

"For everything there is a season." Ecclesiastes 3:1 *"They yield their fruit in its season."* Psalm 1:3

"Here in the cool north woods of Minnesota I am meditating on autumn. Even when I left the Arizona desert a few days ago, I was already noticing signs of summer fading and autumn ready to make her first appearance. I saw the sun working its way farther and farther south, nights were getting longer and cooler, Halloween filled the stores, and Snowbirds were sighted in the mall. Yes, for everything there is a season.

In the North woods the changing of seasons is more obvious. Hardwood trees are already pulling their energy for the coming cold winter sleep. Their leaves are cutting back on chlorophyll and revealing their true vibrant colors before they surrender and let go. As I watch the seasons change I am thinking that just as there are seasons in nature, so there are seasons of our spiritual life.

God wants us to be mindful of life's seasons (see today's Scripture texts). Some seasons are meant for rapid growth and fruitfulness, while others are suited for lying dormant, hibernating, and biding our time.

Growth is never uniform, whether in oak trees or spiritual lives. There can be more growth in one season than in all the other seasons combined. But without the solidifying that takes place in the other seasons, the new green growth would be useless.

A chance to sit under an oak tree and meditate stirs in me the following thoughts about autumn:

AUTUMN EXEMPLIFIES THE PARADOX OF DYING AND SEEDING.

Autumn scatters seeds that will bring new life in the spring, but we must hang on through the winter. The long nights and shortened days bear possibilities for seasons yet to come. Beneath the surface of the cold ground, there are amazing things going on invisible to the human eye. We cannot know what loss of a job, a broken relationship, or a shattered dream might bring forth. The daily dyings of autumn are essential for new life in the spring.

AUTUMN REMINDS US THAT LIFE IS EVER CHANGING.

The leaves still holding on to the branches remind us that everything has a beginning and an end. It is a grace and gift to accept what is, and to embrace the season you are in. Be open to God's surprises throughout your life, and therefore open to change.

AUTUMN TEACHES THAT NOTHING IS PERMANENT THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN.

Each precious moment is for savoring and for learning what life has to offer. We cherish the beauty of an autumn day, a child's laughter, a morning walk, precisely because they won't last forever. Like autumn leaves ready to let go, we are ready to let go whatever binds us, so that we can be ready for God's new thing.

As I come to the end of my meditation, I am thinking of a prayer we offered up on Friday's Internet radio program, "The Living Room". I make this my prayer for today:

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful. Amen.

(author unknown)

Grace and peace,

Tim"

Water from Rock Ministries https://waterfromrock.org > eVotionals 9/8/14 Greetings to All



It is my prayer that you have had a wonderful summer and now as we return to our scheduled ministries, we hope that your return is with much enthusiasm and excitement.



As we look towards the future we certainly thank our God for being such an awesome God. Bringing us through dangers seen and unseen, we praise Him for all that He has done.

We certainly want to remember those loved ones who have transitioned from labor to reward. Such lovely persons who have served this congregation and community with all that God has given them. We are really going to miss them

Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr. ALL. However, the CHURCH must continue to move in the direction God has planned and prepared.

We have some tremendous ministries and worship engagements coming forth. We have our World-Wide Communion Day, Church Anniversary, Lott Carey Day and of course the holidays are already knocking at our doors.

There will be some new ministries, and new faces that you will see in leadership spaces. Also there is the need to prepare for the necessary change that is need to plant vines of growth in ministry.

The Lord bless you all and we look to see you as we get back to the ministry.

Pas Vobiscum

Pastor Buck

NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AND A FRIEND THERE!

Embracing Community Connection: Why Your Church Should Plan Now for a Big September Outreach

by Carri Gambill | Jul 26, 2023 | Back to Church Sunday 2023 |

Our world is full of distractions and it's hard to grab and keep people's attention. This can be a real challenge as you look to effectively reach out to the lost in your community. That's where special services and events can be powerful tools – and why planning now for a big push in September is important for church growth!

September is Key

When planning a special event or outreach, it's important to consider the timing and availability of your audience, and September is already seen by many as a month of transition and renewed energy, in this blog we will explore a few reasons why you should consider planning a special Back to Church event this September:

- Capitalizing on Back-to-School Season: September marks the beginning of the school year for many students and families. It represents a time of fresh starts, new routines, and increased community involvement. By organizing a special event during this period, churches can tap into the collective enthusiasm and eagerness for new beginnings. Whether it's a community school backpack drive, a food truck festival, community BBQ, or a special National Back to Church Sunday event, churches can provide a welcoming space for families, reinforcing their commitment to supporting education and family values.
- 2. Harvesting the Spirit of Gratitude: September starts the season of harvest and invites reflections on gratitude and blessings. Churches can plan special services centered around themes of thankfulness, encouraging the community to come together and express gratitude for their blessings. Hosting a harvest festival, a community potluck, or a service focused on gratitude can foster a sense of unity, and deeper appreciation in your local community.
- 3. Engaging with the Season of Change: As summer fades away, September signals a period of transition and change. This transition can be embraced by churches as an opportunity to reach out to the community and offer support during times of uncertainty. Planning workshops or seminars on managing life transitions, career changes, or dealing with stress can provide practical guidance and demonstrate the church's commitment to the well-being of its members and the wider community.
- 4. Responding to Community Needs: Every community has its own unique set of challenges and needs. By engaging in open dialogue and active listening, churches can identify the specific needs of their community and then plan practical, helpful events that serve those in need. Whether it's organizing a job fair, a healthcare seminar, or partnering with other community service organizations to clean up a park or school, mobilizing your church members and then inviting others to volunteer alongside you can, create opportunities for fresh dialogue, new friendships and breaking down stereotypes about "church people". These activities not only strengthen the bonds within the church community but also provide an opportunity to invite new individuals and families to experience the warmth and acceptance of the church family.

Off We Go...



From the keyboard of the editor

Here we are at the beginning of a new school year, looking forward to learning new things. Students will be learning more about the world and

how it works, more about their friends and more about themselves! Wow, it's nice to have a brand new year in which to succeed at those things. Here's hoping that the school year gets off to a flying good start and just gets better and better.

Teachers, the best wishes for a safe, pleasant and profitable year! I wish you all the support you will need to do the best job possible. I know what it is like to be in the trenches!

So, summer is winding down..we think. Have you ever experienced a summer like this one? Unprecedented temperatures, smoke from wildfires hundreds of miles away, rising sea levels and flooding, severe weather including hurricanes and tornadoes (even in our area)? Saran Lake and Lake Placid in New York have already experienced temperatures in the 30's during the July-August periods, while Philadelphia and its environs expect temperatures as high as 95 at the beginning of September! The Farmer's Almanac says we should expect a cold, snowy winter like few we have experienced in recent years. What in the world is happening? I'm sure you have seen the commercial that ends with the idea that all of these happenings are a result of global warming. As the woman says "It's evidence!" What can we do to reduce our carbon footprint and slow the trend? This is our world...What kind of legacy are we about to leave our children?

As we look ahead to the conclusion of 2023 here at Grace, we see many things on the calendar. We have our Grace Health and Wellness Day on September 9, followed by the Grace Leadership Summit on September 23. We have a busy October, starting with the First Friday event on October 6, followed by the 131st Church Anniversary, Homecoming, and New Members Recognition on October 15 and ending the month with the Women's Retreat on October 28. Can we do a "Trunk or Treat" for the children after morning service on October 29? We need volunteers to pull it together! How about some Moms and Dads with school-age children? Will you help us? If I don't hear from you, I'll think you aren't interested. Contact Sandi Johnson (Not my twin,Deacon Sandie Jordan-Gordon)

November and December, the holiday season, is right round the corner. We will have **Church-wide Prayer** during the week prior to Church-wide Revival. The week of prayer will be November 12 to November 17. Our **Revival** will take place from **November 18 through November 21**. Once again we will be sharing **Thanksgiving Baskets** with our sick and shut in so that they know we continue thinking about and praying for them. We will **pack baskets on Saturday, November 18**. We can use all the help we can get. Here is another opportunity to get involved in service to others and outreach.

We will also be a part of the **Community Pre-Thanksgiving service on November 22**, when we gather with our sister churches on Thanksgiving Eve for worship.

We will begin our Advent food collection on the first Sunday in December, and we will "Deck the Halls" on Saturday, December 2. Our church is beautiful when it is in full holiday regalia, but the Flower Guild needs extra hands to get it done. Can you help? This year we will be sponsoring an "Angel Tree" and on Christmas Eve, Drama Ministry will present "Cookin' Up Christmas" Nancy Bond at a luncheon following morning worship. Tickets are not needed, but reservations will be. Please watch for more information as we draw closer to December.

Kwanzaa which begins on December 26 and "Watch Night" service on December 31 will end 2023 for us. This is just an overview of the rest of our year. Of course there will be much more information on all of these events as they come closer.

By the way, We are considering a Youth Drama Ministry in addition to the one which presently exists. Is there any interest in this? It takes commitment. See Sandi Johnson, if your child is interested. We'd like to get started in time to do a play for Christmas.

Covid-19 is on the rise. It's time to get vaccinated and to mask up, once again. A new vaccine, potent enough to address the new strain of Covid, is scheduled to be released in mid-September. If vaccines have worked for you in the past, consider checking with your physician regarding this new one.

Please continue to keep all of our ministries in prayer as we restart and move on to new ways to worship and serve. On Sunday when we turned to greet our visitors, I was surprised at the fullness of the congregation! We're coming back, Grace and God has great things planned for His glory right here. Let's get ready for the blessings because they are here and more are on the way!

Have a wonderful fall season. Anybody up for some "Leaf Peeping"? Maybe a weekend in Vermont? Can you imagine walking down this road as a part of our exercise?

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth the work of his hands." Psalm 119:1 Peace,

Sandi



GRACE'S MISSION SEWING CIRCLE ON THE MOVE

On Wednesday, August 30, 2023 the Grace Baptist Church of Gtn.'s Uganda Mission Project Sewing Circle joined the volunteers at the Pan African Sisterhood Health Initiative located at the Ujima Friends Peace Center, 1701 West Lehigh Avenue, to help wherever they felt comfortable cutting, pinning, trimming, assembling, sewing, or pressing to make reusable menstrual pads and pouches for females in the African diaspora. These sturdy reusable pads will enable many teens and women to go to school or their jobs without interruption. The goal of this health initiative is to elevate and uplift those who contend monthly with menstrual hygiene management. You can follow this organization at www.PanAfricanSisterhoodHealthInitiative or PASHI or on Face Book.

Serving as Ambassadors for Christ and Grace Baptist Church of Germantown were Brenda Norman, Sandi Johnson, Inez Henry, Priscilla Custis, Deacon Sandie Jordan-Gordon and Gail Hoffman from Canaan Baptist Church.







National Hispanic American Heritage Month 2023

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Executive and Legislative Documents Legal Resources Guide prepared by the Law Library of Congress.

About this Site

This Web portal is a collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Other Dedicated Web Sites National Archives and Records Administration National Endowment for the Humanities National Park Service Smithsonian Education – Hispanic Heritage Month Images Used on this Site

Submitted by Inez D. Henry, President, GBCOG, AAHM Marlene Patterson, Vice-President, GBCOG, AAHM

2ND ANNUAL BWEA, Inc.



Educator's Night Out

Friday, September 8 3:30 -6:00 P.M.

2023

Enjoy an afternoon and early evening with fellow educators at Fairmount Park, 41st & Parkside Ave. (Near School of the Future)



- Networking!!
- GIVEAWAYS!!
- Celebrate NEW BWEA Members!! Q&A about BWEA Membership!!

Are you a Black Woman Educator in the Philadelphia area?



Join the Philadelphia Chapter of Black Women's Educational Alliance, Inc. (BWEA) and become part of a growing network of Black Educators dedicated to improving and advancing the lives of Black children through intellectual and professional growth, knowledge of issues and laws impacting education, and serving as leaders in the field.

Being a member of BWEA can be very rewardingspecific benefits include:

- Mentorship to develop/sharpen your skills
- Community service opportunities to pay it forward
- Access to innovative thought leaders to expand your perspective
- Opportunities to share your expertise

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN

25 W. Johnson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144



Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., Senior Pastor

You are invited to a day focused on Reconciliation, Restoration and Relaxation. Sponsored by Grace's Wellness Ministry.

- * Relaxation Techniques
- * Healthy Eating Tips
- * Health Screenings
- * Children's Activities
- * Light refreshments

For more details: ph: 215.438.3215 w: gracebaptistgtn.org

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<u>Rev. Alec Piper, President</u>



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REV. W. GREGORY FLEMING, EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT



REV. DR. JOHN KINNEY GUEST REVIVALIST

The Prince of Peace Baptist Church 188-1898 N 32nd Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19121



ANNUAL URBAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE LECTURE & WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

11:45AM Lecture Benbow Hall, Brossman Center

7:00PM Worship Celebration Schaeffer-Ashmead Chapel

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7301 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19119



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Please Save Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10:00 AM to1:00 PM, for the Uganda Mission Project Drive-Up and Drop off Day at Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, 25 West Johnson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144. For more information, please contact Deacon Sandie Jordan-Gordon at 215-438-0347.









Do you have new cotton print pillowcases or flat sheets. summer cotton fabrics, African Print fabric or toiletries such as soap, men and women's deodorant, toothpaste, or tooth brushes, shaving cream and razors that you would like to donate to the mission project? We will be here at Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in the parking lot to receive your donations on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We'll save you the trouble of dragging your donations downstairs to the social hall. The sewing circle has already begun to work on this year's contribution to this worthy mission project. We can use your support! Our brothers and sisters in Uganda can use whatever we can send them, and God will bless our efforts!



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF GERMANTOWN REV. JAMES BUCK JR., SENIOR PASTOR WOMEN'S RETREAT MINISTRY

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One-Day Retreat Ephesians 5: 15-17



American Baptist Home Mission Societies 1075 First Avenue King of Prussia, PA 19406

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Contact Trus. Karla Chester-Kerr for registration: 215-680-0815

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WOMENPREACH! INC. PRESENTS "WHAT SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? SUICIDE AWARENESS AND THE CHURCH" Thursday, September 14, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

Woman Preach! Inc.

PRESENTED BY THE WOMANPREACH! BOARD

WHAT SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? SUICIDE AWARENESS AND THE CHURCH

REGISTER TODAY: HTTPS://BIT.LY/WP-ATTENTION

THURS, SEPT. 14, 2023 7PM ET | 6PM CT | 4PM PT

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REV. MELECH E. M. THOMAS PAYNE MEMORIAL AME, BALTIMORE



MIN. ERICKA ARTHUR SUICIDE PREVENTION ADVOCATE

WHAT SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? SUICIDE AWARENESS AND THE CHURCH

Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:30PM ET | 6:30PM CT | 4:30PM PT

Greetings friends,

We pray that each of you and your families are well and enjoying these last days of summer. Thank you for your all the many ways each of you continue to express your support for WomanPreach! Inc.

Our alumni/ae and brand ambassadors have been busy over these past few months. We will share much more about that and our Fall programming and future collaborations in our next newsletter. However, September is Suicide Awareness Month, and we want to share some information and invite you to our next WomanPreach! Inc. Board sponsored event. **Thursday, 14 September at 7:00p.m. (EST)**, our board will be sponsoring their second virtual program event for the year. *"What Shall We Say to These Things? Suicide Awareness and the Church"*

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website, "suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States." Yet, why is it that we very rarely talk about or preach about it in our churches and/or faith communities? How do we address the shame, stigma that is attached to the topic of suicide and the church? How can we express compassion and not condemnation in our sacred spaces for people that are struggling with mental health challenges, grief, and pain? So, what then shall we say to these things? Please join us on **Thursday, 14 September at 7:00p.m.** (**EST**) as our guests will share their experiences and expertise to address many of these critical questions. In addition, our guests will help dispel some myths and misconceptions about death by suicide; discuss best practices and useful language to employ in our churches and faith communities.

As you know, the WomanPreach! Way is about cultivating authentic prophetic voices and inspiring compelling preaching. There are too many people suffering and dying for us to remain silent. THIS is who we are. THIS is our work. Will you join us?

For more information, or if you have any questions or concerns, you can reach WomanPreach! at programs@womanpreach.org.

Rev. Dionne P. Boissiere, MDiv WomanPreach! Inc. Board Chair

Hello All,

There is an immediate hiring of jobs at the IRS. There are referral incentives of \$2,000 for CRs & TEs \$1,000 at the end of each year. My manager is Patricia Herbert/Joi Harris. Send it in by Monday Sept 11th, 2023 or bring it on the 8th. Apply anytime at IRS.USAJOBS.GOV ... Use Patricia Herbert/Joi Harris as a reference. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - Complete training is available.

The Hiring Events are on Friday Sept 8th, 9am to 2pm AND Tuesday Sept 12th, 2023 9am to 2:30pm at 2970 Market Street using entrance on 30th Street (near Cafe).

Copy the flyers and Pass this on to anyone you know looking for work!!!

Blessings, Joi Regina

Job Series 0592

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11 F & 13

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Mrs. Pearl Montgomery, Genesis Healthcare Nursing & Rehab

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Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Ludell Roberts, <u>Springfield</u> Crossings Rehab and Health Care,

Mrs. Marian Davis, Wesley Enhanced Living at

Stapeley

Mrs. Barbara Hutchinson, <u>Wesley Enhanced Living at</u> <u>Stapley</u>

Ms. Keisha Way, Towne Manor East

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September 2023 Calendar A - Anniversary B - Birthday M - Memorial

A 01 William & Gail McFadden Roberts **B** 01 Stephanie Jones-Rice A02 Samuel & Dana Coleman M 03 Edna M. Scott M 04 Humphrey G. Jones, Sr. M 04 Mildred C. Smith **B 05 Kendall Ann Baker Hodges B 05** Morgan Mifflin M 07 Emmons M. Williams, Sr. M 09 Rev. Charles E. Kershaw A 11 Albert & Laura Caliman **B 11 Peggy Vertreace B 12 Diane A. Satterwaite B 13 Rosa Murphy** M 13 Rudolph V. Norman M 17 Lillinau V. Goffney M 17 Jeremiah W. Lee, Sr. **B 17 Walter Vertreace B 19 Murine Lusakweno B 20 Deborah Croston** A 23 Michael & Felicia W. Benton M 23 Reba S. Walls M 24 Leona Wimbush **B 24** Julia Wallace **B 25** Barbara A. Davis **B 27** Priscilla E. Custis **B 27 Barbara A. Richardson M 28 James Granderson B 30** Lucinda Capers