

# The Valley Weekly

"Ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."

- James Baldwin

FREE

Volume 5 No. 23

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 15, 2019

## OUC Celebrating Black History Month with Sen. Doug Jones

The Oakwood University Church, located at 5500 Adventist Blvd., NW, Huntsville, Ala., will conclude its celebration of Black History Month by honoring the Honorable Senator Doug Jones from Alabama on Saturday, February 23, at 11 a.m. Senator Jones will receive a Black History Achievement Award for his tireless work in fighting for justice

for all people, especially in the area of voting rights, civil rights, healthcare, and education.

As an attorney, Senator Jones is best known for his successful prosecution of two Ku Klux Klan members for the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four African-American girls and the indictment of domestic terrorist Eric Rudolph. In the

Senate, Jones has pledged to fight to increase access to affordable health care for every Alabamian and to make sure that every child in every ZIP code has access to high-quality education.

He also fights for responsible economic development to ensure that both businesses and their employees prosper in Alabama.



Above, Sen. Doug Jones addresses recent engine-production Blue Origin ground breaking audience. (G.T. Whitley, Jr.)

## Local Haley Charity Announces 'Day of Action,' Resource Expo

A Tennessee Valley nonprofit is sponsoring two key events for the month of February.

The Patricia Haley Charity, a 501c3 organization, will sponsor its "2nd Annual Benefit Banquet"

(Day of Action) on February 18, 2019, at the Historic Huntsville Depot & Roundhouse, 320 Church Street in Downtown Huntsville, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Patricia Haley Char-

ity provides a variety of support services to persons diagnosed with cancer.

The charity will also host the "Nonprofit & Community Rainbow of Knowledge Fair" on February 28, 2019, at the

Huntsville Marriott (U.S. Space and Rocket Center) from 3:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information about both events, please call (256) 693-4709.

## Lakeside UMC to Host Survivor of 1963 Bombing

On February 18, 2019, at 5 o'clock in the evening, Lakeside United Methodist Church (3738 Meridian Street, North) will host a special event entitled "Still Standing: The Fifth Little Girl of the 16th Street Church Bombing."

The event will also honor Mrs. Sarah Rudolph, survivor of the September 15, 1963, church bombing in Birmingham, Ala. During the program, Mrs. Rudolph will share accounts of her childhood experiences, and specifically those relating to this tragic bombing.

## FPC-USA to Hold Women's Day

"Celebrate the Gifts of Women" is Sunday, March 3, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA. The theme is "The Grace of God Has No Boundaries."

Reverend Eva Melton, pastor and organizer of Firm Foundation Church, Birmingham, Ala., will be the guest preacher for morning worship at 10 a.m. Visitors are welcome!

by Joyce Pettis Temple



## Black History Program Scheduled at Lowe's Chapel UME

The pastor and congregation of Lowe's Chapel United Methodist Church invites the community to join them as they observe Black History Month on Sunday, February 17, at the 10 a.m. service.

The Black History speaker is Molly Stewart of Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church of Valhermosa

Springs, Ala.

For more information, see the church website at www.loweschapel.com or call the church at (256) 695-9104.

Lowe's Chapel United Methodist Church is located at 460 Sanderson Road, Huntsville, Ala. The pastor is Rev. Waymond K. Smith.



UTC: Daniel Brett, senior football standout at Madison Academy, signed with the Mocs of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on Wednesday, February 6.

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## Epsilon Gamma Omega Target 2: Heart Health “AKA Pink Goes Red”

A long tradition for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is to wear the color pink, but in February members of Epsilon Gamma Omega joined millions of Americans in the fight against heart disease in women by wearing RED!

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, is proud to join the American Heart Association in the fight against heart disease in order to improve the health of all women.

On this special day, Alpha Kappa Alpha women will take off pink and wear red for the day to raise aware-

ness of this deadly disease and promote life changes that will increase the longevity and quality of the lives of women around the globe.

The committee provided donations of various healthy snacks, juice, and water to the Huntsville Hospital/Heart Institute and The Huntsville Hospital Foundation for family members of patients. Both organizations were presented the various snacks, juice, and water at Huntsville Hospital (Main) and the Heart Institute (3rd Floor). There were representatives from both agencies



present as Dr. Cheryl R. Davis, president, presented the item donation forms with over \$600 in food contributions.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

### “FROM BITTER TO BETTER”

Hebrews 12:14-15 says, “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

As we celebrate Black History Month, we should all know that we as African American people have gone through some things that would make anybody bitter. As a matter of fact, we are still going through some things that can make us bitter. Today, I believe that one of the main problems that we face in the world is bitterness. For whatever reason, bitterness has a tendency



to raise its ugly head and causes us all kinds of trouble. From missed calls, (sorry Saints Fans), to misunderstandings, bitterness is so prevalent today. Now we all need to understand that bitterness is caused by hurt. And, hurting people will hurt other people. But the

problems come when they won't let it go. So how do we as a human race go from being bitter to being better? I believe that it can be found in this scripture. The writer of Hebrews tells us in this short passage four things that we need to do, to go from being bitter to being better. First, He says “Be at peace with everyone.” In other words, we need to pursue peace on purpose. Next, He says to be holy because God is holy. You see, we can't be hateful and holy at the same time. It just won't

work. Then, He tells us to stay in God's grace because so often we may think that we can handle the bitterness that we have in our own strength, but we need God's grace to reveal our short comings. Then He tells us to not allow any bitterness to “fester” inside of us and grow. It's always better to handle something in an “infant” stage rather than when it is fully grown and hard to deal with. Because if we don't suppress the bitterness inside of us it will “come out” and cause trouble that will affect so many people. Just look at how things today have gone from bad to worst and it can all be attributed to bitterness. You know I heard someone say that “bitterness blows out the candle of joy and leaves the soul in darkness”. So as we honor Black History month, let us all work on going from bitter to better ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper

A lifelong resident, Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper was born in Huntsville, Ala., as one of two children of the late Mary E. Lewis and Anderson Lewis, on July 27, 1927. At 91 years of age, she is steadfast and unmovable in her relationship to her Lord and Savior and is committed to fulfilling His will.

She completed and received her License Practical Nursing (LPN) in 1971. Mrs. Draper absolutely loved nursing! She knew that she had found her true calling. Armed with this passion and a belief that she could excel even more, she enrolled at Calhoun Community College in the Registered Nursing Program in 1972. Despite her persistence, Ms. Draper was unable to com-

plete her program due to her commitment to take care of her ill mother. But she never gave up on her dream. She later completed her course work at Huntsville Hospital to receive her Advanced LPN license.

Mrs. Draper was employed at Huntsville Hospital for 27 years, working in several departments, but her absolute favorite was working in the nursery. There were numerous times that Mrs. Draper even worked through severe winter weather. When the

roads were deemed unsafe for driving, she was provided her very own personal escort service by none other than

the Huntsville Police Department!


After retiring from Huntsville Hospital, she worked 12 more years as a private nurse at Carlton Cove and an additional

nine years at

Stewart-Wakefield Loving Home Inc.

Mrs. Draper has made it her life's mission to help others with her wisdom, humor, empathy, and to share the good news of the Gospel.





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## The Valley Weekly

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# From the Editor

## Ahhh, Monroeville!

If you missed "To Kill A Mockingbird" at The Playhouse, you missed a treat of excellent local talent and Alabama history. Monroeville native Harper Lee's story-line is central to a monumental literary legacy, and her hometown has no shortage of accomplishments and excellence.

Many of you have heard of **Marva Collins**, who grew up in Monroeville's Clausell Quarters Community. She was an educator extraordinaire. She started the Chicago Preparatory School, a school for African-American children who had been diagnosed with learning disabilities, emotional disabilities and other issues that challenged mainstream schools beyond their limits. Marva demonstrated that all children can be successful, regardless of their learning styles, disabilities or socio-economic backgrounds. When she passed away, she was considered a legend and one of Monroeville's favorite daughters.

Similarly, **Cynthia Tucker** left Monroe County High School after college and studied journalism at the University of Alabama. She was a successful syndicated journalist and served at the editorial page editor for the Atlanta-Journal Constitution for many years. Her late father, John Tucker, was my elementary principal and her mother, Mary Tucker, was my high school English teacher.

**Dr. Prince Preyer** is a son of Monroeville. He was the first African-American county commissioner in Huntsville. He served as a professor and Department Chairman of Agribusiness at AAMU. He started what is known as the "community garden" on the campus of AAMU, which is still operating today as part of District 6 of the Madison County Commission. His sister, **Ann Warren**, is a retired professor of Nutrition and Dietetics at AAMU. She operates a successful catering business. Actually, she catered our wedding reception at First Missionary Baptist Church 37 years ago.

The late **W. A. Rice** taught at Monroeville High School prior to moving his family to Huntsville to take a job with the Cooperative Extension Program at AAMU. Also, he had a successful photography business, a skill that he taught one of his sons, **Carlton Rice**--who is an engineer by day and photographer on evenings and weekends. His eldest son, **Michael Rice**, is pastor of Grace Gethsemane Mission Church and served as pastor of Hurricane Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for many years.

Commissioner **JesHenry Malone** and his wife, **Tabitha Williams Malone**, both grew up in Monroeville. A Marine, Malone is the first African-American Captain on the Huntsville Police Department's staff. He was appointed as County Commissioner by Governor Kay Ivey for District 6 when Commissioner Bob Harrison passed away last year.

My sister, **Mary Rodgers Hurt**, came to AAMU from Monroeville as the first person in our family to attend college. Mentored by the late Dr. Abigail Hobson in home economics, Mary served as Director of the Child Development Center, was an assistant professor in Home Economics, and worked with mentor and family friend, the late Dr. James I. Dawson to write the proposal to establish the 1890 Cooperative Extension Program at AAMU. She retired from Auburn University several years ago.

This past week, **Dr. James Thompson** was eulogized at First Missionary Baptist Church. A former scientist at DuPont, Thompson is credited with several patents and two chemistry textbooks. He also was a doctoral student under Nobel Laureate Richard Heck. After retiring from AAMU, he continued to write and was working on his third book. He was a trailblazer in several black chemists organization and was revered by fellow faculty members, colleagues and former students.

Even in a town where justice was denied and captured in one of literature's greatest novels, some of us managed to escape with the help of determined parents and an extra dose of tenacity and determination. This is a place where teachers were our "Sheroes and Heroes." I knew a few school principals who were African-American males; however, I had no knowledge of a black doctor, lawyer, dentist, engineer or scientist. The people I mention here are just a few of the success stories. There are scores and scores of people and stories I could share but space will not allow me to do so here.

Enjoy the rest of February. It's *still* Black History Month--a time of sharing and caring about the contributions of African-Americans to this country. I believe we should celebrate *everyday*. The more we know and care about each other, the more we can embrace and appreciate our differences. It's all good. Until next week ...



## Small Town's Major Impact on the Valley



*Dorothy*



## Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

AAMU Public Relations Office

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Briar Fork CP Church

Bryant Bank - Church Street

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

Fellowship of Faith Church

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Health Unlimited

House of Hope and Restoration

Huntsville Bible College

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Lucky's Supermarket

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

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Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## Selma Readies for 54th Bridge Crossing Jubilee

The 54th Anniversary Bridge Crossing Jubilee will be held in Selma, Ala., March 1-3, with an extensive slate of activities.

This weekend is a commemoration of the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" and the Selma to Montgomery March. Activities include a pageant, a dance, women and youth conferences, a parade, festival, interfaith service and National Voting Rights



Hall of Fame induction. Visit [www.selmajubilee.com](http://www.selmajubilee.com) for more information.

## African-American CEO to Head Chamber Board

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce has installed Kim Caudle-Lewis, CEO of Project XYZ, as the 2019 Board Chair. Caudle-Lewis received the Board Chair gavel from 2018 outgoing Board Chair Gary Bolton, president of Adtran.

Keeping pace with the economic development projects occurring in the community, Lewis started her term with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Blue Origin facility that will be located in Cummings Research Park. She was joined by Alabama's



Photo: Jeff White

U.S. Senator Doug Jones, U.S. Congressman Mo Brooks, Governor Kay Ivey, Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

## Engineering Week Banquet Scheduled

The 2019 Engineers Week Banquet will be held Thursday, February 21, at The Jackson Center, at 6 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Juanita Christensen,

SES, executive director, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC). E-mail [kimberly.n.battle@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.n.battle@gmail.com).

## NHCUA, GHIMF Hold Town Hall

The North Huntsville Community United for Action (NHCUA) and the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF) (community groups composed of pastors, ministers, black elected officials, community leaders, and others residing in North Huntsville) recently held a town hall meeting.

The meeting was held Tuesday, February 12, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America.

The purpose of this meeting was to inform the public of the missions of the organizations and how they will team to assist the community in identifying issues that impact their lives and seek solutions to improve conditions.

NHCUA consists of five committees that are instrumental in impacting North Huntsville. Those committees are Education, Economic Development, Family, Political Awareness and Social Justice. The event focused on the clari-

fication of the committees' goals and planned activities for thorough knowledge of the operations of NHCUA through its' committees.

The North Huntsville Community United for Action is Huntsville's largest community-oriented group composed of pastors, ministers, black elected officials, community leaders, parents and residents in North Huntsville.

For more information, call Rev. Oscar Montgomery, (256) 508-0261 or Alice Sams, (256) 658-0313.

## The 13th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

# 2019



Mrs. Jacquelyn K. Bennett

Mrs. Gladys Branch

Elder John Branch

Rev. Ethel Y. Delaney

Mrs. Carolyn Rice Florence

Mrs. Josephine Scruggs

Mrs. Kathy Steja

Mother Elizabeth Smith

- Also Honoring Pioneers -  
Deacon Robert Jackson  
Mrs. Elaine Plank  
Mrs. Josephine Robinson  
Mr. Eugene Dick Scruggs, Sr.



**Save the Date!**

Saturday, March 9, 2019

The Jackson Center

6001 Moquin Drive (Cummings Research Park)  
Huntsville, Alabama

**12 Noon**

Tickets: \$50/Each

For additional information, call Linda Burruss at (256) 536-9717



## The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

### February 14

Valentine's Day Dance  
Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness & Advocacy Center  
6156 Pulaski Pike  
6-9 p.m.  
\$50, couples; \$30, singles  
Tickets: (256) 519-2040

### February 15

Dancing with the President and First Lady  
Alabama A&M University Knight Center - \$10, \$25  
7 p.m.

### February 18

"Still Standing: The Fifth Little Girl of the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing"  
Lakeside United Methodist Church  
3738 Meridian Street  
5 p.m.

### February 19

"Education Choice Summit"  
Featuring  
Dr. Steve Perry  
Author, Speaker and Educator  
Calhoun Community College-Huntsville Campus Student Center  
5:30-8 p.m.

### February 22-23

Midwest Invitational Rodeo  
Alabama A&M University Agribition Center

### February 28

Second Annual "Day of Action" Nonprofit and Community Rainbow of Knowledge Fair  
Huntsville Marriott at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
4:30 p.m.

### March 9

13th Annual Rosetta James "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration Luncheon  
The Jackson Center  
6001 Moquin Drive (Cummings Research Park)  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12 noon

### March 11

Experience Hendrix  
Von Braun Center Concert Hall

### April 4

The Future & Beyond Diversity & Inclusion Symposium  
TBA

## 2nd Annual Super Hero Event Scheduled

As preparations are being made for the 2nd Annual Super Hero SHINDIG coming up on Friday, May 3, help is needed

The nomination form for the Super Hero awards is open on the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) website at the following link: <http://www.nationalcac.org/superheronominations/>.

Please forward the e-mail to friends, family, and everyone else. Ask them to nominate someone – and feel free to nominate someone yourself! The process to nominate is super easy and won't take long at all.

Categories for nominees are:

Education  
Medical  
Military  
Community Advocacy



NCAC is looking for people outside of its team, regular everyday heroes working in the community.

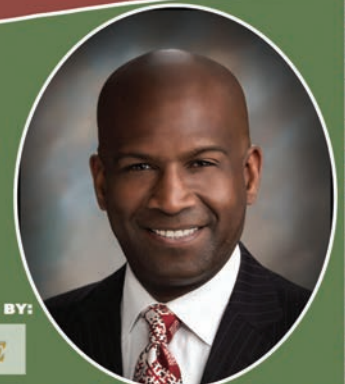
There are some minor details for all nominees. Among these are:

- 1) they must be living in Madison County;
- 2) must be 21 or older; and
- 3) must be actively (or retired) working in the category for which they are nominated.

The deadline to nominate for Super Heroes is Friday, March 1.

## Black History Celebration

PLACE:  
BUILDING 300  
DATE:  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH  
TIME:  
11:30 A.M.



SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY:

**ALPHA ENSEMBLE**

Keynote Speaker  
Commissioner JesHenry Malone  
Madison County, District Six

[drakestate.edu](http://drakestate.edu)



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# Valley Deaths

## - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. BYRON EUGENE GREEN (b. 1962) will be Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Fort Payne, AL (location to be announced later).

Funeral service for MR. JAMES FORD (b. 1937) was held Sunday, February 10, at St. James Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES E. FEARN (b. 1951) was held Saturday, February 9, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Howard Fearn officiating.

Funeral service for MS. MARGARET BAKER (b. 1941) was held Friday, February 8, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for DR. JAMES M. THOMPSON (b. 1938) was held Thursday, February 7, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

## - Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. GEORGE THOMAS DOUGLASS (1948) will be held at 12 p.m., Friday, February 15, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (1055 Hughes Road, Madison, Ala.).

Graveside service for MRS. MARY ELIZABETH NANCE (b. 1932) was held Sunday, February 10, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MOLLIE BRADLEY (b. 1932) was held Sunday, February 10, at Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church (5500 Adventist Drive Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Gary Jones officiating and Pastor Larry Bailey eulogist.

Funeral service MOTHER EARNESTINE G. GRAHAM (b. 1930) was held Sunday, February 10, at Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church (330 Grimwood Road Hazel Green, Ala.) with Elder Perry Clark officiating.

Funeral service MR. GEORGE THOMAS DOUGLASS (b. 1948) was held Friday, February 8, at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church (1055 Hughes Road, Madison, Ala.) with Father Bryan Lowe officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ROBERTA MOTT JOHNSON (b. 1939) was held Sunday, February 3, at Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church (14204 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Damon Betts officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLES THOMAS HOLLEY (1946) was held Saturday, February 2, at New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (28520 Wall Street, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Terry Bennett officiating.

## - Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. PEARL WALKER (b. 1930) (b. 1947) was held Saturday, February 2, at Serenity Funeral Home (2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ROSETTA TOWNSEND (b. 1942) was held on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 11:00a.m. at Union Hill CPCA (3126 Nevell Drive NW, Huntsville, AL) with Rev. Dr. Edward L. Anderson officiating.

## Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice  
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

## Look Now Toward Heaven

When God said these words to Abraham, the discussion, at least from Abraham's view, was about an heir. The particular point that Abraham made was that he didn't have, not only a son, he didn't have a child at all, male or female. What God showed him, however, had nothing to do, seemingly, with children. Instead God showed him stars. That's as far a contrast as heaven and earth. (The record does show that God says that His ways and thoughts are higher than those of humans as the heavens are higher than the earth.) God could have shown

him in a dream, the son that he was going to have, but instead He showed Him stars. When Abraham looked up, God said to him that if he were able to

count the stars, that would be the number of his descendants and he said that to Abram (high father), before he was renamed Abraham (father of many). Could it be that the look toward heaven was the answer to Abram's dilemma? Could it be that God showed him the



stars as a way to give Abraham something to see as He developed his faith?

The Bible is replete with God using visible objects to symbolize things not yet seen. He will start where we are in order to eventually get us use to looking toward heaven. Once it's a habit only a word from heaven is needed for us to act upon it.

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## Huntsville City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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(256) 539-9441



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MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
11:00AM UNTIL 2:00 PM



# Washington in One Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., for this week's edition.

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The 17 bipartisan House and Senate conferees on the FY2019 Homeland Security Appropriations conference have until this Friday to reach a deal to keep the government open before temporary funding expires and Congress adjourns for next week's Presidents' Day Recess. According to multiple reports, the conferees have hit a snag over negotiating a cap on beds at immigration detention facilities, but before things broke down they were near agreement on an additional \$2 billion for border security, including "barriers," which might have also included language nullifying the Trump Administration's asylum policy which forces asylum seekers

to wait in Mexico while their paperwork is processed. The House, among other bills, will take up a bill to cut off U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen's civil war ...

2. President Trump travelled to El Paso, Tex., for a rally in support of his plan to build a border wall. On Tuesday, he hosted a Cabinet meeting at the White House. On Wednesday, he hosted Colombian President Ivan Duque Marquez and First Lady Maria Juliana Ruiz Sandoval at the White House for a meeting and a working lunch ...

3. Last Thursday, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA) introduced a resolution in Congress, providing the goals for their "Green New Deal," which includes a bold

goal of attaining 100% renewable/zero-emission power production in the U.S. in 10 years (note: the U.S. Energy Information Agency reported that in 2017 renewable energy was 11% of the nation's total energy consumption). The House bill has 67 co-sponsors. It also includes:

- Upgrading all existing building to energy efficiency standards;
- Eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in the farming sector;
- Reducing emissions in the transportation sector;
- A guaranteed family-sustaining minimum wage, and
- Quality health care for all.

4. Last Thursday in a bit of a surprise ruling, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 (with Chief Justice John Roberts joining the liberal justices) to order a stay of a Louisiana law that would have closed 2 of the 3 remaining abortion clinics in the state by requiring that doctors performing abortions have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. The court is likely to hear a challenge to the law on the merits in its 2019-2020 term. The Louisiana law is similar to a Texas anti-abortion law that was invalidated in 2016. Newly-installed Justice Brett Kavanaugh dissented, saying that the court

had acted too precipitously in finding that the other abortion doctors would not be able to gain the required admitting privileges. The case is June Medical Services v. Gee.

5. Democrats, including House Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee ranking member Patty Murray (D-WA), are insisting that the next bill reauthorizing the Higher Education Act

(HEA) be a comprehensive measure, including more aid to students, addressing college affordability and debt issues, campus sexual assault, hazing, and regulations on for-profit colleges. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) stated last week that he wants to see new, comprehensive higher education legislation by the end of the year. However, he said that if his panel cannot agree on a sweeping bill, he would be willing to move forward

on individual issues where there is bipartisan support. One of his biggest priorities is simplifying the form students must use to apply for grants and loans they need to attend college. Senator Alexander urgently wants to pass a new HEA bill before the end of the year since he will be retiring after 2020.

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# Flip-flops: OK for Beach ... but Bad for Politics, Our Lives

by tim allston

"If you don't have all the wisdom needed for this journey, then all you have to do is ask God for it; and God will grant all that you need. He gives lavishly and never scolds you for asking. 6 The key is that your request be anchored by your single-minded commitment to God.

Those who depend only on their own judgment are like those lost on the seas, carried away by any wave or picked up by any wind"

- James 1:5,6  
The Voice Bible

While scientists acknowledge that beach flip-flops can be changed easily and require no tying and untying, they offer little or no foot support, cause blisters and induce lots of sweating.

Similarly, over these past two months, political flip-flops have caused lots of blisters, lacked support, and created tons of sweating.

## The Flip-Flop of the Month Club

· (December) Right-wing-pressured, President Trump flip-flopped on his budget support, causing a 35-day federal government shutdown and approximately \$11 billion in lost wages;

· (January) Birmingham's Civil Rights Institute invited initially native icon Angela Davis to be feted, then dis-invited her (flip), only now to re-invite her (flip); and

· (February) When presented his 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook on which his

page featured two partiers dressed each in blackface and KKK garb, Virginia Gov. Wortham acknowledged initially himself as "one of those persons," only to deny it the following day!

## What the Problem here?

Why do we flip-flop politically, socially, spiritually, etc.? There's nothing wrong with changing our minds - after all, we each average nearly 2M daily thoughts, from which we make approximately 35,000 decisions.

Perhaps you and I err in ignoring our Bible text's opening line: "If you don't have all the wisdom needed for this journey, then all you have to do is ask God for it; and God will grant all that you need;"

Too often, we "politicians" hunger to please people (who can grant us neither heaven nor hell) more than to please God (who can grant us heaven!).

## Tired of doing the "flip-flop"?

Follow this winning three-

step dance:

1. Like Jesus, get your early-morning marching orders from God (Mark 1:35); he did not trust even his own thoughts, plans, actions or words but, instead, submitted to "The key is that your request be anchored by your single-minded commitment to God." . . . (v.6);

2. Delay starting your day with your Facebook notifications, coffee, ESPN, MSNBC, or even stretching exercises and, instead, petition God, who "gives lavishly and never scolds you for asking" (v.5);

3. Then, avoid the "flip-flop" dance floor or, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock."

CAUTION: Leave the flip-flops to the beach!

tim allston is the author of the free book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else,"* free and downloadable now at [www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org).



## Saint Bartley: Preparing for Tomorrow

by Pastor Jaymes Mooney

Management guru and author Peter Drucker once wisely stated "The relevant question is not simply what shall we do tomorrow, but rather what shall we do today in order to get ready for tomorrow." I believe that way of thinking was ingrained in the hearts and minds of our ancestors that courageously sacrificed in their present to pave ways for the future. The institutions that were built in the late 19th century and early 20th Century were not simply built as monuments for present success, but they were built as gateways to a brighter future. Considering their efforts, service, and sacrifice I believe that it is of utmost importance that we follow in their footsteps of learning from the past, working in the present, and preparing for the future.

James Weldon Johnson masterfully described how the work of the ancestors has past, present, and future implications:

"Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us, sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us, facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won."

When I was asked to write this article, it caused me to reflect on how the lessons of

the past ultimately shape our progress for the future. I have the rare privilege of leading an institution whose founding extends back further than the late 19th century. The Huntsville African Baptist Church was founded in 1820 under the leadership of Elder William Harris in the Old Georgia Graveyard where the Huntsville Hospital parking lot now sits. This congregation was started in a graveyard because at the time it was the only place that Blacks could claim as their own.

The Huntsville African Baptist Church which would later be renamed as Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church is recognized as the Oldest African American congregation in the State of Alabama founded independently by Blacks. This congregation flourished and was a place of refuge for those who suffered great oppression and were treated as less than human. It is an institution, but more than that it is a living organism that has breathed life into citizens of Madison and Limestone County for nearly 200 years by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Records from the late 1800's show that Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church had a membership of over 2000 members before the turn of the century. Over its two-century history, the congregation has remained steady and stable with only nine pastors in 199 years.

In keeping with the theme of preparing for the future, our congregation is currently in the first phase of improving the current property at 3020 Belafonte Ave NW. While we had the opportunity to move out of our neighborhood, we made the conscious decision to stay in Love Subdivision/ Northwoods Homes. Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church has a track record of caring and ministering to those in need, and we desire

to continue that work starting with our own community. We believe that we are not here simply because we were forced to move in the 60's, but we believe that God has strategically placed us here to love and uplift our community. In his book *Brother West*, Dr. Cornel West writes "We have to recognize that there cannot be relationships unless there is commitment, unless there is loyalty, unless there is love, patience, persistence." We are seeking to build relationships in our community that demonstrate those qualities and that will ultimately lead to transformation.

Our current building is under construction. This is the first phase of a three-phase project that will assist us in our mission of "Meeting Needs and Making Disciples." While we are making the building safer, modernizing some areas aesthetically, and updating technology, we are still being very intentional about preserving some original features of the building particularly in the sanctuary. This has only been possible because of the grace of God. Saint Bartley members have responded to that grace with sacrifice and commitment. John Maxwell was correct in his observation that "Teamwork makes the dream work, but a vision becomes a nightmare when the leader has a big dream and a bad team."

While we are under construction we have been worshipping at the Dr. Mae Jemison Theater on the campus of Dr. Mae Jemison High School. This has been a wonderful experience thus far. We have been able to connect with people who live in the direct community of the school, and it has pushed us out of our comfort zone in a positive way. We will worship there through April, and we invite you to join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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