

A Fresh Word

PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends:

Do you have an action **PLAN** for your life? If not, it's time to develop one.

Prepare – training, groundwork, homework, research, grounding
Noah prepared for the flood. He obtained materials.

God planned for our salvation via the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Lacerate – cut, slash, rip, slit, tear
Noah cut himself away from his normal daily routines to focus on the task God gave him.

Jesus Christ cut himself off from heaven out of love for us. Jesus suffered the slashes and cuts as a part of the crucifixion to satisfy the debt we owed.

See **PLAN** on Page 2

‘A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE KIDS’

Third Friday Fun

Every Third Friday at Fresh Start, the church is transformed into a place where kids can enjoy free food, fellowship and fun.

For 2½ hours, parents can drop off their toddlers, pre-teens and teens so they can take some time for themselves.

“The children come to church, and parents take time to build themselves back from the rigors of taking care of children,” says Sis. Vivian Henley, church administrator.

“He just always had the vision that the church would be a place to help families and build families,” she says of her husband, Pastor James L. Henley, Jr.

Third Friday, also known as Parents’ Night Out, started in January 2005 when the church was in an office complex.

At the first Third Friday, the only kids who attended were the Henleys’ three youngest children — Jordan, Sydney and Joel — a 16-year-old and a baby.

After more than a year at the current location, the number of attendees is averaging about 65 each month.

One of them who attends regularly is 14-year-old Jabari Harris.

“It’s fun. It’s another way to stay



out of trouble, get closer to God, meet new people and socialize with others,” says the ninth-grader at Murrah High School in Jackson.

“I just like coming here. It’s a great opportunity to be a good role model to the younger kids.”

Quardarius Armour, 13, says he’d be sitting in the house “doing nothing and being bored” if it wasn’t for Third Friday.

“We have fun,” says the seventh-grader at Olde Towne Middle School in Ridgeland.

“I ate, played Connect Four, got on the computer and sent messages to my friends.”

Like Jabari and Quardarius, Melinda Todd has been coming to Third Friday for a while. In February, she brought her sons, Mark, 10, and Wesley, 5, and their friend, Hamed Kader, 9. She usually brings her nieces and nephews, too.

“It’s a positive atmosphere for the kids,” says Todd, an Aldersgate

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ABOVE: Bro. Robert V. Hooker, Bro. Corey Graves, Bro. Jordan Miller and Sis. Shae Mosley enjoy Third Friday in February.

LEFT: Fresh Start’s sanctuary is transformed into a place where youth ages 4 to 18 play board and video games, foosball and arcade basketball. Some watch movies in the classroom, while others surf the Web in the computer room or shoot hoops outside. They also enjoy pizza, hot wings, chips, pickles, fruit snacks, nuts and juice.

FUN TIMES AT THIRD FRIDAY



Sis. Lauryn Russell, Sis. Anation Douglas, Sis. Alexius Henderson and Sis. Fierra Brown sip juice and munch on hot wings, pizza and chips while playing board games at Third Friday in February.



Bro. Thaddeus Land and Bro. Joshua Porter enjoy a video game at Third Friday.



Bro. Quardarius Armour, Bro. Joel Henley and Bro. Jabari Harris play foosball at Third Friday.



Sis. Valerie Richardson looks on as Sis. Robbie Hooker, Sis. Kyesha Armour, Sis. Kathryn Williams, Sis. Dominique Land, Sis. Julia Williams, Sis. Nadjah McLaurin and Sis. Sydney Henley hang out at Third Friday.

THIRD FRIDAY: Continued from Page 1

United Methodist Church member who volunteers at Third Friday. "It's great to be able to come and share with other kids, especially in the community."



Mary Winford and her grandchildren, 8-year-old Gabriel and 3-year-old Zoia (left), shared in Third Friday for the first time in February.



"I think the best part is having a place to come in a spiritual setting so they can relate to other kids," says Winford, a member of Stronger Hope Baptist Church.



Sis. Melinda Todd, a volunteer, brought her sons, Mark, 10, and Wesley, 5, and their friend, Hamed Kader, 9, to Third Friday.

PLAN: Continued from Page 1

Activate – start, commencement, creation, initiation, foundation

Noah didn't wait. He started building. He commenced action. He built the foundation of the ark.

God activated His salvation plan by sending forth His Son. Jesus Christ activated forgiveness when He said, "It is finished." Jesus Christ activated new life in us when He rose on the third day.

Navigate – steering, map-reading, routing, course-plotting, direction-finding

Noah left the steering to God. He trusted God to do the course-plotting. Noah allowed God to order his steps.

God sends forth His Holy Spirit to guide us in all things once we yield into a relationship with Him

and to His course-plotting.

What's your **PLAN** for life? Better yet, do you have one? Every **PLAN** should begin with preparation for eternal life.

The first step – accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. What's your **PLAN** to change your situation? Have you prepared by researching 1) other job opportunities, 2) requirements for entrance into college and 3) your credit history?

Have you cut off things that interfere with your ability to activate the **PLAN**? Have you turned to the Holy Spirit for direction and strength as you move forward into a more abundant life?

It's time for you to **PLAN**.

Rev. James L. Henley, Jr., Pastor

Financial Tips

PASTOR JAMES

- If your tax refund was more than \$1,000, you need to adjust your exemptions claimed on form W-4. For each \$500 you received above the initial \$1,000, claim one extra dependent.
- If you have a furniture note, car note or mortgage, send an additional \$25 or more with each payment. Why? The additional amount will go to reduce your principal balance and allow you to pay off the debt quicker.

- Do not lease furniture or appliances. If you currently are stuck in an agreement, don't re-commit when it expires. Check out thrift stores (like the one on Presto Lane).
- Balance your checking account every month. Do not simply call to see what the balance is to see if you have money in your account.
- "Fast" (do not consume) fast food establishments for 30 days.
- Continue working on debt reduction. Remember to target one debt at a time. Further, be sure to close the account once it is paid off.
- If you don't need it – don't buy it (clothes, new cell phone, DVDs, CDs, etc.).

Family Focus



Monica, Kenosha and twins Jelesa and Josiah Williams

THE WILLIAMSES

Kenosha, an administrative assistant at the Division of Medicaid, is a native of Bruce, Miss. She participates in the Women's Support Group. She enjoys cooking and hopes to open a bakery one day. Kenosha lives in Jackson with her three children.

Monica, a fourth-grader at Boyd Elementary School, will celebrate her 10th birthday on July 16. She participates in Children's Church and sings with the Praise Team. Twins **Jelesa** and **Josiah** attend Noah's Ark Day-care. They celebrated their 1st birthday on February 15.

WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:

I wanted to find a place in which to grow and bring up my children.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: Ecc. 3: 1-8 (NIV)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot ... a time for war and a time for peace.

THE CURTISES

Crystal, 17, a junior at Madison Central High School, enjoys singing, dancing, and playing the piano and guitar. She sings with Fresh Start's Praise Team and is a member of the concert and show choirs at her school. This summer, Crystal will represent the United States in Italy, Spain and France as a student ambassador with People to People.

Cora works in construction with Property Distributions. She enjoys boxing, walking and dancing. **Charles**, a General Motors retiree, enjoys collecting antiques, stamps and clocks.



Crystal, Cora and Charles Curtis

WHY THEY ATTEND FRESH START:

We needed a fresh start in the Lord.

FAVORITE SPIRITUAL SAYING:

A family that prays together stays together.



Sis. Alana Jackson was baptized at Fresh Start on January 28, 2007.



Sis. Shakia Sapp was baptized at Fresh Start on March 24, 2007.



Sis. Dorothy S. Thompson of DST Realty conducted a homebuyer's seminar on January 20, 2007.



Sis. Alexandria Spann, a fourth-grader at Power APAC Elementary School, and Sis. Sydney Henley, a seventh-grader at Powell Middle School, recently made the Honor Roll. Sis. Jordan Henley, numbers 52/53 on the Murrah High School Lady Mustangs basketball team, shows off a medal she won after the team won the Class 5A state championship on March 10, 2007.



Fresh Start Christian Church

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

Children's Church
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays (under age 13)

Hour of Power
Mondays, 4:30-6 p.m. (homework help)

Women's Support Group
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 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)

G.L.O.R.Y./Fourth Friday
(God's Legion Of Righteous Youth)
6 p.m. (ages 13 and up)

M.A.D.E. Men
(Making A Difference Everyday)
3rd Saturdays, 7 a.m.

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Making the Invisible 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)

Making the Invisible Christ Visible

Ministries in Action

G.L.O.R.Y.: GOD'S LEGION OF RIGHTEOUS YOUTH

BRO. JONATHAN THOMPSON

Glory, Glory!

The Fresh Start Christian Church youth ministry is moving forward with exciting activities that provide spiritual empowerment and life enrichment for ages 13 and up.

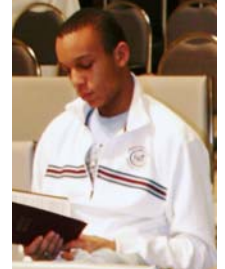
The purpose of G.L.O.R.Y. (God's Legion Of Righteous Youth) is to prepare today's teens for a brighter future.

G.L.O.R.Y. meets at 6 p.m. every fourth Friday to study the Bible; dispel common misconceptions; and answer questions about applying biblical principles to everyday situations.

G.L.O.R.Y.'s staff — Bro. Christopher Bell, Bro. Jonathan Thompson, Bro. Patricks Johnson and Bro. Scherderrick Sartin — strongly encourages parents to bring their teens out for a night of spiritual enlightenment.



Bro. Christopher Bell teaches about angels at a G.L.O.R.Y. session on February 23, 2007.



Bro. Isiah Murray III, Bro. Patricks Johnson, Bro. Justin Bell and Bro. Matthew Thompson enjoy G.L.O.R.Y.