist Foundation Hosting the C.R.S.

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Lilydale First Baptist Church, along with the Lilydale First Baptist Foundation, hosted the national training for the Community Relations Service (CRS) of the U.S. Justice Department. CRS is the nation's "peacemaker." We gathered at Fenger High School to hear from staff and students about the challenges they face in the Roseland community. Thank you Principal Lamney for your leadership.

We then transitioned to our church where lunch was provided. After lunch, we held a dialogue centering around Community Engagement, Civil Rights and Justice. Presentations on our church responses were made by Judge Drella Savage and Pastor Love. It was great to have the Community Relations department in our community seeking better ways to serve.

"Community." "Relations." "Service."

Pastor Alvin Love



LFB Foundation Committee Members

Dr. Alvin Love --	President & Chairman of the Board
Mr. Ernest Peeples --	VP & Vice Chairman of the Board
Dr. Alicia Evans --	Treasurer & Board Director
The Hon. Drella C. Savage --	Secretary & Board Director
The Hon. Bennie E. Martin --	Board Director & Registered Agent
Dr. John Long --	Board Director
Ms. Elvin "Nell" Glenn --	Board Director



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CONTACT US — Email: LFBSecretary@gmail.com

Heritage Campus

649 West 113th Street
Chicago, IL 60628-4701

1-773-785-8623/Office
1-773-928-5683/Fax

Sunday School

In-Person & on Zoom each Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Sister Vikki McKenzie, Superintendent

Prayer Meeting: Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Line: 1-605-313-5109
Access Code: 535544#

Intercessory Prayer Line

Monday—Friday 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Prayer Line: 1-605-313-5109
Access Code: 535544#

Legacy Campus

424 Indianwood Blvd. Park
Forest, IL 60466

1-708-898-2794/Office
1-708-964-2183/Fax

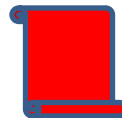


WORSHIP
YouTube:
Lilydale First Baptist

UPCOMING EVENTS | May, 2023

May 6 Paint & Praise Party
May 8-11: LFB Spring Leadership School
May 21 Senior Ushers Anniversary
May 22-25: Hosting Greater New Era
"78th" Annual Session
More Info to Come

The LFBC "CONNECTION" Newsletter



Is the official publication of the Lilydale First Baptist Church. All articles/information for publication should be submitted electronically to:

rubycooper03@yahoo.com

*We pray that this publication
will strengthen our
CONNECTION with one
another as we labor together
in God's vineyard.*



Sis. Ruby M. Cooper,
Director of Publication | Author



Sis. Carolyn R. Comer,
Copy Editor



**Text Us
a Prayer
Request**

833-833-9895



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Admin. Assistant