

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

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



*Letting Our Light Shine*

## *THE LIGHTHOUSE*

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*2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER, 2013*

*Alexander Giles, Pastor*

### **THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Have you ever fallen in love? Do you remember what it was like? More than likely, the one you were in love with consumed your every waking thought. Either you were thinking about him or her, or making plans to be with him/her or talking to them on the phone or some other technical tool. When you were with him/her you felt completely alive and secure; everything revolved around this person you loved.

Your love grew when you spent time with him/her and you shared your life, your ambitions and dreams with this person. They became part of you and helped to shape your identity.

Christian Discipleship is a relationship with Jesus, the Christ that mirrors the relationship you had with the one you loved. When we accept Jesus' invitation to take up our cross daily and follow Him, we become a member of His family and an heir with Him. Our love for Him should be the same as our falling in love with that special someone.

Christian faith is more than agreeing with

a set of doctrines or creeds. More than outward appearances, signs and symbols. It is more than saying I am a Christian or saying I am a born again Christian.

Faith in Christ is ultimately about what is happening on the inside. It is a heart change by an encounter with Jesus our Christ. The changed heart makes a difference in the way we live our lives in this world.

*Pastor Giles*

### **FROM THE TRUSTEES...**

FINALLY! Is that what the members were thinking? When were the Hurricane Isaac repairs going to be done?? When will the work begin? Well, it is **DONE! ALMOST!!** I really thought it was! As many of you know when dealing with contractors or repairmen, its not easy: 1) you have to find a contractor, 2) then they need to fit into your budget, 3) they need to show up, 4) the weather becomes a factor; and then **FINALLY!** all these things come together and the work starts, and then—over a month later—



**SATURDAY, APRIL 6,  
2013  
NOON TO 6P.M.  
NAPOLEON AVE. TO  
JEFFERSON AVE.**

**HISTORIC ST. PETER A. M. E.  
WILL BE IN FRONT OF  
BEAN'S FORMAL WEAR  
4900 FRERET STREET  
SELLING RED BEANS AND RICE  
SPONSORED BY THE LAY ORGANIZATION  
BE SURE TO PASS BY**

FINALLY ends... ALMOST. The work consisted of:

- ◆ removing mold/mildewed sheetrock from rear of sanctuary, replace and paint sheetrock
- ◆ same for finance/secretary office
- ◆ repoint brick wall on Coliseum St.
- ◆ remove mildewed plaster in front stairwell, plaster and paint
- ◆ repair and replace broken windows.

As you know, when repairing old buildings when you start one job, another appears. So every time the damaged sheetrock was removed; behind the sheetrock was damaged wood. BUT... no termites, great news.

In addition after many, many years we got pulpit rails and a rail entering the Fellowship Hall. We also added a small step in front of the lectern. It is so useful and was so needed. There is still work to be done, and the Trustees thank the members for their patience and understanding.

*Saralyn Joshua*



**praise report**

On Sunday, February 24, Sis. Estelle Gooden brought her son, Bro. Kenneth Banks for baptism. On March 5, Kenneth faced major surgery, and thankfully, he was able to return home to recuperate on March 7. PRAISE GOD. Sis. Gloria Johnson's sister, Erma Merrill, was rushed to the hospital. She is recuperating at home and we are praying for her health.



On February 5, St. Peter lost our oldest member, a.k.a. 'St. Peter's Angel', Sis. Delina Himes. She was 93 years young. She will be missed.



Members are in touch with our relocated Katrina members. Sis. Beatrice Edinburg, in San Antonio, spent 3 days in the hospital in December. She reports she is SO much better and sends her love to her church members. Sis. Jurasha Miller, from Petersburg, PA, reports that her sister, Sis. Maggie Haughton also spent some time in the hospital. GET WELL, STAY WELL.



True Worship Leadership

By Ron Man

*Pastor of Music and Worship,  
Experiencing Worship Contributor*

October 04, 2012

It is important that choir members understand their role as one of ministry rather than performance. They are first and foremost offering up a gift to God, and then (and only then) to the congregation. Their sacrifices of praise must come from a willing and committed heart if they are to be acceptable worship (Ps. 4:4-5; 51:17). They must have an attitude of service, striving to give of their best energies and abilities for their God.

Choir members must also see that they are in positions of leadership, with all the conditions, cautions, and blessings which accompany spiritual leadership. Their director and their pastor should openly and regularly affirm them and seek to instill esteem for their ministry on the part of the congregation.

Group leadership of worship also releases the worship leader/choir director from being the sole point person, with all the accompanying dangers: succumbing to the "star syndrome," perceiving the need to be strongly extroverted, feeling that he must make worship "happen." He can (indeed, should) function as a facilitator, for

the choir as well as for the congregation; however, he can allow the choir to lead, thus taking some focus off himself and hopefully receding into the background, as the people look to the God Whom they are worshiping.

*Jacqueline Winston*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL:

6 - Freret St. Festival; Lay Organization sponsoring booth

9 - Official Board/Steward/Trustee Meetings

16 - Rev. Alexander Giles Birthday

20 - CNOB Lay Meeting

28 - Louisiana Conference Lay Meeting



God has a purpose and a plan for each of His children. His desire is that we seek to have an intimate, loving, faithful, trusting, obedient relationship with Him through His Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Seeking God – Communicating with Him through prayer and meditating on His word should be the top priority in our life. We must ask the Holy Spirit to help us in disciplining ourselves in making this an upmost priority.

II Timothy 2:15 – (**You**) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

God desires that you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:9-10

The word tells us that we are to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18

Seek to know God, His will and purpose for your life.

Historic St. Peter AME Church is here to help you in hearing, learning, knowing and living the “Truth” (God’s truth through Jesus Christ).

Please take advantage of the resources at St. Peter and join us in our pilgrimage journey seeking more and more of the knowledge, will and the ways of our Sovereign God – Loving Father – Jehovah.

*Greetings from the Church School:*

Church/Sunday School is at 9 a.m. The doors of Fellowship Hall is open to all for a few good reasons: The search for the true spiritual meaning of the Word. The joy of receiving the Word among our spiritual brothers and sisters of all ages. The need for those who eat spiritual meat of the Word and can serve as teachers. We are true to Christ with joy. Join us on Sundays.

*Bible Study - All invited*

*Wednesdays 12:00 noon & 6:00 p.m.*

*Taught by Pastor Alexander Giles*

### Prayer:

Sovereign God, loving Father, I come before You surrendering all to You, in love, thanksgiving, and praise. Praising and thanking you for being the Sovereign God, loving Father that you are. Thanking You for blessing me to recognize and take advantage of the resources and opportunities You have placed in my path to obtain a more in-depth knowledge of You and Your will and purpose for my life. Help me to serve You using the gifts, talents and skills you have empowered me with in the most excellent way that glorifies and honors You. Father keep me from straying from Your purposed plan for me. Help me to be a faithful, obedient laborer in Your vineyard. In Jesus’ name I pray. AMEN, AMEN, and AMEN.

*Nathaniel Harris and Ada Clark*

**STEWARDESS BOARD****THEME:****FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF  
GREAT LADIES**

We are dedicated and take our duties seriously. We are spiritually and emotionally committed to this church. We were blessed to welcome our newest member, Sis. Zelma Morris who also is ready and willing to work. Each month members of the Stewardess Board travel with Pastor Giles, visiting the homes of our sick and shut-in members to serve Holy Communion.

Our newly elected officers for this conference year are:

Sis. Estelle Gooden - President  
Sis. Glendolyn Wright - Secretary  
Sis. Patricia Barnes - Treasurer

We are now planning for our Annual Palm Sunday service, which falls on March 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone will attend our 10:45 a.m. celebration.

*Estelle Gooden*

**LAY ORGANIZATION**

Members, please visit the Lay Organization booth at the Freret St. Festival on April 6. This is the first time, in a long time, that St. Peter has sponsored a booth at a festival. The booth will be located in front of Bean's Formal Wear Shop, corner of Freret and Upperline Sts. So far, the menu is red beans, rice, smoked sausage (separate for the vegetarians), and french bread. But, don't be surprised if you find some additions to the menu. Please stop by and get your lunch or dinner. If you are not a member of the 'organized' Lay, your help serving or whatever help you can donate will be greatly appreciated.

**MARTHA JOHNSON  
MISSIONARY SOCIETY****THEME:****MISSIONS – OUR REASONABLE  
SERVICE, ROMANS 12:1**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in December the Missionary Society was in charge of the devotional part of the service. Missionary Barbara Giles delivered the message. During the Christmas holidays the Missionaries visited Bro. Major White, Jr., Sis. Jahazel Irving, Sis. Lorena Harris and Sis. Clevetta Gauthier. Each was presented a fruit basket and an afghan to keep warm. Oh, what a joy was on their faces when they received the afghans'. New Years Watch Night Service was a joint venture with St. Peter Carrollton and Morris Brown. We were proud to have had seven in attendance.

Keeping active, we fellowshipped with Cummings-Wilson AME Missionaries at their Unity Tea. Sis. Mary Collins was the speaker. Refreshments were served and everyone left with a selection of speciality tea bags. Some of the Missionaries attended the retirement banquet for Presiding Elder and Mrs. John K. Holiday in Hammond, LA.

Our clothing ministry is still in effect. We are investigating new ideas to make the ministry as effective as it can be. Newly elected officers for this conference year are:

Estelle Gooden, President  
Barbara Giles, V. Pres.  
Glendolyn Wright, Secretary  
Imogene Carr, Treasurer  
Ada Clark, Chaplain  
Jacqueline Winston, PME Dir.

*Estelle Gooden*



**MARCH 31, 2013**

**8:A.M.**