

**THE NEWS**  
of  
**East Washington Heights Baptist Church**

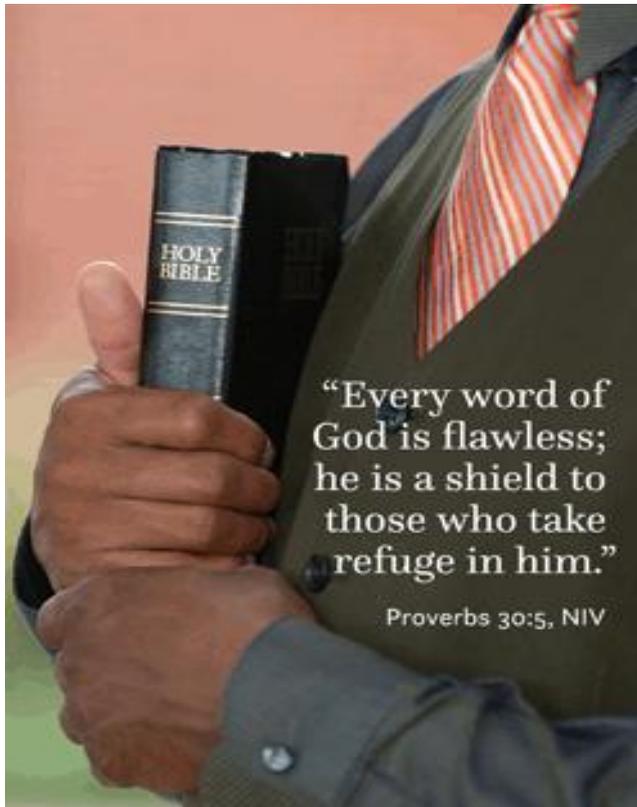
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Reverend Kip B. Banks Sr. Pastor

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## *The Pastor's Message*

### Lent and 40 Days of Transformation

*“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.” (Matthew 4:1,2)*

Greetings dearly beloved!

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 is “Ash Wednesday” and it marks the beginning of Lent. Lent, as you know, is a special forty-day season of preparation for Easter. It is during this time that we acknowledge our sinful nature, seek divine forgiveness, and reaffirm our covenant to walk humbly with God and justly with our neighbors. Lent is a time for us to take a closer walk with Jesus by practicing the spiritual disciplines: fasting, prayer, meditation, almsgiving, and sacrifice. It’s a time for us not just to give something up -- as is the common practice -- but also to add love, joy, patience, peace, kindness, self-control and forgiveness as essential elements of our daily lives.

In addition, as a component of the East Washington Heights Baptist Church’s Lenten observance, we will undertake a journey called 40 Days of Transformation. 40 Days of Transformation is a spiritual growth campaign designed to get us walking more closely with the Lord. The events of the Campaign will present opportunities to commit to habits of spiritual growth, memorize scripture, participate in a small group study or Sunday School fellowship, and to learn to live a lifestyle of worship to the glory of God.

Our journey will begin on February 10<sup>th</sup> and if you are in the Washington, DC area, we invite you to join with us. However, if you’re not in the Washington region, then we encourage you to journey along with us through cyberspace. There will be a daily devotional email centering-around the campaign themes.

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Kip Banks, Sr.

## **The Niagara Movement**

The Niagara Movement beginnings may be traced to the publication in 1903 of *The Souls of Black Folk* by W. E. B. Du Bois, the first black American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University. The book included an essay, 'Of Mr. Booker T. Washington, and Others,' which attacked Washington's Atlanta Compromise speech and accused him of abandoning the fight for black political rights and accepting segregation in exchange for illusory economic gains.

In 1905, Du Bois and several other black supporters wishing to meet gathered at Niagara Falls, on the Canadian side since no hotel on the American side would allow them to register. They drafted a list of demands that included an end to segregation and to discrimination in unions, the courts, and public accommodations, as well as equality of economic and educational opportunity.

Although the Niagara movement attracted the attention of like-minded whites, it had little impact on legislative or popular opinion. But after race riots in Springfield, Illinois, in 1909, a group of white progressives, including the social worker Jane Addams, the philosopher John Dewey, the novelist William Dean Howells, and the editor Oswald Garrison Villard, a grandson of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

They adopted many of the goals of the Niagara movement and hired its leader, Du Bois, as director of publicity and research, and editor of their journal, *Crisis*.

**The Reader's Companion to American History. Eric Foner and John A. Garraty, Editors. Copyright © 1991 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.**

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## **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was one of the earliest and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States. During its early years, the NAACP focused on legal strategies designed to confront the critical civil rights issues of the day. They called for federal anti-lynching laws and coordinated a series of challenges to state-sponsored segregation in public schools, an effort that led to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared the doctrine of "separate but equal" to be unconstitutional.

Though other civil rights groups emerged in the 1950s and 1960s, the NAACP retained a prominent role within the movement, co-organizing the 1963 March on Washington, and successfully lobbying for legislation that resulted in the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Act.

## Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in by Chief Justice Earl Warren, as the first black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on October 2, 1967. As chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the 1940s and '50s, Marshall was the architect and executor of the legal strategy that ended the era of official racial segregation.

The great-grandson of a slave, Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland. After being rejected by the University of Maryland Law School because of his race, he was accepted at Howard University in Washington, D.C. At Howard, he studied under the tutelage of civil liberties lawyer Charles H. Houston and in 1933 graduated first in his class. In 1936, he joined the legal division of the NAACP, of which Houston was director, and two years later succeeded his mentor in the organization's top legal post.

As the NAACP's chief counsel from 1938 to 1961, he argued more than a dozen cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, successfully challenging racial segregation, most notably in public education. He won nearly all of these cases, including a groundbreaking victory in 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that segregation violated the equal rights clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and was thus illegal. The decision served as a great impetus for the civil rights movement and ultimately led to the abolishment of segregation in all public facilities and accommodations.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall to the U.S. Court of Appeals, but his nomination was opposed by many Southern senators, and he was not confirmed until the following year. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Marshall to be solicitor general of the United States. In this position, he again successfully argued cases before the Supreme Court, this time on behalf of the U.S. government.

On June 13, 1967, Johnson nominated Marshall to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark. After a heated debate, the Senate confirmed Marshall's nomination by a vote of 69 to 11 on August 30. Marshall was sworn in to the nation's highest court at the opening ceremony of the Supreme Court term on October 2.

During his 24 years on the high court, Associate Justice Marshall consistently challenged discrimination based on race or sex, opposed the death penalty, and vehemently defended affirmative action. As appointments by a largely Republican White House changed the ideology of the Supreme Court, Marshall found his liberal views increasingly in the minority. He retired in 1991 because of declining health and died in 1993. [On This Day](#) [History.com](#)

# THE NEWS

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## February Events

- Transfiguration of Our Lord, Sunday, February 7
  - Boy Scout Sunday, February 7
  - Ash Wednesday Service, February 10, 7:00PM
  - 40 Days of Transformation, Starting Wednesday, February 10
  - First Sunday in Lent, February 14
  - Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14
  - President's Day, Monday, February 15 (Office Closed)
  - Missions Night Out, Black History Month, Wednesday, February 17, 7:00PM
  - Second Sunday in Lent, February 21
  - EWHBC Annual Gospel Choir Concert, Sunday, February 21, 3:30PM
  - Third Sunday in Lent, February 28
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## God's Perfect Timing

After serving as a missionary with her husband for 20 years, L.B. Cowman compiled the widely read devotional *Streams in the Desert*. Below are two insights from Cowman about the need for patience:

"God is never an instant too late. He may keep us from the knowledge of what he is going to do; but he always has his perfect plans successfully made. All we need to do is to put ourselves wholly in his hands, ask his guidance, follow his leadings, and count confidently upon his blessings."

When I cannot understand my Father's leading,  
And it seems to be but hard and cruel fate,  
Still I hear that gentle whisper ever pleading,  
God is working, God is faithful, ONLY WAIT.

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## Send a Card to Someone

This month, send a "Thinking of You" card to the sick and shut-ins on the EWHBC Remembrance List and to friends and family members who are ill.

## Valentine's Day

In the early Christian church, there were three priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints. Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do people mail more greeting cards. No matter how many cards, flowers or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured that God loves you with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3, NRSV).

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## Thoughts for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, is a time when thoughts turn to love. But what is love? Is it a box of chocolates, or a pretty valentine? Is it a red rose, or maybe a dozen? Is it a peck on the cheek, a fond embrace, or a big bear hug?

Sometimes love is known in those ways. But love, real love, is how we relate to God and to one another.

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*Happy Anniversary to all who were married in February*

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*Happy Birthday to all who were born in February*

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## Love is Powerful

Love has the power to change the world. It was love that prompted God to create the world. It was love that caused Him to send Jesus to save it. When you love others, anything is possible.

## Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass (1818-95) was a prominent American abolitionist, author, and orator. Born a slave, Douglass escaped at age 20 and went on to become a world-renowned anti-slavery activist. His three autobiographies are considered important works of the slave narrative tradition as well as classics of American autobiography. Douglass' work as a reformer ranged from his abolitionist activities in the early 1840s to his attacks on Jim Crow and lynching in the 1890s. For 16 years he edited an influential black newspaper and achieved international fame as an inspiring and persuasive speaker and writer. In thousands of speeches and editorials, he levied a powerful indictment against slavery and racism, provided an indomitable voice of hope for his people, embraced antislavery politics and preached his own brand of American ideals.

David W. Blight, *Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee* (1989); Waldo E. Martin, *The Mind of Frederick Douglass* (1984).

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### Did You Know?

After his autobiography was published, Frederick Douglass went on a two-year speaking tour in Great Britain and Ireland in order to avoid recapture by his former owner, whose name and location Douglass had mentioned in the narrative.

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## Knowing God

God cares about how we live. And a relationship with God naturally will flow out in daily attitudes and actions. So if you look good, you are good, right? Well, maybe not.

Knowing God can lead to a positive lifestyle, but the reverse isn't true. Our outward actions alone don't prove that we enjoy an inward relationship with God. Just because we do good doesn't mean we know the One who is good.

—Craig Groeschel, *The Christian Athiest: Believing in God But Living As If He Doesn't Exist*

