

# THE VISION

Quarterly Newsletter of Providence Missionary Baptist Church

## Keeping the FAITH

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

*"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." - Matthew 21:22 (ESV).*

### A Faith Walk

Most of us have heard the word Faith, but I am not sure if we truly understand it. Some will say Faith is your belief such as Baptist, Methodist, Judaism, etc. Others may say it is being obedient and prayerful. Those things may be a part of the definition, but the biggest explanation is being certain of what you hope for and being clear on what you cannot see (Hebrews 11). This results in living a life that is filled with gratitude and knowing God



Prayer and Worship is a way to connect to God

is in control and whatever obstacle you are facing, He will work it out.

The Holy Spirit is our Gift and we should always be attuned to the instruction and direction God is communicating. Life could be so much easier if we allow the love of Christ to help us through our daily challenges.



Praising Him through song makes a connection

When we disconnect from the Holy Spirit we actually limit ourselves, we make mistakes in judgment and we often feel empty and incomplete. As Christians we should always go to our deepest selves and do an inventory or reflection and reconnect to our Gift. God is there to help us through the darkest times. Your faith is the belief that He will do so.

#### Inside This Issue

Testimony	2
A Word	3
Holy Week	4
Outreach	5
Youth	6
Recent Activity	7
Upcoming Events	8



Reverend Damon P. Williams, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and  
Reverend Khalia J. Williams, First Lady

# You are Forgiven, Accepted and Loved

## You Don't Know My Story

Testimony Program

On the 5th Sunday of January, 2016, PMBC experienced a great service in the form of a Testimony Program. For those who attended it was a blessing in many ways.

The reason I brought the idea of the program to the leadership was because on September 21, 2014, my son was diagnosed with cancer. He had a Sarcoma in his leg. Later I found out it was Stage 4. He kept that from me because he knew that would worry me more than ever. When the doctors first started the treatments they told him they would have to cut off his leg. It was devastating news to all of us but especially to a mother. When your child hurts, the parent hurts even more. Though he is grown with his own family, I was very concerned about his health and well-being. In the midst of his treatments I said to him, "I am so sorry you are having to deal with this." His reply to me was, "It is ok, it is just my testimony." I was filled with overwhelming pride and comfort. He knew God was going to get him through this trial. His faith was unshakable.

During this period we called on all of our prayer warriors and I had to go to a place I often go when I know as a human being I cannot resolve an issue. I read my Bible, I prayed constantly and I pulled out my "fight songs." I have a playlist of songs I go to that put me in complete connection to my Holy Spirit, and I am renewed and revived. Those were the songs at the Testimony Program. "Still I Rise" and "In the Midst of it All" by Yolanda Adams put me in the right frame of mind and uplifts me to the heights where I know everything will work out. I am so happy those songs were well received by the congregation. Jarrett Milton, Choir Director, did an EXCELLENT job in finding the soloists, the musicians led by Ben Ward stepped up and provided the music. "My Testimony" by Marvin Sapp was very popular during the time of my son's illness. I listened to it and allowed it to speak to my spirit. My way of coping was to listen to spirit-filled songs. As you know the songs from the program are not new songs, I've been using them for years. Their messages are timeless.

Speakers shared their stories and testimonies and gave us the reassurance of knowing that we all go through something in life

As Marvin Sapp says, "Your story may not be my story but we all have a story; where God has gotten us through."

My son had surgery on December 23, 2014, and his tumor was removed. We thought it was the size of a baseball, but it turned out to be much larger, about the size of a small football, as it had wrapped around his leg. He has gone through 3 scans and is cancer free, and he still has his leg. All Glory to God.

I thank Reverend Williams for being there for me during that time, and also for allowing my thankfulness to God to go forward in a Program that uplifted many based on the comments we received afterwards.

Our testimonies are not just for us, they are for our fellow Christian brothers and sisters who need the encouragement of knowing God is there to protect, love, and strengthen us. That is why this page is dedicated to those with testimonies to share "their stories".

In peace and love,

Gail Collier-Glover



The Testimony presenters, Kori Campbell with Charlye, Deacon James Washington, Deacon Patricia Showell with Reverend Williams



# A Word From Our Pastor



## The Post Fast Plan

By: Rev. Damon P. Williams, Ph.D.

Our Lenten Daniel fast is over! During the 46 days of lent you gave God your best, lost a few pounds, and certainly got sick of eating fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Our prayer was that during the Lenten season, you would encounter God in a unique and deeper way. By the time He Got Up!" on Easter Sunday morning I pray your faith was up, your time of biblical study was up, and your prayer life was up. But, now what? Coming off of a fast without a plan can make it far too easy to return to things God has matured us from. We need a post fast plan! Your post fast plan is your weekly reminder, after the fast, of the amazing work God did in your life during Lent. It will help you to remember to stay encouraged, and to continue to reach for the spiritual goals God has set in your life.

Let's be diligent in the months following Easter to select one day a week to engage in some fasting activity that will remind you of the Lenten season. For example, try not eating meat on Fridays, or only drinking water on Wednesdays, or no sweets on Sundays. The specific post fast activity that you engage in is not as important as the continued faith step you are taking to deny self and consecrate a specific aspect of your life just for God. The Monday following Easter we began the Monday Mo-

tivation prayer conference call and I commenced my post fast plan with "No Sugar Mondays"! Lawd have mercy!!! You all know how much I love sweets and sugar. However, on Mondays, unless the sugar is naturally a part of what I am eating, I

will not partake. Every Monday I will remember the move of God in my life during the 2016 Lenten season. I am praying to be pulled even closer to God than I felt when the fast ended and I want the same for your life as well.

The post fast plan is truly our reasonable service as it is a small price to pay for a significant kingdom investment in our lives. Start with prayer and ask God to guide you to a day of the week and a sacrifice to partake in. Then, find an accountability partner who is also doing a post fast plan. Pray with your partner on your chosen day and encourage each other to stick with it. Finally, maintain

your commitment to the post fast plan until your change, whatever you are praying for in your life, comes. When it does be sure to tell me so I can rejoice in the Lord with you!

God bless you my beloved Providence and may heaven continue to smile upon you.



The Williams Family



# Prayer Fasting Works of Love 40 Days

PMBC's 40 Days of Lenten Observation began on February 10, 2016. Ash Wednesday service was held and many attended to listen to inspirational messages from Reverend Williams and Reverend Wills of Friendship Baptist Church. The Ministers in attendance placed ashes on everyone in the audience.



The Daniel Fast was observed at PMBC by those choosing to seek a more intimate relationship with God, ridding one's self of unnatural foods and taking minds off our fleshly desires. The whole purpose is to completely focus on God.



Holy Week was March 20th—March 27th, and the PMBC theme was "If God Don't Change Me, the Devil Will". On March 20th the church observed Palm Sunday. On March 25th "Six Perspectives on the Cross" was held at West Hunter Street Baptist Church, and a Good Friday Service was held at Zion Hill Baptist Church, Pastor Williams participated at both services. Despite the rainy weather we held our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 26th.

March 20th	Palm Sunday
March 25th	Seven Last Words—West Hunter Street Baptist Church—12:00 Noon
March 26th	Good Friday Service—Zion Hill Baptist Church
March 27th	Reverend Williams Guest Preacher—7:00 PM
	Easter Egg Hunt—10:00 AM
	<b>Resurrection Sunday</b>
	Easter Program—9:00 AM
	Worship Service—7:00 AM and 10:45 AM



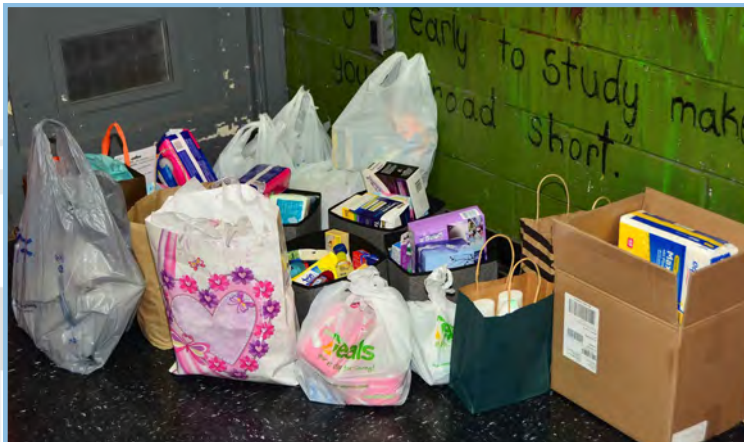
The PMBC celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday started with Sunrise service at 7:00 AM, followed by an amazing Easter Program from our Youth, ending with the 10:45 AM service.



# OUTREACH

## Women's Ministry—Gateway Center

Gateway Center houses 330 beds for men who are enrolled in residential programs and actively working to end their homelessness. They also operate a publicly-accessible Client Engagement Center that serves *men, women, and children* by connecting them to resources and partners in-house and throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area. In addition to the services, they are the "gateway" to the community continuum of care – providing information, referral, and contact to drug and alcohol recovery



programs, mental care facilities, and other homeless services.

The Women's Ministry collected toiletry items and on March 19, they were able to donate those items to the women seeking assistance from the Gateway Center. This is the second year of this outreach mission.

June 11th is Outreach Day at PMBC. Several ministries will perform outreach to various organization in our community. We commend the spirit and the uplift it will bring to those in need.

MINISTRY	OUTREACH PROJECT
Matrons	Shoe Box Project
SWAT	Field Day Obstacle Course at CSPH
Deaconess	Atlanta Union Mission
Young-at-Heart	Cornerstone Personal Care Picnic
Youth	Backpack Buddies
Deacons and Ministers	Genesis House





# THE YOUTH OF PROVIDENCE

## Pictorial Review of Our Youth—January through March



[WWW.PROVIDENCEATLANTA.ORG](http://WWW.PROVIDENCEATLANTA.ORG)

2295 BENJAMIN E. MAYS DRIVE, SW, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30311 404-752-6869



# Recent Activities



# Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Sponsored By
<b>April</b>		
24th	Voter Registration Drive	Dorcas Ministry
26th	Church Conference	Church Wide
<b>May</b>		
1st	GEMMS Gala Breakfast	Youth
8th	Women in Christ/Mother's Day	Brotherhood
15th	Financial Literacy	Education Commission
21st	Draw the Circle Brunch	Women's Ministry
31st	Mental Health Check-Up: Breaking the Silence	Health Ministry
<b>June</b>		
4th	Community Walk/Event begins at 10:00 AM	Church Wide
6th-10th	Vacation Bible School	Church Wide
12th	Grief Counseling/End of Life Preparation	Health Ministry
19th	Men in Christ/Father's Day	Church Wide
<b>July</b>		
	Rejuvenation Month	Church Wide
<b>August</b>		
26th	Youth Lock-In	Church Wide

**"FAITH  
IS TAKING THE  
FIRST STEP  
EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T  
SEE THE WHOLE  
STAIRCASE."**  
- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

*Faith is knowing  
one of two things will happen:  
There will be something solid to stand on, or  
You will be taught  
to fly.*

**STAND  
IN FAITH**  
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE HAVING  
THE HARDEST TIME OF  
YOUR LIFE

**FAITH**  
is not believing that God can  
it is knowing that He will.

Postage  
Stamp

PMBC Communications Vision Team—Reverend Damon P. Williams, Ph.D., advisor, Gail Glover, Judy Coleman, Fred Tucker, Shannon Cain, Shannon Williams, and Jarrett Milton.

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## Reverend Damon P. Williams. Ph.D.

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