

# A Fresh Word

## We've Come this Far by Faith

**F**resh Start Christian Church continues to seek God's will and purpose as she enters her fourth year of ministry. Using the theme "We've Come this Far by Faith," Fresh Start celebrated her third anniversary on November 4, 2007 at her new worship center, the former Northside YMCA. Located at 5210 Manhattan Road, the worship center is in walking distance of the previous location.

During the anniversary, the congregation celebrated the blessings of the past three years while dedicating themselves to continued service.

"We've planted seeds in this community, and now we are beginning to harvest those seeds," **Sis. Dorothy S. Thompson**, a church member, said during the celebration.



Thompson is a realtor who helped Fresh Start purchase her first facility at 5240 Manhattan Road, which now serves as the administrative building.

**Evangelist Andrea Jackson** reminded the congregation that the church is not within the parameters of four walls; it is in the community. "God has called us to impact the world out there," she said.

Fresh Start continues to focus on expanding ministries to meet the needs of the neighborhood in the following ways:

- Began Angel Food Ministries in April with a total of 40 boxes. After the church became a host site in July, Angel Food increased to 117 boxes in

December.

- Hosted 95 children at Third Friday (Parents' Night Out) in November. The ministry began with two neighborhood children in January 2005.
- Started a Couples Ministry and Singles Ministry.
- Initiated Fourth Friday (Teen Friday) for ages 13 and up. It includes Bible study and a recreational period.
- Began prayer services in December on the first Monday of each month at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Sis. Vivian Henley**, first lady and church administrator, reminded the congregation that the church's work has just begun. "We can't get so excited and engrossed in this victory that we forget the war," she said.



Several members and friends of Fresh Start Christian Church gave up a few weekends and weeknights in mid-October and early November to help transform the former Northside YMCA into a worship center. See more "then&now" and "WORK" photos at the new worship center on pages 2 and 6. Turn to page 3 to begin reading "Praise Reports" from the Fresh Start Christian Church family.



### PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends:

JESUS! He is my testimony. Without Him, I know for a fact I would not be writing this message. Every time I see one of you at Fresh Start, I know just how much POWER is in the name of JESUS. Fresh Start is His doing. Never in my wildest imagination would I have ever conceived what He has birthed in this ministry. I thank GOD for the opportunity for my family and me to be associated with each of you.

I truly love each of you, and I know for a FACT that

God has more for you than you can imagine or conceive. Regardless of what you may think or feel, when you truly activate the POWER of JESUS in your life by making Him first — your abundant life will begin. Get started today on moving to the next level. Give HIM, the HOLY SPIRIT, control today. PRAY TODAY AND DON'T DELAY. See you at either 6 a.m. or 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month for prayer service.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor James L. Henley, Jr.*

## Fresh Start Christian Church

**Pastor**

Rev. James L. Henley, Jr.

**First Lady/Church Administrator**

Sis. Vivian Henley

**Worship Center**

5210 Manhattan Road, former Northside YMCA

**Administrative Building**

5240 Manhattan Road, Jackson, MS 39206

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 31473, Jackson, MS 39286

**Phone/E-mail/On the Web**

(601) 362-1818

requests@freshstartchristian.org

www.freshstartchristian.org

**Worship Services**

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Children's Church**

2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays (under age 13)

**Prayer Services**

1st Mondays, 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Homework Help**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:45-5:45 p.m.

**Women's Support Group**

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

**Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.

**Praise Team Practice**

Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

**Parents' Night Out/Third Friday**

6-8:30 p.m. (ages 4-18)

**Teen Friday**

4th Fridays, 6-8:30 p.m. (ages 13 and up)

**M.A.D.E. Men**

(Making A Difference Everyday)

3rd Saturdays, 7 a.m.

**Angel Food Ministries**

(Call church to order and for pickup info)

**Couples Ministry/Singles Ministry**

(Meeting dates and times vary)

**A Fresh Word**

Published quarterly (dennyandrive@yahoo.com)

**Making Christ Visible**

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

—Romans 10:9 (NIV)

# then&now



Sis. Vivian Henley, first lady and church administrator at Fresh Start Christian Church, worked tirelessly to wallpaper and paint over murals on the wall between the sanctuary and the basketball court.



Members and friends of Fresh Start Christian Church helped to remove basketball goals and bleachers, paint walls, assemble chairs and lay carpet in the new worship center, the former Northside YMCA.

“...he will  
**baptize**

you with the Holy Spirit.”  
—Mark 1:8 (NIV)

Sis. Kayla Foster and Sis. Tara Manning were baptized at Fresh Start Christian Church on November 25, 2007.



# elders

The  
who direct the affairs of the church  
well are worthy of double honor...  
—1 Timothy 5:17 (NIV)

Bro. Ronnie Webster, Sis. Annie Williams and Bro. Denny Teague were ordained as elders at Fresh Start Christian Church on December 9, 2007.

# Praise Reports

During this holiday season, members of the Fresh Start Christian Church family were asked to share their "Praise Reports" — testimonies and thanks for how God has blessed them in 2007. We hope their words will encourage you as you celebrate Christmas and the New Year.



## THE HENLEYS

Jordan was blessed to be named a National Achievement semi-finalist and become vice president of service for the National Honor Society at Murrah High School. Joel is thankful for making the basketball team at New Hope Christian School. Sydney is happy about making the cheerleading squad at Powell Middle School. Aftan is grateful for completing her first semester of pharmacy school at Ole Miss.

## MARY HENLEY

I'm just happy to be a part of Fresh Start Christian Church, and I thank God for my family.



## VALERIE FOSTER

Our blessing for the year of 2007 was finding a church home in Fresh Start. Never in my life have I found a preacher that "speaks" to me and not at me. Never have I found a preacher who walks the life he teaches. It has truly been a blessing to find a church that embraces you no matter what.

The Fresh Start family welcomed me and my family in with open arms. Everyone was so friendly and inviting. Just knowing there is a pastor and his ministry out there that embodies the true spirit of Christians, just does something to my spirit.

There have been days where I was sitting in the audience crying my heart out because God touched me through Rev. Henley's words. Since attending and joining the Fresh Start family, I have a renewed relationship with God.

—Casteal, Kayla and Valerie



## DIANNE JOHNSTON

I was recently chosen by Best of Mississippi as one of nine "Hometown Heroes" for 2007 for my work as a missionary to children. Best of Mississippi is an organization that is trying to publicize and encourage those who are "working tirelessly to make Mississippi a better place, one day at a time."

In addition to the two Sunday school classes I teach at Fresh Start, I teach 16 groups of children between ages 2 and 12, each and every week. I do Bible clubs, called Good News Clubs, that include songs, scripture memory and Bible lessons with an emphasis on applying the Gospel. Sometimes an emphasis is made for missions, and sometimes we have time to play review games. In addition, there is a strong emphasis made for moral and character development.

These classes were the reason for my selection as a Hometown Hero, as many problems can be solved (including poverty and crime) before they get started if a child is introduced to Jesus Christ at a young age. His principles and direction, as well as His supernatural blessings, must be applied and faithfully followed throughout life.



## RONNIE WEBSTER

I'm thankful because I've learned to be more faithful in what Christ has for me and to be more patient in just letting God work in my life.



## CRYSTAL CURTIS

This summer, I had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Italy, Spain and France (pictured) as a student ambassador with People to People.

## DAPHNEE GETTIS

I am thankful for everything — the good, the bad and the indifferent. "For all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." I most definitely can say that I am chosen, for no one could have brought me through 2007 but the Lord.



## CHRISTOPHER BELL

This year has been a big year for change. This whole year has been a faith walk. New environment, new friends, new family. I came here with nothing but a bag and a dream and am already seeing God at work in my life. He is faithful, and I am grateful.



## JACKSON/JONES

*Evangelist Andrea Jackson:* I am thankful that Fresh Start is making an impact in our neighborhood. It's also so amazing to know if you travel across town, many people are aware of the Fresh Start family and the many lives that are being touched! The blessing of it is families being a part of the ministry.

*Reggie Jones:* I am very happy for the new facility that we have to worship in as well as a place for the young people to come and grow. I am honored to be on Murrah High School's honor roll list for first term, and to have Pastor Henley as a mentor for my advanced seminar and a positive model for young men.

# I will praise you

O lord, with all my heart;  
I will I tell of your wonders.  
—Psalm 9:1 (NIV)



## FAY BROWN

I'm glad to be a member of Fresh Start. I started attending in April, and the church is the best thing that's ever happened to me.



## THE MANNINGS/ROBERTS

We are thankful for our family and friends here at the Fresh Start Christian Church. We really love coming to Fresh Start because everyone here is so wonderful, and they make us feel at home. We moved to Jackson several years ago and we were looking for a church to attend. So we thank God for Fresh Start and all of the wonderful members.

—Tara, Justin, Katie and Lee

## PAMELA LATTIMORE



I am so thankful for God's blessings and anointing over my life. I started a new job in July; He told me it would be so. With this job, He's moving me out of my comfort zone and into new territory. The Lord is helping me to recover from a financial devastation and getting me out of debt. I have my health and strength — and most of all joy and peace that surpass ALL understanding!



## THE FLORENCES

Besides experiencing the growth of our newborn, we had many other things to be thankful for. Charlinda worked briefly at a private law firm and stepped out on faith to start her own law office. Several months later, the Lord blessed her with a position at the Hinds County Public Defender's Office.

After many months of prayer, the Lord delivered Leslie from a job that was mentally and physically wrong for him. Although he didn't understand the decision at first, he realized it was all part of God's plan: giving him the opportunity to have a FRESH START.

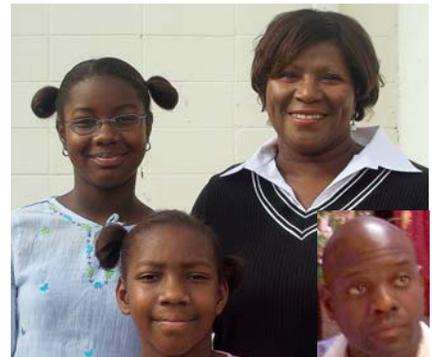
We have so many things to be thankful for. Although we experienced trials and tribulations, we managed to make it through together. We are blessed to have a pastor who feeds us spiritually and a loving church family. We look forward to 2008 and pray that there are many more blessings to come.

—Leslie, Jaedyn and Charlinda

## VALERIE RICHARDSON



I'm just blessed to have been able to purchase my second home and to experience growth in my relationship with God — thanks to the prodding by Rev. Henley. I traveled to Europe this summer (France, Italy and Spain). I'm thankful for being a part of the Fresh Start family, who welcomed me with open arms. Many thanks to the Henleys, who give so tirelessly of themselves.



## CLARA SPANN

Our family has been so blessed during 2007. The year started by God leading us to this church. The practical, biblical teaching has really helped to strengthen our family. Our 11-year-old, Alexandria, has been doing very well in academics and dance at Power APAC. Our 8-year-old, Adrianna, made the honor roll for the first time. Our family has been tremendously blessed, and we thank God for our church family. We are so excited about what God will do next. "According to your faith, be it unto you."

—Alexandria, Adrianna, Clara and Tarance



## AISHA MCKNIGHT

I am happy to be blessed with a new home. I am proud of my daughter for making the honor roll at her new school during her first term in the third grade. Brianna has worked really hard.

—Aisha and Brianna



## THE MCLAURINS/PORTERS

We are just blessed to have our health and strength, and we are just happy to be a part of Fresh Start and to have a church so close to home. 2007 wasn't the best year due to the death of our aunt, but we know that God doesn't make any mistakes and He knows what's best. Thank you, Rev. and Sis. Henley, for being such great people with caring hearts.

—David, Nadjah, Joshua and Portia



## GABRIELE WASHINGTON

I can't even begin to thank God enough. He has provided us with all our needs and much more. He's surrounded us with great people, loved ones and opportunities. I know that the Lord is constantly watching over all of us, and I'm so grateful because all that has been accomplished is by no means my doing; I am nothing without God's mercy and grace. Thank you, God, for helping me to remain prayerful and faithful.

—Chelsey and Gabriele

# I will praise you

as long as I live.  
—Psalm 63:4 (NIV)



## ANNIE WILLIAMS

I am thankful for another year and for Fresh Start Christian Church. I started attending in November 2006 and joined on February 4, 2007. I had never been sick my entire life, but this year I was diagnosed with diabetes and had to get a stint in my heart. I thank God that He is bringing me through sickness and for helping me see another year.



## ALMEATER TERRELL

I've been back in Mississippi for the past three years after 30 years in New York. I was just believing and trusting in God that He sent me here for a reason. Eventually He led me to Catholic Charities to work with women who are victims of domestic violence. I was thankful that God blessed me to get back on my feet. I needed a fresh start, and when I saw the church sign, I came on Easter Sunday. I fell in love with the church on the first day. Each week, it gives me hope to do what I was sent back here for.



## FELISHA STARKS

My daughters and I were in search of a new home when I first came here seven months ago. The church helped us find a three-bedroom home with a nice back yard. We had been going from church to church, and Fresh Start just touched me and my family. We can breathe now, and everyone has their own room. My nephew has come to live with us now, and we're all content and love it here. We have not missed a Sunday. I'm obligated to be here and work with the children at Fresh Start because this church has been such a blessing for me and my family. It's just a fresh start all over for us.

—Jerrica, Felisha, Javien and Javone



## ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. -Proverbs 22:6 (KJV).* Kathryn, 12, is a seventh-grader at Chastain Middle School. Alexandria is a senior at Mississippi State majoring in apparels-textiles design with a minor in business marketing; she graduates in May 2008. Carrie is a junior at Mississippi State majoring in biology/pre-med. Julia, 14, is a ninth-grader at Murrah High School. God has entrusted us with our children and we can be reassured that the spirit of God will take care of and guide them always in all things. —Kathryn, Alexandria, Elizabeth, Carrie and Julia



## BESSIE WILSON

"To God be the Glory." Oftentimes when I quoted these words, I thought I knew the true meaning, until attending Fresh Start. Hearing Pastor Henley speak on "Breaking Point" and expound on "Seeing Yourself in the Mirror" is when the light bulb went off, and those words took on a new meaning. Taking a good look at myself and my new mate, I had to step back a few steps to see the reflection. I know that none is perfect and all that I am and all that I can be comes from Him. He answered my prayer for a husband and to find a church home where I would receive great teaching. —Curtis and Bessie



## BRANDY SMART

This has been a trying year for me. I am truly blessed to be where I am spiritually, emotionally and financially. Being a single mother of two, Brannon and Shanna, I always have my hands full.

I was invited to Fresh Start, during the spring, by a friend. Since I have been attending Fresh Start, I feel that I am a different person. I am now able to see things clearer and more positive than before.

This is the first time in my life that I actually look forward to coming to church. Everyone has welcomed my family with open arms.

—Brannon, Brandy and Shanna



## KENOSHA WILLIAMS

I am thankful for being here at Fresh Start and that my children are growing up in this atmosphere. On January 2, 2008, I will get a contract with Medicaid that will lead to a permanent job. I also am in transition to buying a home. I am proud of Monica for being accepted into Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex in theater arts. She is in the fifth grade and is on the honor roll.

—Jelesa, Monica, Kenosha and Josiah

## CATHY WATSON

I am blessed with all of my church family, and encouraged every time I hear Rev. Henley speak. This year, I opened my own real estate firm, and I completed the Chicago Marathon!!!! These were HUGE accomplishments for me, and I have to say that Rev. Henley, along with my mentor Dorothy Thompson (also a member of Fresh Start), took the time and patience to guide and encourage me through both tasks. Rev. and Mrs. Henley have also been quite instrumental in the life of my elderly mother, Maggie McCarvey. They bring her communion, visit with her in the hospital, and are always there when we need them. They are truly leading by example, and I feel so blessed to have them and the entire Fresh Start family in my life!





Aisha McKnight

Whatever you do,

# WORK

at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man. -Colossians 3:23 (NIV)



Valerie Foster



Jackie Walton



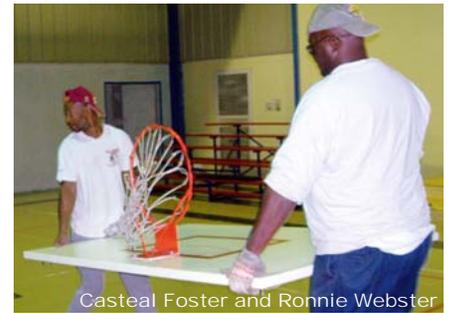
Almeater Terrell, Tara Manning, Bessie Wilson and Katie Roberts



Rev. Darrell Brown



Denny Teague and Curtis Wilson



Casteal Foster and Ronnie Webster

## Dear Pastor Henley ...thank you and Fresh Start...

*I am writing to thank you and Fresh Start congregation for lifting me in one of my most weakly times. I have up and will not forget and will be grateful and thank you.*

through or how low God lives and breathes in that place That even when I'm not there on Sunday to hear your word I just imagine I'm on my cell phone and your cell phone is on speaker and I'm right there with you all.

I am in Ohio right now. Just left New York and I'm headed to Indiana so I don't know exactly when I'll see Jackson, Miss. right now Just so you know you and the church are in my prayers. ...

Thank you I've never written or had a Pastor that has given me the encouragement to write a letter too. For His Name Sake.

God Bless

Vanessa

11.12.07

Well, as you know at the time I found Fresh Start Church I was attending Ace Training School working on my commercial driver's license to become a professional truck driver. I completed the schooling and received my certificate of completion on August 30, 2007. I had gotten my CDL a few days before - the greatest accomplishment.

Well I was asked by a company U.S. Xpress Enterprises to come to Memphis, TN for orientation d training for three weeks and I receive my truck on Sept. 17,

2007. Another Blessing. I got the job have full benefits and can honestly say it is something that I enjoy doing. Just thought I let you know.

It hasn't been a day gone that I didn't think about my new - fresh start at Fresh Start and ask that they pardon my absence for so long and I hope to see you all real soon.

Pastor I really like to thank you and your family for making me feel so comfortable. It's a genuine feeling of acceptance no matter who you are what you are going