

Joyful Word!

The Joyful Word Celebrates!

WRITTEN BY: ALETHIA DAVIS

This year, The Joyful Word celebrates its fourth anniversary. A vision of Sis. Juanita Hollingsworth-Johnson, the first edition launched in 2022 with the goal of sharing helpful medical information, reflecting on church history, offering prayer, and bringing a little laughter during the pandemic.

Since its launch, the newsletter has grown in members, readers, and content, highlighting meaningful moments in our church community while continuing to encourage, uplift, and cultivate connection.

As we celebrate this milestone, we thank everyone who has supported this ministry. Whether you have been reading for four years or this is your first issue, whether you read through the church app or picked up a copy at the Welcome Desk, your support is truly appreciated. To those who have shared an issue with a friend or mentioned it to a coworker, we thank you all.

God has been faithful, and we look forward to many more years of growth, encouragement, and service.

Prayer

PROVIDED BY: REV. CHARAS EBRON

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for creating me and for opening Your arms wide whenever I come to You. Please, forgive me for the sins that I have committed, I confess them to You now. Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

Please help me to truly repent, to turn away from my sins and to turn fully towards You. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Please help me to develop a stronger and deeper relationship with You, my Lord, so that I will...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. 2 Peter 3:18

Father, I ask for Your Holy Spirit to fall afresh on me today as Jesus promised. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts

1:8

In the holy name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

To: The Women of Church of God of East New York

MESSAGE FROM: LADY DEBORAH MCDOWELL

Good evening, Women of Faith, and Happy New Year to each of you!

As we gather for our first meeting of the year, I felt led to pause and share a word of encouragement with you. Our theme is both timely and deeply meaningful, and it beautifully reflects how we, as your Women of Faith leadership, truly see you.

To be wrapped means to be enveloped, covered, encased for warmth, safety, and protection. How powerful it is to know that God Himself has wrapped each of us. He has covered us in His strong and loving arms—providing warmth, protection, and provision. He has given us a safe place to grow and mature in Him, accepting us just as we were, yet patiently and lovingly transforming us into the image of His Son.

God is still at work, making us better day by day, wrapping us in His excellence and hiding us under the blood shed on Calvary, so that what is ultimately seen in us is the Father. Christ's desire has always been that the excellency of the Father be revealed in everything we do. It must always be about Him—meeting the needs of people, serving with compassion, and adding souls to the Kingdom, because it is His will that none be lost.

Women of Faith, as we pause to reflect before stepping fully into this new year, it is evident that you have truly shown up for one another. You have covered each other in prayer, laughed together, cried together, and walked alongside one another in faith. You have faithfully attended Wednesday phone meetings, Tuesday and Saturday prayer calls, and in-person gatherings. You said yes—yes to conferences, teas, anniversaries, and Bible studies such as Abigail, War Room, and others.

You have gotten to know each other a little better as you served across ministries: in plays, skits, dance, kitchen, hospitality, ushering, greeting, choir and praise teams, office and administrative support, service coordination, pantry ministry before, during, and after hours, teaching, discipling, speaking, and intercessory prayer. And so much more. Women of Faith, this ministry is not just about our meetings or gatherings—it is about women in ministry together. And you are very much a vital part of doing ministry.

You have served with purpose and passion the whole time that ministry has taken place. Ministry has never been about perfection, but about offering God our very best. Yes, we should and can do better, continue to go higher, reach farther, and make even greater impact for the Kingdom—but you have been present, faithful, and committed. As First Lady, I say thank you. On behalf of the Women of faith leadership team, thank you.

Aiming for excellence means being intentional, effective, and purposeful. Excellence is not the same as perfection. In fact, pursuing excellence rather than perfection allows for greater growth and greater impact, because increased success can create more opportunities for further success and greater well-being.

However, Perfectionism is associated with several mental health issues such as anxiety disorders and social phobias. I share this not as a downer but as an addendum because if you think you must be perfect or that we as leaders are asking you to be perfect it will hinder you from achieving the good that you could do. It often causes one to procrastinate, feel insecure in who they are or what they have to offer. It brings in comparison and can limit your will to try. Often if your aim is perfection, you may not want to step up for fear of failure or not getting it right, which in your mind may be getting it perfect. And it can keep us from stepping forward in faith.

Please know this: we are not asking you to be perfect. We are all a work in progress. Our theme is not about perfection or flawlessness, but about offering God and one another our very best. I recently read a statement that captures this beautifully:

“Excellence is an attainable standard that is relative to the individual, depending on their talent, time, and resources. True excellence recognizes work well done, though less than perfect, leaving room for the grace of God to show up.”

Wrapped in Excellence – A Response The Women's First In-Person Meeting

WRITTEN BY: GABRIELLE HUGGINS

At the Women of Faith's first general meeting of 2026, Lady Deborah McDowell shared an inspiring welcome centered around our beautiful new theme: "Wrapped in Excellence." Our First Lady spoke on what it means to be "wrapped" by God; to be completely surrounded by His protection and warmth. She reminded us that while we often strive for perfection, which can be exhausting and even discouraging, we are actually works in progress being shaped into God's image. Excellence is within arm's reach and leaves room for us to be transformed by God.

Additionally, Lady D took the time to thank every woman who plays a part in ministry: those in leadership, those interceding in prayer, teaching our children, serving on the praise team, and so much more. From the Tuesday prayer calls to the welcome committee, the dedication of those who pour into multiple ministries does not go unrecognized. We are heading into this new year under the church-wide theme, "Called to Serve and Gifted for Excellence." We are being called to go deeper and reach beyond our limits, all while having the peace of knowing we don't have to be flawless to make an immense impact. Furthermore, this theme flowed into our Women's Day celebration which was held February 22nd with Apostle Jacqueline Peart as the speaker.

Allergies, Cold, Flu, or Covid - 19: Recognizing the Differences and Taking Precautions

WRITTEN BY: CAMILLE CUNNINGHAM

When you start feeling sick, it can be hard to tell whether it is allergies, a cold, the flu, or Covid-19. Allergies are caused by triggers like pollen or dust and are not contagious. They usually bring sneezing, itchy eyes, and a runny nose without fever. A common cold is a mild viral infection with congestion. The flu is more severe, often causing sudden fever, chills, body aches, and extreme fatigue. Covid-19 may resemble the flu or a cold but can also include loss of taste or smell and shortness of breath.

Taking precautions is important. Wash hands often, keep your hands away from your face, and cover coughs or sneezes. Stay home if you feel unwell to prevent spreading illness. Wearing a mask in crowded or high - risk settings can reduce exposure. Keep surfaces clean, get recommended vaccines, rest, drink fluids, and always seek medical advice if symptoms worsen or breathing becomes difficult.

Stay safe and take care of yourself whenever you go.



Children's Corner BY NICOLE THOMAS



Above all else, Guard your heart. For Everything you do flows from it.
Proverbs 4:21

Have you ever eaten too much candy at a birthday party? Or gobbled so much cake you felt sick? What happened next?

Yep, yuck, it all came up and out mighty quick!

Or have you tried to fill your cup to the very tippy top with your favorite juice, but then someone bumps into you, and WHOOSH , it spills over making a big mess?

In the same way that bad ideas bring bad results, good thoughts fill our hearts with good things. If we hold onto things that are not good for us, or we fill our hearts with angry feelings, jealousy, or bad words, eventually something will happen, and what's inside us will tumble out. Maybe someone steps on your toe or your sibling breaks your favorite toy, you might get angry and push them or say a bad word.

God wants us to store good things in our hearts,
so when bad things happen
His love is what spills out.

Father, help me to keep good things in my heart, so when bad things happen your love will flow out. Amen.

Upcoming Events

April 3rd - State Good Friday Service

April 5th - Easter

April 26th - 96th Church Anniversary Service

May 14th - 16th - Ushers Convention

June 13th - Extended time of prayer

LOL!

The Humor Corner
BY DAVID CUNNINGHAM

What type of lights did Noah use on the Ark?
He used Floodlights.