



GOD'S FRIENDLY CHURCH

LILYDALE FIRST

BAPTIST CHURCHSM

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



Greetings my Lilydale First Baptist Church Family!

As we enjoy the warmth of this summer, I pray that you are also experiencing the warmth of the love of God. Thank you once again, Sister Ruby Cooper and your newsletter staff for helping us engage one another through the printed media. I am grateful to your faithfulness to this endeavor. In this issue, I hope that you will find the joy of our fellowship as you join with others in the wonderful experiences that God has allowed us to share.

Enjoy your summer, and may God bless you all.

Rev. Alvin Love, Pastor



To Our Sick, Shut-In and Bereaved Families:

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1).

No matter where you find yourself in this life, be assured that God’s guarding presence is there with you.

Say as the psalmist,

“...in Him will I trust” (Psalm 91:2).

Sing as the hymnologist,

“I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord till I die.”

And God will give you “peace [that] surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

Be Blessed!

EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

MISSION NEWS

“Doing More In 2024” – Matthew 28:19

The General Mission celebrated its **111th Anniversary** throughout the entire month of April, 2024, with showers of praises glorifying God.

The celebration began in prayer with the Mission facilitating the weekly Tuesday night prayer services at 7:00 pm., led as follows:

- April 2 – Executive Board.
23 participants were on the line. *
- April 9 – The Deborah and Naomi Circles.
38 participants were on the line. *
- April 16 – The Esther and Lydia Circles.
41 participants were on the line. *
- April 23 – Ruth and the YWAs.
36 participants were on the line. *
- April 30 – Abigail, Dorcas, and Red Circles.
45 participants were on the line. *

*Info provided by the Free Conference Call network.

The Mission held its **Annual Mother Lennice Rials Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday, April 20, at our Legacy Campus, chaired by First Lady Love.

The prayer wheel kept on turning and turning throughout the breakfast with a powerful Word and prayers lifted up for:

Adoration Sis. Maresa Williams
Supplication Sis. Drella Savage
Intercession Sis. Brenda Y-Perry
Thanksgiving Dea. Charles Rials, Sr.
Salvation Sis. Jackie Powell

The guest speaker, Rev. Lisa T. Ballard of the Sunrise Baptist Church of Chicago, added more fuel to the prayer wheel. Emphasizing “*Doing More In 2024*,” Rev. Ballard passionately encouraged us to:

(i) *Wake Up*, (ii) *Clean Up*, (iii) *Dress Up*, (iv) *Walk Up* and (v) *Go Up*.

On Sunday, April 28, the celebration went up even higher during the Annual Worship Services at 8:00 a.m., Preacher, Minister Anthony Jones; and 11:00 a.m., Preacher, Rev. Dr. LaRue Kidd, Pastor of True Light Church Baptist.

It was a power-packed “**One Hundred & Eleven Years**” celebration. Sis. Karen Cook Turner, General Mission President.

Glory to God!



Executive Board

→



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**BAPTISM OF MASTER TATUM
CLAYBORN, AGE 6 YEARS OLD
APRIL 28, 2024**



Jesus says, *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."*
Matthew 19:14 ESV

**THE MISSION OBSERVING THE
"72ND NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 1, 2024
Sis. Karen Cook Turner, President**



11:00 AM

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
SENIOR USHERS' BOARD ON YOUR
ANNIVERSARY ♦ May 19, 2024**



**The Clayborns: Mr. Darnell and
Mrs. Tatiana Clayborn and Family.**



**Deacon Eric Smith, Senior
Ushers' President**



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SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER CONFERENCE

On Saturday, May 18th, Lilydale First Baptist hosted the H.E.A.L. Collaborative and AMGEN Conference on Small Cell Lung Cancer at the Legacy Campus.

Misconceptions about Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC):

- There's no treatment. ■ SCLC does not spread beyond the lungs. ■ I'm too young to have Lung Cancer.
- Smoking cigarettes are the only risk factor for SCLC.
- Former smokers cannot develop SCLC.

The risk for developing SCLC is much higher for current or former tobacco smokers. However, SCLC can also be caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, asbestos, some inhaled chemicals, radiation and air pollution. Those with a family history of lung cancer may also be at higher risk.

For more information you may visit:

www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/Lung

SMALL
CELL
LUNG
CANCER
CONFERENCE



At The District Level

The Greater New Era Baptist District Association of Chicago & Vicinity held its **79th Annual Session** on May 20-23, 2024. Host Church: Calvary Baptist, 8247 So. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL, Rev. Dr. James R. Flint, Jr., Pastor.

LFBC congratulated Sis. LaKisha Brown, *Director of the GNE Youth & Young People* for delivering her **3rd Annual Address** on Tuesday evening, May 21, 2024. Sis. Brown spoke emphatically on the word "Commitment," from Proverbs 16:3.

Sis. Ruby Cooper, *1st Vice President of the GNE Women's Auxiliary* was also congratulated by the church, on her **1st Annual Address**, serving as the interim President during the Annual Session. Sis. Cooper, with divine help, lifted up the GNE theme, "*A District Facing the Challenges of This Era Through Christian Service*," Philippians 2:3-8, on Wednesday night, May 22, 2024.

Church members were in attendance on both nights. Presentations were made to Sis. Brown and Sis. Cooper, respectively, that included a beautiful bouquet of roses from the Christian Education Ministry where they serve on the Committee.

Glory To God!





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Pastor Love's **Newest** Member on His Ministerial Roster

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, during the 8:00 a.m. worship service, Rev. Dr. Kelcey West from Las Vegas, NV, delivered a very powerful Word entitled, "I Have Something to Say," Acts 3:11-12.

Prior to delivering the Word, Rev. West asked Pastor Love to serve as *his* Pastor. With humility, Pastor Love accepted his request.

Pastor Love and Rev. West became acquainted with one another at a NBC, USA, Inc Meeting, and the two forged a close bond.

Both churches, LFBC and Nehemiah Ministries Christian Church, worshiped God in high praise as one body in Christ.

Glory To God!



Rev. Dr. Kelcey West
Nehemiah Ministries Christian
Church, Las Vegas, NV.

8:00 AM

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Pastor and First Lady Love
pictured with members of
Nehemiah Ministries Christian
Church.

*Pastor Love's Ministerial Roster includes: 4 Associate Ministers + 2 Sons (Away)
& 10 Pastors of Churches*

At The State Level



Lilydale's Representation

Left to right: Sis. Drella Savage and Deacon Thomas Savage Sr., Sis. Vikki McKenzie and Deacon Michael McKenzie

The Baptist General State Convention's 123rd annual session culminated in a Unity Banquet on Thursday, June 6, 2024, held at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, IL, where Lilydale was well represented.

Rev. Dr. Mark A. McConnell, Pastor of New Cornerstone Bapt. Church in East St. Louis, Illinois, is Convention President.

Pastor Alvin Love is a past State Convention President, having served from 2002 -2008.



WHAT FEAST AM I?

Brain Teasers By Sis. Carolyn Comer

1. God sent a deliverer to the Israelites to free them from Egyptian bondage. After several plagues had no effect on Pharaoh's hardened heart, God sent one more plague; the firstborn of every household would die when the destroyer came. But God instructed Israel to put lamb's blood on their doorposts so that death would not come to their homes and finally, Pharaoh let them go. Israel celebrated their deliverance with a meal of fire-roasted lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread. To this day, the Jewish people recognize their freedom with a Seder meal during this holiday. **What feast am I?**

2. When the Hebrews left Egypt, they did so as quickly as possible. There wasn't time for the usual careful preparation of meals, such as using yeast and waiting for bread to rise. The day after their ceremonial meal, a new feast began. The Jews were told to remove yeast from their homes for 7 days and hold a sacred assembly on the first and last days. Working was not permitted except to prepare meals for everyone to eat. During this time, bread must be made without yeast, symbolizing the "bread of haste" eaten when Israel was delivered from slavery. **What feast am I?**

3. The most holy of festivals was marked by elaborate rituals and sacrifices by the High Priest, who was allowed into the Holy of Holies annually on this special occasion. To enter at any other time brought death. The priest first bathed before entering the tabernacle. Then a series of sin offerings were made; first for the priest and his family and then for Israel. Today, Jews celebrate with a 25-hour period of intense prayer and fasting and spend most of the day in synagogue services. **What feast am I and what is my familiar Hebrew name?**

ANSWERS: 1. Passover 2. Feast of Unleavened Bread 3. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)



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CONGRATULATIONS...
LOOK WHO'S ENGAGED



Dr. Melanie Milroe

Pharmacist - *Doctorate of Pharmacy,*
Pharmaceutical Sciences,
and

Dr. Telvin Harrell

Virologist - *Doctorate of Bio-Medical &*
Veterinary Science,
On Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Parents: Deacon Quentin & Mrs. Paula Milroe
and
Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Tammie Harrell from the
State of Virginia.

LFBC "Virtual" Spring Leadership School

was held May 28 – 31, 2024, with Sis. Adrienne Simms serving as Dean of School. Theme: "More In 2024: Our Commitment to Discipleship," Luke 8:31-32.

Courses & Workshops Offered

- **#6021 – Spiritual Formation**, Rev. Dr. Rosetta Johnson-Berry, Instructor, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
- **#7010 – Introduction of Discipleship**, Dr. Dolly Robinson, Instructor, Providence MBC
- **Discipleship Workshop for Young Adults**, Rev. David Williams, Interim Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church
- **Baptist Youth Fellowship**, Sis. LaKisha Brown, Youth Director, Lilydale First Bapt. Church

Student Enrollment: 44 with 30 students receiving course cards, and 3 students Certificates.

Participating Churches: Holy Ground Sanctuary International Ministries, Gretna LA; Zion Traveler BC, Mound City, IL; Calvary BC, New Covenant BC, Providence MBC; and LFBC from Chicago, IL.

Dean Simms stated, *"I am thankful to God for the opportunity to work with His people, and grateful to my Pastor and our wonderful Christian Education Committee for their support, as well as the enthusiastic participation of our members."* She is also thankful for the faithfulness of LFBC members attending the Leadership Schools. Her prayer is that God will continue to bless LFB Leadership Schools to grow in knowledge and in numbers. Sis. Carrie M. Wyatt, Director.

Congratulations, Dean Simms.

To God Be the Glory!

MENTAL HEALTH A Growing Illness for Black Americans

We referenced this article being inspired by the General Mission, under the presidency of Sis. Karen Cook Turner, for bringing awareness of Mental Health to the church congregation, as part of the Ethel Simpson Community Outreach Program: The **HELP** Rally.

Mental Health disorders are challenging illnesses faced by millions of Americans. Often, the condition goes unnoticed and people suffer in silence, not wanting to be labeled as a, “*crazy person*” or characterized by negative stigmas like, “*the elevator doesn’t go all the way up*” or “*looney tune*”.

On Sunday, May 26, during the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services, two inspiring presentations on Mental Health were made by Sis. Michelle Johnson, *President of the Nurses’ Aide Ministry*, and Sis. Kelly Cook, *Board Certified Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner*, respectively.

Sis. Johnson reported that nearly one in five adults in the United States have a mental health condition.

- *Forty-eight million* have anxiety disorders; ▪ *Twenty-one million* have major depression; ▪ *Nine million* have post-traumatic stress disorders; ▪ *Seven million* have bipolar disorder; ▪ *Three point five million* have borderline personality disorder; ▪ *Three million* have obsessive compulsion disorder; and ▪ *One point five million* have schizophrenia.

With such alarming numbers that keep rising, Sis. Johnson further stated that, “if there is someone in your life struggling with their mental health, the best thing you can do is reach out and start a conversation, educate yourself on the realities of living with mental health issues and confront any feelings of stigma or judgement you may have.” →

Sis. Kelly Cook also highlighted some statistics with emphasis on the Black Community. She shared how Mental Health stigmas originated in the Black Community, tracing it back to our ancestors.

Sis. Cook pointed out that research suggests that the adult Black Community is 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems such as major depression disorders or generalized anxiety disorders. Only 25 percent of African Americans seek mental health treatment compared to 40 percent of White Americans. The suicide rates for people of color continue to rise, with Black Americans facing a 58 percent increase in suicide rates between 2011 and 2021. Blacks are nearly twice as likely as whites to be diagnosed with schizophrenia. Over 25 percent of Black youth exposed to violence have proven to be at high risk for post- traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“We can all play a part in reducing stigmas by changing the language and attitudes we have about mental illnesses,” Sis. Cook emphatically stated.

In digesting all the information that was shared in both presentations, it is our prayer as saints of God, who is “no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34), that we will squash those stigmas, and declare to them God’s love for them, who says, “*For I know the plans I have for you ... plans to give you a hope and a future*” (Jeremiah 29:11).

God Bless You!

The National Suicide & Mental Crisis Hotline Number is “988”.

At The National Level...

LFBC Sunday School Ministry sent two delegates to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education: Rev. Mary Momon and Sis. Jacqueline Powell. Congress met June 17-21, 2024, at the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis, TN.

Both delegates attended **Course # 0020 – Making Disciples and Retaining New Converts** with instructor Dean Ricky Gardner of Florida.

In inquiring about course content, the delegates reported that Dean Gardner used his own life's story, being the prodigal son (alcoholic, in prison, etc.) of a preacher-dad, to illustrate how God can change a person into becoming His disciple. The class was well attended with standing room only. The class lecturer was, Rev. Craig Jenkins of Beth Eden MBC, Chicago, IL.

Rev. Momon and Sis. Powell shared that "In every session, the sermons and addresses by Dean Carl Washington and Congress Dean Cuff were very enlightening, as well as the late-night services."

The delegates are very grateful to Pastor Love and Sunday School Superintendent Sis. Vikki McKenzie for the wonderful opportunity to attend the National Congress. Their mantra is to be obedient to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), "Go make disciples, teaching them to hear and obey God's Word!"

Pastor Love, a National Board Member, and First Lady Love also attended the National Congress.

Lilydale remains very active in the Baptist denominational work on all levels (District, State, National, and globally), with members serving or having served at all levels.

LFB Delegates Rev. Momon and Sis. Powell



SERENITY PRAYER

*God grant me the **SERENITY** to accept the things I cannot change,*

*the **COURAGE** to change the things I can, and*

*the **WISDOM** to know the difference.*

AMEN!



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CLASS OF 2024!!!



Unique Downey – Kindergarten: Steel City Academy. Parents: Dominique Boston and Roland Downey.

Bayleigh Ava Elise Love – 8th Grade **Salutatorian**: Turner Drew Language Academy. She will be attending Lindblom Math & Science Academy in the fall. Parents: Brandon and Bettina Love. Paternal Grandparents: Pastor Alvin and Mrs. Carolyn Love.

Jayla Bender – 12th Grade: Sam Houston HS, Austin, TX. She will be attending Prairie View College in Houston, TX. She is aspiring to become a pediatrician: Parent: Candice Davis.

Julian Bender – 12th Grade: Sam Houston HS, Austin, TX. He will be attending Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL. His aspiration is to become a Marine Biologist. Parent: Candice Davis.

Damarea Tiara Brown – 12th Grade: Thornwood HS. She will be attending Tricoci University for Cosmetology & Esthetics, Illinois. Parent: Brianna Ashley Joplin.

Payton Shields – 12th Grade: Thornton Fractional South HS, Lansing. She will be attending Northern Illinois University studying Technical Theater Design and Film Production with Engineering. Parent: Daphane Barnes. →

Stephen Smith – 12th Grade: Lindblom Math & Science Academy. He will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying Political Science on the Pre-Law track. Parents: Deacon Eric and Mrs. Lauren Smith.

Karter Jordan Thomas – 12th Grade: Thornton Fractional South HS, Lansing. He will be attending Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, majoring in Business Administration. Parents: Teneshia Thomas and Karl Thomas, II. Maternal Grandmother: Patricia Owens.

Tazajhe “Tazzy” Wells – 12th Grade: Muchin College Prep in Chicago, **4.0 GPA**. She will be attending Illinois State University. Her goal is to become a fashion designer for models and creating a line for everyday people. Parents: Ebony Felton and Nick Wells. Paternal Grandparents: Mr. Jukube and Mrs. Delorse Felton.

Jaelin White – 12th Grade: Munster HS, Munster, IN. He will be attending Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, majoring in Business and Finance. Parents: Courtney and Michael Walker (Father, Mr. Ernest White, Deceased). Grandparents: Deacon Bryant and Mrs. Lori Crowder.

MiShaye Hearn – Graduated from Alma College, Alma, MI, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Management. Parent: Eboni Hearn. →

Continued from page 11

Fred Albert Coffey – Graduated from Roosevelt University, earning a Master of Science Degree in Actuary Science. Parents: Mr. Fred and Mrs. Adelle Coffey.

CONGRATULATIONS to all graduates!

MORE NEWS...



CONGRATULATIONS to Pastor Love, who was asked by the White House Department of Education to sit as a panelist on their “Power Up” Conference, addressing economy opportunities for Black Americans. The event was held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Malcolm X College, Chicago, IL.

The Newlyweds



CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Preston and Mrs. Monique Hampton on their nuptials, Friday, June 21, 2024, at the Legacy Campus!

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE GOLDEN AGERS

ON THEIR 1ST POST-PANDEMIC

ANNIVERSARY ♦ JUNE 30, 2024

DEACON BRYANT CROWDER,

PRESIDENT



GOD'S FRIENDLY CHURCH

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1-773-928-5683 / Fax

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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#



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Lilydale First Baptist Church



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

The LFBFC “CONNECTION” Newsletter

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rubycooper03@yahoo.com



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

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