

*March 2019*

Monthly Newsletter of Ebenezer West

# The Messenger

## Welcome to the Season of LENT

LENT is a term that is associated with spring, because during the Season of Spring the days lengthen. LENT is observed as a preparation for Easter. Early Christians believed the great importance of Easter called for a special period of preparation. Therefore, an increasing number of Christians observe several days of fasting, penitence, prayer and repentance. LENT is also observed by the sacrifice of certain comforts and pleasures for the purpose of showing one's sincere desire to live a God glorifying Christian life.

Historically, the Roman Catholic, the Anglican, and the Lutheran Churches have elaborate observances of LENT. Before 1900 most Protestant Churches, of which Baptist Churches are included, did not observe LENT. That was then, but Ebenezer Baptist Church West is a committed participant in the celebratory observance of LENT now.

LENT is associated with the remembrance of Jesus' fasting for forty days in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-2). Therefore, forty days became the accepted length of the Lenten Season. Since it was considered inappropriate to fast on the day of the resurrection, Sundays were not included in the forty days. Thus, the Wednesday forty-six days before Easter came to be regarded as the beginning of LENT.

In the early history of Christianity, the season before Easter was also the usual time of intense training for New Christians. It was during this time that individual's learning what it meant to be a Christian, went through the final stages of intense preparation for baptism, which usually occurred at dawn on Easter Sunday. ASH WEDNESDAY is the first day of LENT. The vital connection of "ASH or ASHES" which had been blessed were sprinkled or placed on the forehead of the worshiper in the form of a cross. The objective of this practice is for us to be reminded that these bodies in which we live are just dust and ashes. When deceased bodies are committed to the grave, the statement is made, "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." From earth and dust we came and to earth and dust we shall return. The human body and the spiritual soul will return to the source of the original giver. The body to the earth, but the soul to God.

As pastor, I invite and encourage member participation in the Season of Lent. Join with us Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30pm for our Ash Wednesday Worship Service.

-Dr. Rev. Winfred M. Hope

## Mark Your Calendar

### March 2

Women's Ministry Health & Wellness Seminar 10am

### March 6

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm

### March 10

Constitution and By Laws 2pm

### March 16

Black History Bowl 12Noon

### March 22

Cosby Men Ministry 6pm

### March 23

Church Wide Business Mtg. 10am

### March 24

REAL Ministry Presents "Rules of the Road" 12Noon



## Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- **Fast** from hurting words and say kind words.
- **Fast** from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- **Fast** from anger and be filled with patience.
- **Fast** from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- **Fast** from worries and have trust in God.
- **Fast** from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- **Fast** from pressures and be prayerful.
- **Fast** from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- **Fast** from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- **Fast** from grudges and be reconciled.
- **Fast** from words and be silent so you can listen.



## Pastoral Search Update

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I have a very important announcement for you. If you truly want Ebenezer Baptist Church, West to be the Church that you want it to be, you must take part in the upcoming visits of candidates for the position of Pastor of this great Church. The dates for these visits will be announced as soon as a final selection of candidates to visit have been made. The Pastoral Search Committee has taken the drudgery out of the selection by screening out all but the BEST applicants. It is now time for the members of the Church to decide who will be our next Pastor.

During the candidate visit, church members will have an opportunity to talk with the candidate, ask questions, and hear an inspired word of God sermon. If possible, the candidate is asked to have his wife accompany him to Athens. Therefore, members will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the candidate's wife.

Each candidate will arrive on Friday for the visit. They will meet with church officials and ministries on Saturday, and preach at our morning worship service on Sunday. Don't miss your opportunity to get to know who these candidates are, because after all visits are complete, members will be asked to vote for their choice to be the next Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, West. This vote will take place at a church business meeting with a designated date and time.

Please keep the Pastoral Search Committee, Ebenezer West, and all the candidates in your prayers as we move forward in the history of our Church. If we all pray individually, and the church prays collectively together, God will hear our prayers and bless us with a great Shepherd to lead this flock.

Deacon Asa Boynton  
Chairman  
Pastoral Search Committee

*“The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.”*  
(1 Corinthians 18)

As Ebenezer moves forward during transition from our current pastor to a new pastor, it is important that the church spend time daily in prayer and meditation. If you have not had the time or the predisposition to pray for Rev. and Betty, our church, and the pastoral search process, Lent is a wonderful time to start. The EBCW Prayer Warriors Ministry has a 40-Day Lent Prayer and Fasting Calendar for the Ebenezer family to use during Lent, which includes a daily prayer focus and scripture. The three pillars of Lent are Prayer, Fasting, and Sacrificial Giving. You do not have to do all three, however, I offer this challenge that if you engage in Prayer, Fasting and Sacrificial Giving for your family, Ebenezer West, the community and Kingdom building, I guarantee you will be pleasantly surprised to witness and experience increased spiritual growth and blessings from on High!

The 40-Day Prayer and Fasting Calendar is available today in the church foyer, or you may visit our church website at [www.ebcw.org](http://www.ebcw.org) to secure a copy. Copies will also be available Wednesday after Ash Wednesday Worship Service!

Have a Blessed and Fruitful Lent!

-T. Lynn Brown  
Church Administrator



# EBCW Children & Teen Ministry Updates

This year, the Black History Program stemmed around "Remembering How Far We've Come From Where We Started." The program included participants from multiple generations, which included Songs to Freedom, a Historical and Personal look at black history from our First Lady Sis. Betty Hope to emphasizing the importance of a good education and the doors that can be opened with it.

We highlighted several African American authors and their journeys to their profession. We invited poets and singers to perform about the historical accomplishments of the pioneers and trailblazers in history.

Teens Living for Christ (T.L.C) had several talented participants in Black History through drama, dance, and music throughout the month of February. To wrap up the month, we opened the Freedom Cafe' which was held in the Fellowship Hall where there was a Black History display by Sis. Pearl Hall.

This year's Moment in Black History segments during the morning worship service focused on a young author, the meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr & Malcom X, Historically Black Colleges & Universities, and the arts.

Thank you to the children, teens, and adults who participated and to the parents and grandparents who diligently prepared their children for each presentation.

In KFC, a different book was featured and paired with a corresponding snack for our first ever "book tasting." Each book was either written by or about African Americans.

Children can now donate canned and non-perishable food items to the Little Food Pantry. Please bring food items on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday March 10, 2019 or bring them by the church office.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday is Teens Living for Christ (TLC) Teen Church. On Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> teen church will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. Refreshments will be served. Remember to bring a friend!

For more children and teen information, send your requests/questions to [ebcyouths@yahoo.com](mailto:ebcyouths@yahoo.com).



**WANT TO BE A  
CHILDREN/TEEN  
VOLUNTEER?**

**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP**

The children and teens of EBCW need Christian role models and volunteers. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer to assist the coordinators with upcoming events and programs, please email Tiara Smith or Marcel Mincey at [ebcyouths@yahoo.com](mailto:ebcyouths@yahoo.com). Thanks!



## Reminder: Church Wide Business Meeting

Located in Main Sanctuary

Saturday March 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Breakfast goodies will be served from 9:30am to 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

## **THIS MONTH @ THE WEST**

### **Ash Wednesday Worship**

March 6 @ 6:30pm 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting Calendar March 6 – April 21.  
Lent Devotional “Leaning In, Letting Go”

### **A Study of the Book Haggai – Restore the Glory!**

Instructors – Sis. Betty Hope and Rev. Frankie Jordan. Wednesday March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 @ 6pm. Thursday March 7, 14, 21, 28 @12noon.  
Saturday March 9, 16, 23, 30 @8:30am.

### **Real Ministry Bible Class**

Instructor Sis. Lynn Brown. 3rd Sunday Bible Study Book Series, “I am A Church Member” starts Sunday March 17th @ 9am. This Bible study is geared toward Young Adults and College students ages 18-49.

### **Real Ministry Financial Seminar**

“Rules of the Road” presented by Sis. Michele Pearson will take place Sunday, March 24 @ 12Noon in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be served.

### **Community Ministry Center**

Please remember to bring Grocery and Food Donations, Toiletries for the Community Ministry Center Food Pantry, Sunday March 10. Help us help those in need!

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to our Children’s Ministry Coordinator Sis. Tiara Smith and Teen Ministry Coordinator Bro. Marcel Mincey for the phenomenal job they did for pulling together the activities and presentations for Black History Month. Thank you to our Teens Living for Christ and our Kids for Christ who participated during Black History Month.