

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

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*"To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

*Mark 12:33*

# THE NEWS

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## **The Pastor's Message**

### **The New African American Museum: We've Come This Far by Faith**

One of the most exciting experiences for me this past fall was visiting the new National Museum of African-American History and Culture (NMAAHC). I can still feel the excitement I felt the first day it opened and I walked through its doors. In light of this being the first Black History Month we have with the museum being open, I can't help but reflect on some of the most meaningful aspects of my visits to the museum.

The museum has three main galleries: a history gallery; a community gallery and a cultural gallery. The centerpiece of the history gallery and the center piece of the entire museum is the exhibit about *Slavery and Freedom*. This exhibit, found on the bottom floor of the museum reveals the evil of the Atlantic slave trade, slavery in America and goes through the Civil War.

While visiting this exhibit, I reflected upon the question, how is it that African-Americans made it through slavery? Two items in the exhibit make it clear that it was by faith. One item is the great freedom fighter Harriet Tubman's hymnbook. Harriet Tubman made many journeys to free slaves, singing songs of faith on their way to freedom.

Another item in the *Slavery and Freedom* Exhibit is Nat Turner's Bible. This bible reminded me that even though most slaves were illiterate, they knew the stories of the Bible. They knew about Moses and his going down to Pharaoh to tell him to let God's people go. They knew about Joshua fighting the Battle of Jericho and about the walls that came tumbling down. These stories and songs gave them hope and this hope along with prayers kept them, and sustained until that day when God set them free.

The exhibit on slavery is critical to understanding America today because slavery is America's original sin, and much of the troubles that we currently see in our nation, stem directly from slavery. In fact, Nancy Bercau the *Slavery and Freedom* exhibits curator said, "Slavery is not really that distant. Slavery is a living presence that's being passed down - the knowledge of it, the memory of it - from generation to generation."

I could go on and on about my visit to the NMAAHC as there is so much to view and reflect upon while there. I've been to the museum two times and am looking forward to many more visits. I trust that during Black History Month, you will take advantage of a visit to this museum or other opportunities to celebrate our history...looking back with faith and forward with hope.

*Pastor Kip Banks, Sr. is Senior Pastor of the East Washington Heights Baptist Church*

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## **A Group Activity**

A Group Activity [The Greek] word for church, ekklesia, was used at the time of Jesus to refer to the “calling out” of citizens for a civic meeting or for battle, and is employed in one form or another in both the Old and New Testaments to refer to the people of God, assembled together. So church is, essentially, a gathering of kingdom citizens, called out — from their individuality, from their sins, from their old ways of doing things, from the world’s way of doing things — into participation in this new kingdom and community with one another. I’m not exactly sure how all this works, but I think, ultimately, it means I can’t be a Christian on my own. Like it or not, following Jesus is a group activity, something we’re supposed to do together.

**-Rachel Held Evans, Searching for Sunday**

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## **Do You Know Me?**

Do you know me? Do I know you? How long has it been since we have talked to each other? If you are not sure about the answer to these questions, do something about it. Look in your church directory and call the persons whose names are listed before and after yours, especially if you haven’t seen them lately. If that person is not available, call the next person listed. Unprecedented Love Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon.

God has nothing but the best, and he offers it to us, weeds us, sustains us, and cares for us through his Son. That’s the way our hearts are changed to follow Christ.

**-Martin Luther**

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*Happy Anniversary to all who were married in February!*

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# THE NEWS

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**“WHAT’S GOING TO BE THE CHANGE FOR THE NEW YEAR?”**

**2017 CHURCH THEME: “THE YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION”**

**EVERY YEAR THERE IS THIS TRADITION IN AMERICA IN WHICH A PERSON TRIES TO CHANGE AN UNDESIRED TRAIT OR CERTAIN BEHAVIOR THAT EITHER DISPLEASES THEM OR THEY FEEL IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT.**

**WHERE IS GOD IN THE CHOICES OR MOVES THAT YOU MAKE?**

**THIS MONTH WE ARE GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT TRANSFORMING OUR HEALTH AND BODIES (JAN-FEB)**

- CHURCH-WIDE FAST & BIGGEST LOSER CAMPAIGN**
- HEALTH SCREENING, MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP**
- WEEKLY UPDATES ABOUT HEALTH & WHOLENESS (DIABETES, FITNESS, ETC.)**
- PLANS MADE TO PLANT EWHBC HERB GARDEN**
- BEGIN RECYCLING CAMPAIGN**
- CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT**
- PREACHING SERIES ON MOSES & TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP**



## Special dates in February 2017

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Feb. 5 - Super Bowl Sunday! Wear your favorite team shirts/jerseys*

*Feb. 8 - Ash Wednesday 40 days of Transformation at 7:00pm*

*Feb. 14 - Valentines Day*

*Feb. 15 - Black History Night out at 6:30pm*

*Feb. 18 - Connections at 11:30am*

*Feb 20. Presidents Day*

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## The Beauty of Growing Old

How beautifully leaves grow old," wrote 19th-century essayist John Burroughs. "How full of light and color are their last days." Society doesn't think highly of old age. Beauty products tout the supposed virtues of maintaining a youthful appearance. Older adults' wisdom, born of much life experience, is often disparaged, ignored, or not sought. But God says this about the righteous, whose lives are rooted in him: "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright" (Psalm 92:14-15, NRSV). The aging leaves of autumn can prompt us to look for beauty in the seniors among us, to notice the light and color that still abound. From all the fruit they still produce — service, prayer, love — may we learn about living faithfully until our own last days. \_\_Heidi Man

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## *Ponder This!*

### **Tips for All Church Members**

- Look for the good in the church and you will find far more good than bad.
- Take the initiative in getting acquainted. Be friendly. Look friendly (smile), others will be friendly, too.
- Learn all you can about your church (present and past), your denomination, and other Christian groups.
- Attend as many services led by your church as you can fit into your schedule, giving special attention to the hour of worship.
- Discover whatever forms of devotional life, Bible study, and prayer best suits your needs and give time daily to it.
- Make a financial pledge to the church. Let your tithe be the minimum. Give graciously from your heart.
- Consider yourself an evangelist and work to bring others to Christ and to church.
- Accept a position of responsibility when asked to do so. If no request comes, then volunteer.
- Specialize in one phase of church work and become an expert in that field.
- Welcome guests and new members to help them feel at home. Also, introduce them to others.
- Let your life be a worthy example to anyone who may be following in your footsteps.

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*Happy Birthday to all who were born in February!*

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Have an article you would like posted in the newsletter? Speak with Lynne Wiggins-Lindsey for your submission!

