



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since Becoming your Pastor back in December of 2015, God has richly blessed us. We have to take the time to thank God for first hearing and answering our prayers. You were a people who prayed for a Pastor and upon coming to you, I have been a servant praying for my assignment. I stand on the shoulders of all the great pastors who came before me and am honored to hold the post that God has assigned me. My prayer is that my love for you is evident in my works and words because Phyllis and I have been showered with your love.

We also thank God for the blessings that he has allowed us to witness. We have paid off the debt on the church. Scripture teaches us that the borrower is slave to the lender (Proverbs 22:7). I have been in debt before and felt like I was a slave to that debt. Debt prevents us from being able to do things that we would otherwise do. Paying off our debts in February and releasing the debt as we watched the lantern make its way unto the heavens, was symbolic of the shackles that once enslaved us as a church being removed and the Lord telling us we are free!

We thank God for our Youth ministry. Our Youth ministry is prospering with activities such as the STEM Fair, the Black History Program, and The Youth Revival. We have had a very successful Vacation Bible School and are Youth Church has started meeting regularly under the direction of Rev. Gary. Soon, we will have our nursery staffed and outfitted so that the youngest and most precious gift that God has given us will also have a place that is set aside for them to learn about Jesus at their own pace.

In September, we will host our first annual Health and Wellness Fair. We care for the spiritual, physical and mental health of Cedar Grove Baptist Church family, as well as the greater Mocksville community. We also will join with other community agencies and churches to take part in feeding and caring for the community around us.

As a church, we have come to a place that will define who we are in this great Christian Journey. We have taken the time to get to know one another through outings like the Car Show, a Movie with the Pastor, Walking with the Pastor and the Zoo trip. Now the works that God has sent us to do awaits. Our vision is to complete a great work both on the inside and on the outside of the Church. On the inside, we will build up the total person. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to meet the needs of the total person by: exalting the savior, evangelizing the sinner, equipping the saved, edifying the saints and encouraging every soul.

On the outside of the Church, we seek to be a loving hand to those who are lost, left out, least, loved starved, and the last. In Matthew 25: 42-45, the Bible says

<sup>42</sup> For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. <sup>44</sup> Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? <sup>45</sup> Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

If we are "The Best Church this side of Heaven", our call to arms is not just having a heart to get closer to God, but to also do the works that God has called us to do. Let us therefore come together as that Church that sits in the Grove looking and pointing to Jesus through our words and deeds; so that men, women, boys and girls will see our good works and praise God who is in Heaven.

Your Humble Servant in Christ,

Pastor Marion A. Franks

## Women's Ministry of Cedar Grove Baptist Church

The Women's Ministry was birthed by Pastor Marion Franks early in 2016. In his vision, every woman of Cedar Grove is an intricate part of the greatest church this side of Heaven... Unity and teamwork are definite necessities to seeing it come to fruition.

As a kick off, the women scheduled a Matinee and Mexican event after service one Sunday. After lunch, four Cedar Grove women enjoyed the theatrical play about planning for the after funeral meal. The women on stage humorously talked about many things excluding the actual dinner items. The play shed light on the not so humorous theme of setting aside differences in order to actually accomplish a task while maintaining harmony and peace.

Working together the Cedar Grove Women's Ministry will strive to do the Lord's will by comforting, caring and serving people. We did provide Daddy Donuts for Father's Day celebration and do look forward to Fun Fellowship Fridays, to participate in Men's Day program, to collaborate with Health Ministry as well as to host workshops while forming a camaraderie with the community.

All of Cedar Grove women are needed in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Natasha Long  
Women's Ministry Leader

*"Busy about our Father's business of showing love."*

The Cedar Grove Senior Missionaries, lead by Rev. Sandra James, have been busy about our Father's business of showing love. We pray with people, assist with needed items and tell others about God's goodness. Members have great ideas and have willing hearts.

This year the Missionaries were successful in an effort to build the treasury through pledges. Church members and others were gracious and did respond well to completing and contributing to pledge sheets. As a result, the Circle has monetarily helped numerous community agencies thus far and has plans to assemble items to give out at elderly and homeless living facilities in the near future.

During the first half this year, members attended the 2016 missionary conference in Charlotte and hosted a prayer breakfast in the Cedar Grove fellowship hall. Both occasions were a blessing! And each provided information and encouragement to those who were in attendance. \*All are invited to join the Senior Missionary-

Together we can tell even more people about Christ!

Reverentially,  
Natasha Long

## Men's Ministry

The Cedar Grove men's ministry had its first Prayer Breakfast on May 21, 2016. Rev. Thomas Dalton, Associate Pastor at Refuge Community Church in Cooleemee, was the guest speaker. Rev. Dalton encouraged our men to **RISE UP and TAKE OUR STAND**. It was a very powerful, encouraging, and motivating message.

In July, the men met at Golden Corral in Lexington, NC for breakfast followed by our business meeting. They then traveled to two construction sites in Lexington where Brother William "PJ" Cockerham, owner of WC Construction, and the general contractor of these two construction sites, shared the plans and the vision for those sites with our men and young men. This outing was very informative and an opportunity for our young boys to get a feel for the construction industry to see if this is a career path that they might want to follow.

The men have begun to plan their schedule for the rest of the year with a couple of fundraisers planned, as well as their **next Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Sept. 10, 2016**, a Career Day for our youth, and other youth site visits.

Please continue to keep our men in prayer as they **RISE UP and TAKE THEIR STAND** doing and following the will of **GOD** transforming men and young men in hopes of transforming our world.

***"When men "get it" in their soul that Christ connects them to the Father and the Father wants to build His sons, these undeveloped men grow like wildfire, bringing glory to God in their homes, communities, churches and world." Author Unknown***

Rev. Glenn Wilkes

## Trustees

Under the guidance of Rev. Franks, the CGBC Trustee Board has been very busy thus far during 2016-2017 church year. The board consists of the following members: Cynthia Howell, Chairperson, Chris Brown, Vice Chair, Gladys Scott, Secretary, James Clement (Buster), Kenneth (Ouster) Lewis, Perry Long and Kendra Nichols. Rev. Joseph Gary serves as the board's advisor. As stewards over the church's finances, ***the Trustee Board has completed the following projects:***

- Presented an annual budget for the 2016 church year
- Completed repairs to the fellowship hall floor and baseboards
- Cleaned and waxed the fellowship hall and the two classrooms
- Replaced old fellowship hall tables with new round tables
- Replaced old fellowship hall chairs with new padded chairs
- Repaired railings leading to the sanctuary
- Installed railings leading down to the fellowship hall
- Completed sound system repaired with monitor installed
- Purchased equipment for the nursery
- Implemented the use of a new laptop for financial services (Courtesy of the Deacon Board)
- Conducted our fourth annual Car and Bike Show, proceeds from which benefitted the building fund.

It is the objective of the Trustee Board to maintain the property and sanctuary in safe and pleasant conditions for the members and visitors of Cedar Grove Baptist Church to worship. As a church, we were thankful that God blessed us to be able to pay off the church note at the beginning of this year. Through sacrifice and dedication our members have persevered to see this milestone in our church's growth. *To God be the glory for the things he has done.*

*Submitted by  
Gladys Scott, secretary*

## Youth Department

The youth department would like to thank all of those who made the youth revival a great success. Special thanks to Rev. Dairl Scott and the Union Chapel AME Zion Church family for being our guests.

Children's church with Rev. Gary is off to a good start and is held every third Sunday of the month. The youth report that they enjoy a portion of the service that is suited just for them. Rev. Wilkes has also assisted in leading children's services with engaging and dynamic discussions.

During the month of July, the youth and congregation collected snacks for the Dragonfly House Child Advocacy Center. Sunday July 24th, Brandi Reagan, Executive Director, worshipped with us, and shared information about the Dragonfly House. After service, the youth collected the items and delivered them to the center, where they were given a tour. They were surprised to learn the Center's snack pantry was bare, and that our donations came at a great time.

Thanks,  
Rev. Gary

