



A Christian Education Publication

May - June 2021

From the Desk of

Pastor L. B. West, D.R.S.



“Bragging on God”.

A good definition for bragging is - excessively proud talk about one’s accomplishments. Has your Heavenly Father accomplished anything on your behalf lately? Have you recognized any of His accomplishments in your life in very recent times? What has our Heavenly Father done for you that deserves your excessive and meaningfully proud talk about His accomplishments in your life?

Has He provided any healing in your body? Has He supplied any of your needs? Has He caused you to be delivered from any levels of captivity? Has He lifted you up and out of any valley experiences?

Are you grateful for any of the things you have come through, and to whom do you give that credit? At a very minimum, are you grateful for your present status socially, economically, and spiritually? To whom do you give that credit? How important is it for you to let others know what The Lord has done in your life? How important is it to brag on God?

In John 15:26-27 (NCV) Jesus told us: “I will send you The Helper from The Father, He is The Spirit of Truth who comes from The Father. When He comes, He will tell

about Me, and you also must tell people about Me, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

My brothers and sisters, The Lord Jesus Christ has given us permission to tell others about Him and He has granted us permission to brag on our Heavenly Father. After all we have accomplished, none of it would have been possible without the interaction of our Great Jehovah Jireh, for He is our Provider. His grace and mercy have continued to follow us. His blessings have continued to meet us where we are, and His Favor has continued to be multiplied toward us in expanding our future and our hope. What a mighty God we serve.

As we brag on our God, let us remember who we are and whose we are. Let us remember to whom we belong. Let us remember, “We expect and hope that we will not fail Christ anything but that we will have the courage now, as always, to show the greatness of Christ in our lives here on earth, whether we live or die.”

“Diaconate Ministry Ordains Three New Deacons”

by Deacons Ministry

On Sunday, May 16, 2021 the Diaconate Ministry of the Mount Airy Baptist Church ordained three new individuals as Deacons. The new Deacons are Deacon Rena Agee, Deacon Taffene Hollingsworth and Deacon Aaron Lewis, Jr.

Pastor Larry West shared if we were looking for a sign of God's calling upon our lives, perhaps our names would reveal a clue.

Rena – Your name has the biblical meaning of – Being Born Again; It means – Rebirth and I believe you will assist many people in drawing near to Christ that they might be born again.



Taff – Your name means optimistic, inspiring, outgoing, expressive. People see you as cheerful, positive, and charming. Your personality has a certain bounce so powerful in affecting others, you inspire people without much effort.

Aaron – means Mountain of strength, exalted and enlightened, a very prominent name in Old Testament.

Pastor West presented them with **The Charge**:

- I charge you to love The Lord with all your heart, mind, and soul. When you fulfil this charge, you will automatically share your love with all of God's prized creation – your love for God will cause your love for others to be unconditional.
- I charge you to love your neighbor as you love yourself. As a servant leader, you will find there will be times when you will have to reach into deeper depths for that serving attitude that surpasses all understanding.

Deacon Stephanie Glover presented the new Deacons their Bibles, following the presentation of ordination certificates by Deacon Chair Terry Nixon.

The new Deacons were welcomed into their new role of Divinely Chosen Servant Leadership, and are looking forward to serving in the next chapter of their work assignments.

To God Be The Glory For The Great Things He Is Doing, Done And Continues To Do! ◼

The The Northeast Senior Singers (NESS)

*by Sister Deloris Agee, Chair
Music & Creative Arts Ministry*

Just when we thought our season was over, the NESS choir is currently creating a video Commemoration of the March on Washington, August 28, 1963. We are working feverishly to complete our videos and go public before August 28th. Thanks for your support. ◼

MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS

*by Sister Deloris Agee, Chair
Music & Creative Arts Ministry*

Our choir members are beginning to participate more in our Sunday morning services. Most if not all have been vaccinated and we are still following strict health guidelines. Praise God! 🎵

MALE CHORUS

*by Sister Deloris Agee, Chair
Music & Creative Arts Ministry*

We are continuing to reach out to our men for participation on 3rd Sunday's. We also check on them when they are shut-in. 🎵

Mount Airy Puppet of Praise

*by Sister Delores Agee, Ministry Leader
Mount Airy Puppet of Praise Ministry*

The Mount Airy Puppets of Praise presented the video, "I Belong to God" on June 2nd as part of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden (FBCG) puppet ministry's showcase project. DeMarcus and Aniya Siles worked diligently to help produce this video. We were able to include my neighbors, Melvin and Michael and a few extra bodies to help with our props. We can't thank Billy Brown enough for his engineering and putting it all together. We also thank Irene Parker for our title poster and Daniel Agee, Sr. for our final video. Nia Siles was our right hand Mom and Jalyn Barret and Queen Dickey were also very instrumental in creating this video.

At the virtual First Baptist of Glenarden awards ceremony our puppet ministry received a certificate of appreciation and achievement for participating in their workshops.

We are looking forward to eventually meeting in person and providing some

quality insights on the art of multimedia and puppetry. Meanwhile, a few members are working on their PSA's. We now have a Youtube channel.

<https://youtu.be/biRUC9Qo-kc> 🎥



Does the Delta Variant (COVID-19 mutant) Pose a Threat to You?

by Dr. Robin Kelley, Health Ministry

What is the Delta Variant?

There is a great deal of discussion about the Delta variant, but what is this? Viruses mutate the more that they circulate from person-to-person, and when COVID-19 mutated in India, it resulted in the Delta strain of the virus. (To mutate means to change from the original configuration to something else. The change could be something tiny, but any change could make the virus more dangerous and MAY make a vaccine less likely to be effective in preventing extreme sickness or death.) This mutated form of the original virus is highly contagious. It has a 50% higher transmission rate than the UK mutation of the virus, which had a 40-60% higher transmission rate than the original virus from China (Scientific America <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-dangerous-is-the-delta-variant-and-will-it-cause-a-covid-surge-in-the-u-s/>).

Bad News About the Unvaccinated

More and more, there are variants, and they are becoming more transmissible. Once a variant finds a person that it can inhabit, it takes up residence and then spreads quickly to others who are unprotected. The Delta variant can be fatal; the findings show that it is growing as the predominate strain of COVID in the US, among the unvaccinated. At this point, most people who are hospitalized or who have died, are primarily, those who have not been vaccinated.

Good News for the Vaccinated

The vaccines are protective against serious illness from COVID-19, and its mutations. If fully vaccinated, there is, in most cases a 100% chance that you will not die from the virus. Vaccines are still free and are available through many parts of the country. However, if you have any questions about locating a vaccine distribution center or

about the vaccines in general, or booster shots, check with reputable references, such as the <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>, or the National Institutes of Health, <https://covid19.nih.gov>, or even Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19>.

Will I Need a Booster Shot?

There is no data that shows that there is a need for a third or booster shot at any time. The existing vaccines are sufficient. Currently, even with new variants, the vaccinations are effective at keeping one safe from hospitalization and death.

Why Should Masks Still Be Worn if Vaccinated?

Given that there is not a vaccine that is 100% protective against acquiring the virus, masks should still be worn, particularly if:

- There is a great deal of virus in your community, and you are around a number of people.
- You have a compromised immune system or pre-existing conditions and may be around persons whose vaccine status is unknown.
- You are fearful of being exposed and then exposing the virus to your loved ones.

Most of the vaccines are between 70% to 94% to 96% effective which means that 30% to 6% or 4% are vulnerable to getting the virus. Those who are vaccinated may run into complications if they are immune-compromised or have pre-existing conditions or are older and are around a number of persons who are unvaccinated. The virus thrives in areas where people are not protected against it.

For those who live in areas where there is a great deal of the virus, particularly the new Delta variant in your community-check your local health department- it is good for you to continue to wear a mask when indoors, or close to others who may be unvaccinated.

What should you do to protect yourselves and your family against the unvaccinated?

There are three primary things to do:

1. Do not panic. Wear a mask when indoors and around someone whose vaccination status is unknown. Make sure the mask covers your mouth and nose.
2. Wash your hands frequently or when unable to do so, use hand sanitizer.
3. Get fully vaccinated and have those around you get vaccinated as soon as possible*

(*To be fully vaccinated means that one has had all required shots against the COVID-19 virus for 2 weeks after the administration of the final shot)■

Health News You Can Use: Save the Dates

by Dr. Robin Kelley, Health Ministry

July 29th from 12:30pm CT/1:30pm ET

The River Church and MD Anderson Cancer Center will have presentations on Navigating into the Summer 2021 with COVID Changes and Breast Cancer Triple Negative

September 23rd from 12:30 pm CT/ 1:30pm ET and 24th 4:30pm CT/5:30 pm ET

The Mount Airy Baptist Church and the Cleveland Clinic will have presentations on

Prostate Cancer, Breast Cancer, Multiple Myeloma and COVID reports-Navigating the Corona Zone-Vaccine Updates

Church Donations

by Sister Jackie Smith, Finance Ministry

Church Donations are received via US mail by sending your tithes to the Church, PayPal/Credit Card via www.mabcdc.org or by CashApp to \$MABCDC (add your envelope number in the “For” field). ■

Inclement Weather Notification

by Newsletter Ministry

Be mindful that if inclement weather occurs please consult the Mount Airy website (www.mountairybaptist.org) and/or Facebook page. You may also tune into NBC-4, Fox- 5 DC, WJLA-7, Newschannel-8, and WUSA-TV-9 for any weather-related information. ■

Submitting Newsletter Articles

by Newsletter Ministry

To submit something for the Newsletter, you need to...prepare article in Microsoft Word format and email it to tcholly@comcast.net. Documents are accepted at any time.

We prefer that articles be limited to 220 words or ½ page due to space. We will no longer accept hand written articles.

Next Issue: Sunday, August 22, 2021

The Newsletter Ministry reserves the right to edit all submissions. ■

FOR YOUR MEDITATION...

The Cross



A symbol of my faith
That strengthens me each day
As I by God's grace
Walk the narrow way.

You see God's own Son
He gave His life for me
And took my debt of sin
To a place called Calvary.

I owe Him my life
And all I'll ever be
All He asks is that
I'll let Him live through me.

So I run the race
Empowered by His grace
And give Him all the glory
As I look into His face.
JESUS is LORD!

*Peace and Blessings
from God the Father
and Our Lord Jesus
Christ! ☐*



