

*"Is Anything Too Hard for God?" Gen 18:14*



*Letting Our Light Shine*

*A Newsletter for the Members of  
Historic St. Peter A. M. E. Church*

## *THE LIGHTHOUSE*

*1201 Cadiz Street - P. O. Box 750008*

*New Orleans, LA 70175*

*Phone: (504) 891-3488*

*January, 2012*

*Alexander Giles, Pastor*

**WELCOME BACK.** Its been over 3 years since the last newsletter. Prayerfully, we will have enough news to maintain the correspondence on a quarterly basis.

Since the last newsletter we have had Pastor Sylvester Marshall who was elevated to Presiding Elder in 2010. Our first female pastor, Rev. Stacy Renee Richardson was with us 2 years and is now the pastor of Turner Chapel, Roseland, LA. Our current pastor is **Rev. Alexander Giles.**



**GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS.** *It is with great pleasure that I greet you as pastor of Historic St. Peter. My family and I are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We recognize the challenge is a great one, but we serve a great and awesome God. A God that has blessed us and kept us in all our 26 years of pastoring and our 31 years of ministry. We wish you a very happy, safe and healthy holiday season.*

*Pastor Giles*



**Pastor Giles** teaches Bible Study every Wednesday at 7PM. December 14 will be the last class for the year. Study will resume on January 4, 2012. Pastor Giles is working on his lesson plans and would like to teach the needs, concerns, interest of his members.

What is it **YOU** want to know more about, what don't **YOU** understand? Let him know and increase your knowledge in 2012.

### **THE STEWARDS**

The Board of Stewards would like to wish the entire Historic St. Peter AME Church family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to a productive working relationship with our new pastor, **Rev. Giles.** The current members of the Steward Board are: **Brenda Oliver,** Chairperson Pro-tem; **Gloria Johnson, Michelle Dent, Nathaniel Harris,** and **Jacqueline Winston.**

Heretofore, we have had a joint meeting with the Trustees and one meeting of the Board of Stewards chaired by the pastor. We have confirmed our pristine Board of Stewardesses for the 2011-2012 conference. They are **Estelle Gooden,** President; **Glendolyn Harper-Wright, Patricia Barnes, Imogene Bolds, Brenda Oliver, Althea DeBose,** and President Emeritus, **Jahazel Irving.** Please continue to keep **Sis. Irving** in your prayers as she convalesces in the Jefferson Rehabilitation Center.

On December 18, 2011 following the worship service we will have our first Quarterly Conference where the Board of Stewards will be confirmed. On January 8<sup>th</sup> we will have our Church Conference. Do plan to be in attendance. The Church Conference is where the pastor, along with the members, will establish the calendar for the year. In addition, we will devise a budget to meet the needs of this congregation. In a church conference, the membership will have an opportunity to openly express their concerns. "The pastor, also, will report to the Church Conference his cares and point out places where members, or a portion of them, could work for the glory of

God.” We are looking forward to this great meeting of the minds.

**OUR NEW KITCHEN.** On Thanksgiving morning we dedicated the newly renovated kitchen. Thanks to **Sis. Claudia White**’s legacy, along with Sisters **Della Williams, Elizabeth “Birdie” Obee** and **Camille Joshua** legacies we were able to enhance the kitchen. The White family from far and near participated in the service.

**E-MAIL.** If you would like to receive the newsletter via of e-mail, please contact [spjoshua@hotmail.com](mailto:spjoshua@hotmail.com).

### **CALLING ALL LAYPERSONS!**

Calling all laypersons! This means you. If you’re not a clergyman, you’re a layman. We invite all who are not a member of the organized lay to join. Historic St. Peter has an active, organized laity. We have committed officers and we hold meetings every second Wednesday of the month.

Our current local officers are:

**Bro. Claude Bean**, president;

**Sis. Rosemary Palmer**, 1st vice-president

**Sis. Mary Bean**, secretary

**Sis. Jacqueline Winston**, Director of Lay Activities

**Sis. Gloria Johnson**, treasurer

**Bro. Nathaniel Harris**, chaplain.

(The election of local officers for the new conference year is pending).

Not only are we active on the local level, we have officers on the Central New Orleans-Bogalusa District (CNOB) level, as well as the LA Conference level. **Sis. Winston** is the president of the CNOB and **Sis. Saralyn Joshua** is the corresponding/recording secretary. On the LA Conference level, **Sis. Patricia Campbell** is the president, **Sis. Joshua** is the assistant secretary, **Sis. Palmer** is the parliamentarian and **Bro. Bean** is the chaplain.

One of our goals for this conference year is to get out the vote. The 2012 Presidential Election will be crucial and possibly a very close election. If we want to get President Obama re-elected, we will have to muster up all the support we can get. Our plan is to assist anyone who is not registered to get them registered. For those who are registered and have mobility issues, we want to assist them in filing absentee ballots by mail. Remember, if you are 18 years or older, you are eligible to register to vote. We must not take this privilege lightly. Remember the struggles that gave us this right.

### **WMS**

The Women’s Missionary Society should not be a group of ladies who come together simply to socialize like those at a bridge game or tea party. The Women’s Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has a **mission statement**. “We are *called* to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.” We also have a **purpose**. “As women *called* to discipleship to grow in knowledge and experience of God through Jesus Christ, *committed* to support the mission of the church, and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are *challenged* to help one another engage in ministry and action, and grow and respond in faith to God’s redemptive plan for the church, the society and the world.” (The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2008)

To accomplish our purpose, we, the members of the Martha Johnson Women’s Missionary Society of Historic St. Peter AME Church, have set both short-term and long-range goals. We have written S.M.A.R.T Goals as learned in a lay development-training workshop. They are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely and target driven. Our previous goals were to visit a nursing home and spread Christmas cheer by singing Christmas carols and distributing gift bags. Hopefully, we will continue with this tradition. We have also helped with utility bills and housing at a shelter in New Orleans.

(CONTINUE ON PAGE 5)



## *THE FIRST FAMILY*

*Son: Jeremiah Giles, Sr., grand-daughters: Asia and India Giles, daughter-in-law: Brittany, Pastor Giles holding grandsons: Jay-Miah and Jeremiah Giles, Jr., Wife: Sis. Barbara Giles*



*TO OUR MEMBERS DISPLACED DUE TO KATRINA...*

*WE THINK OF YOU OFTEN, LOVE AND MISS YOU....*

**SIS. BEATRICE EDINBURGH, SAN ANTONIO, TX.**

**SIS. MAGGIE G. HAUGHTON, PETERSBURG, VA**

**REV. ROBERT S. HALL, CLINTON, MS**

**BRO. THEODORE AND DALE HINES & FAMILY, THEODORE, AL**

**SIS. JURASHA G. MILLER, PETERSBURG, VA**

**SIS. LUCY WATSON, THIBODEAUX, LA**

**SIS. LINDA WILSON & FAMILY, MORROW, GA**



## Christmas Word Search

Words associated with Christmas are hidden in the puzzle. Can you find them all?

J C Z K F G C F Z R A T S B X Y H  
 M Q H W T J A R T A E F S H A A I  
 C D P R P M W S T V M D L F K R B  
 Y Z E Z I Y L N U T M X O R U E O  
 S E T L O S A U Z S E Y R U H I Y  
 Z U Y L Q S T G B L E P A I J N T  
 N S R B I K T M O X P J C T G D I  
 F J N D N G M P A R S U N C O E V  
 D D T O S G H C S S T E T A L E I  
 A W Y Z W T U T Y D N G W K E R T  
 A A M S R S O G S I E V O E L S A  
 C G S O D C H X T N S Z H W U K N  
 I O N R K L Z D C N E N O J Y I C  
 R W A I D M G N R E R D M R Q M E  
 E C N H S I P T L R P F X T C O Z  
 G G W Y Q W T S E V L E I U Y I Z  
 I H A I C I C L E S N A A Q P Y L

CARDS  
 CAROLS  
 CHRISTMAS  
 DINNER  
 ELVES  
 FAMILY  
 FRUITCAKE  
 ICICLES  
 JESUS  
 LIGHTS  
 NATIVITY  
 NORTHPOLE  
 PRESENTS  
 REINDEER  
 SANTA  
 SNOW  
 STAR  
 STOCKING  
 TREE  
 YULELOG

### All About Puzzles

puzzles.about.com

December 14 - Local Lay Meeting, 6:00 PM

December 17 - CNOB Lay Meeting, 9:30 AM, St. Paul, NOLA

December 18 - First Quarterly Conference after church service

December 25 - Regular morning service, 10:30 AM... MERRY CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2012 - Steward Board Meeting - 6PM

January 3, 2012 - Official Board - 7PM

January 4, 2012 - Bible Study - EVERY Wednesday - 7PM

January 8, 2012 - Church Conference after church service

January 11, 2012 - Local Lay Meeting, 6:00 PM

January 14, 2012 - CNOB Workshop, location TBA - 9:30am – 12:30pm

Jan. 20-21, 2012 - 8<sup>th</sup> District Lay Convention - Bonner Campbell

January 22, 2012 - WMS Meeting, after church service

February 4, 2012, WMS 1<sup>st</sup> Area Meeting, Historic St. Peter - 9:30am – 11:30am

February 4, 2012 - Founder's Day Celebration, 12pm – 3pm - Bonner Campbell

February 7, 2012 - Steward Board Meeting - 6PM

February 7, 2012 - Official Board - 7PM

February 21, 2012 - Mardi Gras

February 24, 2012 - Bishop Guidry's Retirement Party, 7pm – 10pm, Sheraton Hotel, NOLA

February 26, 2012 - WMS Meeting, after church service

March 2 - 3, 2012 - WMS 8th Dst. retreat, Bonner Campbell Multiplex, Edwards, MS

March 6, 2012 - Steward Board Meeting - 6PM

March 6, 2012 - Official Board - 7PM

March 14, 2012 - Local Lay Meeting, 6:00 PM

March 15 -17, 2012 - Mid-Year Conference - Bonner Campbell Multiplex, Edwards, MS

March 25, 2012 - WMS Meeting, after church service



(Continued from page 2)

In the New Year, we have hopes of starting a clothing give-away on the third Saturday in each month from 9AM-1PM as a community outreach. Closer to home, we want to donate to our sick and shut-in in some way, either monetarily or with a basket of goodies.

The Society held its first meeting of the conference year on the fourth Sunday in November and **will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in each month.** Those present were **Rosemary Palmer**, President, **Patricia Barnes**, **Linda Hollis**, **Bernice Daggs**, **Barbara Giles**, **Estelle Gooden**, **Glendolyn Wright** and **Pastor Giles**. **Jacqueline Winston** was helping with the finances in the office. We will hold an election of officers in the coming weeks, and we invite all ladies to become members of the missionary society. The gentlemen are considered to be associate members of the society.

In closing, we leave you with these words by the apostle Paul. "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

*I Corinthians 15:58-59 NIV*

### **SANCTUARY CHOIR**

We, the Sanctuary Choir of Historic St. Peter AME Church, thank Almighty God for blessing us with angelic voices. Our leader, **Bro. Alfred "Skip" Darensburg, III**, refers to us as "the angels." The altos are **Linda Hollis**, **Gloria Johnson**, and **Rosemary Palmer**. The sopranos are **Ida Boutte**, **Althea DeBose**, **Brenda Oliver**, and **Jacqueline Winston**. Our drummer is **Jonathan "Sticks" Gibson**. This past year we were blessed to have join us, on several occasions, a superb saxophone player by the name of Cyrus Washington.

The music ministry is a vital part of the worship experience. From praise to benediction, the music helps to set the mood for the entire worship experience. You will notice that the selections are not listed in the bulletin. That is because sometimes the Holy Spirit may intervene and take

the service in a totally different direction. So, in the spirit of obedience, we follow. We may even sing songs that we did not rehearse. Or, there may be some key words in the liturgy that Bro. Darensburg may focus on, and he will change the sermonic hymn.

Commitment is a very important part of being a choir member. Rehearsals are absolutely necessary. The choir can't just show up on Sunday morning and pull something out of the hymnal. Everything should be done decently and in order.

Finally, we want to show our appreciation to the musicians on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Come prepared to bless them financially on this, their special day. We ask that you continue to lift up the music department in prayer as we glorify the Lord with our gifts.

### **STEWARDESS**

We welcomed **Sis. Barbara Giles** to our church and invited her to have a seat on the Stewardess Board. She informed us that she is a Stewardess and thanked us for the gracious invitation and including her in our membership. **Pastor Giles** was in attendance and he conducted the election of officers for the conference year.

He was informed of **Sis. JaHazel Irving's** long time membership, dedication and love for this board, but has not been able to attend because of her health. He bestowed the title of Lifetime Stewardess Emeritus of Historic St. Peter A. M. E. Church. A plaque will be presented to her for her long time service to this auxiliary and church.

The officers elected:

President - **Sis. Estelle B. Gooden**

Vice President - **Sis. Patricia Barnes**

Secretary - **Sis. Glendolyn H. Wright**

Treasurer - **Sis. Imogene W. Carr**

Members: **Sis. Ada Clark**, **Sis. Althea DeBose**, **Sis. Barbara Giles**, **Sis. JaHazel Irving** and **Sis. Brenda Oliver**.

Regular monthly meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

#####

**Sis. JaHazel Irving**, Jefferson Rehabilitation Center, 2200 Jefferson Hwy, Jefferson, LA 504-837-3144

**Bro. Rudolph Brown, Sr.**, John J. Hainkel Jr. Rehabilitation Center, 612 Henry Clay Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, 504-896-5900

**Sis. Ada Clark**, 3407 D' Aquin Street, New Orleans LA 70121-3620

**Sis Clevetta Gauthier**, 2601 Marengo Street, New Orleans LA 70115-6211

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEARLY DEPARTED MEMBERS:

**Della Oliver Williams** entered into eternal rest on Sunday, August 8, 2010

**Newman I. Miles** entered into eternal rest on Monday, May 2, 2011

**Elizabeth "Birdie" Anderson Obee** entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, October 12, 2011



HISTORIC ST. PETER A.M.E. CHURCH  
POST OFFICE BOX 750008  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70175-0008

Happy  
Holidays

**Mission Statement:** An historical church reaching the unchurched people in this modern age for Jesus the Christ. By sharing Jesus, teaching Jesus, loving in Jesus, exalting/worshiping Jesus, and living in Jesus.

