



GOD'S FRIENDLY CHURCH

# LILYDALE FIRST

## BAPTIST CHURCH<sup>SM</sup>

### LFBC CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of Lilydale First Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Alvin Love, Pastor / Executive Editor



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## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

The first quarter of 2024 has been a very busy one for our church. I am encouraged by the focus on ministry that taken hold of each of us. This year we are determined to deepen our commitment to discipleship. As we approach the Spring season, we do so with a greater commitment to do more in 2024!

I hope that this newsletter will both inform and encourage you. I extend my thanks and appreciation to Sister Ruby Cooper and her staff for another job well done.

I look forward to what God will do with us, for us, and through us as this years continues to unfold!

Rev. Alvin love, Pastor



**EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP**

***To Our Sick, Shut-In and Bereaved Families:***

***May the Word of God found in:***

- ***Psalms 23 – On Encouragement***
- ***Isaiah 25:8a & I Corinthians 15:53-55 – On Death***
- ***Deuteronomy 31:8 & John 14:18 – On Loneliness***
- ***Psalms 30:11 & Isaiah 61:2 – On Mourning/Sorrow***
- ***Philippians 4:6-7 & 1 Peter 5:7 – On Peace***
- ***James 5:14-15 & Rev. 21:3-4 – On Sickness***

***Bring you comfort and strengthen your walk of faith.***

***God Bless You!***



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## Blessing Our Babies

**Baby A'Myracle Bles'Syn Spencer**  
**December 31, 2023 @ 11:00 am**  
**Legacy Campus**



**Mother: Sha'Ron L. Spencer**

**Baby August Collier, Age 5 Months**  
**February 4, 2024 @ 11:00 am**  
**Legacy Campus**



**Parents: Mr. Antoine Collier and**  
**Mrs. Jasmine Cole**

**Maternal Great Grandmother:**  
**Sis. Elvira Gray**

**Baby Zoe Elizabeth Gordon, Age 8 Months**  
**February 24, 2024 @ 11:00 am**  
**Legacy Campus**



**Parents: Mr. Xzavier and Mrs. Alexea Gordon**

**Paternal Grandmother: Mrs. Vicky Gordon**

**Maternal Grandparents: Mother Adrienne (George) Henton and**  
**Mr. Dennis (Mrs. Carol Birdett) Davis**



## At The District



Lilydale First Baptist Church continues to be very active in our Greater New Era Baptist District Association where Pastor Love served as the 10<sup>th</sup> Moderator.

▪ **Thursday morning -- January 4**, the first meeting of the New Year, following the Women's Auxiliary Monthly Board

Meeting, Moderator Rev. Dr. Jarvis Hanson called upon Pastor Love to share his candidacy platform as the next President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., with the congregants. It was well received with a resounding amen and standing ovation.

That evening, Congress President Rev. Dr. Robert C. Jones, Jr., engaged Pastor Love to preach during the Plenary Session. The spirit of the Lord moved in the House of Prayer.

The District Meeting was held at Shiloh MBC; host pastor, Rev. Robert Freeny.

▪ **Saturday morning -- January 13**, four Sunday School members attended the Greater New Era Sunday School Workshop: Sis. Altee Crocker, Rev. Mary Momon, Sis. Jacqueline Powell, and yours truly, Sis. Ruby Cooper. Each participant received a Certificate of Participation. Many thanks to our Sunday School Superintendent, Sis. Vikki McKenzie, for registering the delegates. →



▪ **Monday evening -- March 4**, during the Laymen Virtual Prayer Service, Deacon Thomas Savage, Sr., First Vice President, offered prayer. Deacon Bryant Crowder, Recording Secretary, brought the Meditation Period on the "*Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence of God*," Matthew 6:24-26.

▪ **Thursday morning -- March 7**, Sis. Ruby Cooper, First Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary, presented the Study Lesson, "Sing For Joy Of Heart," Isaiah 65:14.

▪ **Saturday morning -- March 16**, nine Mission members, along with Deacon Thomas Savage, Sr., attended the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Elizabeth S.Y. Weston Mission Festival held at the Rev. B.T. Little Community Center. First Vice President Ruby Cooper served as Worship Leader. Lilydale's Mission brought home the **4<sup>th</sup> Place Trophy In Finance**. Sis. Pamela L. Jenkins, Mission President.





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## CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS

Home & Away

**St. Paul MB Church, Chicago**  
**Pastor Joel Taylor**



**Super Bowl Sunday,**  
**Feb. 11, 2024**  
**Heritage Campus**



**Deacon Darnell Glenn, Brotherhood President**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT**  
**MICHELLE JOHNSON AND THE**  
**NURSES BOARD ON YOUR**  
**"69<sup>th</sup>" ANNIVERSARY.**

## WHO AM I

*Brain Teasers.... By Sis. Carolyn Comer*

**#1** I've been hanging out with this group of guys. All of us were hand-picked by our leader to be his followers. I really hit the jackpot because I love money and it just so happens I'm the treasurer of the group. Our leader always makes sure our taxes are paid, and sometimes there's a little extra that I can pinch for myself. It seems that everywhere we go, something our leader does gets people riled up. The religious leaders are in an uproar and would love to get their hands on him. Here's another chance for me to make easy money. For a few extra bucks, all I have to do is point him out to the authorities. I'm beginning to think our leader knows I'm up to something, but right after dinner I left to seal the deal.

**WHO AM I?**

**#2** I am not in a good place today. There are 3 of us on this hill. I know the guy on the other side is a thief. But it seems like the crowd is focused on the man in the middle. They are hurling insults and ridiculing him like crazy. What the heck, me and the other guy joined in with them. They said he claimed to be King of Israel, our Messiah of all things. We laughed along with everyone else and told him to prove it and get himself down. But now, the other guy has changed his tune and said we were getting what we deserve but this man is innocent. I heard him say to "The King," "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

**WHO AM I?**

**#3** I was unexpectedly caught up in a good deal of drama surrounding the execution of a prisoner right around the time of Passover. In the midst of crowds of people, a man who was looking pretty battered and bloody was carrying a cross. I was just coming in from the country, when all of a sudden soldiers grabbed me and made me take over carrying the cross. I thought it was best to do what they wanted me to do.

**WHO AM I?**

1. Judas 2. Thief who was not saved 3. Simon of Cyrene



The Christian Education Ministry is committed to bringing rich and insightful history on our Black Heritage during the month of February. This year's celebration included a reception, a vendor fair for LFBC's own black entrepreneurs, and two virtual workshops on the *"Pan-African Movement"* facilitated by Pastor Love.

▪ **Sunday, February 18** – Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, North American President of the World's Council of Churches delivered God's Word on, "What Does Delivery Look Like: Zipporah's Story-Part 2," Luke 10:35-37 & Exodus 2:16-25. Following worship, a book signing reception was held in her honor. Dr. Walker-Smith shared great in-depth insights from her book, *"Ahead of Her Time: Pan-African Women of Faith and the Visions of Christian Unity, Mission & Justice."*

▪ **Wednesday, February 26** – 7:00 pm was the first segment of the virtual workshop. Pastor Love shared amazing insights on: I. *Pan-Africanism Philosophy*; II. *Pan-Africanism For Dignity, Justice and Peace*; III. *Transnationals Migration*; IV. *An Evidence-Based Approach to Addressing Systemic and Structural Racism*; and V. *Health Well-Being & Intergenerational Trauma*. The workshop generated much discussion. Twenty-five members attended.

▪ **Sunday, February 25** – Following 11:00 am worship was the Vendor Fair, where Lilydale's 16 entrepreneurs set up their tables. Members and friends had the luxury of shopping from one meticulously arranged table to another. The vendors were very knowledgeable about their products. Pastor Love stated that it "was better than he could ever have imagined in his wildest dreams."

→

#### "ENTREPRENEURS BY TABLE:"

1. **Ms. Carolyn Roberts** – Mary Kay, CEO.
2. **Ms. Dominick West** – Paparazzi Independent Consultant.
3. **Mr. Calvin Gant, Jr.** – Elite 24 Fitness Bodied By Ace; Personal and Group Training.
4. **Ms. Tracey Thomas** – Rosie Lee's Sweeteries. Homemade Bakery.
5. **Ms. Jacqueline Powell** – Lewis & Crew Catering, and J's Design.
6. **Rev. Mary Momon** – EriBians ArTistry, Hats, Jewelry, Slippers.
7. **Ms. Marlene Webb** – Lil Mama's Homemade Pickles.
8. **Mr. Daniel Tolbert** – Jewelry by Daniel, Dan T's Barbeque Sauce.
9. **Ms. Gwendolyn Dunbar** – Author of *"Cutting The Ties."*
10. **Miss Bayleigh Love** – Bayleigh Cakes. *The youngest vendor.*
11. **Mrs. Sherece Brown** – S. Monet Creations and Personalized Baby Gifts.
12. **Mrs. Katrina King** – Green Organics, Essential Oils, Beauty and Wellness Products.
13. **Ms. Debbie Jones** – Magazine, *"One of Them Homecare for Senior Citizens"*.
14. **Ms. Corinne Witt** – Inese's Cookies.
15. **Minister Anthony and Mrs. Terri Jones** – TNT Cleaning and Catering Service LLC.
16. **Mrs. Maresa Williams** – F.A.I.T.H., and Beating Hearts Consultants, LLC, a company that ensures each person delivers high quality lifesaving skills in CPR, AED, and First Aid.

**NOTE:** Hosting another vendor fair later in the year is currently under consideration. For more information on the entrepreneurs and their products and/or services, you may contact the Church office at (773) 785-8623. →



▪ **Wednesday, February 28** – At 7:00 pm, was the second segment of the “*Pan-African*

*Movement*,” and a slide presentation on a *Journey to Ghana* by Deacon Thomas Savage, Sr. Five Lilydale Families traveled to Ghana at different times: Sis. Geraldine Turner and daughter, Attorney LeDeidre Turner, touring Ghana with the Alpha Kappa Sorority (A.K.A.); Deacon Thomas Savage, Sr. and Retired Judge Drella Savage toured Ghana with the National Bar Association; Deacon Johnny and Mrs. Leilani Howell, and Sis. Delorse and Jukube Felton traveled with a different tour.

During the slide presentations, each family offered their experiences at the same tourist location, receiving different kinds of “Tour Welcomes” into Ghana. The Savages’ welcome was held at the King’s Palace where all 160 tourists were served different delicacies and assorted beverages.

All five families’ tours included:

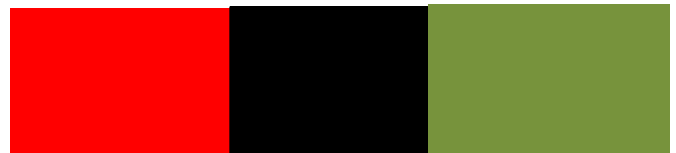
- ***The Snake River/Ghana’s Ancestral River*** – The attire to step into the river was white. Attendees sang hymns and prayed.
- ***The Dungeon*** – Slaves who were housed in the dungeon never came out. Inside lies a dingy and dimly lighted corridor that led to ▪ ***The Door of No Return***.
- ***The Market Place*** – Is a famous tourist spot to purchase clothes, jewelry, pictures, etc. at prices much lower than the U.S. dollar.
- ***The Name Ceremony*** – Eight days after the birth of a child, a ceremony is held to name that child based upon the gender and day of the week. LFBC members participated in separated ceremonies and each one was given an African name.
- ***Ancestral Worship*** – Is “believed” to ensure that harmony and balance is maintained in the community. The “ancestors” serve as the intermediaries between  
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the Living and God. The service included a lot of dancing and was filled to capacity with adults and children.

All five families went to different mission fields and participated in their events.

Deacon Cleve and Mrs. Jacquelyn Gilmore is the next family traveling to Ghana.

**NOTE:** If you are interested in receiving Pastor Love’s ***Pan-African Movement*** handout, contact the church office at (773) 785-8623 for a copy.

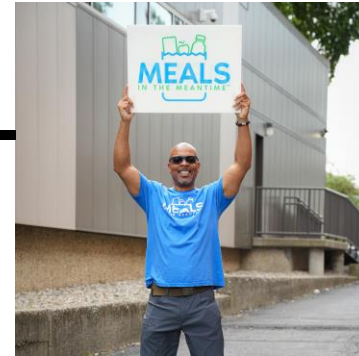


**Table 10: Bayleigh Love  
Lilydale’s Youngest Entrepreneur**

We are very proud of our entrepreneurs, and pray that they will have much success. Dean Carrie M. Wyatt, Director of Christian Education. ■

***Glory to God!***

**SPOTLIGHTING  
BRO. KEVIN YATES**



## *Lilydale's Son Helps People In Need Of Food!*

“If you had told me starting a nonprofit to help people who need food is part of the plan for my life, I would have said, Who? Me? Start a nonprofit?”, says Kevin M. Yates. Lilydale’s very own son, founded and leads a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. *Meals in the Meantime*, focuses on helping people who need food in Chicagoland south suburbs with pop-up food pantries. It’s an unexpected path on Kevin’s life journey and one for which he is truly grateful.

*Meals in the Meantime* is a God-given assignment says Kevin. “I remember the day, it was Tuesday, March 9, 2021, where I had just awakened and was lying in bed meditating and praying about my life and its purpose. I’ve had a lot of personal and professional success, and it was feeling like a lot of my time and efforts had been narrowly focused on me. I asked God to give me a higher purpose. The purpose He gave me was to help people who need food. The vision He gave me was *Meals in the Meantime*.”

*Meals in the Meantime* is in its fourth year of operation and has helped food-insecure populations across Chicagoland south suburbs. In fact, the first pantry was held at Lilydale’s Legacy Campus in Park Forest, Illinois, in May 2021. “It meant a lot to me for Rev. Love to offer our new campus as the first location for our pop-up pantry. And He helped us find the food too! Clearly, God was in the plan.”

There’s an intentional focus on food that sustains good health and well-being. Having given away nearly 10,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, *Meals in the Meantime* stays true its mission of filling the food gap with nourishment and dignity. “Food insecurity is a condition, not a condemnation. We’re changing the →

condition with *Meals in the Meantime*,” says Kevin.

Kevin’s vision for *Meals in the Meantime*’s future is bold and big. “I want to increase the number of pantries we provide and reach more people in Chicagoland south suburbs. Hunger is a real thing. Those of us who have access to food take for granted that all we have to do is open our refrigerator or kitchen cabinet, or go to the grocery store, or go to a restaurant when we’re hungry. There are families, seniors and adults young and old, who are literally hungry because they don’t have access to food. My vision for *Meals in the Meantime* is ensuring food-insecure populations get access to free, fresh, healthy, high-quality food.”

The good work Kevin is doing with *Meals in the Meantime* is blessed and highly favored. “I’m grateful for the vision God gave me. It wasn’t the plan I had for my life but as we all know, our plans are not always God’s plan. We’ve been successful beyond what I could have imagined and most importantly, we’re filling the food gap. I can see God’s hand directing our path and leading our way and for that, I am grateful. I thank God for *Meals in the Meantime*.”

We give glory to God for blessing Bro. Kevin Yates with this awesome ministry that feeds *hundreds upon hundreds* of people of all ethnicities, nationalities, races, religions and sexes.

Thank you Bro. Kevin for being obedient to God’s plan for your life. May His abundant blessings be yours to enjoy through eternity. ■





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## More News...

**Miss Zora Beaty**  
**On A Safari Wildlife Expedition**  
**March 16-19. 2024**



**Zora and classmates from Pomona College**  
**in Claremont, CA, visited the Serengeti**  
**National Park in Tanzania, Africa, to study**  
**wildlife.**

**Palm Sunday Baby Blessing**  
**By Pastor Alvin Love**  
**March 24, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.**  
**Legacy Campus**

**Baby Nolyn Alexander Regan Sanlin-Burley**  
**Age One Year Old**



**Parents: Mr. Nathaniel Burley and Ms.**  
**Tracie Sanlin**

**Great Grandmother – Sis. Shirley Sanlin**

**UPCOMING: THE 111<sup>TH</sup> MISSION ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 @ 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**



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## EASTER SUNDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

### The Program – 9:30 am | Heritage Campus



### The Prayer – 11:00 am Legacy Campus



### The Playtime: In-Door Easter Egg Hunt 12:30 pm | Legacy Campus



Sponsored by the Sunday School Ministry | Sis. Vikki McKenzie, Superintendent



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CONTACT US – Email: [LFBSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:LFBSecretary@gmail.com)

## Heritage Campus

649 West 113th Street  
Chicago, IL 60628-4701

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

## Legacy Campus

424 Indianwood Blvd.  
Park Forest, IL 60466

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

## Intercessory Prayer Line

Monday – Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Prayer Line: 1-605-313-5109

Access Code: 535544#



**WORSHIP YouTube:**  
**Lilydale First Baptist**

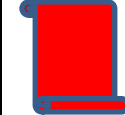


**Text Us  
a Prayer  
Request**  
**833-833-9895**



*Sis. YoLynda Jamison*  
Admin. Assistant

## The LFBC “CONNECTION” Newsletter



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

[rubbycooper03@yahoo.com](mailto:rubbycooper03@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

*Reverend Dr. Alvin Love, Pastor*