



THE ENGAGER

Living Word

CONNECTING WITH GOD AND WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

The ENGAGER is a quarterly publication of Shady Grove M.B. Church designed to inspire and challenge readers to live for Christ with their whole being – mind, body and spirit.



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings,

It is with great joy that I greet you. Let me begin by wishing all of you a great and prosperous year. I am always excited to share with you by way of The Engager.

As we start off this year I am looking forward to "Engaging the Living Word" with you. The Word of God is so rich to the extent of offering us warnings from pitfalls, providing inner cleansing, and offering us victory over sin, just to name a few. So, I encourage you to read the Word of God intentionally this year.

Also, I encourage you to continue focusing on enlarging the Kingdom of God by sharing your faith with those you have been given opportunity. We have been called to go and make disciples. As we do, I believe God will literally transform this place. It will be a place where the broken, bruised and the battered in this community will find hope.

Furthermore, as we prepare our hearts to work for the Kingdom let us continue to celebrate God. Let us continue to posture ourselves to give Him the highest praise. We do so for the reason the Psalmist gives, "For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth through all generation."

Your Servant,
Kent Hall



Engaging the Living Word

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer – 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

NEW BEGINNINGS

I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

Philippians 3:13-14

One of the great things about a relationship with God is that He always provides new beginnings. His Word says that His mercy is new every day. Jesus chose disciples who had weaknesses and made mistakes, but He continued working with them and helping them become all that they could be. He will do the same thing for you, if you let him.

Recovering from pain or disappointment of any kind is not something that just happens to some people and not to others. It is a decision to let go and go on.

You gather up the fragments and give them to Jesus and He will make sure nothing is wasted. You refuse to think about what you have lost, but instead you inventory what you have left and begin using it. Not only can you recover, but you can also be used to help other people recover.

(The Confident Women Devotional by Joyce Meyer)

Barbara Alexander

NEW YEAR STEPS



Wow! God has blessed us to see a new year, yet not without responsibilities. The new year stretches out before us like a blanket of newly fallen snow. What kind of footprints will we leave? Perhaps our strides will be gigantic leaps of faith. Or maybe we will just take tiny, baby steps of slow, steady progress. Well, it matters not how fast or slow we step. But more importantly, our steps must be ordered by the Lord if we are to make a difference in the church and community. Therefore we resolve to continue "Engaging the Living Word." When we embrace the word of God transformation takes place not only in our life, but in the lives of those we serve.

The Christian Board of Education is (CBOE) is geared up for an exciting year with many plans in the works. During the entire month of April we will have "Family Workshop." Also, a seven-week Evangelism Explosion class will resume each Saturday in April through May 14th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. For other educational events and activities, please read the church bulletin each Sunday.

We thank God for guiding our steps in helping to make an indelible mark in the lives of others.

Bessie Hall

What is Young Lions?

The purpose of Young Lions is to shape African American boys into followers of Christ and leaders of their families and communities. Disciplining involves teaching and enabling through personal relationship. The mentoring relationship is the crucible in which new behavior is forged and tested by boys questioning what it means to be a man.

The Young Lions program helps young black males achieve their God-given potential that they may grow into the likeness of Christ and also learn what it means to be a black man. We meet twice a month and during these meetings we are sharing through our own personal experiences as well as asking the boys to share some of their experiences. It is by this type of interaction with the young boys that we try to build trust and attempt to knock down walls that may be present due to lack of father figures or just lack of trust for an adult male. Let's be honest. Most of our children are being raised in single parent homes. I can say this, because at one point and time I was in that state. It was not until my mother remarried that I knew what a father figure was or even cared. It was through my stepfather that I learned what it was or meant to be a man.

The black man has a major responsibility toward the young black males in our communities. We must step up and take our rightful place in our families and communities. Sometimes just a simple smile or a word of encouragement can go a long way. I can relate to some of these young boys, but at the same time I can't because the difficulties that they face today, I did not have to cope with them during my childhood years. So programs like the Young Lions not only help the young boys in our communities, but it can help the men in our communities as well.

Here at Shady Grove we have a total of 15 boys that participate in the Young Lions program. Each one is gifted and brings a unique quality to the program. The young boys participate in various community activities. For example, we have our very own **Pechone Jackson** who was a recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Award. Mayor A C Wharton and Johnnie Mosley presented him this award. He was awarded for exemplifying the qualities of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We would like to CONGRATULATE Pechone in his efforts in leading the way for others in his community.

Christopher McKay



A LITTLE BIT OF BLACK HISTORY

As we commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I reflect on the others along with Dr. King that go unnoticed. The curriculum and books have changed so much in school that we have been taken away from our history. The era in history that changed this city, and also the world was the Civil Rights Movement.

What was the Civil Rights Movement? This Movement impacted the world in a way that could have never been foreseen. Sit-ins and demonstrations were common, and even deaths at its most extreme moments. Nonetheless, our history goes back even further.

While Thomas Edison was inventing the light bulb, there was one component that was needed—the carbon filament. An African-American named Lewis Latimore invented the carbon filament. There were many African-American inventors and I will mention a few of them. Elijah McCoy invented the oil dripping cups for the trains and Otis Boykin improved the electrical resistors used in computers, tv and radio sets. In the meanwhile, Garret Morgan thought about the hazard workers and soldiers faced so he created the Gas Mask. Vernon Baker was the first African American soldier that received a Medal of Honor for his work in World War II.

Although the past sounds very inspiring, there are those in our present times that have made and are making remarkable achievements. For example, Dr. Patricia E. Bath was the first woman doctor to create an instrument that removes cataracts and aid in the regaining of sight. To have a little fun during the summer times, Lonnie G Johnson delivered the SuperSoaker Watergun and has since been presenting new Nerf Toys.

These are some marvelous accomplishments that will leave a legacy. We have much to be proud of. So don't allow anyone to tell you that Black History Month is only 28/29 days a year. Black History is of great importance and should be celebrated 365 days a year.

Tamika Sargent

LEARN HOW TO LIVE TO DEFEAT THE DEVIL.

~
Each Sunday Morning 9:30 a.m.

When you carry the Bible, Satan gets a headache.
When you open it, he collapses.
When he sees you reading it, he faints.
When he sees you are living what you read, he flees!!

Vinnie Standard

~ Church Theme ~

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

II Timothy 3:16-17

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The "Member Spotlight" is our way of getting to know our members; to celebrate and promote them while we strive to esteem them.

Christopher Hope



I asked Chris to tell me a little about himself. Here is what he had to say. ~

I have a wonderful wife (Una) and a beautiful daughter (Kayla). I am employed at UPS and have spent 24 years of my life there. In my spare time I like to dabble and dabble in a little graphic arts and photography. A couple of years ago, I partnered with my buddy and we published a magazine called the *Shelton Report*. It was truly a great project. What do I like to eat? Hmm...Like most people, I love some good home cooking. There are two things that I can eat ANY time... spaghetti and chicken. I love to travel. When I do, I tend to favor places with ocean views. I love water. It helps me to relax. What's coming up in the near future? Paris!

His thoughts on music ~

Music itself fascinates me because I study it so much. It amazes me how some writers come up with the rhythms they do. I love that because it challenges me to learn different techniques, patterns and sounds. I love an artist that is versatile in their instrument knowledge and skill set. By learning multiple instruments, you're not limited. That's how I want to be.

Got any encouraging words for our children/youth of today? ~

My advice is to be happy with who you are and be the best YOU can. Never give in to peer pressure. If it will cost you a friend, so be it. Some people will doubt you, talk about you and try to bring you down. You've got to be strong and stay focused on your goals. You control you. Ignore negativity, work hard, pray and maximize the blessings you've been given.

What scripture or quote inspires you the most? ~

This is something my dad told me years ago. He said, "Treat everybody right because you'll never know what part that person may play in your life later."

Romans 13:9-10 says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Viola A. Cage

DID YOUR HOLIDAY BLUES END?

You may recall from the previous article that many people experience increased sadness during the holidays. It was also stated that if these feelings of sadness do not pass after the holiday, there might be a more serious problem-clinical depression. Professionals refer to this condition as Major Depressive Disorder. If your blues have not passed, talk with your physician or mental health provider. Determine if you experience some or all of the symptoms.

- Depressed or sad mood most of the time (In children and adolescents, this may be characterized as an irritable mood)
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities previously enjoyed
- Significant weight loss or weight gain; significant changes in appetite
- Difficulty sleeping or excessive sleeping
- Increased activity brought on by mental tension
- Fatigue or loss of energy
- Feelings of worthlessness
- Difficulty thinking or concentrating
- Recurrent thoughts of death

Remember, you are not alone. Help is available through the many resources God has blessed us with.

Wanda Hall-Myers



LIFE RULES FOR 2011

Wake Up !! Decide to have a good day.

"Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" Psalms 118:24

Dress Up !! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Shut Up !! Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.

"He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3

Lift Up !!... Your Prayers.

"Do not worry about anything; Instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." Philippians 4:6

Amy Harris

Laugh Out Loud

A cat and mouse died on the same day and went to Heaven. They met God and He asked them, "How do you like it so far?"

The mouse replied, "it's great, but can I get a pair of roller skates?" God said sure and he gave him a pair of roller skates.



The next day God saw the cat and asked him, "How do you like it up here so far?" and the cat replied "great, I didn't know you had meals on wheels up here!"

Barbara Alexander

Stellar Gospel Music Awards

I was privileged to attend the 26th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards held at the Grand Ole Opry on January 15th. The Opry was beautifully restored after being submersed in flood waters during the Nashville Flood in May 2010.

The show presentation was second to none and included a beautiful stage with dual audience pits, 3 huge LED screens and a live band. The awards show was filled with great performances by gospel artists such as opening act *J.J. Hairston & Youthful Praise* 'Lord You're Mighty', *VaShawn Mitchell* 'Nobody Greater', *Beverly Crawford* 'It's About Time For A Miracle' - my favorite performance of the evening. A highlight of the evening was *Marvin Sapp's* emotion-filled finale performance of his biggest hit 'Never Would Have Made It' with Stellar Awards host *Donnie McClurkin*.

The big award winners of the night were *BeBe and CeCe Winans* and *Marvin Sapp* with four awards each, along with *James Fortune and FIYA* with three wins. Special honors were given to *Donald Lawrence* with the James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award, *Kirk Franklin* with the Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award and *Vanessa Bell Armstrong* with the Ambassador Dr. Bobby Jones Legend Award.

The 26th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards is scheduled to air on WLMT - CW, Sunday - 03/13/11 at 2 PM

Anthony Coley

Calendar of Events

<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>Church Anniversary February 27 at 3:00 p.m. Denise Howell and Mary Pugh, Chairpersons Guest: Pastor Edward Parker & Berean Baptist Church</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>Men's Day March 27 at 11:00 a.m. Rickey Howell, Chairperson Spring Revival</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>Good Friday Presentation April 22 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Mother & Daughter Banquet TBA</p> <p>Family Workshop Entire Month</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>Choir Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>Choir Day May 29 at 11:00 a.m. Anthony Coley and Chandra Jackson, Chairpersons</p>

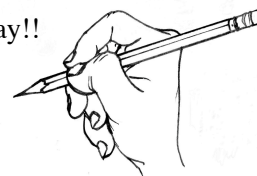
LIBRARY NEWS

The Library Staff would like to encourage the parents of children ages 5-17 to join the Library Club. The only requirement is to fill out a permission slip.

We will not only read books, but we will be going on field trips such as: President William "Bill" Clinton Library, Brooks Museum, and other educational places. We will also have movie night where the children can view and learn more about our heritage and culture. This club will help your child grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Hurry and submit your form today.

See Sis. Thelma Gates, Sis. Rhiannon Stokes, or Sis. Dhiannon Matthews for forms.

Sign up today!!



Thelma Gates

GOT A BRIGHT IDEA? AN ADVERTISEMENT OR ANNOUNCEMENT?

If you have something to contribute to the newsletter, please see one of the newsletter committee members.

Members: Viola Cage, Wanda Hall-Myers, Barbara Alexander, Simone Clark, Tamika Sargent, Brandi Hillman, Geraldine Alexander, Amy Harris, Pearleen Smith, Martha Epps and Aubrey Williams (Photographer)