Responsive Reading: “Good Shepherd”


“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen.

I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

(from the Total Praise Hymnal)
**Enter to Worship**

**Sunday, November 10, 2013**

9:15 AM - Sanctuary Prayer and Sunday School Devotion
9:30 AM - Morning Meditation
Reverend Steven Lawrence, Admin. Assistant to the Pastor
White Rock Baptist Church, Phila., PA
10:30 AM - Morning Worship

**The Order of Service**

Organ Prelude
Praise & Worship
Call to Worship and Invocation
Choral Response
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”
Arranged

---Seating Interval****

Hymn of Praise
“People and Pastor”
See Adjacent Page
Responsive Reading
“Good Shepherd”
See Back of Bulletin
Gloria Patri
“Glory Be To The Father”
#538

---Seating Interval****

Announcements & Pastor’s Page Highlights
Can He Get a Witness? 
Bro. Allen Diggs
Altar Prayer
Sis. Maryann Whitaker
Benevolent Offering: (Music: The Chancel Choir)
The Ushers

Welcoming of Visiting Guests
Hospitality Ministry
Announcement
Chairman’s Board
Public Ministry Moment (Health)
Al Black, H.U.P.
Pastoral Remarks and Presentation to Special Guest
Pastor Cedric H. Jones, Jr.

---Seating Interval****

Tithes & General Offering: (Music: The Fellowship Mass Choir)
Trustees & Ushers

**OFFERTORY**

“Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**SERMON**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship
Benedition & Postlude

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**THE SHUT - IN**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Deacon</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dea. Elvis Malone</td>
<td>5333 Reinhard St.</td>
<td></td>
<td>19143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Carrie M. Wilson</td>
<td>801 Locust St., #510</td>
<td></td>
<td>19107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Elizabeth Suber</td>
<td>1210 S. St. Bernard St.</td>
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<td>19143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Thelma Pounds</td>
<td>48 N. Main St., #207 Ambler, PA</td>
<td></td>
<td>19002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Laurine Brown</td>
<td>1714 E. 20th St, Chester, PA</td>
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<td>19013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Mary Merrill</td>
<td>1522 S. 52nd St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Lucille James</td>
<td>873 N. 47th St.</td>
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<td>Sis. Appolonia Jefferson</td>
<td>1415 S. 51st St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Constance Wilson</td>
<td>1225 S. 49th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Marie Williams</td>
<td>2700 Chestnut St, Apt. 1007, Chester, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro. William Flourney</td>
<td>4940 Paschall Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro. Christopher Ford</td>
<td>1029 W. Thompson St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Helen Stephens</td>
<td>124 S. 50th St</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Ida Cohen</td>
<td>8719 Sandalwood Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Queen Daniels</td>
<td>1442 S. 52nd Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Alfreda Green</td>
<td>5717 Hoffman Avenue</td>
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**NURSING HOME/REHABILITATION**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sis. Hortense Massey</td>
<td>Kearsley Long Term Care Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Evelyn Vaz</td>
<td>Marwood Rest Home</td>
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<td>Sis. Estelle Moore</td>
<td>St. Ignatius Nursing Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Darise Daison</td>
<td>Care Pavilion of Walnut Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Evelyn Morris</td>
<td>Renaissance HRC.</td>
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<td>Sis. Dianna L. Hardy</td>
<td>Renaissance HRC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Alice L. Grice</td>
<td>Kearsley Long Term Care Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Daisy King</td>
<td>Manor Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Marie L. Ewell</td>
<td>Care Pavilion of Walnut Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro. James Odom</td>
<td>Simpson House</td>
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<td>Bro. Elmer Green</td>
<td>Langhorne Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Menthele Washington</td>
<td>Kearsley Long Term Care Center</td>
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<td>Sis. Beryl Hutchinson</td>
<td>Care Pavilion of Walnut Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Frederica Loague</td>
<td>St. Ignatius Nursing Home</td>
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“For I was ahungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

**St. Matthew 25:35, 36, 40 (KJV)**

**THE SICK**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sis. Edna Bantom</td>
<td>4616 Kingsessing Ave.</td>
<td>19143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro. Walker Lindsay</td>
<td>16 South 56th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Hazel Ford</td>
<td>1462 N. Wanamaker St.</td>
<td>19131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Lucille Spencer</td>
<td>1150 South Peach Street</td>
<td>19143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Loretta Killebrew</td>
<td>5001 S. 50th Street, 1st Fl. Front</td>
<td>19143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sis. Mary Johnson</td>
<td>122 Poplar Street, Williamstown, N.J.</td>
<td>08094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(At the home of daughter Wanda Stevenson (856) 740-0324)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Carrie Evans</td>
<td>1301 S. Divinity St.</td>
<td>19133</td>
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<td>Sis. Georgine Gray</td>
<td>2000 S. 58th Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Janis Dawkins</td>
<td>1412 Grays Ferry Ave.</td>
<td>19143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Audrey Thompson</td>
<td>1518 S. 52nd Street (215) 724-0105</td>
<td>19133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sis. Rowena Wesley</td>
<td>1319 S. Markoe Street</td>
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**INCARCERATION**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Baylis</td>
<td>1460 N. 59th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joel Bevans</td>
<td>1462 W. 58th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andre Rogers, Jr.</td>
<td>1462 N. 59th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean McKnight</td>
<td>1462 W. 58th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Mitchell, Jr.</td>
<td>1462 W. 58th St.</td>
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<td>Tyree Scott</td>
<td>1462 N. 59th St.</td>
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We are becoming Mount Zion - by grace, God's loving people joyfully responding to the whole gospel for a whole community

**PEOPLE AND PASTOR**  
(Music: Blessed Assurance)

1. People and Pastor, servants of God
   Praising Christ Jesus, the light of the world
   Found in communion, on one accord
   Serving the master, Jesus our Lord

**REFRAIN**

Servants of Jesus, servants of God
Serving in mission, serving our Lord
Servants of Jesus, servants of God
Serving our Savior, serving our Lord

2. People and Pastor, servants of God
   Redeemed by Jesus, our crucified Lord
   Born of His Spirit, bought with a price
   Risen to save us, saved by God's grace

3. People and Pastor, servants of God
   Born the Church of Jesus our Lord
   Working together, praying always
   Striving to serve Him, seeking His ways

4. People and Pastor, servants of God
   Caring for lost souls, feeding His flock
   Inspired with vision, mission and love,
   Caring like Jesus, master and Lord

5. People and Pastor, servants of God
   Living the gospel, disciples of Christ
   Having compassion, witnessing strong
   Reaching the whole world, serving the Lord

Hymn composed by G. Daniel Jones, D. Min., the occasion of his 20th Pastoral Anniversary at the Grace Baptist Church of Germantown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (c) copyrighted 2002

Revised for Mount Zion Baptist Church by Pastor Cedric Hughes Jones, Jr., 2011
Reverend Steven B. Lawrence

Reverend Steven B. Lawrence is the Administrative Assistant to the Pastor at the White Rock Baptist Church.

He received a bachelor's degree for Eastern University in Saint David’s, PA and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York. In the fall of 1978 he was ordained and appointed Administrative Assistant to the Pastor at White Rock. In 2002 he assumed the duties of the Minister of Adult Programming and Technology.

Reverend Lawrence is known for his insightful and inspiring teaching and preaching. He has a unique gift for bring the Bible to Life and relating Biblical issues to everyday living, thus challenging people to be better Christians. He is intimately involved in Christian education at White Rock and teaches the Bread of Life Fellowship, a midweek Bible Study. He also serves the West Philadelphia Baptist Congress of Christian Education by planning, staffing or teaching the monthly Learning Conferences.

In addition to his work at White Rock, Reverend Lawrence has served as an adjunct faculty member of Palmer Theological Seminary, in its School of Christian Ministry, since 1992. He serves as the Board Chair of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia and convenes its Dismantling Racism Team. He also is Board President for the New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity (NewCORE).

Reverend Lawrence is married to Cheryl Baker Lawrence.

GENERAL NOTICES

Tuesday Morning Prayers “For A Whole Community: Everyone is invited to call in each week, especially the groups noted below.

- After 1st Sunday: Deacons, Deaconesses
- After 2nd Sunday: Trustees
- After 3rd Sunday: Chairman’s Board, Ministry Leaders
- After 4th Sunday: Clergy
- After 5th Sunday: Women’s Fellowship, Men on Mondays

Good News Newsletter: The final edition for 2013 will be published in December. Ministry Leaders, check your mailboxes for information. If you would like to share a recent accomplishment or news with your church family, please submit a 3x5 index card with all information to any member of the newsletter staff, or place it in the newsletter mailbox by Sunday, December 1st. Thank you. Linda C. Saunders, Ministry Leader

College Application Essay Workshop: Each Saturday between now and December 14th, except for Saturday, November 30th, staff and trained volunteers will be available from 10am to 2pm at the Lucien E. Blackwell West Regional Library, 125 S. 52nd Street to help high school seniors write that all important essay for their college application. For more information, call the PhillyGoes2College office at 215.686.0313.

Health Forum by Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity: Experts from Einstein Health System will formally present on four topics: Affordable Health Care Act, Stress, Diabetes, and Prostate Cancer. Saturday, November 23rd, 10am-1pm. Healthy snacks and takeaway information provided. Sponsored by the Women's Fellowship, Kathryn Williams, Ministry Leader.

Keep up with Mount Zion online: website: www.mountzionbc.com, email: mountzionoffice@gmail.com, twitter: http://twitter.com/PastorCHJ

You may now choose to contribute your tithes and offerings using PayPal by going to Mount Zion’s website at www.mountzionbc.com and clicking on donations (located on the left column). This will take you to on-line giving where you can proceed as directed.

Job Seekers: Through the generosity of friends and members, we have two ladies purses, and a size 13 male pair of dress shoes to give away. Please see Deaconess Janice Bullock or Pastor Jones.

As we conclude the 99th Church Anniversary, please consider making the Mount Zion “120 for 100 & Beyond” commitment to discipleship from November, 2013 through December 31, 2014. This commitment includes daily bible reading, weekly prayer with God’s people, worship at the 100th Anniversary events, practicing/trying ten percent giving, blessing and forgiving others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/THANK YOU

It has been my honor and privilege to meet with Pastor Jones from time to time during the past four years and hear how the congregation is engaging with its community as it pursues its mission of service to its members and to others. For me he embodies ministry in the fullest sense. Please accept my contribution to the church in honor of Pastor Jones on the fourth year of his service to Mount Zion. James H. Lytle (Torch)

The family of Marion Driggins wishes to thank the Mount Zion family, Evangelism Team and friends who extended words of comfort and acts of kindness to us during this time of bereavement. We shall be eternally grateful for your help with makes our loss easier to bear. May God forever bless and keep each one of you in his tender loving card.

Sue, Sheryl Driggins-Gray and Family
SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK
Church office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm
Announcements due Tuesday by 4pm
Parking Notice: More off-street parking available at 50th & Paschall (Humphrys Textile lot)

TODAY

- 100th Church Anniversary Banquet tickets. The cost is $100. See Sis. Janet Braxton or Sis. Sharon Barber in the lower edifice.
- Sis. Delois Gutherie and committee will be downstairs after service to assist you with subscriptions for the Praise Readers 10th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, November 16th.
- Members please complete the survey from the 100 Anniversary History & Heritage Committee and place it in the box in the outer sanctuary. Your reply is very important. Sis Betty Stevenson & Sis Madeline Carroll

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013

- Men on Mondays (M.O.M), 7-9am
- Pantry Open, 1-2:30pm (Volunteers welcomed)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013

- Mount Zion Morning Prayers “For A Whole Community”, 7am-7:30am, (760) 984-1000, access code 356561#. Clergy please join.
- SWEET (Southwest Elders Exercising Together) Exercise Class, 9:30am
- Pantry Open, 1-2:30pm (Volunteers welcomed)
- Healthy Cooking, 5-6:30pm
- Higher Ground Classes, 7pm

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

- Wednesday Feeding Program, 11-1pm (Volunteers welcomed)
- Pastor’s Bible Class, 7pm
- Prayer Meeting, 8pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013

- SWEET (Southwest Elders Exercising Together) Exercise Class, 9:30am
- Midday Bible Study and Prayer at Reba Brown, 11am
- Pastor’s Off-Site Bible Study 12 noon (Tabernacle United Church, 37th Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013

- Funeral for Sis. Hattie L. Brown, Viewing 10am, Service 11am

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013

- Praise Readers of the Word 10th Anniversary Celebration and Luncheon, 11:30am

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Reverend Charles W. Quann

The Reverend Charles Warren Quann serves as the Pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church Spring House, PA. Pastor Quann has served in this capacity since April 1986. Since his calling to The Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pastor Quann has directed the development of numerous ministries thus allowing the church family the opportunity to not only fellowship in the household of faith, but to also minister to the community. On April 2, 2006, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Quann and the congregation moved into their new house of worship, Bethlehem Baptist Church, a Christ –Centered, Multi-Cultural Church; has two Sunday morning worship services.

Reverend Quann was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended the public schools in Philadelphia and received the Bachelor of Arts Degree from Eastern University in 1979. He has also pursued additional studies at Eastern (Palmer) Theological Seminary.

Pastor Quann is a member of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA; Vice President of the Board of Baptist Children Services; Board member of the Wissahickon Faith Community Association; Former President and present Board member of the American Red Cross, Penn Jersey Region; Member of the Montgomery County Bar Association Community Outreach; Board member of the Montgomery County Housing Authority; Board Member of the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance; Member of the Blue Bell Rotary; Board of Directors of the YMCA of Ambler; Member of the Reverend Martin Luther King Memorial Fund, Steering Committee and serves as a Trustee of The Abington Memorial Hospital. In addition to his religious and community service, Pastor Quann has extended the gospel outside of the church walls and can be seen every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. on WPPX (PAX) TV Channel 61 on “Visions of Victory”. He can also be heard on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. on Gospel Highway, WNAP 1110 AM on the “Visions of Victory” broadcast. Pastor Quann is an anointed and humble servant of God who demonstrates by example his spiritual growth in his personal walk with God and his fervent desire to win souls for Christ.

Pastor and Mrs. Tanya Quann are the proud parents of four sons, Darrell, Todd, Marc, and Branden and are also proud grandparents.
Mount Zion Baptist Church

“This is God’s commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another.” 1 John 3.23

SERMON NOTES

DATE: November 10, 2013
SCRIPTURE: Reverend Charles Quann

As a result of hearing this sermon, how am I compelled to BE?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

As a result of hearing this sermon, what am I compelled to DO?

• What I will complete by 6pm today: ____________________________________
• What I will complete by 6pm Monday: ___________________________________
• What I will complete by 6pm Saturday: ___________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

*CD’s of today’s worship service can be purchased for $6.00 after service downstairs at the Mount Zion Christian Bookstore*

Each Pastoral Anniversary since 2010, I've invited and acknowledged a special guest. These persons have been special to me along my life’s journey, as it relates to ministry. Persons so honored include:

2010 - The Family of the late Rev. Dr. Robert Johnson Smith, II (his wife Janine and their children)
2011 - Sister Carrie Glover, White Rock Baptist Church
2012 - Sister Camellia L. Shaw, First Lady - White Rock Baptist Church

Today, our special guest is James "Torch" Lytle, the recently retired Practice Professor at the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. He is no stranger amongst us. He was with us in worship on November 1, 2009 my very first Sunday as your Pastor. Of his own volition, Torch has invited persons to worship with us - students, staff and faculty. He has also said wonderful things about the ministry of Mount Zion to others who have subsequently become involved in ministry with us, including Dr. Roy Wade (Medical Family History Project) and Dr. Jill Bazelon (Healthy Cooking, Investing in Ourselves). I am delighted to acknowledge him as our special guest along with his wife, Dr. Susan Lytle (recently retired Professor and world class scholar in Literacy). Thank you Torch for mentoring and matching me with a whole host of persons that have and will bless the ministry of Mount Zion to its members and the 19143 zip code.

I'm grateful for you, Mount Zion - that God brought us together as People and Pastor. It has been four years of growing together in the Lord. You've invited me both to be called your Pastor and to be your Pastor - for that, I'm grateful, for they are not always the same thing! You've been supportive here, week after week, and you've been a strong presence when we've traveled to other churches in Philadelphia, New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, D.C., and North Carolina. My family and I appreciate your love, prayers and faithfulness. Thank you all for celebrating this milestone in our shared journey for Christ as People and Pastor. I am truly grateful. We remember always the words in Psalm 115.1, "not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory."

These words, from William Temple (Minister's Prayer Book), were shared four years ago. "I come as a learner with no policy to advocate, no plan already formed to follow. But I come with one burning desire; it is that in all our activities, sacred and secular, ecclesiastical and social, we should help each other to fix our eyes on Jesus, making him our only guide ... Pray for me, I ask you, not chiefly that I may be wise and strong, or any such thing, though for these things I need your prayers. But pray for me chiefly that I may never let go of the unseen hand of the Lord Jesus and may live in daily fellowship with him. It is so that you will most of all help me to help you. So shall we go forward together - not without stumbling, not without weariness - but always toward the loving welcome that awaits us in our Father's home, where conflicts which now beset the earth will have vanished, where self-seeking cannot find entrance, where misery gives place to joy and quarreling to peace, because self is either sacrificed or forgotten in the realization of the love of God."
Greetings in the name of God the Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Four years ago on November 1st, 2009, we formally began this fourth era of People and Pastor at Mount Zion. I look back on these four years with loving gratitude. To God be the glory!

I’m grateful for my Baby - that is, my lovely wife of 26 years and our leading Lady B. Sis. Burunda Prince-Jones. I’m grateful for my three wonderful children, Kamali, Nkosi and Nia. I’m grateful for my mother (Mrs. Claria Jones) who has been here to witness this journey and who has always been an unconditional supporter. And I’m grateful for my father, Deacon Cedric H. Jones, who was an integral part of my entire family throughout my life.

Today, an adopted pastor/father in the ministry shares with us - Pastor Charles Quann of the Bethesda Baptist Church of Penllyn/Spring House PA, where he has served for more than 27 years. On a Saturday morning in August 2008, Pastor Quann stopped by our ACE A3 meeting of fathers to ask whether he could briefly talk to me afterwards. When the meeting ended and we talked, he said to me “there’s a church in Philadelphia that I think you’d be a good match for, would you mind if I submit your name with a recommendation?” I said no problem and thank you. And I’m grateful for my family (Mona, Carol and Ina) and entire family of blood relatives and in-laws for their prayers and support. As you’ve heard me say before, no one could have a more supportive family and I thank God for them.

Today, Pastor Charles Quann of the Bethesda Baptist Church of Penllyn/Spring House PA, where he has served for more than 27 years. On a Saturday morning in August 2008, Pastor Quann stopped by our ACE A3 meeting of fathers to ask whether he could briefly talk to me afterwards. When the meeting ended and we talked, he said to me “there’s a church in Philadelphia that I think you’d be a good match for, would you mind if I submit your name with a recommendation?” I said no problem and thank you. And I then asked, “what church?” He said Mount Zion at 50th and Woodland. I said how interesting. Unbeknownst to him, that previous week Pastor Shaw had said the same thing and invited persons from Mount Zion to attend a White Rock worship that in which I was preaching. Moreover, the Friday night before Pastor Quann talked with me, I was at a doctoral graduation celebration for a White Rock member and met one of our Mount Zion members who had attended the worship at White Rock. God was active in our pairing as People and Pastor well before I came in November, 2009.

Since then, Pastor Quann has been an active pastoral mentor and coach. We meet routinely when I stop by his office and occasionally after Ambler YMCA Board meetings. His wisdom has been most helpful. He and his wife Tanya are special to Lady B, me and our children. He is a model pastor for how a Christian pastor can “shepherd a community.” Pastor Quann routinely impacts the lives of persons throughout Montgomery County and the Ambler area where we reside. I’m grateful that he is returning to Mount Zion to preach the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Gift of the Sunday School Lesson
Beginning of Freedom
Lesson: Exodus 14.13, 14, 21-30
Reading: Exodus 13.17-22; 14.1-31

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.” Exodus 14.15-16 (NRSV)

If the book of Genesis describes the creation of all things, the book of Exodus presents the creation of a nation. The miraculous crossing of the Red Sea was but the first of many mighty acts of God that transformed a group of wandering former slaves into the People of God. That people would also learn that their deliverance from Pharaoh’s oppression was just the beginning of freedom.

The Red Sea crossing was a historic event. God demonstrated His power over creation: (1) a pillar of fire and smoke separated the Egyptian chariots from the Children of Israel who were bottled up between Migdol and the sea (Exodus 14.2); and (2) a strong east wind drove the waters back all night, dividing the sea and allowing the Israelites to cross over on dry land (v. 21-22). Take note that the winds and the waves readily obeyed God’s will; it was the people who needed to be convinced. Pharaoh saw the Lord bring plague after terrible plague upon Egypt, yet he remained hardened against God’s will. The Hebrews lost faith in Moses when they saw the Egyptian chariots bearing down on them (v. 12). God even had to encourage Moses—“Why are you crying out to me? Get the people moving.” (v. 15) But the people did move, and once they had crossed, the waters returned, destroying their pursuers. The testimony of Moses and Miriam (Exodus 15) was not, “We escaped by our own cunning and strength,” but “The Lord has triumphed gloriously.”

Some actions of our God are onetime events, like the Red Sea crossing. Yet, God’s past demonstrations of power do provide God’s people with an example for our present and our future. If God can part the sea for Moses, God can make a way out of no way for me today and God will take care of all our tomorrows as well.

REVEREND STEVEN B. LAWRENCE, CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR WEST PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Daily Bible Readings for Home Study and Worship
November 7—Blessings for Ishmael and Isaac

Mon, Nov 11 ........................................ Called to Live in Freedom ........................................ Galatians 5:13-21
Tue, Nov 12 ........................................ Setting Apart the Firstborn ........................................ Exodus 13:11-16
Thu, Nov 14 ........................................ Pharaoh’s Change of Heart ........................................ Exodus 14:5-9
Fri, Nov 15 ........................................ The Lord Will Fight for You ........................................ Exodus 14:10-14
Sat, Nov 16 ........................................ Guarded from the Approaching Enemy ........................................ Exodus 14:15-20
Sun, Nov 17 ........................................ The Lord Saved Israel that Day ........................................ Exodus 14:21-30
Discipleship Message

Have You Grown Dull?

It's possible that as believers we may have become dull. It is for that reason we must always ask God for His refreshing spirit. I believe with all of my heart that we should have passion and commitment that expresses our deep and abiding gratitude for all God has done for us. It is so easy for us to lose our zeal and excitement. I have watched in amazement as people have started off with so much fire only to see the flame flicker and cease to burn. That's why revivals are so important. Think for a few minutes how some marriages have gone cold and how some relationships have suffered as a result of the routine and rituals that have little or no meaning. That same attitude prevails in the life of the church. This morning's devotion speaks about a people who have grown dull. The scripture is found in Matthew 13:15 where we read these words:

“For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes -so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.” Matthew 13:15 (NLT)

Matthew, the Gospel writer, records here how the Master spoke to people in parables and how the people did not fully understand the work of the Kingdom. He shared with them the secrets of the Kingdom that was hidden from them because they had become complacent, dull, and confused. They did not grasp His teaching. To make matters worse many of them had no desire to grasp what He was saying. They had deaf ears. It's amazing how many of us can relate to the complacency of people, for we too at times become complacent. We hear God speak and yet we do not move; we hear God calling and we do not respond. It is my prayer today that you have not grown dull, but rather you are on fire for the Lord.

Peace and Love,
Pastor Charles W. Quann
Bethlehem Baptist Church

For The Church to Grow, You Must Grow

We have now entered the final 2 months of 2013. How have YOU grown so far this year? The responsibility of every disciple is faithful stewardship of the time, talents and treasures God blesses us with. In fact the most authentic expression of gratitude, or thanks giving, is how we steward what God provides us (Matthew 7:21-23). For 2013, how will your stewardship of time, talents and treasures reveal your faith in Jesus Christ? Will it suggest that God is truly first in your life or would the record show that the LORD gets your leftovers?

Are you growing in discipleship? Try God by adjusting your daily/weekly habits to honor the LORD. Here's how:

2. Study weekly with God's people: Sunday School at 9:15am and/or Pastor's Bible Class Wednesday Evenings at 7pm. (2 Tim. 2.15)
3. Pray with God's people: Tuesday morning 7am-7:30am Intercessory Prayers “For A Whole Community” and/or Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting at 8pm. (Acts 16.25)
4. Bless somebody this month with an unexpected call, visit, card and/or gift. (Matt. 25.35, 36, 40) “Let us bless people more and bless more people.” (From 4/22/12 Sermon)
5. Forgive someone this month and ask for forgiveness from someone this month. Life is too short to live an unforgiving life. (Matt. 6.14-15)
6. Read daily the 3 sets of scriptures provided in the bulletin - on the Sunday School Lesson and Discipleship Message pages. (Acts 17.11)
7. Witness to one person each week about Jesus, inviting them to Mount Zion for worship or a ministry activity like Men on Mondays. (Acts 1.8)
8. Be honest with God in your giving - practice ten percent giving (tithing) this month. (Malachi 3.8-10) “If it’s yours, keep it! If it’s God’s, give it back” (From 6/3/12 Sermon) Participate in the “Trust God and See!” sign campaign and the “Sacrifice for Praise” sanctuary campaign (digital media, Schimmel Piano, Hammond organ).
9. Select a Discipleship Partner for mutual prayer and for bible study encouragement weekly.
10. Honor your father and mother, love your wife, respect your husband, raise your children - all in the Lord! (Ephesians 5.21-6.4)

Has God been trustworthy enough for you to live 2013 strong in discipleship (Heb. 12.1-2)? When Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7, he said, “Everyone then who hears these of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.” (Matt. 7.24-25, NRSV)

Live 2013 strong in the LORD! Surely God is able, are you willing?

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