

The Grace Beacon



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25 West Johnson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., Senior Pastor
Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, Chair, Diaconate

“A Community of Baptized Believers Committed to the Faithfulness of God, Building Families of Fellowship in the Spirit of God, and Blessing the Fallen Through the Forgiveness of God”

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.” Matt 9:37-38

Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr. and Family to celebrate 2nd Anniversary

This week, Grace Baptist Church of Germantown celebrated the 2nd anniversary of Senior Pastor, Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr. and Family.



On Wednesday evening, July 31st at 7 p.m. the Rev. Dr.

Mark K. Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church,

was the guest preacher.

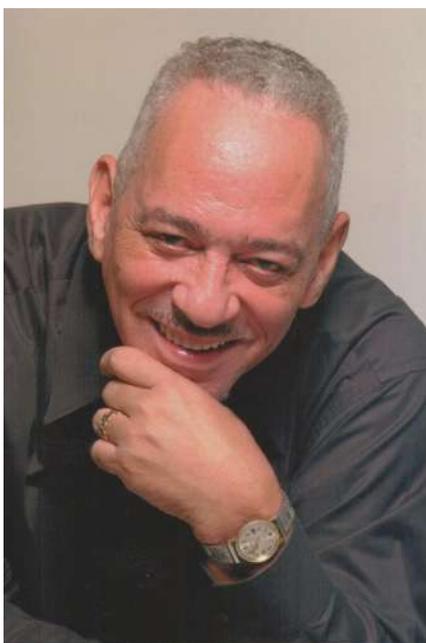
On Thursday evening, Aug. 1st at 7 p.m., the women of



Grace were invited to join Mrs. Jennifer Buck, our First Lady, as we welcomed Dr. Nyasha Junior, Associate Professor of Temple University Dept. of Religion to the pulpit.

Friday evening was “Movie Night.” Rev. Carmen Watson and the Children’s Church Crew were on hand to make sure that the entire church family shared in the fun with Champ and Jaida.

Here we are on Sunday morning, August 4th welcoming home a “Son of Grace”, the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah



A. Wright, Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ. After suffering a stroke two years ago, we are extremely grateful to God that Dr. Wright is able to be with us. His being here is a testimony to the faithfulness of God and the dedication of His servant.

WELCOME HOME, Dr. Wright, Jr.!

After this morning’s service, the Pastor’s Aid, Leadership Development Ministry and Executive Council invite you to join them in the J. B. Murray Social Hall for an Anniversary Picnic. They will be waiting to welcome you.

As Pastor Buck prepares to celebrate 2 years with us, we are keenly aware of the recent loss of his father, the Rev. Dr. James H. Buck, Sr. We continue to pray for Pastor and the entire Buck Family.



It’s Lott Carey Time!

The Lott Carey Annual Session Convenes 11-15 August 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Over 2,000 missional leaders will gather in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the Lott

Carey Annual Session to inform and inspire for investment in Christian missions around the world. 11-15 August 2019 – Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Lott Carey movement was founded in 1897 by African-American Baptists who were committed to a substantial international missions thrust – especially on the African continent. They believed that nothing should distract the church from executing its primary objective of advancing God’s mission throughout the world. Since our founding as the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, we have single-mindedly engaged in Christian missions around the world.

We bear the name of the Rev. Lott Carey, whose fascinating story has served as inspiration for generations. Born enslaved in 1780 in Charles City County, Virginia, Lott Carey became a disciple of Jesus in 1807, purchased his freedom in 1813, and led the first Baptist missionaries to Africa from the United States in 1821. His pioneering missionary team settled in Liberia, where he engaged in evangelism, education, and health care. Rev. Carey served as a well-respected and gifted missional and civic leader until his death in 1828. He was also the organizing pastor for the first Baptist church in Liberia – the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia. His life of commitment, leadership, vision, and perseverance

continue to guide us. (<http://lottcarey.org/about-us/history/>)

SEE @ Grace 2019



“In NWEA's research, summer learning loss was observed in math and reading across third to eighth grade, with students losing a greater proportion of their school year gains each year as they grow older – anywhere from 20 to 50 percent.” <https://www.nwea.org/blog/category/nwea/Jul16,2018>

Since the Community Center has been demolished in preparation for the construction of our new center, it was decided that we couldn't have the summer camp that we usually have, but we had to have something for Grace Kids based on statistics like those from NWEA. We were late getting started and it was necessary to put the program together in a hurry. Many things that we might have taken advantage of, we were actually too late to apply for. However, we still have put together a challenging, but fun

summer enrichment experience. None of the children will go back to school without having had educational refreshment and fun this summer.

We were able to use the public library as a very viable source for literacy. One of the librarians came to us on Tuesdays. She read to the students and led them in reading exercises. They then had all kinds of activities that followed her readings and lessons. We received follow-up literacy materials that our teachers were able to use to continue working with the children.

S.T.E.M activities were a big part of the experience that our students had. They particularly enjoyed the science experiments and the engineering challenges. Their Math projects were partially combined with their science experiments in that they had to use calculations, projections and other Math skills to complete their experiments.

The students reviewed grade appropriate Math and Language Arts skills and they are using the Summer Bridge Workbook which they will take home and complete. The Bridge program reviews work from the previous school year and introduces work for the upcoming school year.

Wanting to make sure that our students did not lack necessary skills, like how to sign your signature, we included cursive writing as a part of their curriculum, and every student had a journal in which they wrote about trips and other experiences.

We were fortunate to have a teacher who teaches Chinese volunteer to work with our students, so they have learned to write and speak a little Chinese.

Drama and music were addressed in a mini-musical based on a West African folktale, “Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears.” This will be performed on the evening of their closing exercise.

Culture and History were not overlooked either. These were addressed through trips to Franklin Square, The Mann Center, Amish Country, the Zoo, Herr's Manufacturing Plant, the Circus Arts School, and Mood's Farm and Orchards. At the latter, the children actually will get to pick fruit and come back to Grace for some cooking lessons with what they have harvested.

Yes, they did do something other than school work. Arts and crafts, athletic competitions, trips to the movies once a week, trips to Pleasant playground's pool, using the giant slide at Smith's playground, and trips to Hersheypark just added to the fun of the summer.

We have received information that will be very helpful for future planning. We will be applying for grants and aid for this year for next year, and we will be searching for “new blood” in leadership.

The experience was fun, but it was also expensive. Contributions from members, payments from parents (\$100 per week), volunteer, and minimal salaries for our counselors all helped to make the program go forward.

Perhaps the most expensive item was the cost of feeding the children...They can EAT! A free food program would have defrayed some of the cost, but we were too late to set that up.

We are extremely grateful to EVERYONE who supported this experience in ANY way...through prayers, volunteerism, and finance. We prayed that this experience wouldn't cost the church anything, and as of 7/29/19 we were in the BLACK. Praise

God From Whom All Blessings Flow!

**GCCC VISION 2020
UNDER
CONSTRUCTION
GRACE
COMMUNITY
CHRISTIAN CENTER
(G.C.C.C.) - PHASE II**

The first day of demolition of Grace's 100+ year old community center building on June 3, 2019 marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. The Church moves closer to realizing its Vision 2020 initiative to replace the original G.C.C.C. with a new modern community center by completing its redesign and beginning construction of a new facility.

The Grace Baptist Church of Germantown has a long-standing history of being a reliable partner and support within the Germantown community and the surrounding Philadelphia area. For the last thirty-eight (38) years, the Grace Community Christian Center (G.C.C.C.) was the Church's link and "gift" to the community as it provided services to residents through its various programs.



We extend a sincere apology to Mrs. Frances B. Akins for the misspelling of her name in the June Beacon. Although we proofread our articles several times, sometimes things get by our proofers.

Again we apologize, Mrs. Akins.

To announce our Vision 2020 initiative to the community, the Planning and Building Committee began a communications program to inform our church members and surrounding neighbors of the planned demolition of the existing center. Flyers were delivered, and letters were sent to community residents, local civic groups and elected officials. A "Meet and Greet" was held at the Church on May 11th to share information about our plans and to receive their input.

The June demolition date was announced in a press release sent to local media outlets, PECO, our project partner, and City and State Representatives

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as a Photo Op to allow them to be a part to this momentous event in the life of our church. Below are some excerpts from an article in The Philadelphia Tribune on June 14, 2019.

Our Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., was quoted in the Philadelphia Tribune article, as saying "GCCC Vision 2020" is unfinished business of the vision that Pastor G. Daniel Jones and the church put into place in mid-2007. Back in 2007, Grace had envisioned a brand-new community center. They launched their campaign, raising funds to do it. "It's unfinished business that I feel is necessary to make good on the promises God made to G. Daniel Jones that the legacy of the church may continue to spread throughout the community." Pastor Buck envisions the center being a community resource and draw. He wants to use the space to host meetings and programs on home buying and to help people in search of affordable housing.

Also noted in the Tribune article were comments from Mrs. Leola Highsmith, Director of the Grace Community Christian Center, "I can't wait to move into the new center. It will almost

triple available program space."

Deacon Tyrone Beach, co-chair of the Planning and Building Committee, said that "Grace Baptist is drafting a bid request in seeking an architect to design the building. Though it has been a tedious process, he sees the light at the end of the tunnel as obstacles are cleared." "Members have remained hands-on in hitting markers such as forming subcommittees to help with project planning and putting in sweat equity to prepare the site. "To clean out the community center, the contractors and the church membership all worked together, came in on Saturdays and during the week to transition from the Community Center to the Education Building."

Some of the more recent comments and possible plans for the new Center include expansion of the food program and inclusion of a large multipurpose area and state-of-the-art STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) oriented facilities. More details and design recommendations will be

presented to the church as the design phase moves forward.

With the completion of the demolition, and the installation of grass and fencing at the site to enhance its appearance as well as protect the property until actual construction begins, it is now very well-known throughout the community that the corner of G. Daniel Jones Way and Johnson Streets is changing significantly, and quickly. The now vacant lot is the start of the transformation to create several opportunities for our church and the community at large. We are striving to create a connected community to better represent Jesus, and to make His name known.



Here are a few of our latest photos.

Reverend Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr, Mary Hall, PECO Program Manager Small Business, Pasquale Marconi, Vice-President, Geppert Bros., Inc.



Mrs. Leola Highsmith gets a helping hand from Trustee John Williams as she strikes the first blow to the demolition of the GCC Center.

Deacon Tyrone Beach, Trustee John Williams, Deacon Clifford Stanley, Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr, Mary Hall, PECO, Pasquale Marconi, Vice President, Geppert Bros., Inc., Mary Geppert, President, Geppert Bros.



(left to right) Rev. Dr. J Henry Buck Jr, Ms. Maxine Tucker, Mrs. Leola Highsmith, Trustee John Williams, Deacon Tyrone Beach, Trustee Scott Fields and Mr Jeffrey Cruse, President, Catalyst Consulting Group Inc.



From the Pen Of The Editor



WHAT DO THEY SEE?

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.”Matt 9:37-38

When the world looks at us, “What Do They See?” We Christians are a peculiar people. How often are we criticizers instead of curers? How often are we harassers instead of helpers? How often are we about others’ business instead of being about our Father’s Business? How often do we sit back and watch others do the work and then, when all goes well, step up to take credit?

We have heard the negative comments that float in the air, but are we adding to the toxicity? This summer one of the things that we stressed with the children in SEE was do not add to a toxic situation...walk away from it. That might be something that some adults have to learn also.

The extent of the Lord’s work is so vast in His church, why should any of His children wait to be asked to do it, and then criticize those who do it without having to be asked? Do you see a particular need at Grace that you can help

with? God uses our hands and feet to get His work done. If not yours, then someone else’s, but His work will get done. Jesus taught us about faithful labor in Matthew 25:14-30.

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[a] and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents,[b] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set

you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

We all want to hear that blessing “Well done, good and faithful servant.[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

Summer is almost over and soon Fall will be upon us. Our ministries will be in full swing. Can we adopt the motto of St. Paul’s Baptist Church of Richmond, VA, and become “Christians on the GROW?”

Once again the question is “When the world looks at us,

what do they see?" But, even more important, when God looks at us, what does He see?

Thank God we are all still "Under Construction."

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Peace.

S.J.



In These Prophetic Times will resume in the September Edition.

Black History This Week

"Grace Family,

I write this black history insert for my church, so I decided to send a copy to Grace in the event that you want to include it in your Sunday bulletin.

Peace,

Valerie Elverton Dixon"

7/28/1868

The 14th Amendment (ratified by Congress July 9, 1868) granting citizenship to blacks and equal protection under the law is adopted.

7/28/1903

Maggie Lena Walker, business and civic leader, opens the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia. Walker is

the nation's first black woman to head a bank.

7/28/1917

The New York City Fifth Avenue Silent March, a march organized by the NAACP with ten thousand blacks marching to protest lynching, racial inequalities, and the pogrom in East St. Louis, Illinois, is held.

7/29/1794

Abolitionist Richard Allen and Absalom Jones establish the Bethel (AME) Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

7/29/1919

The National Association of Negro Musicians meet for the first time in Chicago, Illinois. The group convened under the direction of Clarence Cameron White for the purpose of advancing black music and the careers of black musicians.

7/29/1991

Bernard A. Harris, Jr. officially becomes a NASA astronaut. Harris had previously served as a NASA clinical scientist and flight surgeon.

7/29/1996

Carl Lewis wins his fourth consecutive Olympic Gold Medal (1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996) in the long jump. With this Olympic Gold medal, his ninth, Lewis ties an all-time Olympic Gold-winning record.

7/30/1822

James Varick is consecrated the first Bishop of the AME Zion Church.

7/30/1864

A Union attack on Rebel lines in Petersburg, Virginia occurs. Decatur Dorsey of the 39th United States Colored Troops emerges as a leader and later wins the Congressional Medal of Honor for his efforts.

7/30/1985

About 300 black employees denied promotions because of racial discrimination, are paid \$3.5 million in back pay by the US General Accounting Office (GAO).

7/30/1987

The "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin, produces her gospel album, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism."

7/31/1874

Father Patrick Francis Healy, the first black man to receive a PhD, is named president of Georgetown University. Healy becomes the first black president of a predominately white institution.

7/31/1960

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad calls for the creation of a black state within the boundaries of the United States at a meeting in New York City.

7/31/1981

Arnette R. Hubbard becomes the first black female president of the National Bar Association.

8/1/1834

Slavery is outlawed in British colonies. Over 700,000 enslaved persons are freed.

8/1/1867

Blacks in Tennessee vote for the first time in a southern state election.

8/1/1920

The National Convention of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (founded six years earlier to the day) opens in Liberty Hall in Harlem. Garvey presents his "Back to Africa" program during this two-day conference.

8/1/1944

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (New York) is elected as the East's first black Congressman.

8/1/1960

The African nation of Dahomey (Benin) gains its independence.

8/1/1961

Whitney Moore Young, Jr. is named Executive Director of the National Urban League.

8/2/1966

The Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and

Science is charted in Los Angeles, California. The school is named for Dr. Charles Richard Drew, a pioneer in blood plasma research.

8/2/1982

Jackie Robinson, the first black baseball player in the major leagues, is commemorated on a US postage stamp, the fifth in its Black Heritage USA series.

8/3/1897 L.P. Ray, inventor, patents the dust pan.

8/3/1957

Archibald T. Carey, Jr., lawyer, clergyman, judge, and diplomat, is appointed as the first black Chairman of the President's (Dwight D. Eisenhower) Committee on Government Employment Policy.

8/3/1960

The African Nation of Niger gains its independence.

Source: yenoba.com

The Compassions of Jesus
"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" (Matthew 9: 36-37 NRSV)

"When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick." (Matthew 14:14)

"Jesus stood still and called them, saying, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him." (Matthew 20:32-34)

Special thanks to a daughter of Grace, Mrs. Valerie Dixon, for sharing this information with us.



Spiritual Armor

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



30 Let both
g r o w
t o g e t h e r
u n t i l
t h e
h a r v e s t .
A t
t h a t
t i m e
I

will tell the harvesters:
'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"
Matt:13: 30

KIDS' PAGE

Summer Memory

Verse

1 Corinthians 10:31 – Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.



A Day at the Beach





Let's Go Camping

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle all of the camping vocabulary words. The words may be horizontally, vertically, or diagonally placed.

BACKPACK		
BUG SPRAY		
CAMPFIRE		
COMPASS		
FIKE		
FISHING POLE		
FLASHLIGHT		
FORIST		
SHIK		
ICE CREAM		
KNIFE		
LAKE		
LANTERN		
MAP		
MOSQUITOES		
MARSH		
RACCOON		
RANGK		
BLENDING BAG		

K W V A R E N I S I A N T E R N I M U
I E W H T Z D O I W E T N D E T D E C
L C E N I N L F I K Q D I N G I T T E
E B E O Y X Q I A A P G G O N C P I C
O T U A W C E L M V C O M P A S S U A
T D Z G N O O C C A R V I X R R Y S M
I T O H S T R E A M U G W P B H E M P
U H G H R P I S H I N G P D E L E I F
Q G Z A S I R K C O L B N U S G H W I
S I I X I M B A C K P A C K E T P S R
O L R I D R U G Y P F P X R I Z J D E
M H I L O M T R Z L E U S O R A M Z U
Q S R N I D H D E F E I Y W E I T A V
P A C Y A I C T I S F G T H O M S Y P
S L Q Z Q P D N O P T I R P N X E P I
A F R I E R K T O G C L N E K P R N E
D A R S O M I E B L B N I I D O H J
K M S L E E P I N G R A G C Y J F Q W
N E S E H C E C I S M U N A G Z E P N

IFHOKES		
ITREAM		
SUNBLOCK		
SWIMSUIT		
TENT		
TRAIL		



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|---|--|---|
| <p>CRAB
FLIP FLOPS
JELLYFISH
LIFEGUARD
OCEAN
PAIL</p> | <p>PICNIC
SAND CASTLE
SHOVEL
SNORKEL
SUNBLOCK
SUNGLASSES</p> | <p>SURFBOARD
SWIMSUIT
TOWEL
WAVES</p> |
|---|--|---|



SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
JULY			
31	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Pastor's Anniversary Worship Service with Rev. Mark Tyler
AUGUST			
1	Thursday	7:00 pm	Pastor's Anniversary Worship Service with Dr. Nyasha Junior
2	Friday	7:00 pm	Movie Night
4	Sunday	10:00 am	PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY Worship Service with Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. Anniversary Fellowship
		12:30 pm	
8	Thursday	6:00 pm	SEE Closing Exercise
9	Friday		SEE Trip to Hershey Park
11	Sunday	7:30 am	Early Morning Worship Service Worship Service Holy Communion
		10:15 am	
11-15	Sun.-Fri.		Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, Inc.
18	Sunday	7:30 am	Early Morning Worship Service Worship Service
		10:15 am	
25	Sunday	7:30 am	Early Morning Worship Service Worship Service
		10:15 am	