

SEEKING NEW DIRECTIONS

Shepherd's Word

(September 2011)



Transitions involve both a backwards glance and a forward look. We can look back with gratitude and look forward with fear, or we can look back with grief and look forward with anticipation. Or, we can look back with thanksgiving for the journey over which we have had and then look forward with excitement as we ponder the future God has for us. Of the three transitional options that

Saint Philip faces at this moment in its history, we are blessed to be in the position of the latter. We can look back with thanksgiving for the quality, long-tenure of Pastor and Mrs. George Moore which gives us a foundation for looking forward to a bright and glorious future that the Lord is unfolding for us.

We are in the midst of a church wide Daniel Fast as part of our preparation, individually and as a community of faith, for the great things God has in store for us. We are grateful for the significant numbers of our members who are making a food sacrifice during the ten-day period of September 11-20, 2011. Because of their openness and willingness to follow the present vision of the house, I predict surprising spiritual growth and new heights, as well as a great sense of joy and achievement in the lives for whom fasting is a new or seldom practiced spiritual discipline. I also predict great breakthroughs as well as long sought answers to prayers for those who fast regularly, as part of their own spiritual development, because of their openness and willingness to follow the vision of the house. It truly does not yet appear what we shall be, as individuals and as a church, whether we are new to the

fasting experience or seasoned fasters, when this Daniel Fast is over.

We are not only fasting for the new directions in our lives and as a church, but as part of our preparation for First Fall Revival, since I have been privileged to be appointed as Pastor of Saint Philip Church. As most of us already know, our Fall Revival is September 21-23, 2011. I have invited two powerful preachers/teachers to share their gifts with us. The Reverend Dr. Sir Walter Lee Mack, Jr, pastor of the great Union Baptist Church in Winston—Salem, North Carolina will be our teacher. The Reverend Dr. William Curtis of the powerful Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will be our preacher. Dr. Mack will begin his teaching at 6:30pm and Dr. Curtis will be preaching at 7:30pm. We encourage everyone to join us in hearing these two powerful preachers of the word of God. As a visible symbol of our unity, we have designated Friday night as T-shirt night. Our members are encouraged to wear the same T-shirts that we wore on Homecoming Day in August of this year.

Let me also express my appreciation for the way we have supported the Bible Studies on Tuesday night at 7:00pm. We encourage all of us to continue to support the study so that we can all function under the same vision and understanding of the word of God.

God still has a vision for all of our lives that is greater than any vision we can have for ourselves or that others can have for us. To God be the Glory for the great things God has done and the great things God has yet to unfold. Peace.

William D. Watley,

Under Shepherd

Saint Philip AME Church

Fall Revival

September 21 ~ 23, 2011



Bible Study

Teacher

6:30 PM

Rev. Dr. Sir Walter L. Mack, Jr.

Union Baptist Church

Winston-Salem, NC



Worship Service

Revivalist

7:30 PM

Rev. Dr. William H. Curtis

Mt. Ararat Baptist Church

Pittsburgh, PA

Saint Philip African Methodist Episcopal Church

Christian Education Weekend

September 24 ~ 25, 2011

Dr. Richard Fields,
Couples/Adults

Rick Fields
Singles/Young Adults

Algernon Johnson
Music

Save The Date

Saturday, October 8, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Nettie Lewis Moore Women's Missionary Society

Hosts

Annual Mother Daughter Affair

THE SAINT PHILIP NEWS

Publication



Rosie Austin, Managing Editor

Janice Armstrong, Church News Editor

Saint Philip A.M.E. Church

240 Candler Road SE

Atlanta, Georgia 30317

404-371-0749

(404) 378-5257 (Fax)

Rev. William D. Watley, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

These books and more can be found in the SPC Bookstore:

- ◆ 10 Steps to Financial Freedom
- ◆ Twelve Standards For Church Leaders / Workbook
- ◆ Breaking Financial Barriers
- ◆ Doing Church (Volume I and 2)
- ◆ Exalting the Names of Jesus
- ◆ From Mess to Miracles and Other Sermons
- ◆ God Wants you to Grow
- ◆ Preparing Joshua
- ◆ Less than Tipping
- ◆ Roots of Resistance
- ◆ Sermons from the Black Pulpit
- ◆ The African Presence in the Bible

Dr. Watley is married to Mrs. Muriel Watley and they have two adult children and four grandchildren.