

“Now Tell That....”

The Zion Grove Progress is a newsletter for, and about the people of
Zion Grove Baptist Church
Where “Everybody is Somebody!”
February, 2017

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Dr. Carter G. Woodson – “The Father of Negro History”

The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be “Negro History Week”. This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglass on February 14, dates Black communities had celebrated together since the late 19th century.

In 1976 as part of the United States Bicentennial, the informal expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. government. President Gerald Ford spoke in regards to this, urging Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

LEST WE FORGET.....



Barack Obama

Barack Obama is the 44th president of the United States, and the first African American to serve in the office. First elected to the presidency in 2008, he won a second term in 2012.

From the Pastor's Pen

GOD SAID IT AND I BELIEVE IT
Jeremiah Chapters 38 & 39

As we celebrate our heritage by recognizing February as Black History Month, we should not overlook black people and their contributions in Biblical history. This is an account of one such unsung hero in the Old Testament and his contribution to the faith.

Walking through the pages of biblical history, we come upon a man whose name very briefly greets us as we review the life on one prophet of Judah by the name of Jeremiah. The man to whom I refer is an Ethiopian by the name of Ebed Melek, a minister of distinction serving in the cabinet of King Zedekiah. Contrary to popular belief, all Ethiopians were not slaves, nor did they function in menial and subservient positions in every kingdom of that time. Those who held the reigns of great nations in their hands were not concerned with the color of a person's skin as much as they were concerned with the intelligence and wisdom in the mind of those who aided them in guiding the destiny of their people. Ebed Melek shared in the administration of the kingdom of Judah and enjoyed not only the prestige of such office but his knowledge guided King Zedekiah in making decisions of significance.

It was a time when the people of Judah desired peace but found frustration and the threat of war at their door. As recorded in Proverbs 14:12, there is a way "that seemeth right unto man but the end thereof is death." Alliances with nations whose armies have been successful in war is not always the path for nations of lesser military might to pursue. Because people are not conversant with the power of God to fight their battles and to vanquish those who would destroy them, many nations are swallowed up in destruction. There are countless accounts in Israelite history of battles won by God's

people because they listened to His word and obeyed His commands. The blood of thousands of warriors flowed freely on many battlefields. But the people of God, though out-numbered in many battles, were won without the Israelites having to engage in physical combat. In many instances, the angel of God destroyed the enemy by causing them to fight among themselves or to die from other calamities like diseases.

Jeremiah was a fearless, outspoken prophet of God who informed his people, the advisory council to the king, and the king himself that they could not win unless they heeded God's message. God said, "You have forsaken me, and unless you return, I will chasten you." The people and the advisory council took exception not of God, but of the messenger of God, Jeremiah, and turned their wrath on him. They wanted to shut his mouth, to seal his lips, even to take his life for they did not fear God, nor were they willing to receive the message that God sent to them through Jeremiah. Ultimately, they persuaded King Zedekiah to surrender Jeremiah into their hands by declaring him to be a traitor worthy of death. They put him in a dry cistern hoping that this temporary confinement would result in his eventual death.

One hymn writer has penned these lines, "**The Lord moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.**" Ebed Melek made sensitive to the plight of Jeremiah by the power of God, prevailed upon the king to rescue him from his tomb of death. Zedekiah empowered Ebed Melek to deliver Jeremiah from his place of confinement and to give him bread to eat as long as it was available. Ebed Melek feared God and recognized that Jeremiah had been unjustly accused and punished, jeopardized his own life to save Jeremiah from certain death. Because Ebed Melek rescued the prophet, God Almighty made him a promise. God told Jeremiah to tell Ebed Melek, that, "I am

going to fulfill my word against the city through disaster. But I will rescue you on that day, declares the Lord; and you will not be handed over to those whom you fear. I will save you; and you will not fall by the sword but escape with your life, because you trust in me, declared the Lord”.

Just as Jeremiah had predicted, the Babylonian war machine of men, horses, chariots, overflowed the city and left lifeless forms of men, women, children horses, cattle and other animals strewn throughout the city as evidence of their assault motivated by the wrath of God. Other members of Judea were found broken in spirit, humiliated and dejected walking behind their proud Babylonian conquerors as slaves, on their way to the city of Babylon. King Zedekiah looked with horror as his sons were slain before his very eyes and in order to seal that memory forever in his mind, according to the custom of that time, an iron lance was used to blind him, and a hook placed in his nose and he was led off to Babylon. Jerusalem and its inhabitants were totally devastated as evidenced by the charred ruins of areas that were once homes, and places of business. The wisp of smoke and the stench of death gave evidence of the thoroughness of the judgment of God upon the city of Jerusalem.

But God had made a promise to Ebed Melek, a promise as secure as the foundation of the world, and as certain as God’s judgment. And so this Ethiopian officer of the court was able to view the terrible might of God, as was evidenced by the fury and destruction of the Babylonian hosts. But he, as an Ethiopian from the land of Cush, was not abused nor mistreated. Not a hair on his was touched. No shackles were draped upon his wrists or ankles, no whip cut the flesh from his back; no sword drew his blood, nor did any spear penetrate his body. In the midst of all of the death and devastation, God sustained him, and protected him and preserved his life, just as God promised he would. He was free to leave the destroyed city of Jerusalem and journey anywhere he chose. Well hath the psalmist said, “**The steps of a good man are ordered by the**

Lord.” God said it, it is well for us to believe it.

*In His Service,
Pastor Grasty*

ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 7

Dates to Remember:



FEBRUARY, 2017

- Tue., Feb. 14th** – Valentine’s Day
- Mon., Feb. 20th** – Presidents’ Day
- Sun., Feb. 26th** – Ushers Anniv. @ 3pm

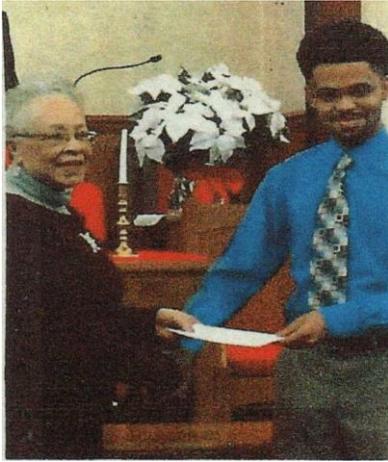
MARCH, 2017

- Sat., Mar. 4th** – Salt Fish Breakfast
From 9-12 – Men of Zion
- Sun., Mar. 12th** – Missionaries Anniv.
@ 3pm
- Tues., Mar 28th** – Diaconate Training @
6:30 pm
- Mtg., Joint Bd. @ 7 pm
- Thurs., Mar. 30th** – Church Conf. @ 7
pm

APRIL, 2017

- Wed., Apr. 5th** – Spring Revival @ 7:30
pm
- Thurs., Apr 6th** – Spring Revival @
7:30 pm
- Fri., Apr 7th** – Spring Revival @ 7:30
pm
- Sun., Apr. 9th** – Palm Sunday
- Sun., Apr. 16th** – Easter
Sunrise Serv. @ 7:30 am – Guests, 1st
Bapt. Ch.
- Sun., Apr. 30th** – Family & Friends Day
@ 11:00 am

In and Around Zion Grove



Congratulations to Patrick Williams Jr as he accepts the scholarship check awarded to him by the **Women's Missionary & Education Ministry of the Mattaponi Baptist Association of Virginia.**

Shaniyah Woodfolk, the newest member of the ZG Ushers Ministry was at her post last Sunday as a "doorkeeper" (even though the "door" is 3 times taller than she). Her fellow Junior Ushers commended her on a job well done!

The names **Thomas "TJ" Frye, Jr** and **Keyon Frye** continue to appear on the Principals' List for their excellent grades. As members of the Caroline Parks & Recreation Winter Basketball League, they are also "top notch" basketball players. During one of the games, TJ scored 14 points and Keyon had 5 steals. Way to go!!!

There's a new drummer on ZG's music staff: **Rufus Davis!** He has a new set of sticks and stated that he will give Pastor and First Lady \$1,000.00 when he

receives his first big check as a drummer!

ZG is proud of all our youth members; and the list is growing! They are to be congratulated for their participation in church activities.

To accommodate its growing congregation, an additional Bible Study Class has been added. The class will be held on Wednesday nights, beginning at 7 pm with **Rev. Gregory Armstead** as the instructor. **Pastor Grasty** will continue with the Wednesday afternoon Bible Study Class. Also, a New Members Class will begin with **Minister Michael Dickerson** as the Instructor.



Valentine's Day History

Every February we celebrate Valentine's Day by giving flowers, candy and cards to those we love. We do this in honor of St. Valentine. You may wonder who is St. Valentine? There are many legends about the identity of St. Valentine.

(DO SOME RESEARCH TO FIND OUT.)

Approximately 150 million Valentine Day cards are exchanged every year, the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas.

The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a system of secret routes and hiding places used by runaway slaves escaping from the South to freedom in the North. There were many brave and caring people who helped runaway slaves to freedom.

The Underground Railroad was not located **underground**, nor was it a **railroad**. It was symbolically **underground** as the network's activities were secret and illegal so they had to remain "**underground**" to help fugitive slaves stay out of sight.

- **Agents** were people who helped the fugitives.
- **Conductors** led fugitives from one hiding place to another.
- **Stations** were places to hide along the way

ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 7

HARRIET TUBMAN WAS THE MOST FAMOUS CONDUCTOR.

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"**Computers in Skirts** – three female African-American mathematicians who worked on the Redstone, Mercury and Apollo space programs for NASA. The film **Hidden Figures** tells the story.

ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 8

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(From the February, 2011 edition of *Now Tell That...*)

What Black History Month Means to Me – by **Kenneth Reynolds, II** (One of our high school students at the time)

Black History Month to me, is a time of remembrance and thankfulness. Black History Month is

a time to remember all of the blood, sweat, and tears given so that we could have the things we have today.

Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that we as African Americans would one day be able to live with no boundaries or restrictions on what we did, or where we did it.

Rosa Parks wanted to send a message that we should all be able to share public transportation with no hassle.

These and many others devoted their time, lives, and own personal safety so that we could have a better future.

On Black History Month, we should do more than keep "The Dream" alive, we should remember those who fought for us to have a dream in the first place.

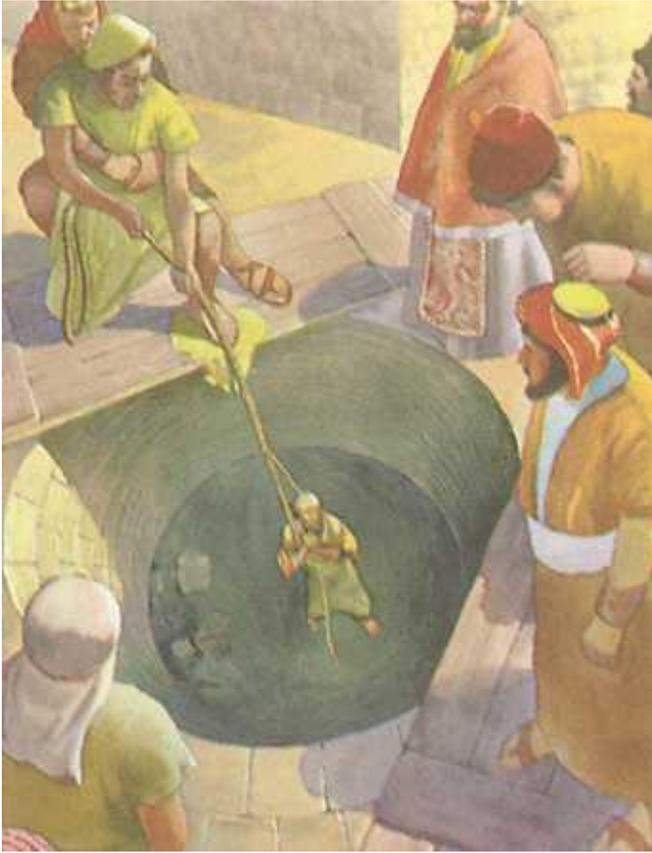




**“For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish,
But have Everlasting life.**

John 3:16

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Jeremiah in the pit



Underground Railroad



Katherine Johnson – portrayed in the movie “Hidden Figures” by Tarahi P. Henson (center) – calculated the flight path for John Glenn’s 1962 Earth Orbit.

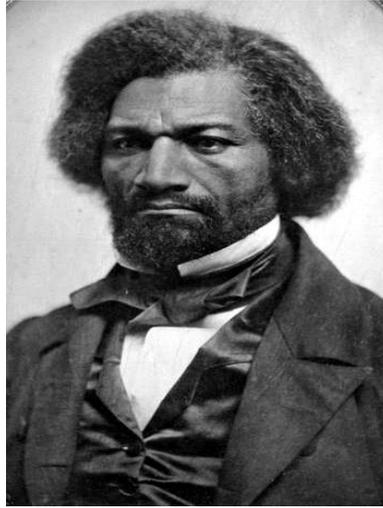


This is how the new \$20 might look like in 2020.

HARRIET TUBMAN
“THE MOSES OF HER PEOPLE”



**JUST
SO YOU'LL KNOW!!**



Frederick Douglass

- **Born: February, 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland (didn't know exact date – Chose Feb. 14th)**
- **Abolitionist, civil rights activist, writer**
- **Died: February 20, 1895 in Washington, D.C.**
- **Best known for: Former slave who became an advisor to the Presidents.**

**ZION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Grasty, Pastor
9450 Fredericksburg, Turnpike
Woodford, VA 22580
(804) 633-9370**

www.ziongrovebaptistchurchva.org

Email: www.ziongrovebaptistchurchva.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday school, 9:30 am

Morning Worship, 11:00 am

Holy Communion, 1st Sunday

Prayer Service & Bible Study, Wed., 11:30 am & 7pm

New Members Class – As Needed

EDITOR & PUBLISHER – FIRST LADY ELEANOR GRASTY

KIDZ PAGE

