



They will know us by our Love
John 13:35



February Theme: The Holiness of God

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
7PM—In Person & via Zoom

February Fighter Verse:
1 Samuel 2:2

There is no one holy like the LORD;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

OUR WORSHIP

IN-PERSON
LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM
www.centralbaptistnyc.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Adult Sunday School 9:45AM via Zoom
Youth Sunday School 11:15AM
Kindergarten to 12th Grade
—2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.

IN THIS ISSUE

Black History Month	Page 1
Devotional	Page 2
Announcements including Senior Ministry Events	Page 3
February Birthdays, Prayer Meetings & Prayer Wall	Page 4
Dr. Vivien Thomas Feature article by Paulette Forbes-Igharo	Page 5
Arts and Letters	Page 6
February Calendar	Page 7
Missionary of the Month and Praying Together	Page 8

Each February the Newsletter acknowledges Black History Month by honoring our heroes. This year we are featuring two very accomplished African Americans one of whom is Dr. Vivien Thomas.

In acknowledgement of Black History Month it occurred to me to ask about the theme this year. Doing that internet search I discovered Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes>.



Carter G. Woodson

When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

It never ceases to amaze me that one can live for so many years and still be unaware, especially as a Black person. You may have known this but I ask myself where I've been. Now that I know, I'm excited, enriched and glad to learn something new.

The Black History Month Theme for 2024 is *African Americans and the Arts*. African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

In celebrating the entire history of African Americans and the arts, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) puts into the national spotlight the richness of the past and present with an eye towards what the rest of the twenty-first century will bring. ASALH dedicates its 98th Annual Black History Theme to African Americans and the arts.

Continued on Page 8

February Devotional

Our newest contributor is Debby Diaz who will be bringing us the devotionals each month.

Her legal name is Debby Holland Diaz. Holland is her maiden/middle name in honor of her father, Rev. W. T. Holland MA ThM DD who pastored 50 years in 4 states.

Debby Diaz holds a Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education and a Masters in Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her ESL career includes all kinds of teaching, starting in Spain, and teacher-training in Italy. She loves to travel and try new things, such as being a Pentecostal, a Methodist and a Lutheran. She is returning to her moderate Baptist roots at CBC where God called her the day Pastor Fils-Aime preached Joel 2, the equality of women in ministry. She was honored when he asked her to write devotionals for the newsletter! She's just joined the Dance Team and has been worshipping and fellowshiping with the Spanish Congregation regularly.

GOODNESS

by Debby Diaz MA, ThM

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23.*

Goodness is the sixth of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

Surely **goodness** and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. - Psalm 23:6 (KJV) This beloved psalm comes from the heart of the Shepherd-King David who wrote it. A song based on the 23rd Psalm says, "The King of Love my Shepherd is, whose **goodness** faileth never..."

Goodness holds a prominent place in The Holy Scriptures—right from the start! We see how out of formless, chaotic darkness Our Creator commanded light into existence; and God saw that the light was good.- Genesis 1:4 (NRSV)

The King James Version (KJV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are two of the English translations of Hebrew and Greek Scriptures that are accepted by Old Testament and New Testament scholars. The King James Version is the oldest (1611) and the New Revised Standard Version is the newest (1991.) Note that, despite the changes in English over the centuries, both of these repeat the exact same phrase from the first chapter of Genesis six times: **and God saw that it was good.**

God created the waters and the sky, separated the land from the sea, **and God saw that it was good.** - Genesis 1:10. God created all sorts of vegetation **and God saw that it was good.** - Genesis 1: 12. God created the sun, moon and stars—everything astronomical **and God saw that it was good!** - Genesis 1: 18.

In the King James Version, whales are the first animals mentioned that God created. Birds are also specified. God made all forms of aquatic and avian life, blessed them, told them to multiply **and God saw that it was good** --Genesis 1: 21

On the Sixth Day of Creation, God made all the land-animals—from cattle to humans-- blessed them, told them to multiply **and God saw that it was good.** - Genesis 1: 25.

How **good** of God to create humans in God's own image, male and female (Genesis 1:27) and to put them in Paradise! How good of God to forgive Adam and Eve when they sinned; they lost the Paradise God created for them, but God still cared for them and all their offspring forever! Throughout the Old and New Testaments and to this present day, we see how far we humans have strayed from God's original intention for us.

But **God is so good** that God gave us Jesus and The Holy Spirit and through the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God wants to bring us back into fellowship with our Creator—and back to Paradise!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Take a few moments to reflect on just how good God has been to you. Take time to remember the times you said, "God is good" and the circumstances that evokes that note of praise.

Was there ever a time when you felt alone or overwhelmed or frustrated or just plain angry and disgusted and still knew, in spite of your situation, that God was good. Jot it down and thank Him. Take a little time to worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to come together to learn, pray and fellowship.

Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult

9:45AM— In person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656

Youth

11:15AM

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays

In-Person OR

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

Current Study: 1 Corinthians

7:00—8:00PM

Wednesday Night Bible study is a great way to keep your heart and mind on God! Join us for an interactive, in-depth reflection on the scriptures and how they can be applied to your life.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656

7 PM on Zoom

TALK
BACK

Tuesday

Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Or dial in on your phone:

(646) 558-8656

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:16
Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMP)

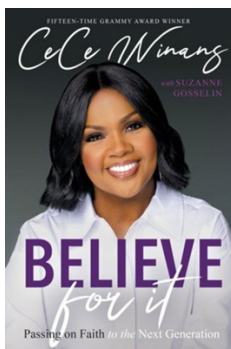
Senior Ministry Events

SENIOR MONTHLY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 2:00pm

Location: The Parlor

All seniors 55 and older are invited to join us.



SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Saturday, March 2, 2024

2:00pm to 4:00pm - Miss Ann's Room

Believe For It: Passing on Faith to the Next Generation by CeCe Winans

Senior Ministry. Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel

February 3, 10, and 24



CBC Senior's Ministry

Invites you to:

"DANIEL"

Sight & Sound Theatre
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Saturday, July 20, 2024

Cost: \$230.00 Per Person

(Deposit and 2 Payment)

Deposit of \$60.00 was due by November 30, to Secure Seat. See Otis Coleman for availability and payment plan.

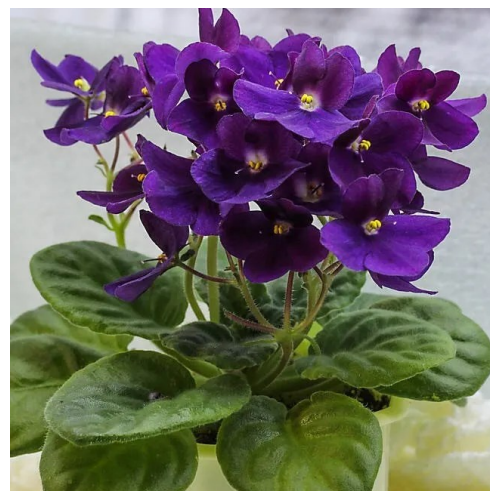




LaJuana Smith	Feb 02
Charrisse Worley	Feb 03
Tracey Knuckles-White	Feb 05
Christopher Henderson	Feb 06
Elizabeth Almanzar-Wright	Feb 07
Sarah Clark	Feb 07
Deborah Gorham	Feb 11
Debra James	Feb 13
Cliff Jean-Michel	Feb 13
Stephanie Cunningham	Feb 14
Brielle Johnson	Feb 14
Meaghan Selch	Feb 15
Colliertine Walker	Feb 17
Willie Ray Gibson, Jr	Feb 17
Late Lawson-Drackey	Feb 18
Troy Carver	Feb 21
Helen Dunn	Feb 26

*F*or by me your days will be multiplied,
And years of life will be added to you.—Proverbs 9:11

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ideas/religious-birthday-wishes/>



January Birthday List

Correction:

Gracie Dickerson, birthday January 26, was inadvertently omitted from the January birthday list. It's never too late to say, "Happy Birthday."

PRAYER MEETINGS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY "POWER HOUR"

Sunday, February 19 @ 12:30PM
Join the Zoom meeting by phone at
646-558-8656

EVENING PRAYER

Meeting the last Friday of the month
Friday, February 29 @ 7:00PM
In Person in the Parlor or
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413> or
In-Dial into the Zoom Meeting phone number:
646-558-8656

Prayer Wall

WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER. LET'S INTERCEDE
FOR ONE ONE ANOTHER .



As you place your prayer request on
the wall, take a prayer with you to
interceded for someone else.

The Prayer Wall is located at the 92nd Street
entrance on the bulletin board on your right as
you enter the sanctuary.

PRAYER MEETINGS BY CONFERENCE PHONE

(609) 746-1164
Access Code: 667293#
Monday — Thursday
6-6:30 AM

See the Newsletter Prayer Journal on Page 8.

MID-WEEK PRAYER

Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 PM
(609) 746-1164 Passcode: 667293#

CORPORATE PRAYER FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT

The leaders of Central Baptist Church are asking you to join us for prayer on Wednesdays at 12PM for corporate prayer. We will be praying specifically about the building project as well as anything you would like. Please note this is not a time to discuss the details of the project but to pray. If you have questions about the project, please call the church to speak to Pastor Fils-Aime.

We will be using the prayer line phone number:
(609) 746-1164 Passcode: 667293#

About Prayer

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

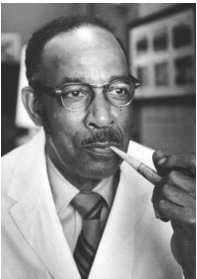
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Vivien Thomas**From Janitor to Pioneer in Heart Surgery**

August 1010 - November 1985

By Paulette Forbes-Igharo

"He started as a lab assistant to Dr. Alfred Blalock at Vanderbilt University animal laboratory to become Dr. Blalock's surgical assistant at John's Hopkins University. He was an early pioneer in the field of heart surgery and an instructor of revolutionary surgical techniques. The fact that he did not attend college did not hinder him from achieving greatness. Although the road was rocky, his contribution to the field of cardiac surgery, became recognized, and was celebrated. All famous birth-days.com



Vivien Thomas was born on August 29, 1910. In life he traveled from being a janitor in the animal laboratory at Vanderbilt University to become a pioneer in Heart Surgery at Johns Hopkins University without even a bachelor's degree. He was 19 years old and a carpenter's apprentice when he took a temporary job as a lab technician to Dr. Alfred Blalock at Vanderbilt University in February 1930. They worked together for 34 years and together became the innovators of the heart surgery at a time when even the thought of heart surgery was an abomination. In an interview, Dr. Denton Cooley who witnessed the first heart surgery said, "Vivien Thomas wasn't a doctor, he wasn't even a college graduate. He was just so smart, and so skilled, and so much his own man that it didn't matter." Thomas and Blalock did historic things together. Among other things, they devised an operation to save "Blue Babies" - infants born with a heart defect that sends blood past their lungs. The first of these operations was in November 1944. Vivien had worked it all out in the lab in canine heart long before Dr. Blalock did the first operation on Eileen - the first blue

baby. That was the beginning of specialization in cardiac surgery. Even though there was no place for a black man in this arena, Thomas made a place for himself. After four years, Thomas having assumed the role of Senior Research Fellow with neither a Ph.D or a M.D. and having carried out valuable scientific ground breaking scientific work, found out he was classified at Johns Hopkins as a janitor. When he confronted Blalock with his concern, his pay was increased but he was never told whether he was reclassified.

Thomas' ambition was to go the Tennessee State College and then medical school. However, with the depression he lost his job and lost his savings which forced him to postpone college. He then learned of an opening as a lab assistant with a young doctor Alfred Blalock and decided to apply for the job despite the fact that Blalock had a reputation for being hard to get along with. As the depression progressed, Thomas watched his plans for medical school dissipate, so he took solace in the fact that he had a job. He therefore decided to educate himself in the disciplines of his job. In addition to immersing himself in research round the clock with Dr. Blalock, with the help of Dr. Joseph Beard, Blalock's young research fellow, he mastered anatomy and physiology. This knowledge provided him with the skills he needed to develop his techniques in the lab. "Within the lab Blalock and Thomas functioned almost as a single mind. Thomas' deft hands turned Blalock's ideas into elegant and detailed experiments." Thomas translated Blalock's concepts into reality, devising techniques as well as entire operations where none had previously existed. For example, Thomas crafted the tools required for the surgery for the first blue baby while he stood over Dr. Blalock's shoulders and guided him in the procedure every step of the way.

In 1941 they moved as a team from Vanderbilt University to Johns Hopkins University. Even though Thomas was in charge of the medical lab, he always had to enter the building at Johns Hopkins through the back door because a black person

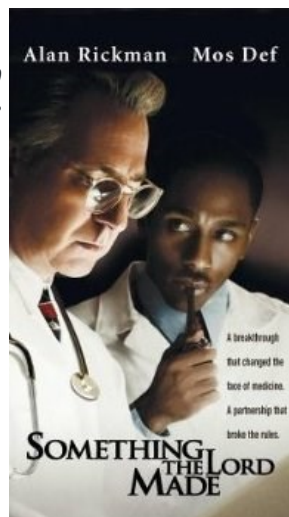
could not enter the building through the front door. When he first experienced this, he was with Dr. Blalock who told the security guard that they were together. The response was, "That was the rule." He was never listed as a coauthor of Blalock's work or given any public recognition whatsoever. When Blalock was celebrated for his accomplishments in cardiac surgery, he recognized all the people who helped him to achieve this success except Thomas. Thomas was very disappointed and decided to leave the job. In this confrontation with Blalock, he told Blalock that he witnessed the matter personally because he was present. Blalock said that was not possible because the event was held at a segregated hotel. Thomas told him that he was personally present because he was present at the event as a bell hop. Again, when Blalock was featured by Life Magazine for his work, Thomas was nonexistent in the account of the story. With all these scientific accomplishments and contributions to society, Thomas' pay was not sufficient to support his family. He had to work part-time jobs to supplement his income.

Because of Thomas' dissatisfaction with the total lack of recognition of his contribution to the medical success of Johns Hopkins and to Dr. Blalock's career, he decided to leave Johns Hopkins. As he was disappointed with the opportunities available to him after leaving, he eventually returned to his position in the lab and his relationship with Dr. Blalock. Finally, in 1976 after more than 30 years at John's Hopkins, Thomas' achievements were fully recognized when Johns Hopkins awarded him an honorary doctorate and an appointment to the medical school faculty. His portrait was also hung next to that of Dr. Blalock in the corridor at John's Hopkins medical school. The cardiac procedure that he and Blalock devised in 1944 to save the first "blue baby" is still being used today.

During his tenure at Johns Hopkins, Vivien Thomas was a teacher of surgeons at a time when he could not become one himself. Thomas brought in and trained twenty black technicians, two of whom went on to graduate school. Most importantly, he was able to see his children realize the ambition that eluded him - the opportunity to graduate from college.

Sources

Kate McCabe, June 19, 2020
"Something the Lord Made" - The Washingtonian
 HBO Films - *Something the Lord Made*



Arts and Letters



Goodness is the featured Fruit of the Spirit for the month of February. Cara Berton has written a poem that expresses the Goodness of God. She writes, "The closeness which Jesus is to me Brings all His goodness to the heart Of my Spirit."

Being lonely is an art:

Succumb not to a hollowness
 Return to G-d and the Spirit within....
 The golden emblem of love
 Even stark naked in soul body belief
 The quest for warmth need not be sought
 With a desperate ravished hunger
 Instead!, a different normality to go beyond a human touch
 embrace
 Even a vow of marriage.

For an invisible ring slides onto the invisible finger
 Even though no human form befriends you,
 And all gates seem to have either locked you out or in...
 Take the golden emblem of faith upon your heart
 And know know.....in the most cherished way
 You have found the art of human loneliness has been
 transformed by the Divine Kiss.

Cara Leslie Berton
 September 13, 2017

The calendar for this season with the deadline for submissions is below. We have the submissions for this month and we will be looking for submission for March to May. When you send in your work, be sure to note your full name and contact information with a few words about yourself. For visual artwork please note the title, medium, and size of the piece, and how it expresses the fruit you feel it represents. Written pieces should be no more than 250-300 words. An email address especially for newsletter submissions will be set up going into 2024. In the meantime, you can send your submissions to sm-hunt@hotmail.com.

We covet your prayers for an inspiring season ahead and spiritual growth through the arts.

SUBMISSION SCHEDULE		
NEWSLETTER ISSUE	FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	LAST DAY TO SUBMIT
March	Kindness	February 24, 2024
April	Faithfulness	March 26, 2024
May	Gentleness	April 22, 2024
June	Self-Control	May 22, 2024

February 2024

USE THIS CALENDAR TO MARK DAYS YOU WANT TO REMEMBER.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	2 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	3 11A-12P-Senior Exercise—Chapel
4 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP	5 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	7 Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	8 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	9 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	10 11A-12P-Senior Exercise—Chapel
11 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP	12 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	13 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	14 Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	15 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	16 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	17 2:00-4:00P SENIOR LUNCHEON, PARLOR
18 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 12:30-Women's Ministry Prayer	19 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	20 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	21 Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	22 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	23 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	24 11A-12P-Senior Exercise—Chapel
25 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP CANDLELIGHT	26 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call CHRISTMAS	27 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	28 Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	29 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7P— E	MARCH 1 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call Evening Prayer-ZOOM	MARCH 2

Keep Central's
finances in
prayer!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



CBC
Capital Campaign
Building Facade

To help offset the costs of the repairs, we kindly request that EACH MEMBER contributes in one of the following ways in addition to your regular giving:

- A one-time donation of \$640 or more
- For those who may not be able to make a one-time donation, we ask that you consider making a monthly donation of \$80
- Or a \$20 weekly donation over the next 8 months

\$100K

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Joaquin and Oneida Vargas Global One 80 - Update

Global One 80 was launched in 2016 by Joaquin and a team of leaders. Global One 80 is a leadership and community development initiative. They empower leaders devoted to implementing initiatives that transform communities with the Gospel of Jesus, one life at a time. The goal for 2024 is to have 100 leaders serving around the world. Please pray for wisdom as they receive nominations, vet candidates and appoint them to serve.



Experimenta Vida made its missions trip to Mexico. They delivered dozens of Christmas gifts to the children in Nogales, Senora.

Prayer Requests:

- Due to the increase in growth, there is a need to raise \$6,000 per month to cover operating costs.
- Pray for funds to purchase computers for the office in Peru
- Pray for new churches to be part of Edge One 80, the intentional mission's trip program.
- Pray for Oneida's health. She is recovering from leg surgery.

Global One 80 thanks you for your faithful support and prayers as they journey to transform communities with the Gospel of Jesus, one life at a time.

Black History Month — Continued from page 1

Here we are honoring the theme by featuring visual artist **Laurie Cooper**. Laurie Cooper is an artist born and based in Philadelphia, PA. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Arts and her Master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Cooper strives to highlight the inner and outer beauty of everything that she paints. She works diligently to showcase the special qualities of the black race. Her paintings are known for their inherent strength of character, strong unique facial features and richness of skin color.

<http://theartportal.net>



Two compelling works by Laurie Cooper that are meaningful to Christians: "The Road" and "Spiritual Warfare."



Spiritual Warfare



The Road

Praying Together

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Psalm 25:4-5

With so many opportunities to pray corporately with one another, the Newsletter has provided this space to help you remember the various requests and praise reports.

Create Your Own Prayer Journal

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Fils-Aime

Pastor Robert Casteline

Willana Mack Hudson

Deacons & Elders

Ministries

Missionaries

Members and Friends of Central

Sick and Shut-in

CITY, STATE & COUNTRY

New York City

Leadership of NYC, State and Country

The World and personal circumstances

Newsletter Staff: Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Special thanks to Debby Diaz, Tanya Glenn, and Edwina Chambers.

