

Grace Beacon

Saluting Some of Grace's Black History Makers

Through Many Danger Toils and Snares



**Reverend Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr.,
Senior Pastor**

This title may sound sort of familiar to you. Yes, that's right; you have guessed right. It is a line from one of the most well-known hymns of our time. It is a line from the hymn *Amazing Grace*. These are the words written by Sir John Newton, the English Anglican poet and clergyman. Newton, who was also an enslaver, was converted to Christianity after going through a terrible experience in his life as a sailor on the sea. Once He accepted the Lord Christ as his Savior, his life was changed. I would encourage you to read the history of the hymn to see how God took a former blaspheming slave trader and transformed him into a minister of the Gospel and author of one of the most famous Christian hymns of praise. What many may not know is that this hymn was written after Newton experienced a miracle in an eleven day storm at sea.

Using this concept, there are many storms that we have encountered on the seas of life. While the winds were blowing and we are being tossed from one angle to the other, we have an anchor who can hold us steady while the storms are still raging. I want to take this opportunity to let us all know that we have a solid rock in Christ Jesus. I know that we are encumbered with a load of care, we are overwhelmed on every side and we are doing our best to hang on and hold out until this pandemic moves through. I want you to know that we can make it through, In the words of John Newton, the *many Dangers, Toils, and Snares* that we encounter. Look to the ancestors and the ancients of by gone days to see how God brought them through and know that we can make it.

In reflection, as we celebrate African American History month, just know whatever we face, as it faces us, we can overcome it all. Greater is He that is within us than he who is in the world.(1 John 4:4)

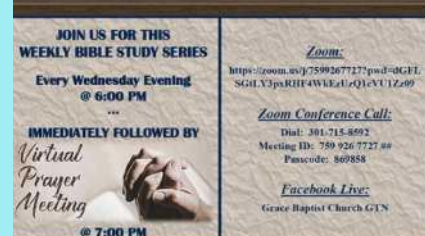
In His Service
Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr.
Senior Pastor



25 West
Johnson Street
Philadelphia, PA
19144
(215) 438-3215
(215) 848-2700
Community Center



Join Us for Bible Study and Prayer Meeting



History In The Making

Christopher Bowman, son of Tasha and Michael Samuels, Sr. and son of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown has been featured on Fox TV for his activism during the recent BLM protests. Chris, a teacher at Harding Middle School, has co-founded the "I Will Breathe" movement.



Fox 29 said, "Bowman joins the ranks of other young black millennial men making history around the world; a leader in the Black Lives Matter cause, fighting for social justice and against police killings of unarmed black men."

Chris says, "Initiatives need to change, justice needs to take place and amendments need to be made as far as policies go. We believe Black lives do matter and all lives can't until Black ones do." Chris says he is excited to be a part of changing and making history.

NADINE M. PATTERSON is an award winning independent writer/producer/director who works at the crossroads of narrative and documentary cinema. She has made films in Australia, the United Kingdom and the USA. For the past 30 years, she has served as an advocate for change and equity in the media arts and film industry.



She has taught video production and workshops at West Chester University, Temple University, Arcadia University, Drexel University, University of Western Sydney (Australia), Scribe Video Center and Robert Morris University.

She has been a member of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown since 1979 when she was baptized by Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Sr.

She earned a Master of Science in Instructional Media at West Chester University and her Master of Arts in Filmmaking at the London Film School. She operates the production and consulting company Harmony Image Productions with her mother Marlene G. Patterson. Through the company they make multicultural films and media content. Their films include: "Anna Russell Jones: Praisesong for a Pioneering Spirit"; "Moving with the Dreaming"; "Cosmic Trane"; LoqueeshaAshleyFranklinJoseBrown; and "Tango Macbeth". Nadine's films have screened on public television and at the

Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of the Moving Image in New York; African American Museum of Philadelphia; Black Start Film Festival; Women in the Director's Chair; Mill Valley Film Festival, and the African Diaspora International Film Festival. Nadine's passion for and commitment to BIPOC voices and experiences are matched by her passion for and commitment to excellence, equality and inclusion. **BLACK BALLERINA**, on which she worked as Outreach Producer, currently on Amazon Prime, is a project by director/producer Fran McElroy which looks at over 60 years of history of Black women breaking barriers in the world of ballet. Other collaborators include great talent like Ursula Rucker, Lenny Seidman, and Toni Cade Bambara. Her latest film, "We Are Free Because of Harriet Tubman", features bassist Christian McBride and Sonia Sanchez. She founded HipCinema Labs which serves as the incubator for SIFT (Sisters in Film & Television), a collaborative for women of color film professionals.

Rel Dowdell is an American screenwriter, film director, film producer, and English/film studies/screenwriting educator. Born and raised in [Philadelphia](#), he received his [bachelor's degree](#) in English with [magna cum laude](#) honors from [Fisk University](#) and a master's degree in [film](#) and screenwriting with highest distinction from [Boston University](#).



Dowdell's first feature film, [Train Ride](#), received substantial critical acclaim. Produced with independent financing, the film was acquired and distributed by Sony Pictures in 2005 and was a tremendous financial success. *Train Ride* was ranked as one of the best American films that year as cited by veteran film critic [Gerald Peary](#) of [The Boston Phoenix](#). The film also garnered high praise in film historian and writer Irv Slifkin's best-selling book, *Filmadelphia: A Celebration of a City's Movies*. *Train Ride* also won the honor of "Best Feature" at the American Theatre of Harlem [Film festival](#) in 2005. In addition, the film featured the last performance of acclaimed veteran actress [Esther Rolle](#).

Veteran film critic Gerald Peary of *The Boston Phoenix* compared Dowdell to [John Singleton](#) and [Spike Lee](#) in the way that his filmmaking blends urban storytelling and suspense to tackle relevant and universal social issues that are intimately intertwined with a powerful moral message.

Dowdell's next feature film effort as writer and director was a drama entitled [Changing the Game](#), which was shot in Philadelphia in the summer of 2010 and theatrically released in May 2012. The film stars Sean Riggs, [Irma P. Hall](#), [Dennis L.A. White](#), Brandon Ruckdashel, and Mari White. There were special appearances by [Suzanne Douglas](#), [Sticky Fingaz](#), and [Tony Todd](#). The film was cited by FilmFresh.com as one of the top three African-American films of 2012.



Dowdell's third feature film effort is a feature-length documentary entitled, [Where's Daddy?](#), which was shot in Philadelphia in the winter of 2017 and was released in February 2018. The film examines perspectives on the child support system and the specific effect and consequences to African-American families, with emphasis on the experience of fathers as participants in the system. Some of the subjects in the film include hip hop artist [Freeway](#) and former Philadelphia Eagles Pro Bowl wide receiver [Fred Barnett](#). The film currently has a 100% critics rating on Rotten Tomatoes. (Bio courtesy of Wikipedia)

Known Grace Members February-March Birthdays

February

- 5 **Jessie Birtha**
- 7 **Myrna Pinkett**
Karla Chester-Kerr
- 8 **Andre Chandler**
- 10 **Marcia Lusakweno**
Roxanne Harris
- 17 **Nevaeh Thompson**
- 18 **Michelle McQuillan Thomas**
Carolyn McQuillan
- 23 **Gloria Branch**
Ivan Lusakweno

March

- 1 **Jean Harper**
- 5 **Dolores Stovall**
Beverly Simms-Jackson
- 9 **Selena Gillespie**
- 16 **J. Diane Bates**
- 19 **Thelma Custis Reed**
- 29 **Jacqueline G. Kennard**
- 31 **Enid Jones**
Clifford Stanley
Kristopher Chester
- 16 **Happy Anniversary - John & Priscilla Custis**
- 30 **Happy Anniversary - Donald & Enid Jones**



Minister Dr. Clifford L. Stanley

Associate Minister

Grace Baptist Church of Germantown

Dr. Clifford L. Stanley has dedicated his life to serving God. Here at Grace, he currently serves as an Associate Minister after serving several years on the Deacons Ministry, the Pastoral Search Committee, Long Range Planning Committee and the Drama Guild Ministry. He is an active participant in the following: Leadership Development Committee, Senior Choir, Men's Chorus, Monday- Tuesday Bible Study and the Wednesday Noon-Day Prayer Service. Dr. Stanley also serves as a member on the External Diversity and Inclusion Council for Charter Communications (Spectrum), and as a Director on the Board of

Seminars International, Inc.

Dr. Clifford L. Stanley currently serves as an advisor and assessor with the Worldwide Association of Business Coaches, and as a core team member of Impact Business Coaches, a company dedicated to creating cultures where people look forward to coming to work on Monday.

Dr. Stanley was sworn in as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on February 16, 2010. He served as the senior policy advisor to the Secretary of Defense on recruitment, career development, pay and benefits for 1.4 million active duty military personnel, 1.3 million Guard and Reserve personnel, 680,000 DoD civilians, and was responsible for overseeing the overall state of military readiness.

Prior to assuming his position as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. Stanley was President of Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship organization. He also served on the senior leadership team of the University of Pennsylvania as the Executive Vice President. In that capacity, he was responsible to the president for the non-academic functions of the university, such as business, finance, facilities maintenance, and campus security.

Secretary Stanley, a retired United States Marine Corps infantry officer, served 33 years in uniform, retiring as a Major General. His last position was as the Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia. Additionally, he served as the Marine Corps Principal Representative to the Joint Requirements Board which supported the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in carrying out his responsibilities.

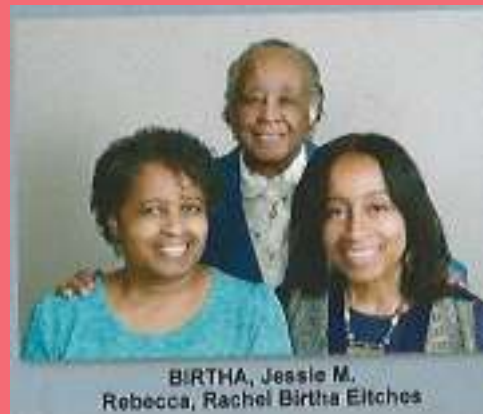
Other leadership positions included: Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, CA; Director of Public Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington DC; Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, (Manpower Plans & Policy); Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Regiment, Desk Officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary Of Defense, East Asia and Pacific Region; Advisor to the Secretary of Defense on POW/MIA Affairs; Special Assistant and Marine Corps Aide for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and instructor at the US Naval Academy. Secretary Stanley was also a White House Fellow where he served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dr. Stanley is a graduate of South Carolina State University. He received his Master of Science degree from Johns Hopkins University, graduating with honors. His formal military education includes Amphibious Warfare School, the Naval War College, Honor Graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and National War College. Dr. Stanley earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and holds Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from South Carolina State University and Spalding University. Additionally, he holds a Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, from The Medical University of South Carolina and Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Stillman College. Stanley's military honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit

Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal. His civilian awards include receiving the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (N.A.A.C.P.) Meritorious Service Award, the N.A.A.C.P. Roy Wilkins Award, and the American Legion Award for Inspirational Leadership.

Stanley and his wife, Rosalyn Hill Stanley, have one daughter, Dr. Angela Yvonne Stanley, Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired) and one grandson, Mason.

Happy 101st birthday to Mrs. Jessie Birtha!



Mrs. Birtha, barely 5 feet tall, is a quiet, but faithful member of Grace. A long time resident of Mt. Airy and a retired librarian, Mrs. Birtha and her husband, the late Herbert Birtha, joined Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in the early 1950's, and their daughters were reared in Grace.

In 2011, the Drama Ministry of Grace had the privilege of producing her play *Home is Where The House Is*.

Mrs. Birtha says, "Writing and helping to produce *Home Is Where the House Is*, as a part of the Social Concerns Committee, was a special highlight in my memories."

Her daughter, Rebecca, is a noted author, using skills encouraged, no doubt by her mother, Jessie, an avid reader and writer, and lover of the printed word.

We are grateful to Almighty God for allowing her to be in our midst for over 60 years that we might learn from her witness more about the grace and goodness of God.

Happy Birthday, Mrs. Birtha! May God continue to bless you with health and a world of happiness!



Prayer Requests

Dr. K. Wesley Alford
Deacon Em. William Ballou, Jr.
Mr. George Beach
Deacon Robert Berkley
Mrs. Luvonia Bivens
Mrs. Edna M. Bolden
Mr. Arthur Burrell
Mrs. Mary Bush
Mr. Leonard Carter
Mrs. Ann Casey
Mrs. Evelyn Collins
Trustee Em. Ruben Collins
Ms. Ellen Corbett
Mrs. Claudia Cuyler
Mrs. Juanita Dade
Mrs. Carol Daley
Ms. Elouise Durham
Trustee Em. Sidney Estes
Deacon Em. Geraldine Fisher
Dr. Jane Gilmore
Mrs. Bernice Gray
Mrs. Liller B. Green
Mrs. Brenda Hinson
Mr. Albert Jackson
Mrs. Christina Pleasants-Johnson
Mrs. Jacqueline Johnson
Ms. Gladys Lackey

Mr. James & Mrs. Patricia Lomax
Mrs. Ella Mack
Mr. Ras Mayo, Jr.
Ms. Celesta McLean
Mrs. Pearl Montgomery
Mr. Joseph Norman
Mr. Rudolph Norman
Ms. Joshlyn Otey
Mrs. Florence Palmer Seabrook
Ms. Simone Perry
Ms. Ida Reeder
Mr. Christopher & Mrs. Ludell Roberts
Mrs. Jennie Robinson
Miss Aileen K. Scroggins
Mr. James Smith, Sr. (Smitty)
Mr. Richard Smith
Mr. Tommy Sowers
Mrs. Beulah Steward
Mrs. Mildred Swindler
Deacon Eugene Thompson
Mr. Curtis Tucker
Mrs. Hazel Turner
Ms. Keisha Way
Ms. Sandra White
Mrs. Ellen Williams
Trustee John Williams
Ms. Audrey Wright





There will be no distribution of Communion Kits this Saturday 2/13/21 due to inclement weather expected on Thursday & Friday.

With respect to the Zoom Bible Study at 6pm, followed by the Weds Evening Zoom Prayer Meeting at 7pm, members can contact the office or any Deacon if they have trouble logging or dialing-in.

Every Sunday at 9:30am members are encouraged to get into the spirit of Sunday Service by joining the Deacons on Zoom for Worship, Praise & Devotion. Music Director Sara Blanford blesses us with 2 hymns and members can also provide testimonies and praise reports. See the flyer on the Church's website for the Zoom link or dial-in numbers.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.
WE WILL CELEBRATE SOME OF GRACE'S OWN FEMALE HISTORY MAKERS.
DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS? SUBMIT THE INFORMATION TO
sej2442000@hotmail.com



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN



DECEASED MEMBERS

JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2020

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Mr. Leonard Travis	01/06/2020
Mr. Frank G. Warah, Sr.	01/07/2020
Mr. Theodore Mosley	01/16/2020
Mr. Esau "Al" Anderson	01/18/2020
Mrs. Erma Preston	01/20/2020
Mrs. Emma Marie Williams	02/24/2020
Mrs. Rose Oliphant	03/14/2020
Mrs. Dorothy Ricks-Bamber	03/30/2020
Mr. William Harris, Sr.	04/13/2020
Mrs. Barbara Bluford-Seibles	05/01/2020
Mrs. Marilyn Alston	05/02/2020
Mrs. Marcia Bass	05/08/2020
Mr. William Louis Stevenson	05/24/2020
Rev. Ivan E. George	06/24/2020
Mr. Jonathan Williams	07/07/2020
Mr. Howard S. Lomax	08/15/2020
Mrs. Thelma Williams	08/10/2020
Mrs. Jean Taylor	10/05/2020
Deacon Hakeem Adeshigbin	11/15/2020
Mrs. Mary Butler	11/29/2020
Mrs. Lillian Gladys T. Downey	12/03/2020
Mrs. Gwendolyn Weaver	12/11/2020
Mrs. Marva Albert	12/13/2020
Mrs. Linda Melvin	12/17/2020
Mrs. Elesia Dorman	12/17/2020
Mrs. Beverly Mayrant	12/19/2020
Mr. Otis Lewis	12/23/2020





Greetings:

You are cordially invited to attend the Ordination Council Meeting for

Candidate Minister Brian Wallace

who has been called to the Ministry:

DATE: TIME: PLACE:

Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:30 PM

Zoom Conference Call

Deacon William L. Roberts, Chairman of the Diaconate, and I will represent Grace Baptist Church of Germantown as the two (2) voting delegates participating in the Ordination Council Meeting. However, all are welcome to view this important activity in American Baptist Ministry.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/8865116604>

Meeting ID: 886 511 6604

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,8865116604# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,8865116604# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 886 511 6604

Find your local number: <https://ministrelife.zoom.us/u/adgkXY2Spx>

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., Senior Pastor Grace Baptist Church of Germantown

Cc: Deacon William L. Roberts, Chairman, Deacon Board

January 28, 2021

WILLIAM L. ROBERTS, CHAIRPERSON, DEACON BOARD

JOHN S. WILLIAMS, CHAIRPERSON, TRUSTEE BOARD

JACQUELINE GOODBAR- BEAMON, CHURCH TREASURER

LEOLA B. C. HIGHSMITH, CHURCH CLERK

DARLENE D. MINTZ, CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

MICHELE L. TAYLOR, CHURCH SECRETARY



COVID-19 IS A REAL THREAT TO OUR COMMUNITY.

We, as a congregation, friends and family members, have seen the loss of life caused by the pernicious virus. The new vaccines offer some hope for stopping this pandemic, but some of us are reluctant to get the vaccine because our historical memory urges caution. However, African-Americans are dying from the coronavirus at a higher rate than other groups and are being diagnosed at a higher rate. We must act wisely, not fearfully. The Black Doctors Covid-19 Consortium is urging African-American to get vaccinated so that we can stop the spread of this virus.

Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium (BDCC) Coronavirus Vaccine Request Form Can Be Found On Their Website:

<https://blackdoctorsconsortium.com>

BDCC will be administering the COVID-19 Vaccine in THE COMMUNITY for PHASE 1B. This is for residents that live in the city of Philadelphia ONLY. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) has identified persons: (1) High Risk for Exposure and Perform Essential Duties and individuals with a High Risk of Morbidity/Mortality (please see the Phase 1b Table from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health).

Phase 1A is the first vaccine distribution step. The vaccine is currently being distributed to:

- Long-term care facility residents
- Health care personnel including, but not limited to:
- Emergency medical service personnel
- Nurses
- Nursing assistants
- Physicians
- Dentists
- Dental hygienists
- Chiropractors
- Therapists
- Phlebotomists
- Pharmacists
- Technicians
- Pharmacy technicians
- Health professions students and trainees
- Direct support professionals
- Clinical personnel in school settings or correctional facilities
- Contractual HCP not directly employed by the health care facility
- Persons not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious material that can transmit disease among or from health care personnel and patients
- Persons ages 65 and older
- Persons ages 16-64 with high-risk conditions:
- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease

- COPD
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²)
- Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

PHASE 1B

- People in congregate settings not otherwise specified as long-term care facilities, and persons receiving home and community-based services
- First responders
- Correctional officers and other workers serving people in congregate care settings not included in Phase 1A
- Food and agricultural workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Grocery store workers
- Education workers
- Clergy and other essential support for houses of worship
- Public transit workers
- Individuals caring for children or adults in early childhood and adult day programs

They will schedule people for vaccination in the order that the form is received. Those scheduled will receive an appointment reminder by email containing details. The vaccine is administered by appointment only.

We are praying for an end to this disease...but let's give our prayers FEET! Sign Up.

