

Tuesday Evening Academy  
 Vacation Bible School  
 Voices of Victory  
 Wednesday Evening Academy  
 Women Chorus  
 Women of Excellence Ministry  
 Young Men Young Women  
 Youth Choir  
 Youth Crusade/Revival  
 Youth Ushers

### Significance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2020

Martin Luther King Day 2020 is an annual federal American holiday that celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15). It celebrates the life and achievements of this influential American civil rights leader.

### History of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



The idea of Martin Luther King Day 2020 as a holiday was promoted soon after his assassination in 1968. After King's death, United States Democrat

Representative, John Conyers and, United State Republican Senator, Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the United States House of Representatives in 1979 and fell five votes short of the number needed. There were two main arguments mentioned by opponents, the first being that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive and, secondly, that a holiday to honour the birth (of a private citizen who had never held public office) would be contrary to the longstanding tradition.

The effort received more publicity when, after a decade, shortly after the failure of a bill that was introduced by Representative John Conyers. In September of 1979, Stevie Wonder released a song called "Happy Birthday". That was meant to make a case for the holiday, calling out anyone who didn't support the idea. Additionally, Six million signatures were collected for a petition to Congress to pass the law. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan came into office and originally opposed the holiday. Additionally, Senators of North Carolina Republicans, Jesse Helms and John Porter.

Each opposed the holiday and questioned whether King was important enough to receive such an honour and criticized King's opposition to the Vietnam War. On November 2, 1983, Reagan signed a bill, proposed by Representative Katie Hall of Indiana, to create a federal holiday honouring King. The bill passed the House of Representatives and was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Initially, some states resisted observing the holiday only in the year 2000 was it officially observed in all 50 states for the first time.

### Church News

#### Upcoming Ministry

#### January 11th

Second Gethsemane at 7:00 pm

#### January 19th

First African Baptist Beaufort at 3:00 pm

#### January 20th

New Hope at 7:00 pm

#### January 25th

Ministry Leaders Training ~ Bethesda

Ministers at 8:00 am

Deacons at 9:00 am

Ministry Leaders / All Leaders at 10:00 am

### New Youth



#### Choir Members Welcome!

Youth Choir rehearsal will be held every Saturday before the Second(2nd) and Third (3rd) Sundays from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm unless you receive a message indicating that rehearsal will be cancelled.

If you are in grades Sixth (6th) to Twelfth (12th) and you're interested in becoming a member of the Youth Choir Ministry please join us during those rehearsal times.

Thank you,  
 Youth Choir Director  
 Sister Gwen Smith

### Bethesda Christian Fellowship After-School Ministry

#### Resumes on January 13, 2020

No After-School - January 20th / MLK Holiday  
 Volunteers are Welcome

After-school tutoring/homework assistance is available on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Applications are available in the vestibule. Please see Sister Bessie Clarke or Sister Priscilla Drake.



Evelyn Washington ~ Jan. 7th  
 Jasmine D. Smalls ~ Jan. 15th  
 Darlene Ann Ellington ~ Jan. 24th  
 Claretta M. Brisbane ~ Jan. 25th

### December Sermon Recap

December 1st ~ Different and Distinctive II  
 Hebrews 10:11,12,22-25

December 8th ~ If Conception is Allowed  
 Delivery is Guaranteed!  
 Ephesians 3:14-21

December 15th ~ One Day!  
 Psalm 73:1-9,13-17

December 22nd ~ On Point!  
 John 3:16, Acts 16:31

December 29th ~ Why Saints Should Not Be Anxious?  
 Matthew 6:31-34

#### Watch Night

December 31st ~ No Time for Going Back!  
 Joshua 23:1-16

### A Reminder to All!

#### New Members / New Converts / Restoration/ Christian Experience

There is a Orientation Class that Members are Required to complete. **Four (4) Sundays** Please see:

Minister Corey Jackson for Information.

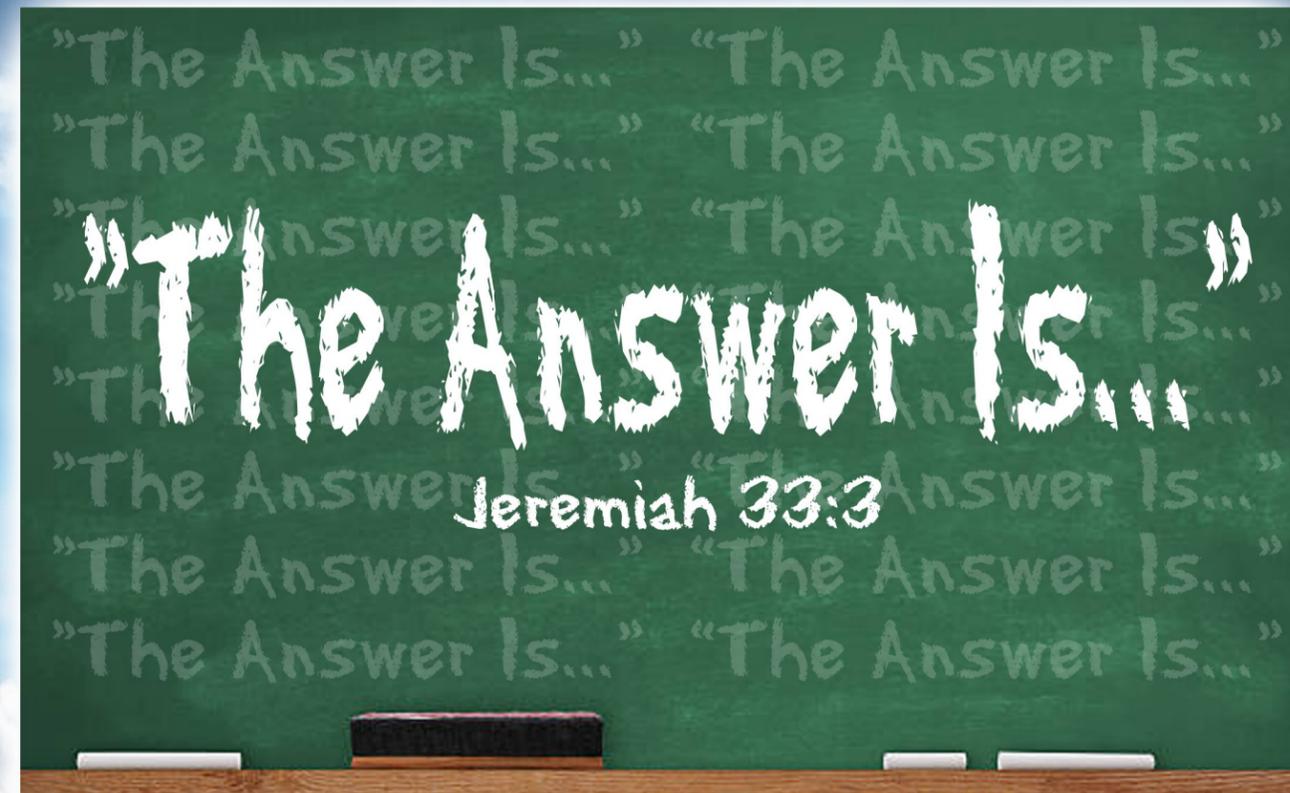
### Christmas Taste of Gullah & Rice Cook-off

Congratulations to Deaconess Rivers and Prophetess Major and all who assisted them in the Taste Of Gullah 2019.

3rd Place finish  
 Oyster and Rice



# HOLY CONVOCATION 2020



Monday-Friday, January 6-10, 2020  
 7 PM Nightly

## Bethesda Christian Fellowship

32-36 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive  
 Saint Helena Island, South Carolina  
 For more information call (843) 838-4410.



# The Bethesda Herald

A Ministry of Bethesda Christian Fellowship



From the Pastor's Desk

Then It Came To Me...

Excelling In Attitude - an ongoing profession." Well, we bless God for another day. This day, whatever day it is, brings opportunities to enjoy affirming, growing and maturing in our relationships with God through Christ. Every tomorrow brings these opportunities afresh. So, every tomorrow becomes a fresh "today" for excelling in joy and gladness.

We recently received the message, "Excelling In Attitude." Subsequent to delivering that message, our Lord impressed upon me the need to follow up. In other words, more needs to be said to help lock this into our spirits. Let us recall how Luke 24:49-53 describes the Ascension of our Lord after instructing that the disciples tarry in Jerusalem for empowerment. We see the attitude of these disciples. "They worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (verse 52). In His physical absence they blessed Him for who He is. One might think that in the absence of the Jesus of history, the physical man, they might fall apart. Not so!! His ascension just completed the revelation of His prophecy about what would happen to Him. You and I have the benefit of this infallible written record. So, the joy of the disciples is a joy we share in verse fifty-three tells us that this was no temporary, momentary, fleeting emotion. That verse says, "And (they) were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." They were practicing "Excelling In Attitude." So should you and I.

"Then, Acts 2:46-47 provides a window for viewing and understanding some vital attitude matters about the early Church. These Christians did, daily, maintain certain practices and attitudes that proved to be their very lifeline. In the temple and from home to home, they fellowshipped. They needed one another and used one another for support and understanding. These verses reveal these attitudes: gladness and singleness of heart.

"Excelling in Attitude," these Christians lived in a seedbed of praise and thanksgiving

which fostered healthy relationships among them and with their God. "Excelling In Attitude" put them in places that pleased God and prompted Him to bless them."

Should we imitate and emulate these disciples and early Church saints? Certainly!! The Word of God cannot be solely historical. It is alive today. It is empowering today. It is for saints, today.

Should we resign ourselves to simply taking what the devil dishes up? Certainly not!! That would mean our good days are few and fleeting, while our bad days are numerous and enduring. I say "no" to that.

I say we must learn and live the Word of God, trusting the promise of Him who came "that we might have life more abundantly" (John 10:10). Let us engage this matter of "Excelling In Attitude" by obeying Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS."

Shalom, my Friends,  
Pastor Kenneth Doe

## CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION REVISITED

Our church's Mission Statement and Vision are shared again in this issue. The beginning of the calendar year seems an appropriate time to focus on these matters. Any Christian church or fellowship must have a clear, Holy Bible generated Mission Statement. This might be compared to the heart in the human body or the engine in an automobile. It is most essential. The Mission Statement is the general, over-arching goal of the church.

The Vision might be called the meat on the bones. The Vision includes those particular matters (Visions) that the Lord wills for that church to embrace in fulfilling its goal. The function of every branch of ministry in our church must be rooted in this church's

Mission Statement and Vision. There are to be no independent satellites in the local church. So, while each ministry works out its particular function through those called or given to that work, all of the parts are integral to the one body. Prayerfully read and be joined (again) with these critical components of our church.

## BETHESDA'S MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christian fellowship, we seek to fulfill the biblical mandate to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. It is our sincere intent to participate with the Lord in the salvation of the lost, the reclaiming of backsliders, the maturing of our fellowship, and serving as "salt and light" in our community and the world.

As agents for God in His reconciling purpose for the world, we are committed to exploring in depth the theological bases the Holy Bible offers for Christian World Mission. In pursuing this, we affirm the relatedness of the church's Mission to every phase of life and work of the church.

Consequently, it is imperative that the entire congregation be involved in our Church's Mission. We engage to maintain an effective education program regarding this mission.

\*cf. Matthew 28:19-20, 4:19; Mark 1:17; Acts 1:8, 2:38; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:13-22

## GOD'S VISION FOR BETHESDA

"Without a Vision, the People Perish" (Proverbs 29:18) With a view toward understanding the VISION proper, it seems wise and necessary to express the connection between our church's mission statement and "God's Vision" for this house. The mission statement is the over-arching, general expression of God's will for this church. Evangelism - the making of disciples, Christian Education - providing sound biblical teaching for sustaining and maturing in the Lord, and an on-going openness to the continual move of the Spirit of God as revealed in His Word, provide the understanding, the

umbrella under which the Lord orchestrates specific directives to individual churches and ministries. So, in the local church, the instructions/directives given by the Lord through the Pastor constitute God's VISION for that local assembly. The VISION, while specific, does not necessarily include every step in bringing forth each aspect of the VISION. Many things are worked out among church leadership and the congregation

In the VISION, the Lord gives the rallying point (s) around which all believers in that church are to convene. So, through God's sovereign will, He orders the steps of each believer (Psalm 37:23) to participate in His plan (VISION) for that place. Here is an illustration that may better express or clarify the source and function of the VISION.

It is the Lord who takes His leader for that fellowship to that certain place. Here, that leader is shown "the way" to heaven, our destination. Between where that fellowship stands and its destination, the Lord reveals His will for those certain ministries that this church must implement, support, and/or work out. This revelation of specifics (the VISION) is a direct fleshing out of those general affirmations of the church's Mission Statement.

Also, the Lord's revelation of His VISION for that house need not include every matter between the present and destiny. After all, seasons of ministry change. The work of one season should set the framework for the VISION for the next.

So, accurate assessment of the VISION for the present age bridges from those ministries already functioning through those being called forth into existence.

The next article in this series will give an overview of existing ministries as well as those being called into existence by our Lord. This article and the next share a comprehensive understanding of where we have been brought and where the Lord is taking us (the VISION).

We are careful to remember that all Glory, Honor, and Praise belong to our Lord alone. While encouraged and humbled by His Grace and Mercy, we are "Walking in Excellence."

## Fulfilling Our Mission and Vision Through Ministries

Seeking to understand God's unfolding plan for our church family, we build on the Mission and Vision Statements offered earlier. How are those general sentences of the Mission Statement and the more specific assignments of the Vision being fleshed out among us? It would probably help if we would consult the last issue of The Herald and acquaint ourselves with these important items.

This issue shares a list of ministries currently in operation. Please know that individual or group listings do not necessarily reflect all items or acts of ministry occurring in that ministry. This list gives indications of the parameter or scope of ministries we are currently effecting. During future issues individual ministries will be highlighted. We, as members of the family or fellowship of believers, must continue to seek ways and be open to the leading of our LORD concerning ministries. Through dedicated Godly leaders, committed followers/participants, commitment to the ongoing maturing of our fellowship, and relentless dedication to sharing the gospel message locally and abroad, we remain ready to hear and heed the voice of God. We remain consistently involved in becoming all He desires us to be. So, those ministries already listed are the core of current involvement. We must know, though, that our LORD'S Vision for this house continues to be revealed.

Our LORD desires the completion of our next phase of building. This facility, whether it is called a family life center, activities center or whatever, will permit much ministry development. Consider this: Bethesda Academy, a graded school, will be housed; an industrial kitchen, supporting the school and other community outreach, will be included; our physical plant could then support clothing storage and a food pantry; seniors of our fellowship and community could enjoy a meeting space; afterschool programs will be housed; health and vision screenings for the young and old could be accommodated; children and seniors in need could

receive grooming perks with our blessings. The possibilities continue to flow. Some of these things will begin in our current plant. We will soon develop and initiate a "weekend hotline." This will be a resource for teens who may be out and about, finding themselves in need of counsel. "The last stop" ministry will offer compassion, the gospel, and a snack to those in the streets who need and desire to clarify things before going home. Also, the LORD desires us to be a location offering Bible College and Seminary instruction for those desiring and needing it. We must also seek to develop, implement or simply house ministries that focus on helping under-employed persons and single parents needing to improve their employability by gaining skills for better employment. So, you see the future holds much work. What is currently in place is in no way conclusive. We continue to seek God's face concerning new ministries.

Shalom, my Friends  
Pastor Kenneth C. Doe

## Bethesda Ministries

- Administration
- African Christian Fellowship, International
- Altar Workers Ministry
- Audio/Video Ministry
- Bethesda Herald Newsletter
- Bible Study
- Brotherhood
- Deacons Ministry
- Deaconess Ministry
- Episodic Evangelistic Outreach Ministry
- Gospel Drill Team Ministry
- Intercessory Prayer
- Jail and Prison Ministries
- Junior and Senior Praise Dancers
- Kitchen Ministry
- Male Chorus
- Marriage Ministry
- Mime Ministry
- Ministry of the Word (Spoken Word)
- Missionary Ministry
- New Convert/Member Ministry
- Ongoing Community Outreach Ministry
- Senior Sanctuary Choir
- Senior Ushers
- Singles Ministry
- Sunbeam Choir
- Sunday School
- Transportation Ministry
- Trustees Ministry