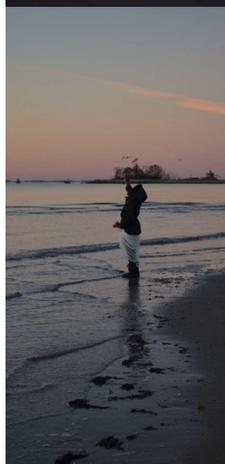


MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNT

MFTM

MAAFA 2018 Legacy 2018

Lead Us to the Light House



credits

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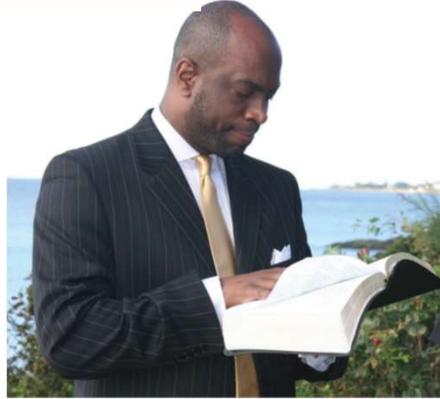


Audrey Barr
Copy Center

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Pastor's Pen



Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a blessing it is for us to once again greet one another on this last first Sunday of the year. So much has happened this year. Too much to recount now. But suffice it to say, *“Through many dangers, toils and snares, We have already come. T’was grace that brought us safe thus far, And grace will lead us home.”*

November was tremendously eventful and tacting for us. The month opened with a powerful MAAFA Presentation followed by an even more transforming seaside ceremony and worship experience. Pastor Starsky Wilson reminded us that God has another chapter in our lives as well as our ministry at Mount Aery. Our meaningful marvelous MAAFA weekend was followed by a night of renewal and transformation led by Min. Tiffany Mosley of Memphis, Tennessee and undergirded by the prophetic proclamation of the Rev. Dr. Robert Turner. What a time, what a time, what a time. All who came out were indeed blessed and lifted.

We were also soberly reminded to count our blessings and the privileges we enjoy as Sister Liza Clark and others prepared a filling meal for our extended community on Thanksgiving Tuesday. I am grateful for the servant leaders of this congregation who stepped up to lend a helping hand. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

December brings with it not only the cold air of winter, but also the warmth of the *Advent Season*, the season where we are reminded of Jesus’ birth, life and ministry. As Rev. Dionne reminded us in her powerful sermon, advent is a season that ought to remind us of what we already possess, in that Jesus has already come and done the redemptive work of salvation and our assignment is to live out and manifest the ministry of Christ that has already been accomplished. I pray for each of you a blessed Advent and Christmas season as well as prayers of comfort and support for those who have difficulty navigating this holiday season. The scriptures remind us that we are to rejoice with those who rejoice and grieve with those who grieve. Put another way, **WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER.**

Yours in the Cause of Christ,

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett, D. Min.
Lead Pastor

IMPORTANT DATES ✓

What's Next?

During this season of prayer, call in to the prayer line at 7:00am daily at 319-527-3510. The participant access code is 111933#. The calls are recorded so please mute your phone to eliminate background noise. Please note that long distance charges may apply.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the Mount is seeking help with the printing of the MFTM and assisting in the print center. We will train. Please contact Deacon Henry Smalls if you have any questions and are willing to assist.

Our Strategic Planning Team is ministering through social service by serving breakfast at the Merton House once per month. They are expanding this effort by serving every 2nd Saturday. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you are interested in participating, please see Karen Whittington or leave your information in the church office.

The Music Ministry is seeking youth (3-17) and young adults (18-30) to share their gifts through musical expression. See Magnolia Barnes or LaWanda Black or leave your information in the church office.

Here's an exciting way to join in worship with us:



Please be sure to pass the link to your friends and family as well so they can be blessed by our ministry.

- **Chosen Generation** is inviting everyone from the ages of 13-27 to join this youth and young adult choir. Please see Sister Magnolia Barnes with your interest.
- **Generation Next Youth Ministry** is calling all youth ages 3-18. Youth Church for the 2018 year will be held at the 11:00 am services on 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month! Please see Minister Michael Walton or any youth leader for more information!
- **Lost and Found** – Several pairs of glasses, sunglasses, bibles and other lost items are in the church office. If you have lost anything, please check the church office. Items may be given away if left any longer. Thank you.
- **Deacons on Call** for the month are Deacons Gardner & Lee.
- **Submissions of announcements and due dates:**
 - **Message From The Mount**
 - Send information to mftm@mtaerybaptist.org by the second Wednesday after the first Sunday.
 - **Monitors in the Sanctuary**
 - Send information to media@mtaerybaptist.org by Wednesday before the Sunday you want the announcement. Please make sure that your announcement is in PowerPoint format.
- If announcements are not received by the due dates they may be omitted or placed in the next edition.
- **No Pork on Church Property**
 - **For health, healing and sensitivity for those with health conditions**, no pork is to be brought on church premises (i.e. ministry affairs and/or catering).
- **No Food or Beverage in the Sanctuary**
 - Please, please, please, do not bring food or beverages into the sanctuary. Parents, please feed infants and toddlers in the Wilson Hall or the Bass Hall. It is everyone's responsibility to be good stewards of the building that God has blessed us with. If you see anyone not being responsible, please get an Usher or a Deacon to handle the situation. Thank you.

Parents

- While you are in worship, your children should be in worship next to you, unless Youth Church is in session. The Quiet Room is for parents with infants only. Please keep your children with you at all times.

Our Vision Statement

To equip the disciples of Mount Aery Baptist Church with the biblical and relational wisdom for the spiritual, educational and social work of ministry beginning in the Hollow Section of Bridgeport, then spreading throughout the Greater Bridgeport Area.

Ephesians 4:11-12 and Acts 2:44-47

Edify ☞ Equip ☞ Engage



Please Pray for Our Prayer List

Clifford Bazelias	Deacon Melvin Lowe, Sr.
Elease Breedlove	Reanna McCoy
Isaiah Brown	Lemme McIntosh
Carol Carter-Mims	Mary McRae
George Cauthen	Autumn Mitton
Lucille Cauthen	Caleb Mitton
Joan H. Colley	Spring Mitton
Minister Odell Cooper	Edward A. Morris
Tracey Nicole Craig	Deacon Regina Mosely
Richard Dailey	Hadassah Nightingale
Frances Dicks	Austin Perkins
Ruth Hasty-Dove	Eulalia Pettway
Sandra Dunn	Terrance Quiller
Bernadine Edwards	Frances Riley
Rose Evans	Esther Ryan
James Freeman	Rose Samuel
Leonard Grace	Sandra Simpson
Deacon Minnie Grant	William Henry Sims Sr.
Leslie Green	Linda Suggs
Jodi Green	Herb Sutton
Ruth Harvin	Rev. Velva Jean Tucker
Deacon Jeffrey Hill	Curtis Jerome Turner
Deacon Naomi Holmes	Paula Watkins
Deacon Primus Jackson	Dorothy Watts
Gerard James	Gwen Williams
Barbara Jones	June Williams
Maria Knight	Barbara Wilson
Theresa Lazarus	Michelle Lisa Wilson
Cheryl Lewis	Jacqueline Tyson-Wright
Jordan Alexander Lewis	Willie Mae Wright

Welcome Song

Welcome to Mount Aery	Welcome to Mount Aery
We're so glad you came	Where the spirit
You're welcome to	Of the Lord
Mount Aery	Is moving free
Where everybody comes to	Right here, at seven three (73)
give God praise	Frank Street

Hospitalization & Nursing Home List

Please be aware that there are strict legal and ethical guidelines regarding giving outpatient information. Therefore, if you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family member must notify the church office in advance, if possible. When you are admitted, state your denomination and place of worship.

Mary Ryan

Northbridge Health Care Center, 2875 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Sandra Stephenson

Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant St 9th fl East, #9016 Bridgeport, CT 06610

Roger Mullins, Sr.

Willows Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 225 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525

Frances Riley

Bridgeport Healthcare, 600 Bond Street, Room 525, Bridgeport, CT 06610

Lemme McIntosh

West River Rehab, 245 Orange Avenue, Milford, CT 06461

Eunice Roundtree

Northbridge Rehab, 2875 Main Street, #322, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Please address all correspondences for the above disciples to the church and the administrative office will forward all mail. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bereavement



- Minister Maxine Plummer and family on the loss of her cousin.
- Diane Brassell Tyner and family on the loss of her brother.
- Greg VanNorden and family on the loss of his aunt.
- The family of Jessie Mae Wright on her passing.
- Vido & Moya Hill and family on the loss of their nephew.
- Alice Hanna and family on the loss of her niece.



GENERAL NEWS 

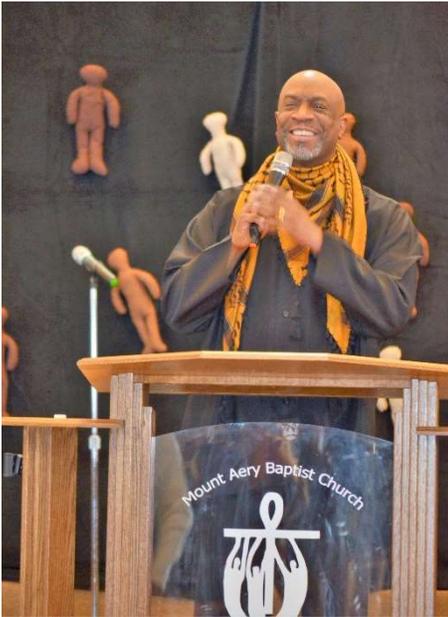


Thanksgiving Luncheon





GENERAL NEWS



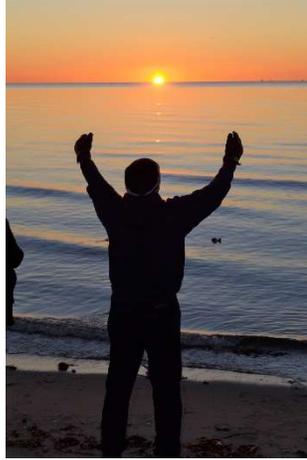
MAAFA *Sunday*



MAAFA *Baby Dedication*



GENERAL NEWS 



Seaside Sendoff



Copies from the Mount

MOUNT AERY BAPTIST CHURCH

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH
COPIES FROM THE MOUNT PRODUCTION

	
Deacon Henry Smalls	Audrey Barr
	
Claudine Mosely	Jennifer Bruton

Colossians 3:23

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,
not for human masters”*

Mission:

Making it a priority to produce quality work to our congregation, clients, and the surrounding community through print, copy, and fulfillment services from an enthusiastic, spirit-filled team.

Health & Healing *Sunday*



A Gift of Self Care

November was designated as National Caregivers Month. One of the organizations I belong to celebrated by recognizing persons who were caring for a family member. Those being taken care of had age ranges from 10 – 80 and included ill children and ailing parents. Each caregiver received a basket filled with items to help them learn to take a few moments for themselves. We wanted to let them know how much they are appreciated for all they do for their loved one but to also remind them of the importance of self-care.

If you have been a caregiver, a parent, the sibling and/or person who everyone relies on for everything, then you understand the stress and anxiety that can be associated with that level of reliability. Your life begins to revolve around the needs of others, based on the degree of attention required, and soon we become part of a routine where we become the last person of focus.

It is an honor to care for a person because it means that person trusts you enough to allow you be the one to assist with meeting their needs. I am the product of the ultimate caregiver. My mother was the designated family member upon whom everyone relied. As a child, I considered her a woman of wonder, being able to accomplish all she did for others, and still take care of her. But when I became a woman, a wife, and a mother, and the one who others began to rely on, I recognized that my mother often forgot about herself, more than I care to share.

November was National Caregivers Month, but now as we move into the month of December, Christmas trees surround us in every store, with music to match. Social media informs us when we turn on our phones, the TV, radio etc. of store specials you must rush to purchase or you are in danger of no access to these items unless you run out immediately to purchase them. Stores open 2 hours earlier and close 2 hours later. Families are separated from their loved ones on holidays meant to be spent together, as they are required to report to work for the retail world. Motor vehicle accidents increase as shoppers rush to catch the ultimate sales, paying little attention to the rules of the road. Then with little warning, we are transitioned into the world of anxiety, anxiousness, and exhaustion because during all of the hustle, we forget the most important gift, and that is to find time to care for ourselves.

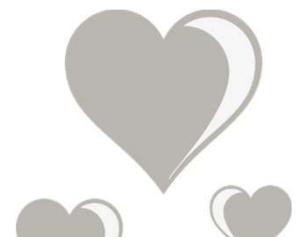
It is understandable if you find it difficult to carve out time for yourself, but it's not acceptable if you don't keep trying. Taking just 1 hour for yourself, leads to a healthier you, makes you stronger emotionally, and overall enables you to return to caring for others and being happier doing so.

Here are some things you can do to rejuvenate yourself:

- Take an extra long bath or shower: Get out the bubbles, oils, and scented soaps, and soak until you're wrinkled.
- Do a facial: With a nice clay masque, you can draw impurities out of your skin and stress out of your system.
- Get a Massage: This one can be especially nice. If your budget doesn't allow for regular massages with a professional, see if you can trade with a friend or your spouse, or use an electronic massager.
- Catch up on your recorded TV shows
- Sit and listen to some soothing music
- Take a walk
- Start a book about something that excites you
- If you do not get anything else out of this article, please remember the following:

There is Strength in asking for Help!

There are others in your life who may be going through something similar to you or knows someone who has, so do not be afraid to talk about your situation and ask for guidance. You will be happy that you did.



Sweet and Spicy Meatballs



Ingredients

4 lbs. cocktail size frozen meatballs
2 jars Chili Sauce
1 16 ounce jar grape jelly
2 tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
Salt and Pepper

Directions

Place frozen meatballs in crockpot. Over medium heat in a two quart sauce pan stir together chili sauce and grape jelly. Stir until dissolved. Add Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper. Stir until well combined. Pour mixture over the frozen meatballs. Cover and cook on low heat for 4-5 hours. Serve.

Tip: For a quick meal serve leftover meatballs over rice



Cream Cheese with Sweet Pepper Jelly or Salsa



Ingredients

1 8 oz block of cream cheese
2-3 ounces of Sweet pepper jelly
or salsa

Directions

Place the block of cream cheese on a plate. Spread the sweet pepper jelly or salsa on top of the cream cheese. Serve at room temperature with crackers, carrots or cucumbers.



Easiest Appetizer Ever

Ingredients

1 pound of seedless grapes
1 8 ounce block of sharp cheddar cheese
1 8 ounce block of white cheddar cheese



Directions

Rinse grapes and place on a serving platter
Cut cheeses into cubes. Place cheese cubes
around the grapes. Serve

Ola Orekunrin

Young, Gifted & Black

As promised, the fifth in our Youth Speak series highlighting 8 “Young, Gifted, & Black” individuals. Introducing, **Ola Orekunrin:**



Olamide Orekunrin (center) is the founder of Flying Doctors Nigeria, the first air ambulance service in West Africa.

By Teo Kermeliotis, CNN

Olamide Orekunrin was studying to become a doctor in the UK a few years ago when her younger sister fell seriously ill while traveling in Nigeria. The 12-year-old girl, who'd gone to the West African country on holiday with relatives, needed urgent care but the nearest hospital couldn't deal with her condition.

Orekunrin and her family immediately began looking for an air ambulance service to rapidly transport the girl, a sickle cell anemia sufferer, to a more suitable healthcare facility. They searched all across West Africa but were stunned to find out there was none in the whole region.

"The nearest one at the time was in South Africa," remembers Orekunrin. "They had a 12-hour activation time so by the time they were ready to activate, my sister was dead.

"It was really a devastating time for me and I started thinking about whether I should be in England talking about healthcare in Africa, or I should be in Africa dealing with healthcare and trying to do something about it." Orekunrin did the latter. Motivated by the tragic death of her sister, the young doctor decided to leave behind a high-flying job in the UK to take to the Nigerian skies and address the vital issue of urgent healthcare in Africa's most populous country.

A pioneering entrepreneur with an eye for opportunity, Orekunrin set up Flying Doctors Nigeria, the first air ambulance service in West Africa, transporting victims of medical emergencies, including industrial workers from the country's booming oil and gas sector.

"There was a situation in Nigeria where there were only two or three very good hospitals and they were sometimes a two, three, four-day journey away from the places where incidents happened," says Orekunrin. "We also have a huge oil and gas industry and at that time there was no coordinated system for moving people from the offshore environment to a hospital to receive treatment."

We save lives by moving these patients and providing a high level of care en route.

Currently in its third year, the Lagos-based company has so far airlifted about 500 patients, using a fleet of planes and helicopters to rapidly move injured workers and critically ill people from remote areas to hospitals.

"From patients with road traffic trauma, to bomb blast injuries to gunshot wounds, we save lives by moving these patients and providing a high level of care en route," says Orekunrin.

"Many of our roads are poorly maintained, so emergency transport by road during the day is difficult. At night, we have armed robbers on our major highways; coupled with poor lighting and poor state of the roads themselves, emergency transport by road is deadly for both patients and staff."

Ola Orekunrin (continued)

Flying helicopters, speaking Japanese

At 27, there isn't much Orekunrin hasn't achieved.

Born in London, she grew up in a foster home in the charming seaside town of Lowestoft in the south-east of England.

Aged 21, Orekunrin had already graduated from the University of York as a qualified doctor. She was then awarded the MEXT Japanese Government Scholarship and moved to Japan to conduct research in the field of regenerative medicine.

I wanted to facilitate getting the right patient, to the right facility, within the right time frame for that particular illness.

After moving back to Europe the young doctor looked set for a promising career in medicine in the UK. But her desire to improve healthcare services in West Africa brought her back to her roots.

Orekunrin quit her job, sold her assets and went on to study evacuation models and air ambulance services in other developing countries before launching her ambitious venture, which enables her to combine her "deep love for medicine and Africa" with her growing passion for flying -- Orekunrin is also a trainee helicopter pilot.

"I wanted to find a way that I can facilitate people who were critically ill," she says. "Get them to see a doctor, and not just any doctor -- I wanted to facilitate getting the right patient to the right facility, within the right time frame for that particular illness, and that's why I came to start the air ambulance."

Last month, the World Economic Forum recognized Orekunrin's achievements by naming her amongst its prestigious Young Global Leaders class of 2013, a group it describes as the best of today's leaders under the age of 40.

"It came as a surprise to me actually," she says of the honor. "I'm really flattered and really happy."

Trauma epidemic

Nigeria, Africa's second-biggest economy, is the continent's top producer of oil, boasting huge petroleum and natural gas reserves.

The industry's potential, coupled with a growing financial services sector, is expected to help drive further demand for companies such as Flying Doctors Nigeria, which works on a retainership basis with the public sector, wealthy individuals and oil and gas companies.

Yet Orekunrin says that there are still several challenges that need to be navigated to successfully run a company like hers in the West African country.

"The aviation business is very expensive in Nigeria," she says. "Keeping costs down is always a challenge," she adds, noting that red tape and bureaucracy are also testing small businesses' endurance.

There should be more focus on the trauma epidemic that Africa currently faces

But despite the challenges, Orekunrin remains determined to bring about change in Nigeria's healthcare system. "I want to achieve a proper use of the healthcare sector in Nigeria," she says.

Looking ahead, Orekunrin says her goal is to continue improving access to treatment while focusing on the pre-hospital and in-hospital management of injuries. She says that whilst much attention and funding is directed toward infectious diseases, Africa is also facing a big problem treating physical injuries and wounds.

"Eighty percent of the world trauma occurs in low-middle income countries just like Nigeria," she says. "I feel there should be more focus on the trauma epidemic that Africa currently faces."

"In the UK, I would see one gunshot wound every three or four years. In Nigeria, I see one gunshot wound every three-four days. Add in the road-traffic trauma, falls from heights, industrial injuries, stab wounds, injuries from domestic violence and you see a huge problem that definitely needs addressing."

Where God Ain't

He was just a little boy on a week's first day.
He was wandering home from Sunday School and dawdling on the way.

He scuffed his shoes into the grass, he found a caterpillar,
He found a fluffy milkweed pod, and blew out all the "filler".

A bird's nest in a tree o'er head, so wisely placed on high,
was just another wonder that caught his eager eye.

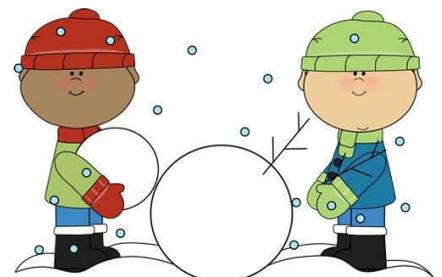
A neighbor watched his zig-zag course and hailed him from the lawn
Asked him where he'd been that day and what was going on.

"I've been to bible school" he said, and turned a piece of sod,
He picked up a wiggly worm, replying "I've learned a lot of God."

"Very fine way" the neighbor said, "for a boy to spend his time,
If you'll tell me where God is, I'll give you a brand new dime."

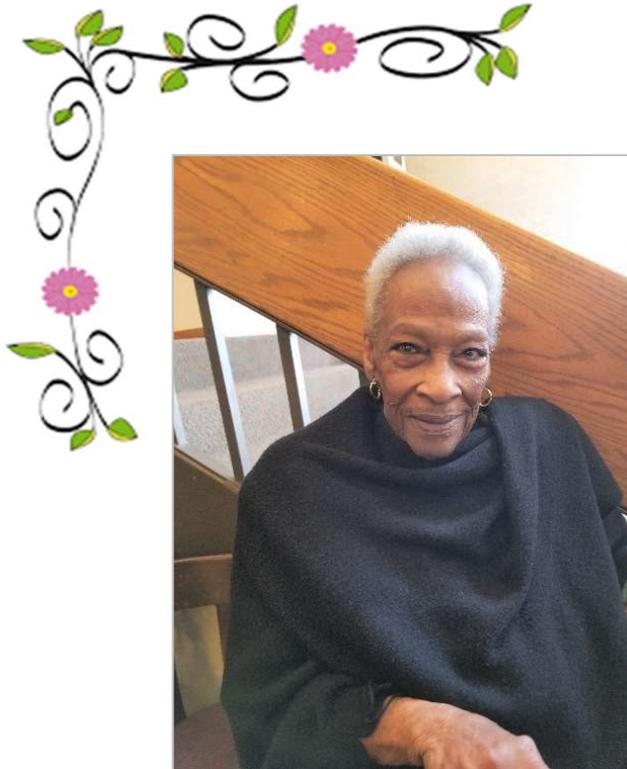
Quick as a flash the answer came, nor were his accents faint,
"I'll give you a dollar, Mister if you can tell me where God
ain't."

~Unknown Author~



Thank you from Sister Macey

G.R.A.C.E. 



"You know who you are.

*I am so grateful for my Mount Aery family
and everything you've done and continue to do
for me. I Love you and may God's choicest
blessings be bestowed upon you."*

~ Mother Barbara Macey

WORD SEARCH

by Deacon Kathy Tabb-Small

G.R.A.C.E. 

HE'S ALREADY THERE

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

ALL-KNOWING
ALL-PRESENT
ALL-SEEING
BOUNDLESS
CELESTIAL
CONSTANT
DIVINE

EVERLASTING
EVERYWHERE
GLORIOUS
GODLY
HEAVENLY
IMMORTAL
INFINITE

OMNIPOTENT
OMNIPRESENT
OMNISCIENT
PERVADING
PERVASIVE
SPLENDID

SUPREME
UBIQUITOUS
UNIVERSAL
WIDESPREAD

FOR THE MILLIONS

by Abiodun Oyewole

G.R.A.C.E. 

This is why we do the **MAAFA**

F

or the millions of Africans chained to the slaves ships. For the millions of scars on the backs and faces by the bullwhip. For the millions who jumped overboard for the blood that poured on the shores of North America, South America, Central America, Europe, and each ripple in the ocean is a grave of an African who refused to a be a slave.

For the millions who cut the cane, picked the cotton, whose names have been forgotten, whose flesh has rotted with the trees they hung us from. Cut out our tongues, cut off our hands if we played the drums.

For the millions who were shot, hung, beat to death, tar and feathered, boiled in oil, whiplashed, backlashed, croker sacked, and thrown in the river. Castrated, mis-educated, segregated, integrated, legislated by the constipated.

For the millions who've been lied to, denied to, vampire eyed to, misguided to and not abided to. So we decided to get together and change the weather not just for now but forever. We decided to love each other. Stop the madness and be real sisters and brothers. We Decided to stop and take a look at the beauty of ourselves, at this colored skin and this thick hair and these full lips and this Africa all inside our souls still breathing the breath of Gods in our lungs. greatness is where we're coming from.

For the millions who marched, sang, prayed, sat in, lived in, jailed in, boycotted, picketed, spit at, cursed at, yelled at, like blacks not where its at, like we should be satisfied to ride in the back. For the Fanny Lou Hamers, and the Rosa Parks and the Eula Mae Johnsons and Eleanor Bumpers and Assata Shakur and Gwendolyn Brooks and the Martins and the Arthurs and the Deacons the Panthers and James and Langston and Richard, Paul, Malik, Marcus and Nat and Cinque and Kunta Kinte too.



For the millions who know and those who have always known that no matter what "Truth crushed to Earth shall rise again" no matter how many bullets and prisons diseases and deaths no one can take our breath away we are here to stay. No matter how much liquor and crack nothing can kill the fact that we are a divine creation started civilizations built the pyramids and the Sphinx taught the world how to pray and think. Not mention inventions we never got credit for and all the babies we raised even when our own were ignored.

For the millions with fire in our souls that burns so bright and the strength of our will as dominant as the night and the rhythm when we walk and the rhythm when we talk even when we have nothing to say we utter sounds that put color and spice in the day.

For the millions who are ready to turn this thing around who are tired of being tired and crawling on the ground. It is time to return to our spiritual home, reclaim our throne and leave this American Nightmare alone.



Namaste Brothers and Sisters! The major goal of the MABC Security Team is to provide a safe environment for you and your family here at The Mount. This starts with keeping you informed, but remember, security is everyone's responsibility. In this installment, we will cover Gift Card Scams



Gift Card Scams

The scammers are at it again! Preying on the uninformed, therefore we're here to keep you informed and to help prevent you from being taken advantage of, or even worse, from being physically harmed. The latest scam is a caller asking you to purchase gift cards for the following reasons: pay a bill or face jail time; pay the IRS; or a family member is in trouble--bail them out with gift cards. If asked to pay by gift card, never do it! It's always a scam. Also, when purchasing gift cards, buy them online or from behind the counter, but never off the rack in stores because scammers are swiping the Universal Product Code (UPC) numbers off the card then putting them back on the rack, therefore when you add money to your card, the scammer takes the money off the card and your card does not have anything on it when it comes time for you to use it. Food for thought: Always follow your gut feelings; if you feel uneasy about the situation, you're probably right. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Asked to pay by gift card? Don't.

Has someone asked you to go get a gift card to pay for something? Lots of people have told us they've been asked to pay with gift cards – by a caller claiming to be with the IRS, or tech support, or a so-called family member in need. If you've gotten a call like this, you know that the caller will then demand the gift card numbers and PIN. And, poof, your money is gone.

Scammers are good at convincing people there really is an emergency, so lots of people have made the trip to the Walmart or Target or CVS to buy gift cards to send these callers. And scammers love gift cards – it's one of their favorite ways to get your money. These cards are like giving cash – and nearly untraceable, unless you act almost immediately.

So here's the most important thing for you to know: anyone who demands payment by gift card is always, always, always a scammer. Try this gift card buying exercise out at home – especially when anyone asks you to pay with a gift card:

Q: Should I buy an iTunes, Google Play, Steam, Kroger, Walgreens, BestBuy, Amazon, CVS, Rite Aid or ANY OTHER gift card for someone who demands payment? For any reason?

A: NO.

Gift cards are for gifts, not payments. If you've bought a gift card and lost money to someone who might be a scammer, tell the company who issued the card. (The contact info might be on the card, but might require some research) Call or email iTunes or Amazon or whoever it was. Tell them their card was used in a scam. If you act quickly enough, they might be able to get your money back. But – either way – it's important that they know what happened to you. And then please tell the FTC about your loss. Your report helps us try to shut the scammers down.

(continued)



SECURITY CORNER 
by Deacon Henry Smalls, Jr.

Gift Card Scam: Crooks Can Drain the Money off Your Cards

Gift cards are hotter than roasted chestnuts this yule season.

Six in ten consumers have gift cards on their Christmas shopping list, according to a survey of 7,349 consumers for the National Retail Federation trade association, and retailers reckon they'll sell more than \$27 billion worth this holiday season.

For many people, gift cards take the agony out of finding that perfect present. But if you're buying or receiving gift cards this year, there's a scam you should know about: The money that you or your benefactor put onto that gift card can be stolen before the intended recipient can spend it.

"Gift cards are a big target for criminals," says Avivah Litan, security analyst for Gartner, an information technology research and advisory firm. The FBI estimates that gift card fraud losses are in the low single digits as a percentage of sales, but gift card sales run about \$130 billion a year.

A Simple Scam

The process of stealing the money off gift cards can vary. With the simplest method, a hacker takes cards off the rack, writes down the gift cards' numbers, and scratches off the strip on the back of the cards to get the security codes. Once he has that information, he puts replacement strips—easily available online—over the codes and exits the store. Later, after you buy one of those cards and load money onto it, the hacker gets an alert that tells him that the funds have been loaded onto the card.

"The crooks can see as soon as someone activates the card, because they've automated all this with software that periodically checks the card balance via the internet," says David Farquhar, a unit chief within the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division who explained the crime techniques to Consumer Reports last year.

But some gift card providers have safeguards. "If a card has not yet been sold and the number has been pinged online multiple times, the retailer will shut that card down," says Teri Llach, chief marketing officer for Blackhawk Network, a major provider of gift cards in-store and online. "The system identifies cards that may be compromised."

Laundering the Money

Because gift cards generally can't be redeemed for cash, after the crook finds cards with funds on them, he then starts a roundabout process of laundering the money.

For example, he might place an ad on a consumer-to-consumer online marketplace or auction website for an item that he doesn't actually own, say, a video game console that sells for \$600 in a retail store but that he is selling for \$500. When a buyer quickly snaps up that deal, the buyer sends his clean money to the fraudster.

The criminal, meanwhile, uses the dirty money loaded onto the stolen gift card to purchase the console from an online retailer, which ships the game player right to the buyer.

Botnet Attack

More sophisticated hackers skip the physical gift cards on racks in stores and go directly to the websites where consumers access their gift card balances. There, the hackers attack using botnets, networks of thousands of hijacked individual personal computers and Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which carry out automated actions.

The botnets test millions of combinations of gift card account numbers (which may follow discoverable sequencing patterns) and stolen PIN passwords to try to log into online gift card accounts that have money loaded onto them. The botnets try to avoid detection by mimicking individual human browsing behavior and blending in with a website's genuine visitor traffic.

In one such "brute force" attack on a gift card website earlier this year, a botnet dubbed GiftGhostBot logged up to 4 million gift card balance requests per hour by testing a rolling list of potential account numbers and PINs, says Rami Essaid, CEO of Distil Networks, a company which detects and defends businesses against botnets. When the botnet finds a money balance, the hackers can sell the account number on the criminal dark web or use it to purchase goods directly.

"More than 90 percent of the login activity for online accounts set up to manage gift cards is coming from botnet attackers who want to take over accounts," says Shuman Ghosemajumder, chief technical officer for Shape Security, another firm that defends company web and mobile applications from automated cyberattacks. Not all gift card companies use botnet defense services.

(continued)



Protect Yourself

Gift card issuers are beefing up security with more protective packaging and new back-office technology that flags suspicious activity during purchase and redemption, says the Retail Gift Card Association. But you can also protect yourself by taking these steps:

Buy gift cards online directly from the retailer, chain restaurant, or other issuer, says the FBI's Farquhar. Criminals don't have easy access to those cards. Buy online especially if you're purchasing a high-value gift card.

Don't buy in-store racked cards with easily accessible numbers and PINs. If you buy in a retail store, look for gift cards kept behind the counter or in well-sealed packaging. The Retail Gift Card Association advises consumers to inspect the package for tampering.

If possible, change the security code as soon as you buy the card. Register the card when you get home, change the PIN, and educate the recipient about what you did and why he or she should not delay in using the card.

Get your stolen funds back. Card issuers that use botnet defenses can detect the tiny percentage of fraudulent transactions that may slip through their net, and they may be able to distinguish between honest and fraudulent transactions on your gift card to make you whole again. So "if your card has been drained, you should call the issuer and ask for reimbursement of your stolen funds," Essaid says.

Secure your home computer. Farquhar says criminals also gain access to your gift card numbers and PINs by hacking your computer. To help prevent that, make sure your security software is the most up-to-date version, create and use strong passwords or a password generator, and follow our 66 ways to protect your privacy.

Sources

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov>

<https://www.consumerreports.org>



Financial Independence vs. Financial Freedom

Financial independence is a state in which an individual or household has sufficient wealth to live on without having to depend on income from some form of employment. In other words, one can live and survive without the aide or assistance from any other person or source. Financially independent people have assets that generate income that is equal to or greater than their expenses.

In comparison, majority of us find ourselves on the road striving to achieve financial freedom. We do depend on income from some form of employment or other source, and the major goal is to avoid being burdens to our families or anyone else, for that matter. Financial freedom can be difficult to achieve if one is not a disciplined individual. People have to be money conscience about everything they do financially, and that does involve hard work. As we are all aware, in today's high rising economy, trying to keep your finances under control, is a job in itself. Don't get me wrong, it's not necessary to tuck everything away without enjoying life a little. It just depends on the type of person you are, for example, some folks have 'champagne taste on a beer budget'.

The bottom line is, if achieving financial freedom is your goal, saving whatever you can for the future may be difficult, but down the road, the results will pay off. People who are financially secure are able to make life decisions that involve their finances without being overly stressed out. They are prepared for the unexpected. In other words, they are in control of their finances instead of their finances being in control of them.



Black History Moment

Harold Mabern

Harold Mabern (born March 20, 1936 in Memphis, Tennessee) is a hard bop and soul jazz pianist.

Mabern was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee – a city that’s a capital of 20th century American music. Like fellow Memphis jazz artists George Coleman, Booker Little, and Frank Strozier, Mabern attended Manassas High School, and after an early attempt at playing the drums, he taught himself piano and fell under the spell of pianist Phineas Newborn Jr., an influence that would shape and linger with Mabern for the rest of his life.



Along with some other Memphis musicians, Mabern moved to Chicago in 1954 where he soon found work backing up tenor sax players Johnny Griffin, Gene Ammons and Clifford Jordan. He also gained further influence from studying with pianist Ahmad Jamal and played in the hardbop group MJT + 3, before going on to New York City in 1959. “Chicago gave me the stuff I needed—and the confidence,” he recalled in 1987. “New York refined my stuff and it’s still doing it.”

One of his earliest significant gigs was an 18-month stay with Art Farmer and Benny Golson’s Jazztet. After the Jazztet disbanded, Mabern worked with Jimmy Forrest, Lionel Hampton, Donald Byrd and did a brief stint with Miles Davis in 1963. He worked with J.J. Johnson (1963-65), Lee Morgan (1965) and Hank Mobley- recording the album, *Dippin’*. Sonny Rollins, Freddie Hubbard, Joe Williams (1966-67) Mabern also played in a quartet with guitarist Wes Montgomery. Decades later Mabern praised the joyous quality of Montgomery’s playing and personality and told an interviewer:

The music was challenging. He’d just start playing. He’d say “Mabern, play this with me.” Now, if he had a specific thing he wanted me to play, like say maybe he wanted me to play a figure with him in unison, ok, and I’d pick it right up because of the fact that I’m self-taught, always had to use my ears anyway... Then there’d be times when he’d say, “Mabern, you play this with me,” and it might be the harmony part to what he’s playing...whatever way, it was always a challenge. He always said, “Mabern, you’re a bad cat.” And I’d say, “Oh, I’m just trying to keep up with you.”

Between 1968-70, Mabern led four albums for Prestige, the first being *A Few Miles From Memphis* with a lineup that featured two saxophonists, one of them fellow Memphis native George Coleman. As the 1970s began, Harold Mabern became a key member of Lee Morgan’s working group and appeared on several live and studio recordings made by the trumpeter before his death in 1972.

In 1971, he played on Stanley Turrentine’s *The Sugar Man* and *Don’t Mess With Mr. T.* album in 1973. In 1972 he recorded with Stanley Cowell’s Piano Choir.

In more recent years, he has toured and recorded extensively with his former William Paterson University student, the tenor saxophonist Eric Alexander. To date, Mabern and Alexander have appeared on over twenty CDs together. A longtime faculty member at William Paterson University since 1981, Mabern is also a frequent instructor at the Stanford Jazz Workshop.

Harold Mabern has recorded as a leader for DIW/Columbia and Sackville and toured with the Contemporary Piano Ensemble (1993-1995).

Non-Profit/Educational Jazz Website | haroldmabern.jazzgiants.net



BIRTHDAYS



December 1st

Bember, Porter
Bradley, Keith
Brassell, Diane
Caesar, Gloria
Coplou, Latosha
DeJesus, Marta
Febres, Annette
Foremar, Nenyelle
Kenyattaia, Dorothy
King, Tameka
Matthews, Ronald
Reyes, Luis
Scales, Reginald
Storms, Stephanie
Williams, Brittany

December 2nd

Cato, Elijah
McDuffie, William
Moye-Sprangle, Yvonne
Pasha, Hope
Rogers, Dawn
Williams, Donell
Williams, N'Gai

December 3rd

Bernard, Michelle
Eagleton, Tonia
Smith, Karin
Wright, Lavanda

December 4th

Barreiro, Elizabeth
Penix, Elizabeth
Reed, Lakeya
Skeeter, Sharron
Wilson, Lamar

December 5th

Buford, Carlton
Cauthen, Adrian
Ess, Darin
Hunter-Faison, Jeanette
James, Jesse
McKenzie, Roger
McKnight, Quincy
Travis, Lisa

December 6th

Brown, Jr, George
Dunn, Sandra
Fleming, Brianna
Joyner, Bennie
Lyles, Starsheenma
Simpson, Sheila
Wedda, Elizabeth

December 7th

Brown-Palmer, Bernadette
Gray, Donna
Harris, Artrena
Marsh, Mary
McIntyre, Keneisha
Mendes, Anthony
Reese, George
Walls, Kecia

December 8th

Gallimore, Cirell
Geter, Frederick
Hargrove, Ebony
Holmes, Kimberly
Lee, Kevin
Penix, Avery
Phaire, Claudine
Porter, Michael
Reed, Valerie
Robinson, Wesley
Walden, Chimere

December 9th

Housey, Angela
Marshall, Leola
Perry, Vanessa
Satchwell, Sharon
Sims, Bonita
Thompson, Terry
Watley, Andrea

December 10th

Boyd, Sean
Burks, Cecelia
Frederick, Monique
Galberth, Tory
Gay, Kenyon
Jackson, NaQuasha
Johnson, Rhoshenae
Lee, Brittany

December 11th

Mack, Barren
Pollard, LaJeune
Risher, Vanessa
Sanders, Rodney
Walton, Catherine

December 12th

Walden, Chimere
Blanding, Jennifer
Jackson, Kevin
White, Howard
Williams, Nicole

December 13th

Hill, Betty
Rollins, Quintin
Simmons, Denetris
Wortham, Terrance
Bradley, Rubin
Burres, Betty
Dicks, Carl
Foster, Telazia
Hardison, Shawn
Haskins, Marian
Hendrickson, Jhakiema
Ingram, Philip
Mitchell, Justan

December 14th

Darden, Mamie
Hudson, Armoni
Jordan, Nhrari
Joseph, Veronique
Lee, Charlene
Lewis, John
Mendez, Tykeisha
Mercer, Rhonda
Pettway, Robert
Stephenson, Kathy
Whittington, Za'nai

December 15th

Bennett, Anthony
Cooper, James
Freeman, Lawrance
Gathers, Quadir
Horton, Horace
Seawright, Dwayne
Thomas, Alisha
Thomas, Felisha
Womack, Crystal

December 16th

Ben, Joe
Failey, Felicia
Garner, Katrina
Jones, Shanda
Lanham, Roosevelt
Samuel, Shaniyah

December 17th

Day, Terrell
Gore, Tyrell
Johnson, Jeannette
Maye, Tamika
Mincey, Loletha
Moorer, Mazie
Nichols, Sean
Pettway, Lee
Small, Trevon
Stokes, Alan
Taylor, Shayna
Walker, Virginia

December 18th

Butler, Whilamenia
Cook, Talyn
Dennis, Monica
Hill, Lakisha
Holmes-Cobb, LaNeesa
Narcisse, Paul
Pettway, Lenora
Seldon, Christina
Slade, Rosie
Thornton, Marion
Worsley, Irene

December 19th

Eason, Reginald
Gordon, Calbert
Ploughman-Hamm, Jeanine N.

December 20th

Rosino, Cianela
Sundar, Keisha
Bush-Hanks, Denise
Clark, Rhonda M
Dewitt, Janell
Domond, Ellen
Eldridge, Mary
Gary, Blair
Thompson, Leona
Thornton, Barbara
Williams, Aleen

December 21st

Boyd, Melanie
Gist, April
Holmes, Anthony
Shakur, Alquan

December 22nd

Hill, Shirley
Jones, Cynthia
Richards, Jasmine
Rowe, Charmaine
Strode, Seonique

December 23rd,

Daniels, Rhozharia
Gary, Marquet
Gray, Christie
Hendrickson, Simon
Sapp, Michelle
Walker, Vickie

December 24th

Lazaro, Madison
Buford, Mary
Carter-Mims, Carol
Duharte, Tiffany
Lesperance, Esther
Reed, Shirley
Scudder, Janis
White, Andrea

December 26th

Ellis, Chyna
Manns, Melissa
McFadden, Lori
Simpson, Shakira
VanNorden, Gregory

December 27th

Carr, Thelma
Edwards, Bernardine
Kearney, Chyron
Kearney, Yolanda
Simpson, Sandra
Williams, Melissa

December 28th

Bennett, Angelope
Collier, Vernon
Ely, Clara
Fields, Audrey

December 29th

Gardner, Joy
Gerald, F.
Jackson-DeYounge, Gladys
Langs-Johnson, Selaja
Tawney, Millicent

December 29th

Burton-Seldon, Brenda
Chandler, Martin
Clemons, Charles
Curtis, Anderson
Evans, Toni
Geer, Connie
LaFountain, Sadara
Pettway, Barnetta
Rochr, Djuly
White, Gloria

December 30th

White, Gloria
Bass, Santoni
Bowens, Debbie
Givan, Jayvon
Grey, Tawanda
James, Robin
Kearse, Serverina
Mitchell, Cheryl
Pettway, Randy
Rainey, Juanita
Smith, Geronald
Taylor, Marcia

December 31st

Brown, Vendance
Lesperance, Bernadette
Seawright, Jacqueline
Simmons, Darlene

Happy Birthday

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 7:45am-8:15am Prayer -- Sanctuary 8:30am-10:00am Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary 9:45am Mount Aery Cafe 10:00am-11:00am Sunday School -- Bass Hall 11:00am-1:00pm Worship -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>3 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>4 9:00am-11:00am System of Care -- Bass Hall 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>5 12:00pm-1:00pm Daytime Bible Study -- Wilson Hall 6:00pm-7:00pm Kwanzaa Planning -- Wilson Hall 6:00pm-8:00pm Imani Breakthrough -- Classroom 7:00pm-8:00pm 10th Annual Holy Spirit Discernment</p>	<p>6 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>7 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>8 8:30am-10:00am Men's Fellowship -- Classroom</p>
<p>9 7:45am-8:15am Prayer -- Sanctuary 8:30am-10:00am Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary 10:00am-11:00am Sunday School -- Bass Hall 11:00am-1:00pm Youth Church -- Bass Hall</p>	<p>10 6:00pm Fellowship Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>11 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>12 12:00pm-1:00pm Daytime Bible Study -- Wilson Hall 1:00pm-3:00pm Quilters -- Classroom 6:00pm-7:00pm Kwanzaa Planning -- Wilson Hall 6:00pm-8:00pm Imani Breakthrough -- Classroom</p>	<p>13 6:30pm-8:00pm Ushers Meeting -- Wilson Hall 6:30pm-8:30pm Deacons Meeting -- Pastor's Conference Room 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>14 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>15 8:30am-10:00am Men's Fellowship -- Classroom 9:00am New Disciples Ministry Class 10:00am-11:00am Missionary Meeting -- Wilson Hall 10:00am-11:30am Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>
<p>16 7:45am-8:15am Prayer -- Sanctuary 8:30am-10:00am Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary 10:00am-11:00am Sunday School -- Bass Hall 11:00am-1:00pm Youth Church -- Bass Hall</p>	<p>17 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>18 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>19 12:00pm-1:00pm Daytime Bible Study -- Wilson Hall 6:00pm-7:00pm Kwanzaa Planning -- Wilson Hall 6:00pm-8:00pm Imani Breakthrough -- Classroom 7:00pm-8:00pm Bible Study -- Wilson Hall</p>	<p>20 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>21 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>22 8:30am-10:00am Men's Fellowship -- Classroom 10:00am-11:30am Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>
<p>23 7:45am-8:15am Prayer -- Sanctuary 8:30am-10:00am Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary 10:00am-11:00am Sunday School -- Bass Hall 11:00am-1:00pm Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>24 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>25 10:00am-12:00pm Christmas Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>26 12:00pm-1:00pm Daytime Bible Study -- Wilson Hall 1:00pm-3:00pm Quilters -- Classroom 6:00pm-7:00pm Kwanzaa Planning -- Wilson Hall 6:00pm-8:00pm Imani Breakthrough -- Classroom</p>	<p>27 7:00pm-9:00pm Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>28 NO ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>29 8:30am-10:00am Men's Fellowship -- Classroom 10:00am-11:30am Music Ministry Rehearsal -- Sanctuary 1:00pm-6:00pm Kwanzaa Celebration -- Bass Hall</p>
<p>30 7:45am-8:15am Prayer -- Sanctuary 8:30am-10:00am Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary 10:00am-11:00am Sunday School -- Bass Hall 11:00am-1:00pm Worship Celebration -- Sanctuary</p>	<p>31 6:00pm-8:00pm Vesper Service -- Sanctuary 10:00pm-11:59pm Watch Night Service -- Sanctuary</p>					

All events are on www.mtaerybaptist.org



You are cordially invited to our
Annual Holiday Luncheon

Tossed Salad
Penne Vodka
Chicken Marsala
Sausage & Peppers
Roasted Potatoes
Green Beans
Dessert

 January 12, 2019
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Riverview Bistro

946 Ferry Blvd – Stratford, CT
\$40.00 (non-refundable)

Fellowship, Deacons, Nurses & Sisters at the Well Ministries

Tickets can be purchased from anyone in the
fellowship ministry, Deacon Haggans or
Deacon Nieja Jackson.



*Help our kids stay warm this holiday season
by donating a hat and glove set!*



*Hat & Glove sets can be left in the box in the Narthex.
Donations are accepted until December 12, 2018.
Thank you...Sisters at the Well*

2018 KWANZAA CELEBRATION

