

# The Testament

August 2015

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

## Forgiving Bill

- by Deacon Dean Jernigan

During my youth, one of my favorite Saturday morning shows was *Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids*. Created by educator and entertainer Bill Cosby, the show followed Fat Albert and his neighborhood friends as they encountered and solved one dilemma after another. Each episode began with a warning from Bill that if we weren't careful, we might learn something, and ended with a song performed by Fat Albert and his friends that recapped the moral message of the episode. At various points during the show, Bill would appear to offer advice and commentary. It was a fun show and I looked forward to each week's episode.

Years later, after watching Bill in commercials for Coca-Cola and Jell-O pudding, I joined the millions of Americans who delighted in watching *The Cosby Show* each week. With its vibrant cast and positive imagery, *The Cosby Show* dominated the 1980's and was the most watched show in the country from 1985-1989. With all of his success and universal likeability, Bill Cosby could simply do no wrong. Or could he?

In October of 2014, a series of events commenced that would eventually lead to dozens of women publicly proclaiming that Bill had committed improper acts against them many years ago. Like many others, I was stunned at these allegations. As more women came forward with similar stories of abuse and violations, coupled with Bill's strange reluctance to defend himself, the glow surrounding him started to dim and his public walls of support began to crumble. Eventually we would learn, through his own admission from a previously sealed deposition, that Bill had indeed acted improperly with various women over an extended period of time.

In the midst of peeling through the layers of Bill's past indiscretions, a horrible tragedy played out before the nation as nine members of a church family in Charleston, South Carolina, were shot and killed during a Bible study session. The victims were all African-

Americans. The gunman was a young, hate-filled white male who targeted the church specifically because its members were black.

The nation paused to honor the victims of this massacre and to share in the collective grief of the survivors. Then – the most amazing thing happened. Captured before any of the funerals had taken place, the gunman appeared in court through a live video feed and faced members of the victim's families. As he listened to the anguished voices of these pained-filled individuals, he repeatedly heard from them three of the most powerful words that any human being can utter to another – “I forgive you”.

Speechless as I watched news coverage of the event, I understood the depth of love and conviction of faith on display by those offering forgiveness to the gunman. Rooted in God's agape love, forgiveness is part of the duty that we commit to as members of the Christian army. It's part of the healing process from a transgression and it keeps us in alignment with God's Word. *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)*

In the faith community, we are taught not to judge, and to not assign a higher rank to one sin over another. *Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. (Luke 6:37)* Even so, I can't help but to believe that the pain of losing a loved one to a senseless act of violence burns deeper than any other. I also believe that the anguish associated with being violated and invaded can be excruciating and deprive the victim of the joy that God intended for each of us. The enemy of love thrives in situations like these but can be halted when we find the strength to forgive. Forgiving Bill or the Charleston shooter doesn't minimize or excuse their horrible acts. Instead, it puts us on the road to recovery and serves as the



## An Anniversary Celebration!



Congratulations to Rev. Linzie B. Atkins, III, First Lady Marva Atkins and the entire Atkins family as we celebrate the 13th anniversary of Rev. Atkins' leadership. The Pastor's Aide Ministry has organized two events to mark the occasion. The Table of Colors Fellowship will take place on Saturday, August 8th at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Pastor's Anniversary Program will take place on Sunday, August 9th at 3:00pm. Please make plans to support these events. Please also continue to pray for our pastor as he strives to do God's Will. For our church and our community, we look forward to the future, and continue to believe that the best is yet to come. Congratulations!

first application of salve on the painful wounds resulting from their actions.

In his own words, Bill Cosby has provided a measure of credibility to the horrendous allegations levied against him. Through legal maneuvers and the passage of time, he has avoided being charged or facing any of his accusers in a court of law. Should that moment arrive, I pray that the women subjected to his transgressions will find relief and healing in the power of forgiveness. For those of us who model the teachings of Christ, forgiveness is not an option. It's an act deeply rooted in love and a demonstration of our faith in God's Word.

---

---

# *From The Pastor's Desk...*

## #7 - Total Church Commitment Through Bible Study and Prayer *Vision to Reality (Building on the Foundation)*

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Prayer</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>March</i>
<b>Deacon</b>	<i>July</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>April</i>
<b>Deaconess</b>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>May</i>
<b>Laymen League</b>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>
<b>Male Chorus</b>	<i>October</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>July</i>
<b>Missionary</b>	<i>November</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>August</i>
<b>Sounds of Joy</b>	<i>December</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<i>January</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>October</i>
<b>Trustee</b>	<i>February</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>
<b>Usher</b>	<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
<b>Voices of Praise</b>	<i>April</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>January</i>
<b>Women of Faith</b>	<i>May</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>February</i>

### ***Bible Study***

1. Devotion (scripture and prayer)
2. All ministry members present
3. Select one Topic for Bible Study and mobilize the entire church

### ***Sunday School***

1. Devotion (scripture and prayer)
2. All ministry members present
3. Mobilize the entire church for the Sunday Seminar

### ***Prayer***

1. Attend Noon Day Prayer (Tuesday or any week day)
2. Attend Wednesday Evening Intercessory Prayer at 6:30 pm
3. Identify a time for Fasting and Prayer

### ***Sunday Worship***

1. Responsive Reading
2. Ministry Highlight / Skit
3. Birthday Moment Gifts
4. Children's Moment
5. Children Church
6. Pick at least one Sunday to emphasize the 7 points in the Vision

***Each ministry should involve other church ministries not mentioned above***

- Health and Wellness, Couples, Singles, and Zero Gravity
- 
-

## **SAVE THESE DATES!!**

**Saturday, August 8th**

*Table of Colors*

*(Pastor's Anniversary Celebration)*

**3:00pm**

**Sunday, August 9th**

*Pastor's Anniversary Program*

**3:00pm**

**Sunday, August 23rd**

*Annual Men's Day Program*

*(Morning Worship Service)*

**Sunday, August 23rd**

*Missionary Ministry Anniversary*

**3:00pm**

*Please make plans to support your  
Lincoln family.*

## **Happy Birthday**

*to our*

### **August Birthday Celebrities!**

*Linzie Atkins, III • Terri Nicholson*

*Bria Davenport • Caleb Bell, Jr.*

*Langston Whitlock • Lawrence Jones*

*Michaux Evans • Joseph Hilliard*

*Regina Carlisle • Irvin Wooten • Renee Price*

*Shaylah Hopson • Michele Thompson*

*Andrew Perry • Rod Davis, Jr. Donnie Waller*

*LaSheka Wilks • Jordan Bell • Carlos Best*

*Joanne Huff • Linzie Atkins, IV*

*Racquel Jackson • Joshua Talley*

*Sonya Hopson • Janelle Corley*

**Best Wishes For Many More!!**

## **The Good Shepherd**



*There once was a flock  
That was lost and afraid  
It wandered around  
Without direction for days*

*But the Lord looked down  
With compassion from above  
And sent a good shepherd  
To lead them with love*

*The shepherd was kind  
Loving and wise  
And he cherished his whole flock  
No matter the color or the size*

*Though the shepherd was quiet  
Humble and meek  
Every ear listened  
Whenever he would speak*

*He showed them the way  
To walk in the light  
And he prayed every day  
For God to give them true sight*

*He taught them about  
The blood of the Lamb  
And about the creator  
The great I AM*

*They flourished and they grew  
Through the knowledge they gained  
About the Saviour from above  
Who lived without blemish or stain*

*The flock was so thankful  
To the Lord up above  
For sending a wise leader  
Who was so full of love*

*He lead them with  
A strong and gentle good hand  
And took the whole flock  
Safely into God's Promised Land*

*- Laura Smith*

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to [newsletter@mylmbc.org](mailto:newsletter@mylmbc.org) by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

#### **Newsletter Committee**

Reginald Davis • Willee Murphy

Joan Lofton • Marva Atkins • William Mayfield

Earleen Sharrock • Dean Jernigan, Chair

# Leaving On A Dream

Congratulations to our recent high school graduates! As they prepare to enter the next phase of their lives and pursue their various dreams of success, we wish them the best in their future endeavors and pray for God's continued blessings upon each of them.



Sis. Montesia Garrett



Sis. Kenya Harrell



Sis. Charmaine Harris



Bro. Joshua Talley

*People are often unreasonable, irrational,  
and self-centered.*

*Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish,  
ulterior motives.*

*Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful  
friends and some genuine enemies.*

*Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.*

*Be honest and sincere anyway.*

*What you spend years creating, others could  
destroy overnight.*

*Create anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.*

*Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, will often be forgotten.*

*Do good anyway.*

*Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.*

*Give your best anyway.*

*In the final analysis, it is between you and God.*

*It was never between you and them anyway.*

- Mother Teresa

# Slow Dance

*Have you ever watched kids  
On a merry-go-round,  
Or listened to rain  
Slapping the ground?*

*Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight,  
Or gazed at the sun fading into the night?*

*You better slow down,  
Don't dance so fast,  
Time is short,  
The music won't last*

*Do you run through each day  
On the fly,  
When you ask, "How are you?"  
Do you hear the reply?*

*When the day is done  
Do you lie in your bed,  
With the next hundred chores  
Running through your head?*

*You better slow down,  
Don't dance so fast,  
Time is short,  
The music won't last*

*Ever told your child,  
We'll do it tomorrow,  
And in your haste,  
Not see his sorrow?*

*Ever lost touch,  
Let a friendship die,  
'Cause you never had time  
To call and say hi?*

*You better slow down,  
don't dance so fast,  
time is short,  
the music won't last*

*When you run so fast to get somewhere  
You miss half the fun of getting there.  
When you worry and hurry through your day,  
It's like an unopened gift thrown away.*

*Life isn't a race,  
So take it slower,  
Hear the music  
Before your song is over*

- David L. Weatherford

---

# *Couples Ministry Outing*

---

*And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:4-6)*

Despite the ruling of the US Supreme Court in June of this year that legalized marriages between individuals of the same gender in every state of our union, the faith community remains firm in our stance that marriage is a God ordained institution between a man and a woman. From the book of Genesis, we know all too well the story of our Heavenly Father creating Eve (not Steve) to be a help meet for Adam. No court of law will ever overrule God's Will or His intended purpose for His most prized creation.

Exemplifying the splendor of God's Will, several couples in the Lincoln family joined together recently for a festive and enjoyable outing. Hosted by Bro. Benjamin and Sis. Karen Boone, the couples shared stories and enjoyed great fellowship over delicious food. A wonderful time was had by all who attended the outing.



---

## *For Richer or Poorer*

---

The wives who lived within the walls of the Weinsberg Castle in Germany were well aware of the riches it held: gold, silver, jewels, and wealth beyond belief.

Then the day came in 1141 A. D. when all their treasure was threatened. An enemy army had surrounded the castle and demanded the fortress, the fortune, and the lives of the men within. There was nothing to do but surrender.

Although the conquering commander had set a condition for the safe release of all the women and children, the wives of Weinsberg refused to leave

without having one of their own conditions met, as well. They demanded that they be allowed to fill their arms with as many possessions as they could carry out with them. Knowing that the women couldn't possibly make a dent in the massive fortune, their request was honored.

When the castle gates opened, the army outside was brought to tears. Each woman had carried out her husband.

The wives of Weinsberg, indeed, were well aware of the riches the castle held.

---

# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

## THE TATER FAMILY



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.  
Galatians 5:22-23*

A church is very much like a family. Each member of the church family may be different. Let me introduce you to the Tater Family, each with a special identity and personality. The **Tater family** is made up of a father named **Dick Tater**, a mother whose name is **Sweet Tater**, a teenage son named **Speck Tater**, a daughter named **Emma Tater** and two children in the nursery. They would be the **Tater tots**!

The father, **Dick Tater** always has to be the boss. He always tells everyone what to do. If he can't be the boss, he won't even come to church at all.

The mother, **Sweet Tater**, always has something nice to say about everyone. She never insists on having her own way and she would never get mad or get her feelings hurt if she didn't get her way. She really shows what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The teenage son, **Speck Tater** just doesn't want to get involved. He doesn't want any jobs, he just wants to sit back and watch everyone else do the work. Of course, if they don't do it to suit him, he will surely be the first to criticize and find fault.

The daughter, **Emma Tater**, is more worried about what she wears to church than she is about what happens at church. It is very important to her that she is dressed in the latest style. She wants everyone to notice her.

Well, that brings us to the **Tater tots** in the nursery. I don't know how they will turn out, but they will probably look at the other members of the family and decide that they want to be like one of them. They might become a **Dick Tater, a Sweet Tater, a Speck Tater, or an Emma Tater**. Let's hope that they make the right choice.

*Dear Lord, as we choose the type of church family member we will be, help us to make the right choice. Let us show the fruit of your Spirit in our lives. Amen.*

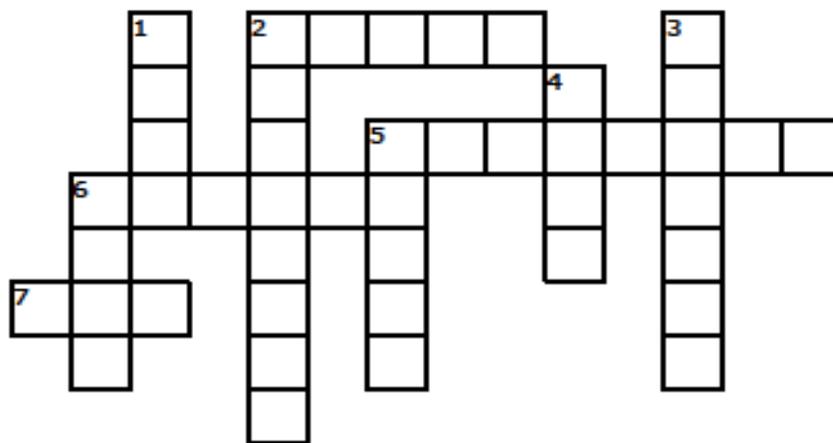
# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis Earleen Sharrock

## The Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Galatians 5:22-23



### ACROSS

2. The usually sweet part of a plant or tree which is good to eat
5. Calmly waiting for something to happen
6. To be kind and tender toward others
7. A feeling of happiness.

### DOWN

1. A strong feeling of caring for another person
2. To be loyal and true
3. Being in charge of your feelings actions (self-\_\_\_\_\_)
4. Treating others with respect
5. Not angry or fighting with another
6. Showing kindness toward others.

GOOD	FRUIT	JOY	CONTROL	FAITHFUL
PATIENCE	KIND	LOVE	PEACE	GENTLE

# August 2015

*“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:00am Morning Worship	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Jocelyn Thompson by calling the church at 919-688-1886. You may also reach her via email at churchcalendar@mylmbc.org.</i></p> <p><i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i></p> </div>				1 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Ministry
2	3 7:00pm Music Ministry	4 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer  6:00pm Pastor's Aide 6:30pm Sounds of Joy 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	5  6:30pm Intercessory Prayer 7:00pm Bible Study	6  6:00pm Christian Board  6:30pm Sounds of Joy	7  7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	8 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess 3:00pm Table of Colors 6:00pm Couples Ministry
9 7:30am Deacons  3:00pm Pastor's Anniversary	10	11 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer 6:30pm Health & Wellness 6:30pm Voices of Praise 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	12  6:30pm Intercessory Prayer 7:00pm Bible Study	13  6:00pm Christian Board 6:30pm Voices of Praise	14  7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	15 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 9:00am Laymen's League
16	17	18 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer  6:30pm Newsletter 6:30pm Male Chorus 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	19  6:30pm Intercessory Prayer 7:00pm Bible Study	20  6:00pm YAC  6:30pm Male Chorus	21  7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	22 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
23 1:00pm Usher Ministry  3:00pm Missionary Anniversary	24	25 Noon Day Prayer 6:30pm Computing & Technology 6:30pm Voices of Praise 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	26  6:30pm Intercessory Prayer 7:00pm Bible Study	27  6:30pm Voices of Praise	28  7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	29 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)