theENCOURAGERmagazine

Dec 2017



COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH



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ISSUE THEME: New Beginnings

How does this theme impact you today?

The concept of new beginnings is embedded in the core of my being as a Christian. From the day I first received Christ as my Savior and began to learn about Him, new beginnings became a concept that has constantly lived in my spirit. As I read the Bible I see righteous men of old experiencing the realization that they need new beginnings because of the awesomeness of God. While I strive to be like Christ, I am constantly aware that in many ways I come short. I, like Paul, say I have not yet arrived, but I am striving and am constantly forgetting the things which are behind, stretching forth by faith for a new beginning. Every day I seek a new beginning. It is part of my life. The ultimate impact of the concept of new beginnings is to remind me that I have not yet reached my goal. Each day, I start anew. Each day is a new beginning.

Favorite Scripture: John 15:7

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Favorite Song: "It Is Well"











ISSUE THEME: New Beginnings

How does this theme impact you today?

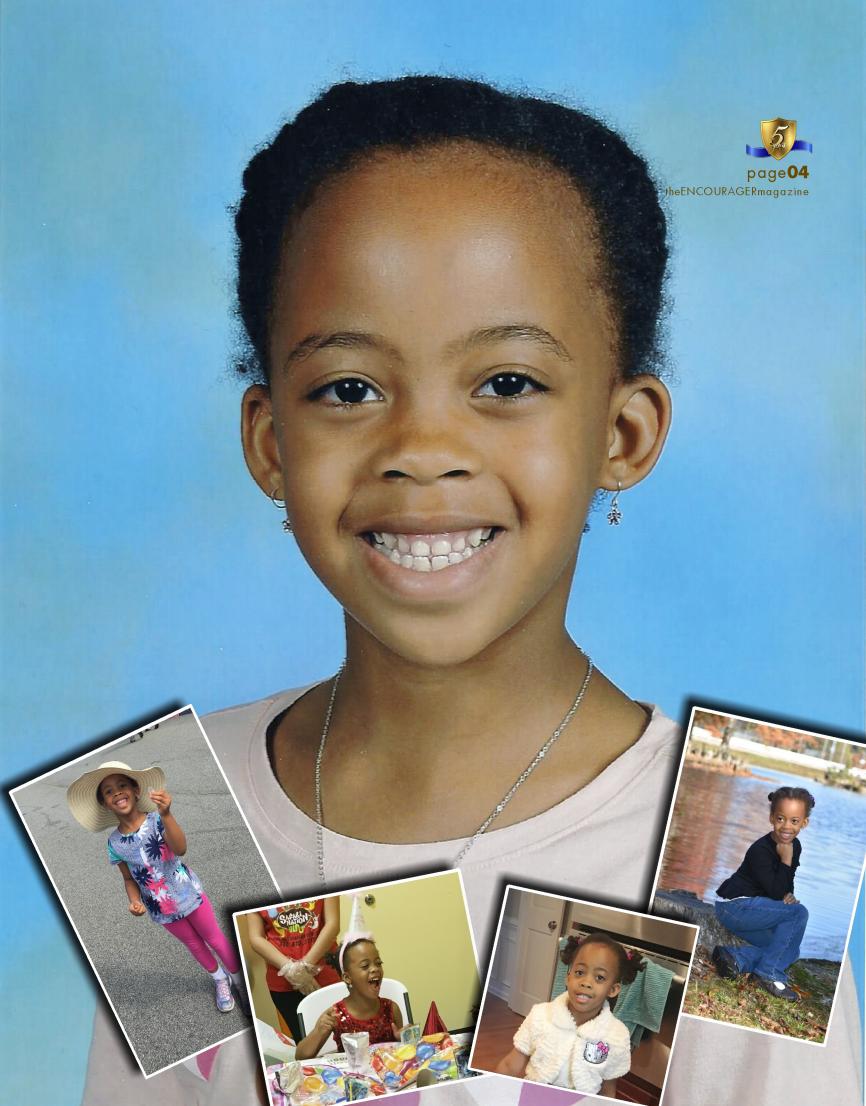
Over the past five years I have experienced many new beginnings. I am in the first grade at Winston Salem Christian School. I play soccer, basketball, and take ballet and voice lessons. I am an active little girl who loves to try new things. I love God and I told my Mommy and Daddy that I am thankful for Him during our family Thanksgiving prayer.

Favorite Scripture: Psalms 24

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. 3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Favorite Song: "Yes Jesus Loves Me"









APRIL**2012**

ISSUE THEME: Faithfulness

How does this theme impact you today?

The article in which I was featured appeared to focus on my faithfulness. However, I would like to direct that focus to where it belongs - the faithfulness of the Lord. He is to be praised for His steadfastness and unwavering commitment. Over the past few years, I have faced many challenges to my faithfulness. I was wrongfully and maliciously accused of ethics violations, was marginalized, experienced discrimination and disappointment. These difficulties would, at times, temporarily obscure my view of the Lord and make me wonder if "my change" would ever come. However, even when I had doubts, was fearful and became discouraged, the Lord never left me. During these tests of my faith, I experienced this truth – the Lord is faithful, and will keep his covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9). While our faithfulness at its best, appears to be nothing when compared to that of the Lord, His Word lets us know that He steadfastly cherishes our faithfulness: "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me." (Psalm 101:6). -"Well done, good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Matthew 25:21. As such, I can truly say: "Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me."

Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 54 (this speaks to the faithfulness of the Lord).

Favorite Song: "The Old Rugged Cross" and "How I Got Over"









ISSUE THEME: The Power of Love

How does this theme impact you today?

God is Love. Something I grew up hearing but over the last few years I've learned what love *really means*.

The Love of God: Late 2012, I found myself in need of a love connection with both God and myself. I needed to reconnect to the source and find my strength again. I was single and had moved out on my own. I spent more time with myself and God studying the Word. This time with God helped me recharge so I could understand who God says I am and it set me on a new path.

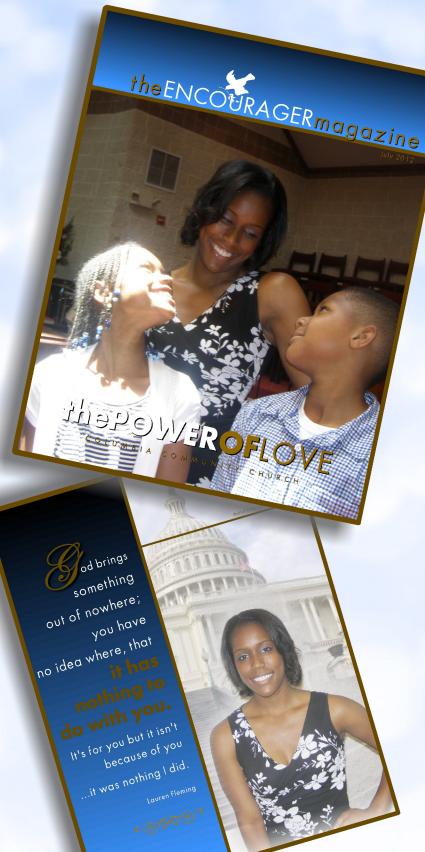
The Love of Man: In the first week of my courtship with my now husband, he asked me what I was looking for in a man. Instead of the typical "he has to treat his momma right or have a good job", I caught him off guard and said "a man who seeks the love of God". The love that God showed me was the same love I required in a man. I decided I would no longer attempt to offer my love to a man who is not chasing after the love of Christ.

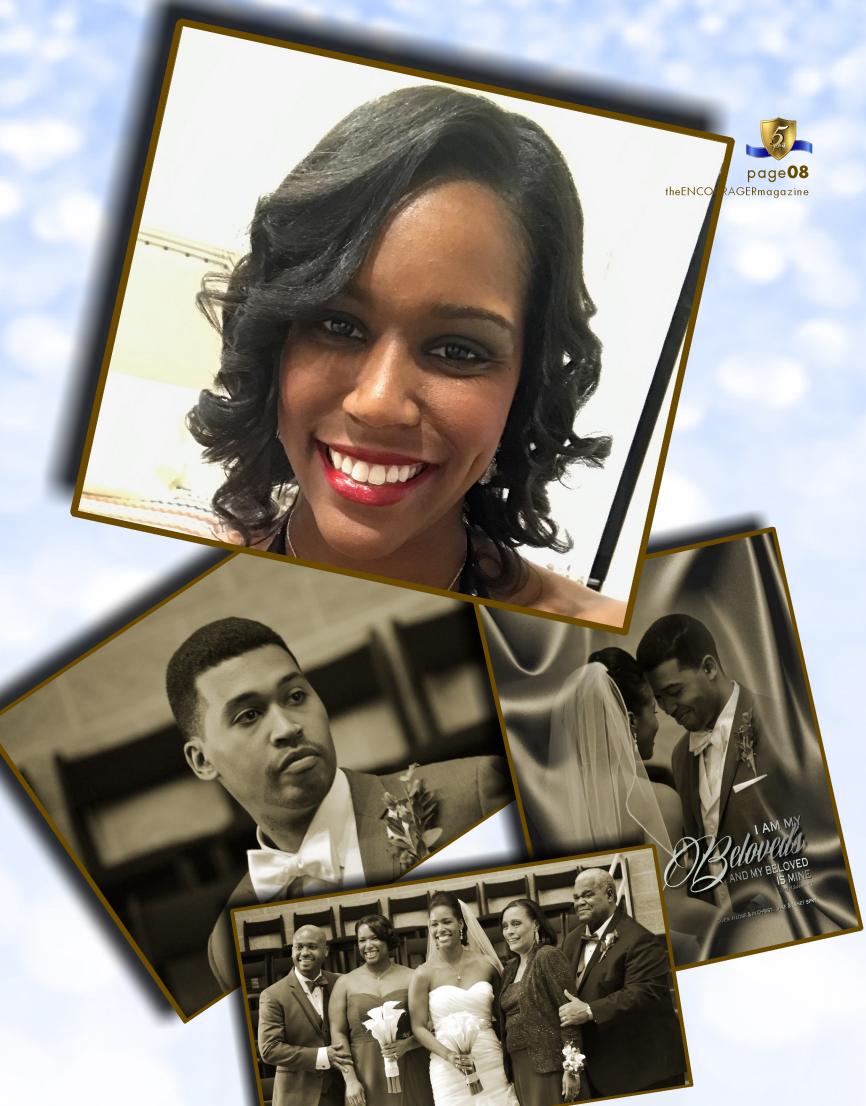
The Love of Family: My love for family is never-ending but it changes when you get older. I feel a bigger obligation to them whether it's being a mentor to my niece and nephew or helping my parents make transitions in their life. Love is being there even when they say you don't need to be. I truly believe loving God is the antidote to evil. If you love God you understand what love is, what it requires: forgiveness, patience, service, kindness. I know now that love is the answer, because God is Love.

Favorite Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Favorite Song: "Withholding Nothing" by William McDowell







ISSUE THEME: Living the Abundant Life

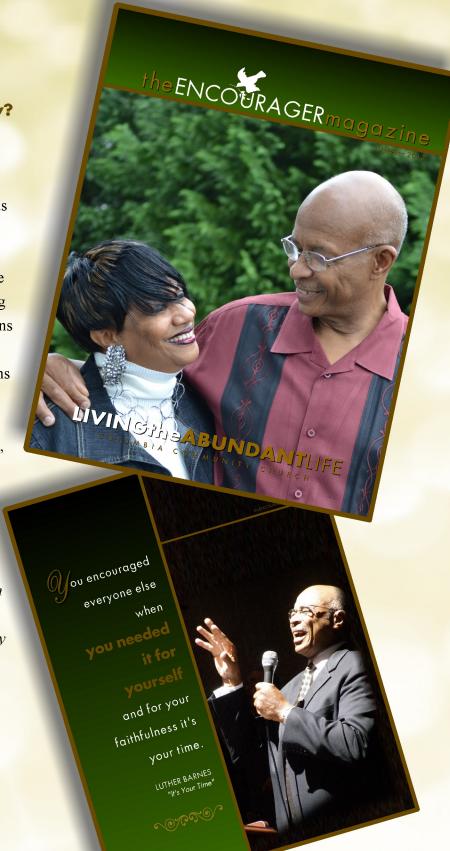
How does this theme impact you today?

Abundant life comes from a personal relationship with God. God provides for our needs so that we can enjoy a good life on this earth. When we seek God and His Kingdom, He supplies our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Jesus promises believers a life far better than we could ever imagine. He provides this abundant life by His power that is at work in us when we belong to Him. Abundant life is also eternal life that begins when we come to Christ. We are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. To be in Christ means we have accepted Jesus' sacrifice as payment for our sins. We are adopted, justified, redeemed, reconciled, and chosen by God. As a child of God, we receive God's love, joy, and peace in abundance.

Favorite Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

"Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Favorite Song: "The Blood of Jesus" and "Walk Around Heaven"







Min Calon Jawlon JANUARY 2013

ISSUE THEME: Resurrection Life

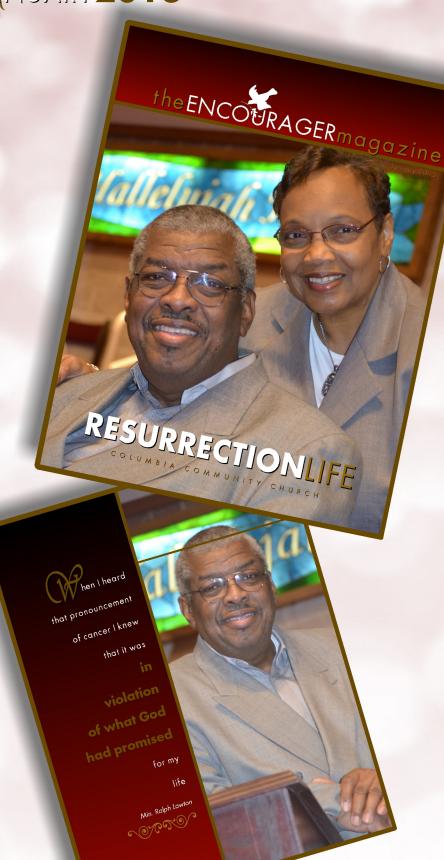
How does this theme impact you today?

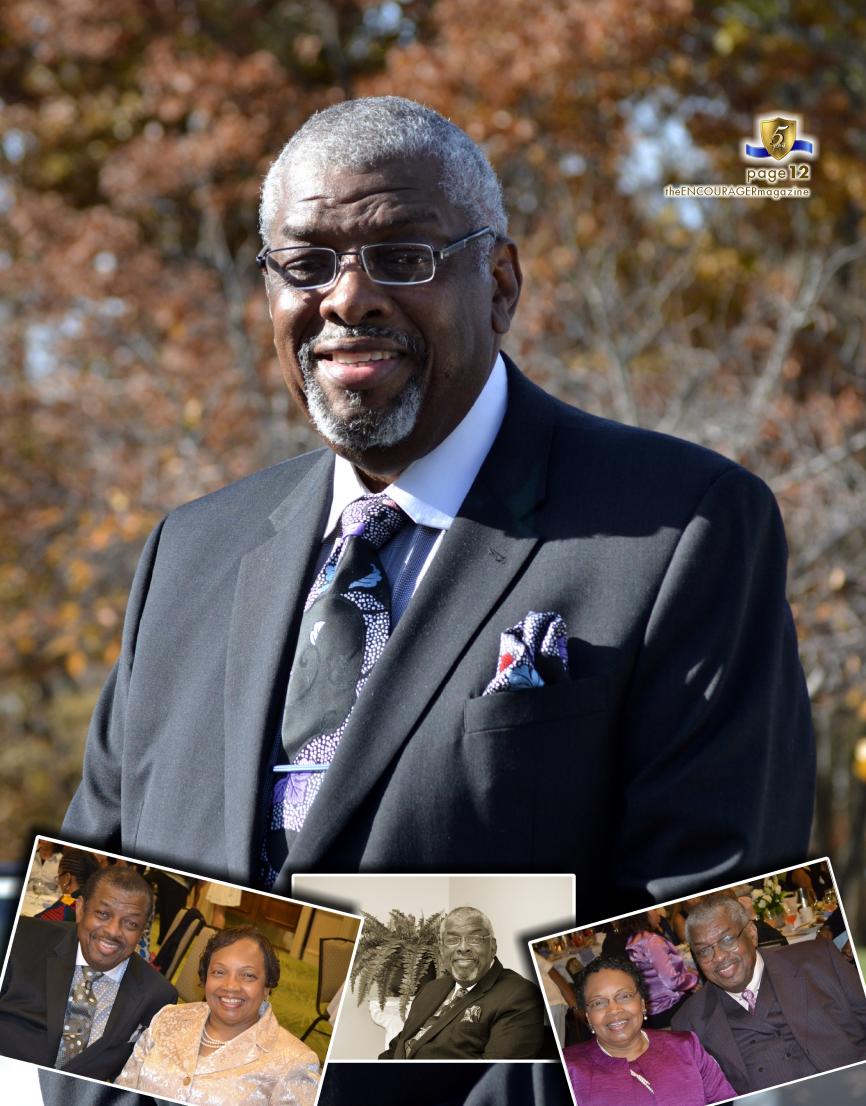
Resurrection Life could very well serve as an appropriate title for an auto-biography of my life, the life that began the day we first visited Columbia Community Church (CCC). As most people close to me are aware, I had just left the pastorate shortly before coming to CCC; to say that I was "searching for direction" would be an understatement! I watched and listened Sunday after Sunday, and Wednesday after Wednesday (in noon day Bible Study) as Pastor Elliott, made visible the invisible Christ through his anointed preaching and teaching. My love for the Word and my love for teaching God's Word were "resurrected" here at CCC as I rediscovered my spiritual gifting in the area of teaching. When the Pastor travels I am honored and humbled to pinch-hit for him at Noonday Bible Study. I absolutely love teaching, and at the same time there is a strong sense of intimidation stepping into the shoes of such an anointed Master Teacher as Rev. Elliott. I am strengthened, during these feelings of inadequacy, by the knowledge that the same Spirit that enables Pastor Elliott is available to me to the extent I yield to Him. Fran and I thank God daily for the "New Life" God has breathed in to our ministry, marriage and our very lives!

Favorite Scripture: Isaiah 26:3

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Favorite Song: "Every Promise In The Book Is Mine"







ROSE JUDELINE APRIL 2013

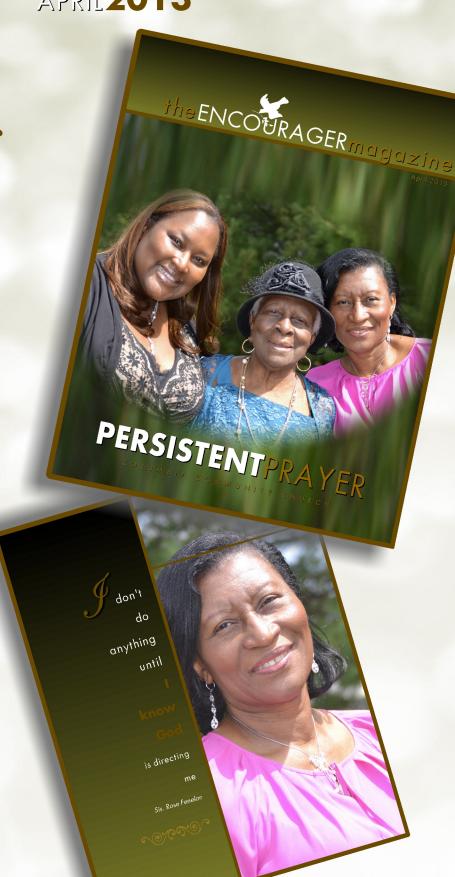
ISSUE THEME: Persistent Prayer

How does this theme impact you today?

The theme of Persistent Prayer is my source of survival right now in today's time. Throughout the day when I found myself questioning myself, feeling anxious, I will say a prayer to calm me down. Persistent prayer strengthens my faith by showing me that God's will always win. It helps in the current time that we are going through right now, by allowing us to filter all the noises to obtain the silence. It provides me with a sense of comfort because it's direct contact with God. Persistent prayer is guidance for me to navigate my thoughts whether negative or positive. Constant prayer empowers me because Philippians 4:13 states, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Persistent prayer is the armor I need and the armor we all need to fight the holy war we are experiencing in this world. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8).

Favorite Scripture: Romans 8:31

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" This is one of my favorite Scriptures. The significance of this Scripture gives me a since of security because that's my armor in coping with trials and turbulence."







ISSUE THEME: Essential Joy

How does this theme impact you today?

If it wasn't for Jesus we would not have made it these past four years since we were featured in July's issue of 2013. In 2013 we had the patriarch of our family with us, but now he is resting with Jesus since January 2014. Shortly after, we lost both of our grandmothers in February & March 2014 as well. We were grieving, but found joy in Jesus during the one of the worst times we've experience together as a family. One of our greatest joys Christ has blessed us with is Collin. He is a Christian comedian and brings us unspeakable joy even in tough and rough times. God has given him more jokes to bless others with a merry heart. God has also given us abundant blessings in 2017, our matriarch survived two strokes in January 2017 three years later after losing our patriarch. Mom couldn't walk and now she is back driving and living an abundant life. Also, God gave us a glimpse of an awesome miracle of our Godmom surviving a brain aneurysm and doing well. God is awesome in good and bad times. God can do the impossible if you can believe and have faith.

Favorite Scripture: Proverbs 17:22

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Favorite Song: "Where Is Your Faith" by James Cleveland







ISSUE THEME: Believing the Report of the Lord

How does this theme impact you today?

Min. Landrum: The longer we live in Christ, the more we understand that the Lord is a keeper. He's kept the faith that I've placed in Him and he continues to fulfill John 3:1-2: "Beloved, above all things I wish that thou mayest prosper and be health, even as your soul prospers." I think about it this way, every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before. There is something about the name Jesus and the man Jesus that has made my life worth living.

Belinda Landrum: I still believe the Lord today as I did in 2013 because the Lord is still continually blessing me daily. I hold onto the Scripture that says "If I walk upright before the Lord, no good thing will he withhold from me." I also believe that being faithful through paying my tithes and offerings, the Lord has been blessing me abundantly. Through giving, we are able to receive.

Favorite Scripture:

Min. Landrum / John 10:10

"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

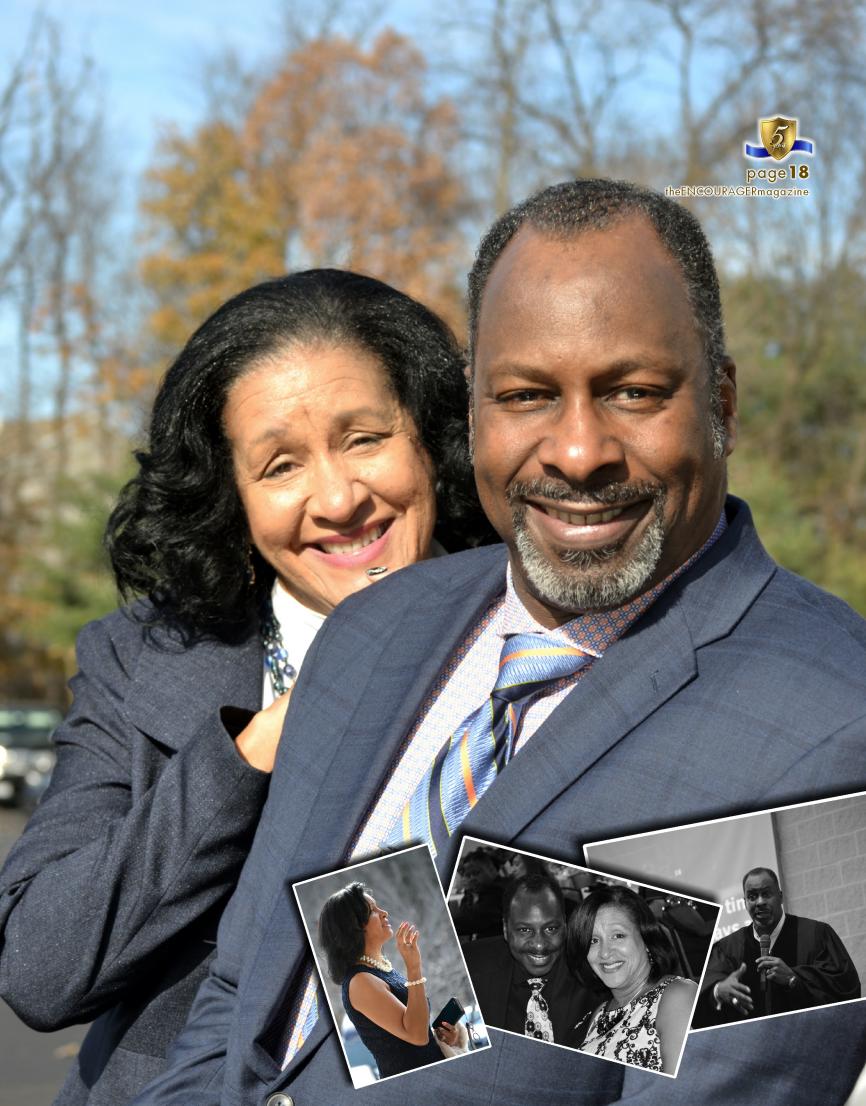
Belinda Landrum / Romans 8:28

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Favorite Song:

Min. Landrum / "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" Belinda Landrum / "Jesus Is Love" by Lionel Richie









ISSUE THEME: Godly Patience

How does this theme impact you today?

"Godly Patience" is necessary in my daily life because without it I would be completely stressed out about things I have no control over. I continue to work with elementary students with Down Syndrome, which is a congenital disorder that comes from a chromosome 21 defect that causes some intellectual impairment as well as some physical abnormalities. I also work with students with Autism, which also is a developmental disorder with a broad range. Autism impairs the ability to communicate and interact with others. This being said, these students are very unique in their learning styles and sometimes you have to try many different ways to answer a seemingly simple question, but when they finally get it, the joy that comes over them is priceless. Some people ask how do you do it. I know that it is that Godly patience taking over! In my home life I am patiently waiting on my first grandchild, Naeem Harrison, to be born on January 30, 2017...God is Great!

Favorite Scripture: Psalms 27:14

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.."

Favorite Song: "You Waited" by Travis Greene









APRIL 2014

ISSUE THEME: True Contentment

How does this theme impact you today?

Ebube: I grew up in a village in Eastern Nigeria Africa. A strong influence on my life was my uncle and his family. What impacted me was how he raised his family. He took care of his wife and twelve children on a very small salary. His wife kept the children busy taking care of the house and growing food. Although they had very little money, they never went without food and were well taken care of. All of his children graduated from college. They were an example of what happens when you choose to follow a straight path in God regardless of what others are doing. There were other families who had kids. The children were given everything. They were wealthy but had no relation with God. When the father died the family and all that they had fell apart. It showed me at a young age how when you walk with God, He keeps you. Through the years, I have grown in my own walk with the Lord and have personally experienced the importance of being content and waiting on what the Lord has for me. It is through contentment in Jesus that I have experienced the blessings that God has for me.

Uche: Like many young people growing up, I was always thinking about the next best thing. I couldn't wait to do something, such as graduate from school. Now I realize that where I am is better. I know the importance of prayer, but the key to prayer is listening to God. In prayer, we can still seek our own will and be impatient. We want answers now. God has helped me to learn to listen, which gives me true contentment. As I have learned to hear His voice and submit to His will I am at peace because things work out just as it should.

Favorite Scripture:

Ebube / Psalms 37:25

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Uche / John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I think it encompass my whole relationship with Christ. For someone to give up His life for me. To give your only son is a lot.

Favorite Song: Ebube / "Jesus Saves"

This song has sustained me in my walk, "We have heard the joyful sound...Jesus Saves".









ISSUE THEME: Power of the Word

How does this theme impact you today?

We have experienced several evidences of the sure working of the Word in our lives. We shared in the salvation experience of a brother whom God received literally at the eleventh hour before he died in Christ after years of prayer; God has said He would save our household. We have also learned of the timeliness of God when He placed us where needed to be to save the life of a loved one. We recognize that the Power of the Word of God in the midst of our trial with cancer was a pivotal moment in the growth of our faith. Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23). God has shown He will not turn away from His promises. The Power of the Word of God is life-changing and can increase our faith, preparing us for even greater challenges.

Favorite Scripture:

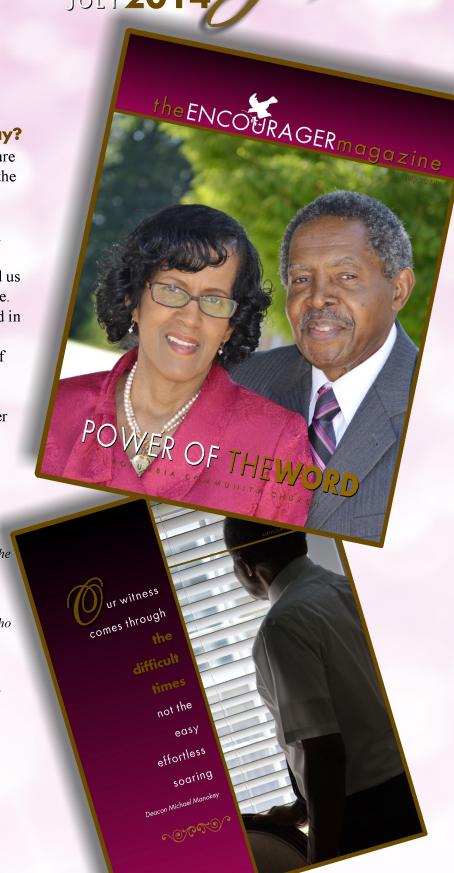
Min. Manokey / Psalms 103:1-5 "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Brenda Manokey / Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Favorite Song:

Min. Manokey: "Total Praise"

Brenda Manokey: "His Grace is Greater"







Calvin & Cymbria Jones OCTOBER 2014

ISSUE THEME: God's Holiness

How does this theme impact you today?

We continue to trust God in all the circumstances of our lives. We know that He is faithful. The four years since the article, the answered prayers are very evident in our lives. We love the prayer box. There are multiple prayers of healing, deliverance, and career changes that we have included in the box that have been answered. Our family motto is: Prayer changes things. We face adversity knowing that God is in control and we trust the plan He has for our lives.

Favorite Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."









Carla Talia ferro JANUARY 2015

ISSUE THEME: God Will Provide

How does this theme impact you today?

Nine years after my husband Michael Taliaferro's passing, God is still providing for me and my boys, Chase and Owen. Although the road has not always been easy, we are still standing! Since 2015, God has provided support from my family, friends, church family, and coworkers. This village that God provided has enabled me to raise two teenage boys and give some assistance with the care of my mother and mother-in-law. God has provided me with the wonderful Holy Spirit to comfort me and take me to a higher level in my walk with Christ. God has been speaking to me and letting me know that without a doubt HE is truly REAL! God has also laid on my spirit to take time to pray more and read His Word. With so many distractions being a working single mom, finding time to pray and read God's Word can sometimes be very challenging, but praise the Lord, we now can pray from 5am-6am Monday - Friday via the telephone and spend time in His Word reading the wonderful resource, Our Daily Bread--look how God provides! This past April my best friend passed away and my other dear friend's son committed suicide in August. Coping with the sudden and devastating loss of my husband, I knew that God would equip me with what I needed to speak at their funerals and encourage the families. I am trusting God to provide for us as Chase and Owen prepare for their college season. I am so thankful and grateful for Jehovah-Jireh, our Provider. To God Be the Glory!

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 91

Favorite Song: "The Blood Will Never Lose It's

Power"







ISSUE THEME: Divine Purpose

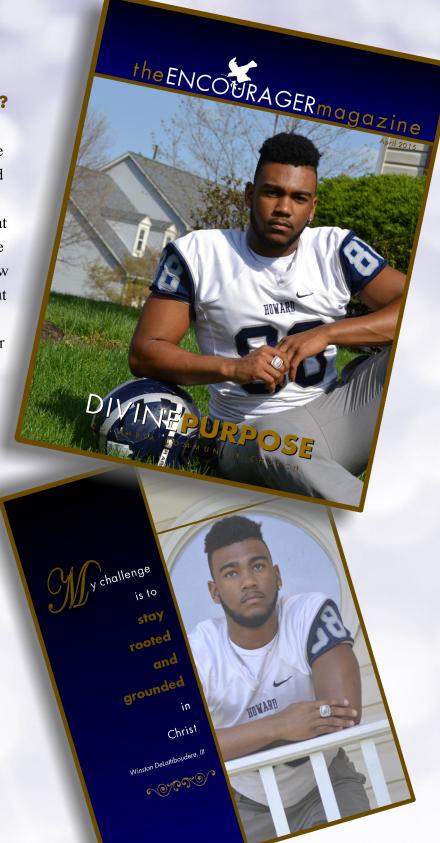
How does this theme impact you today?

Divine purpose is having a higher purpose and serving God. It is dying to self so that you are able to hear the purpose that God has for your life. God has a plan for our lives that He wants to see fulfilled. Through my actions and words I know that my divine purpose is to understand that Jesus came out of the temple/church so that people would know who He was. I realize I must do the same, come out to tell others about Jesus. I know that the journey that I am currently traveling is not about football or me. My divine purpose is to serve others, for God to utilize my gifts and talents for His Glory and to tell as many as I can about Him. It is only in God that I will be able to fully understand and discover my purpose.

Favorite Scripture: Psalms 16:8

"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

Favorite Song: "Never Would Have Made It" by: Marvin Sapp







ISSUE THEME: Amazing Grace

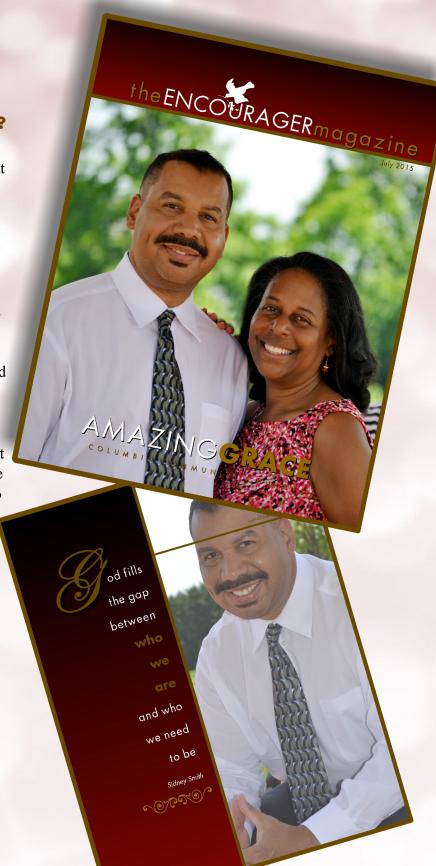
How does this theme impact you today?

In our first interview with Min. Childs he asked us, "What pressures has God brought into your life that allowed you to break into another level of grace?" We always find it so interesting and eye opening when you can sit and reflect, first on a moment in time that you can really see and hear yourself and remember where your heart was. Then you take that and compare it to the place where God has brought you. Quite humbling indeed! In 2017, God has allowed our family to face more pressures and challenges than we could ever imagine. But God, yet again, has shown another level of His unmerited grace that we could never earn ourselves. We will never know why He loves us so, but we thank Him every day for His grace. We recall Rev. Elliott quoting the words of a song as he preached a recent sermon, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling." We have nothing, we are nothing, so all we can do is humbly bow before God and cling. to Him, surrender and accept the grace and mercy He so lovingly has bestowed upon us.

Favorite Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Favorite Song: "I Love You Lord and I Lift My Voice"









ISSUE THEME: God's Voice

How does this theme impact you today?

It is imperative that we listen to God's voice because we ask God to "order our steps", and He has the ultimate plan. So, despite our initial thoughts about whether we want to do what He has called us to do, if we listen to Him, He will lead us in the right direction. No matter what we personally think, God's voice calls us to listen to Him and trust that He knows what is best for us.

Favorite Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Favorite Song: "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson







DEACON JUARY 2016 Pence

ISSUE THEME: Being Steadfast

How does this theme impact you today?

Deacon Spence: Being steadfast is keeping in line with the Lord. Doing so strengthens us to be solid and encourages us to keep moving on and forward with a fervency to remain "steadfast."

Sister Spence: we continue to be steadfast by starting with prayer every day, in spite of circumstances we worship and serve the Lord by integrating Him in our daily lives wherever we are and in whatever it is we are doing. It is our innate desire to ensure God is glorified in all areas of our lives at all times.

Favorite Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:13

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Favorite Song:

Deacon Spence: "The Lord Is Keeping Me

Right Now"

Sister Spence: "Amazing Grace"









ISSUE THEME: Women of Faith

How does this theme impact you today?

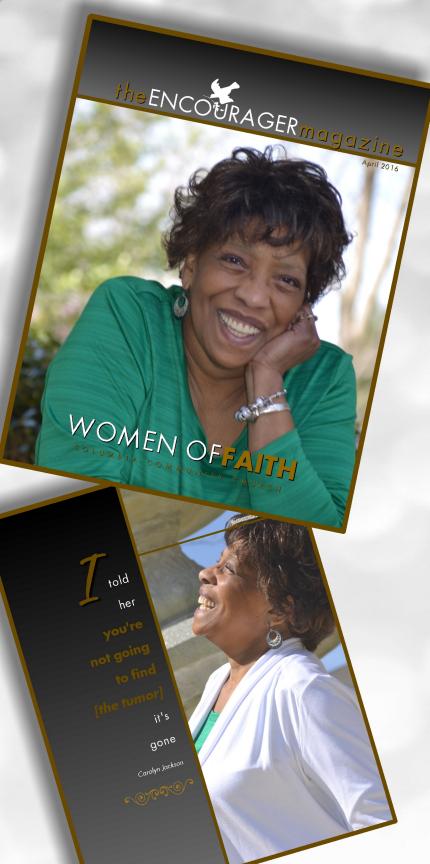
There's an old song by James Cleveland that asks, "Where is your faith?" The day the doctor said "you have cancer" was a day like no other. Well October, 2015 I had to do exactly what I tell others, have faith in God, pray the Scriptures, and watch God change things. I was healed by faith in God. He who made my body, would heal my body. Major challenges that happen to me are now just bumps in the road of life. I now rest in Jesus, and by faith I watch Him change things.

Favorite Scripture:

John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Favorite Song: "It Is Well With My Soul"









ISSUE THEME: Men of Faith

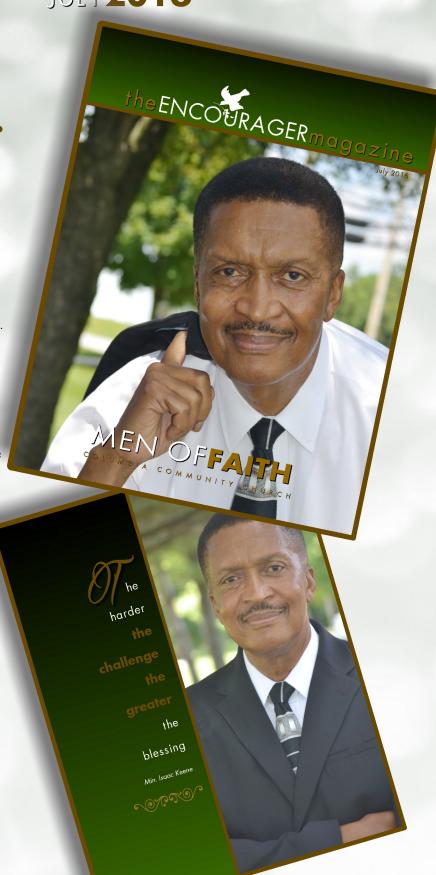
How does this theme impact you today?

For the past year, the journey of faith has been an invaluable one. God is teaching me how to trust Him completely. It is wonderful to take God at His word and watch His mighty hand at work. I have heard it said many times that, "you don't have any problems, all you need is faith in God ". I am a living witness to the veracity of that most profound and absolutely true statement! Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary is all we need. I am more convinced than ever that God is in control. It is not necessary for us to understand all He does. He only requires that we trust Him. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path" (Proverbs 3:5-6). No matter what you're going through today, simply cast all your cares upon Him, He cares for you. The writer Louisa Stead was right when she penned these most inspiring words, borne out of personal tragedy, "'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word; just to rest upon his promise, and to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.' Jesus, Jesus, how I' trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!" Trust in Jesus only, and walk in victory!

Favorite Scripture:

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Favorite Song: "Amazing Grace"









ISSUE THEME: God's Favor

How does this theme impact you today?

The impact of this theme "God's Favor" on us today aligns with Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." We surrender all to Him and know without a doubt that He is always present, can, and will make everything in this life work out for our good, if we put Him first. The favor of God continues to overflow in our lives in so many ways – it would require an indefinite amount of time to express His loving kindness. His Favor of healing remains steadfast and through faith in His Word and the fact that we were healed by His stripes, we stand firm in our daily walk. Sickness and disease may come but through the power of Jesus, it must leave. John 15:7, guides the Favor of God into all our lives, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you."

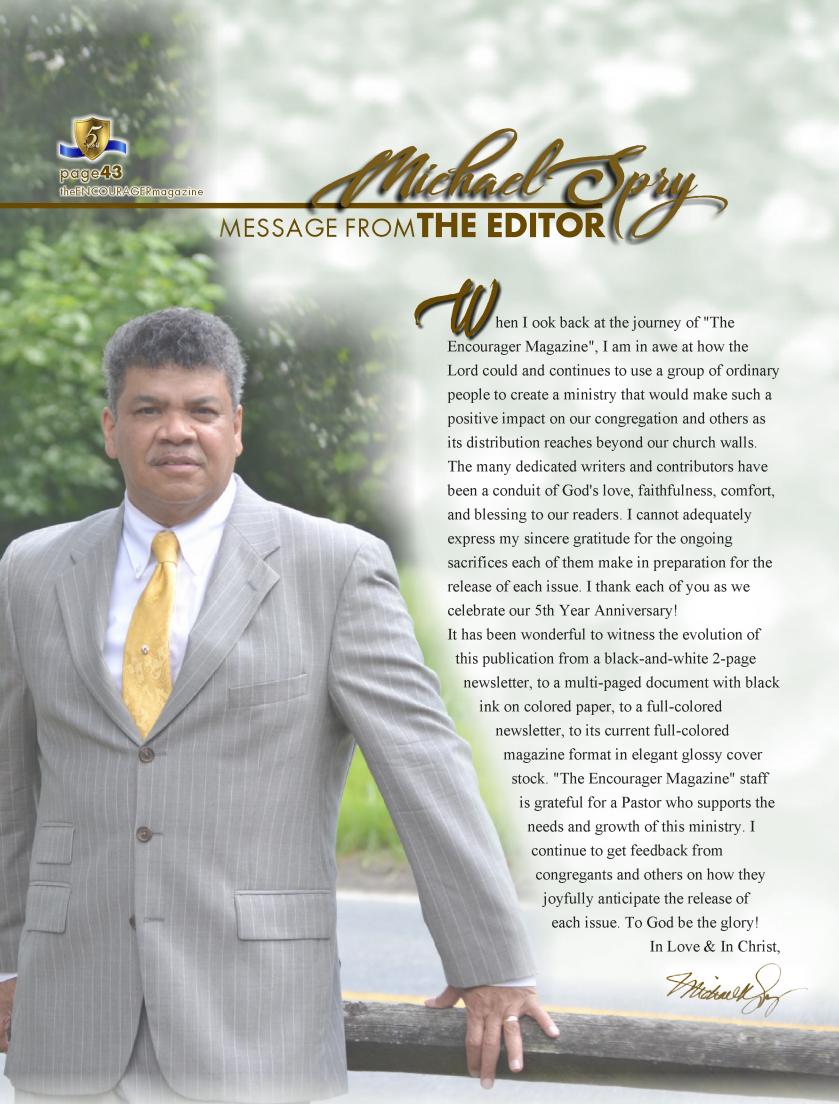
Favorite Scripture:

Psalm 91:1, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Favorite Song: "Jesus What a Wonder You Are"









ON THEINSIDE COVERS

Inside Front: Pastor Elliott yields to the Spirit as songs of praise and and workship precede his sermon on November 26, 2017

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2017

Inside Back: Our wonderful Pastors Reginald & Juanita Sister Elliott take pleasure inspecting the interior of our new Church Bus during its dedication service on November 26, 2017

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2017

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

8516 Thomas Williams Way P.O. Box 2292 Columbia, MD 21045



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY:

10:00 AM Church School (All Ages)11:00 AM Meditation & Prayer11:15 AM Morning Worship

COMMUNION SERVICE:

1st Sunday of Every Month

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

Noon-Day Prayer 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon-Day Bible Study 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM Evening Prayer 07:30 PM - 08:00 PM Evening Bible Study 08:00 PM - 09:00 PM

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS:

Youth Bible Study 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION

CARE & COMFORT MINISTRY

Sis. Linda M. Byrd: 410-313-9673 / Sis. Donna Givhan / 410-997-3276 columbiamdcareandcomfort@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACTS

Phone: 410-465-7040 / Fax: 410-465-0943 Church Website: www.columbiaccmd.org

CHURCH LIBRARY

Open Every Sunday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM and after service until 2:00 PM