

Olney Street Baptist Church

The Bridge



Connecting Church, Home and the Community



Volume 1, Issue 8
January 2015

The Character of Servant Leadership by Reverend J. M. Wilson, Jr., D.Min.



Welcome, new lay leaders of Olney Street Baptist Church. As you reflect on your new role, there is the challenge to develop spiritually according to servant leadership concepts. You may be saying, "What is this servant leadership stuff?" Matthew 20:28 addresses Jesus' words when he says, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many."

Servant Leadership is Jesus' way of leading. In 2013, Lee N. June, Ph.D. and Christopher C. Mathis Jr., Ph.D. edited a book entitled *African American Church Leadership: Principles for Effective Ministry and Community Leadership*. If you are interested in growing leaders for the future and becoming a spiritual leader, you will appreciate reading this resource. According to Dr. June (2013) she asserts: "With regard to the heart, they believe that leadership is first a spiritual matter of the heart. The heart entails one's motivation for leadership. The head involves one's beliefs and theories regarding leadership. Hands are one's actions. Habits refer to what one does from day to day."¹

Advent is a time of "expectation of something that is about to happen." We know that Jesus Christ is coming and the story of Jesus' birth brings hope for all generations. I am submitting this article for your reflection while you discern your Christian work. The church is about Servant Leadership and the characteristics that are vital to your role as a Christian worker. Advent represents hope, faith, and the anticipation of a joyous beginning and a vision of possibilities. - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Francis A. Schaeffer Institute of Church Leadership Development
www.churchleadership.org

Servant Leadership is exercising real, godly leadership, as Christ did when He used a towel, and influencing, equipping, and empowering people to accomplish God's purpose and plan. It is serving others unselfishly while influencing and empowering them to grow in a Christ-directed, purposeful direction. This was an uncommon trait in Jesus' time, just as it is in ours; do not let it be uncommon for you! Being a leader in the church, or in the home, is never a force of personality; it is earning that respect because you love and care (1 Kings 3:9; Luke 22:25-28; Matthew 25:21; Mark 9:33-37; John 5:19; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Timothy 2:24; Hebrews 13:17).

Is the Character of Servant Leadership working in you? Here is how you can find out. Take a careful look at this character, this Fruit of Servant Leadership from God's most precious Word, by examining the passages below. Now ask yourself:

Article continued on next page

1. How do I exhibit Servant Leadership in my daily life?
2. What can I do to develop a better willingness to have a serving attitude in leadership and value people rather than manipulate them?
3. What blocks Servant Leadership from working and being exhibited in me?
4. How can I make Servant Leadership function better, stronger, and faster, even in times of uncertainty and stress?

Here are positive examples from Scripture (John 13:1-17; Acts 13:1-5; 1 Corinthians 16:15-18)

Here are negative examples from Scripture (Genesis 30:25-43; Judges 13-16; Ezra 4:8-23; Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 22:24).

Manipulation, Political Self-Centered Agendas, and Exploitation, are all opposites. These types of leadership models may be the common approach—so it seems—but they will fragment, and even destroy a church. The leadership for the church must come from the Jesus model, not the business model! Rotten leadership is more destructive than a legion of demons, as it corrupts godly principles and displays a skewed understanding of our call to follow Christ. It seeks its own, and not the Word.

Jesus clearly tells us that a leader should behave like a servant (Luke 22:26). We are not in leadership for power, control, or for personal gain. Rather, we are to point others in His direction by our example. Jesus took a towel and washed His disciple's feet. This is an act we can easily glance over, missing its significance. But this was God, Creator of the universe, performing the lowest job in that culture—washing someone's feet. If the President of the United States came over to clean your toilet, it would be a pale comparison! This is an example for us—we are never too high in our position to perform the lowest tasks, because, it is not the task—it is our servant attitude that is important.

Samson was a Judge for Israel (Judges 13-16). His primary responsibility was to lead his people, and defeat the Philistines. He chose, instead, to party and pursue women that were not right for him. The end result was that his strength was taken away; he was blinded and powerless. Only at the literal end of His life did he call upon God. He wasted his leadership and abilities on foolish, meaningless gains and manipulation. How sad that so many of our church leaders do the same. We are given precious opportunities and we squander them, pursuing trends, personal needs, and desires—and not God's Will!

¹ Lee N. June and Christopher C. Mathis Jr., *African American Church Leadership: Principles for Effective Ministry and Community Leadership* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publication) p.255

How to Make a Submission to The Bridge

The Bridge is published four times a year. It is distributed at Olney Street Baptist Church, Camp Street Ministries and other community locations, via email and can be viewed on the church website @ www.olneystreet.com.

We welcome submissions, including church ministry news, community news, poetry, member news, anecdotes, etc.

Your article or news may be submitted via email to s.lezlee@gmail.com, placed in the Church Newsletter Committee mailbox in Fellowship Hall or given to a member of the Newsletter Committee. Any photo(s) you wish to include with your article must be submitted by email as an attachment or on a flash drive in jpeg format.

Submissions may be edited for length and content and must be received prior to publication deadline.

Teens should go to bed earlier, not get up later
“Traditional Parenting” by John Rosemond

[Submitted by Deaconess Cleo Nobles]

It's a fact that a good night's sleep is essential to optimal performance, no matter the task. It is also a fact that America's teens, generally speaking, don't get enough sleep. Ergo, American teens, as a group under-perform in school.

In consideration of the above, a movement has arisen to extend school start times to at least 8:30 a.m. I think the well meaning folks behind said movement are missing the point. The problem, it seems to me, is not when the school day begins. The problem is teens whose parents let them stay up until all hours of the night playing video games, texting, talking on their cell phones, watching television, surfing the net, and listening to music on headphones. In other words, bedtime is the problem, not school time.

Furthermore, it is well known that electronics of the above sort interfere with circadian rhythms. A teen using any of these devices well into the evening is going to have difficulty falling asleep.

This is yet another example of how the culture absolves parents of responsibility for their children (because that would constitute what's come to be known as “blaming”) and assigns it instead to some faceless institutional policy.

This is also an example of how institutions and bureaucracies tend to completely ignore the Law of Unintended Consequences when it comes to setting policy. Let me assure the reader that if a school decides to push its start time from 8 to 9 a.m., the teens who attend said school will simply use that as an excuse to stay up playing, texting, talking, watching, surfing, and listening for another hour. They will get exactly the same amount of sleep, come to school equally tired, and their achievement will suffer equally.

The solution to the problem of teens who don't get enough sleep on school nights is for parents

to step up to the plate and make it impossible for their kids to play, text, talk, watch, surf, and listen after 8 at night. With nothing to do but twiddle their thumbs or read, these teens will fall asleep. And because their brains have not been bombarded with electronic stimulation prior to falling asleep, they will sleep more soundly. And because they will sleep more soundly, they will wake up refreshed and go to school prepared mentally to do their best.

Ah, but that's the rub, of course. I refer to parents who will not set limits of any meaningful sort on their children's use of electronics because, get this, it will upset them. And we must not, in America, have upset children.

As one parent put it to me recently: “I mean, but John, that's what they're all doing at night!” Meaning that if he shut down his teenage child's electronic access after 8 p.m., the child would be placed at a significant social disadvantage, grow up feeling deprived, and never reach his full potential or some other such baloney.

My parents hardly ever let me do what “all” the other kids were doing. In retaliation, I left home and got married at age 20 and managed, somehow, to overcome the debilitating social limitations my parents had imposed on me and create a reasonably decent life for myself, wife, and kids. Oh, and my parents made me turn out my lights at no later than 10 o'clock on school nights until I went to college.

But that was back in those benighted days when parents didn't care what their children thought about any decision they made. Some people actually call them the “good old days.” How ridiculous.

*Family psychologist John Rosemond:
johnrose-mond.com and parentguru.com.*

Youth Mission Team

During December, the Youth Mission Team was once again able to reach out to our community. On December 19, our Youth visited the sick and shut-in members of Olney Street at Berkshire and Charlesgate Nursing Centers and passed out cards. On December 20, OSBC had a team of 10 representatives participating in *Feed 1,000* at the RI Convention Center. *Feed 1,000* provides a meal and some comfort for those in a marginalized financial situation. In addition, items were collected to be included in gift bags which were given out to those in attendance.

Beginning in January, the Youth Mission Team is asking for Dunkin Donut/ McDonald's gift cards and ready-to-eat/microwavable food items for our friends in need at Church Beyond the Walls. We will be preparing goodie bags. Our goal is 100 bags. Change for food will be collected starting the 4th Sunday in January, and donations to our Food Pantry will be greatly appreciated at any time.

Our young people will be participating in *Acquire the Fire* on February 27. *Acquire the Fire* is a 27 hour, full-weekend, themed, Christian event that is engineered to deliver the Gospel to young people in an immersive, entertaining, unique, powerful way.



Children are a gift from the Lord...Psalm 127 (New Life Version)

Youth Activities offered at Olney Street Baptist Church

Sunday School	Sundays 9:30—10:45 AM
Church	Sundays 11:00 AM
Children's Church	Sundays 11:40 AM—Fellowship Hall
Youth Choir	Saturdays 12:00 Noon
AB Boys (7—17)	3rd Saturday of the month at 4:00 PM
AB Girls (7—17)	2nd Friday of the month at 6:00 PM
*First Fridays (of the month)	Travel to Providence Assembly of God
Steppers	Thursdays at 6:00 PM
Fellowship & Special Events	To be announced

* Praise with Holy Hip-Hop, Gospel Rap, Spoken Word, Praise Dance, Instruments and Songs

The Power of Prayer

By Wilma J. Williams

One of the blessings of knowing God is the privilege of answered prayer. And to me, the most effective prayer is personal prayer. Then is when I, alone, pray directly to God for something that concerns me. Of course, we can and should pray corporately and publicly, but the Word does admonish us, “When thou prayest, enter into thy closet (private place of prayer), and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” (Matt. 6:6).

In prayer, we seek divine wisdom from the One who has all the answers. If we want to obey and please God by doing His will, we must seek His face. In our times of greatest need, we can confidently take our concerns directly to the Father in earnest prayer. The Bible states, “After this manner... pray (Matt. 6:9); and “whatsoever things ye shall ask in prayer” (21:22); and “his ears are open unto their cry (prayers) (ps. 34:15). “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James. 5:16).

When Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, He also gave us a model in the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus instructed us to acknowledge our relationship to our Father. He said, “When (not if) ye pray” (Matt. 6:7), “pray ye: Our Father” (vs. 9). Prayer is based on our relationship with the Father, and that relationship comes from being born again. Because we are Christians, we can pray directly to our Father without any human intercessor.

Jesus also told His disciples that it was their Father in heaven whom they were addressing, not any other person or thing in heaven or on earth. Christian believers, unlike those who worship false gods, do not pray to statues, dead ancestors, idols, or anything made by man’s hands. We pray to the living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the only one capable of hearing and answering our prayers. When we pray, we acknowledge our trust in and dependence on our Heavenly Father. He not only is the source of everything we receive but is also our spiritual Counselor.

Jesus also stated that we are to ask God to help us not to be led into temptation – into the devil’s trap. Satan desires to trip us up, causing us to stumble and fall into sin (cf. I Peter 5:8). Jesus assures us, though, that we can ask and expect our living Heavenly Father to deliver us from evil (Matt. 6:13). What Jesus taught His disciples in the Lord’s Prayer is for believers today.

Christians have in Jesus Christ the greatest example of someone who prayed to the Father. He prayed that His disciples would be one as He and the Father are one (John 17:21). He prayed in solitude (Mark 1:35). He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion (Matt. 26:39), and before He ascended back to heaven. He prayed that the Father would send the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) to be with and dwell within the hearts of each and every believer (John 14:16).

It may come as a surprise that the Son of God prayed, but He did. If He needed to pray, how much more do we? The morning that the Master chose His twelve disciples, He had spent the previous night alone in prayer, seeking His Father’s will (Luke 6:12). If Jesus knew He needed to pray before making a life-changing decision, so should we.

There are some hindrances to our prayers. One of them is refusing to forgive others. Jesus sternly warns us that forgiving others is as much a part of prayer as asking Him for things. As a matter of fact, He lets us know that if we want our prayers answered, not holding another person’s transgressions against him is a must (Mark 11:25). We are praying when we ask God to forgive us our trespasses. We are also praying when we say that we forgive those who trespass against us (Matt. 6:15).

On this Christian journey, we will have difficult choices and decisions to make that only the all-wise and all-knowing

(Article continued on page 8)

Walking Away from a Battle You Can Afford to Lose

*By Charles P. Wilson, National Chairman
National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers*

The events that took place in Ferguson, Missouri, cause me to wonder not only about the level of police response, but also the mindset of the community where that response has been concerned. It is irrevocably true that people do stupid things just because they know how. But I have always found that doing stupid, for us, means someone pays dearly for their stupidity.

As a law enforcement officer, I am obligated to control and disperse crowds, make arrests for civil disobedience, and take into custody others who break the law. As both a law enforcement officer and a black man, I have seen the abuses that are somehow endemic in the system I work in. But I also know and recognize that there are things that we can do to better protect ourselves in those situations.

What disturbs me the most, however, is that so many black folk seem not to use their heads when they are confronted by the police. So let's have a little talk about what to do when stopped by the police.

First, if the officer orders you to do something, do it. Whether it is to pull your vehicle over or clear the streets; it is to your advantage to comply with their directive. Doing so will insure that you do not get arrested, have your head beat, or worse. To put this in perspective, Michael Brown and his friend were originally stopped for walking in the middle of the street and told to walk on the sidewalk. They ignored that directive. What happened in Ferguson could be looked at as a direct result of that unwise decision. This is not a condemnation of the victim; it is just a mere statement of the facts as they have been reported.

Second, if they ask for your identification, show it to them. You have an obligation to provide proper identification when requested and the Supreme Court has determined that you can be arrested for not doing so, even if you have done nothing else wrong. And to all of the college kids out there, that includes showing identification to campus police officers and security personnel. Want a quick trip to the Dean's office? Don't show your student ID and see what happens.

Don't argue with the officer. The quickest way to get a ticket or get arrested is to argue the merits of a police stop at the scene. If you think the stop was improper, or the officer was rude, abusive or just plain annoying, file a complaint with Internal Affairs. Understanding the law is a great thing, but don't even think that you can debate the law with a cop, because unless you have a law degree they will most often know it better than you do. Even if they finally decide in the officer's favor, it is another nail in their coffin as those records stay with them. And for those truly bad cops, someone will eventually take notice.

DO NOT FIGHT WITH THE POLICE! This is the **ABSOLUTE SURE WAY** to get yourself shot. And it usually will not be just one officer that will be involved in the fight, so be properly advised and warned.

DO NOT RUN! They will then be **ABSOLUTELY SURE** that you did whatever it is they think you did. You then run the risk of getting your head busted or getting shot, neither of which will feel good.

Videotaping is good. But make sure you get the **ENTIRE EVENT**, not just portions. You need to be able to show that you really did not do anything wrong, not just that the officer's conduct was bad.

Having a **GOOD** witness to what happened is also a good idea. **ESPECIALLY** if you end up getting arrested.

(continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

These concepts will, under most circumstances, be recognized by any good police officer worth their salt, and taken as a sign of respect for what they do. And for those truly bad cops, it will make them have to work harder to find a justifiable reason for giving you that ticket or placing you under arrest.

Now before anyone gets the wrong idea about this, the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers has successfully been teaching these concepts for more than 20 years in an effort to help young black people survive encounters with the police. We know that these recommendations work. And it is not about giving in or showing blind obedience. They are a common sense approach that will allow you to be able to walk away from a battle that you can afford to lose. Being able to live and fight on another day is the best thing in the world. It's really about not being stupid just because you know how.

Charles P. Wilson is a career law enforcement officer and is a three term National Chairman of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers.



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we all live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Galatians 5:22-26

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

American Baptist Women's Ministries Spiritual Growth Retreat

On Friday and Saturday, January 23-24, 2015, American Baptist Women's Ministries of RI will hold its Winter Retreat at Canonicus Camp & Conference Center, Exeter, RI. The retreat will be a time to explore and reflect on the theme “*Ebenezer*” - *Stone of Help*”. The retreat leader will be Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell, Co-Pastor of North Scituate Baptist Church.

Plan to bring your daughters, granddaughters or young friends of elementary/middle school age for an ongoing ABGIRLS program that they will enjoy.

Experience...

- Encouragement to do a new thing
- Exploration of God's word
- Enjoyment in fellowship and song
- Joy in worship
- Time to discover

For more information, see flyers and registration forms posted in Fellowship Hall.

Father can help us with. Since we have faith to trust Him with the salvation of our souls, we should trust Him with all matters in our lives. If we fail to consult Him, our lack of prayer could result in a lifetime of heartache – the sad penalty of not finding God’s will in every situation and circumstance.

How many of us know sincere, wonderful Christians who accepted the first job that was offered to them, bought a house before they were financially secure, moved to a new city only for monetary gain, or perhaps made the biggest mistake of all – marrying someone without first seeking the Father’s will in prayer? When we do not ask, we are on our own. This is why Jesus instructs us to ask God that His will (not ours) be done on earth (in our personal lives) as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).

How do we apply what Jesus instructed His disciples over two thousand years ago to our lives today? I believe we begin by understanding that there is no distance or space in God’s time frame. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). Whatever He said then is valid today. Whatever the early disciples could pray, we can pray today. Whatever their needs were back then, our needs are basically the same today. So when Jesus told His followers what to pray, we can put ourselves in their place and pray the same prayers.

For many years, I have kept a daily journal in which are highlighted answers to my prayers. Every child of God should have testimonies to God’s faithfulness through answered prayers.

I was going on thirty years old and had never been married. To make a long story short, when I sought God’s will concerning marriage, He brought the man I would marry into my life. That was over thirty-three years ago.

It goes without saying that prayer is an integral part of the believer’s spiritual life. Prayer is our lifeline to the Father and should be considered even more necessary than our daily bread.

Gospel Herald and The Sunday School Times – Summer Quarter 2014. Reprinted by permission of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press, P.O. Box 6059, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

The Origins of Black History Month

(Submitted by Sister Schellie Johnson)

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson, an alumnus of the University of Chicago traveled with some friends to Washington, DC to celebrate the national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Thousands attended to see exhibits and participate in the convention. Woodson decided to form an organization to extend the celebration and encourage the study of black life and history. In early September of that year, Woodson, A. L. Jackson and three others met to form the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The following year the Journal of Negro History was launched, and in 1924 Negro History and Literature Week was created (later renamed Negro Achievement Week), as a way to promote the achievements that researchers were uncovering and share knowledge about the Black past. Then in 1926, Woodson released public information for the official celebration of Negro History Week. It is noted Woodson chose February because of celebrations already taking place which affected the Black community. There were the celebrations of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass during this month and he felt Negro History Week would be an extension not a recreation of tradition. Woodson felt “rather than focusing on two men, the Black community should focus on the countless Black men and women who had contributed to the advance of human civilization” (Scott, 2011). During the 1920’s, the Post-War I generation began to embrace black culture and literature and a demand for information surfaced.

Throughout his lifetime, Woodson believed Black history was too important to cram into one week and urged for a year-long education for everyone. During the Civil Rights Movement, continued change expanded the need and thirst for a continued celebration. In the 1960’s “young blacks on college campuses became increasingly conscious of links with Africa, and Black History Month replaced Negro History Week” (Scott, 2011). Since the mid-1970’s official proclamations have come from the president of the United States to extend the celebration during the month of February for all to benefit from the contributions and sweat of the Black community.

Daryl Michael Scott for ASALH at www.asalh.org

Mark Your Calendar



Women's Ministry meeting

Saturday, January 3, 2015, 9-11 am

**32nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr.
Scholarship Breakfast @ Rhodes on the Pawtuxet**

Monday, January 19, 2015, 8 am

**ABWM Spiritual Growth Retreat
@ Canonicus**

January 23 - 24, 2015

Acquire the Fire Event, Bloomfield, CT

February 27, 2015

At a Day's End By John Hall

Is anybody happier
Because you passed their way?
Does anyone remember
That you spoke to them today?

Is a single heart rejoicing
Over what you did or said?
Does the one whose hopes were fading
Now with courage look ahead?

The day is almost over,
And its toiling time is through,
Is there anyone that will utter
A kind word about you?

Did you win the day or lose it?
Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness,
Or a scar of discontent?

Can you say tonight in parting,
With the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single person
Of the many that you passed?

As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow
By the good you did today?"

Sick and Shut In*

Let us continue to spread hospitality to our homebound.
Romans 12:13 says: "Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."
Bless someone with a phone call, a prayer or a visit.

Sister Dora Nelson

Brother Russell Nicholas

Sister Doris Simmons

Sister Lillian Shaffer

Sister Helen Butler

Sister Van Johnson

Sister Durlene Nembhard

Sister Louise Malabrie

Deaconess Hazel Bradley

Brother Walter Baptista

Sister Barbara Fuller

***See Sunday Church
Bulletin for
contact information.**

Sister Josephine Oliver



WHY?

(A One Act Play with Two People)

[Submitted by Sister Ann McGloshen]

Me:	God, can I ask you a question?	God:	Sure.
Me:	Promise you won't get mad?	God:	I promise.
Me:	Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?	God:	What do you mean?
Me:	Well, I woke up late.	God:	Yes.
Me:	My car took forever to start.	God:	Okay.
Me:	At lunch they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.	God:	Hmmmm.
Me:	On the way home my phone went dead just as I picked up a call.	God:	Okay.
Me:	And on top of all that, when I got home I just wanted to soak my feet in my new foot massager and just relax but it wouldn't work!!! Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?	God:	Well, let me see. The Death angel was at your bed this morning, and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.
Me:	(Humbled): Oh..	God:	I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that would have hit you if you were on the road.
Me:	(Ashamed).	God:	The person who made your first sandwich today was sick, and I didn't want you to catch what he has. I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.
Me:	(Embarrassed) Ok...	God:	Your phone went dead because the person who was calling was going to give false witness about what you said during that call. I didn't even let you talk to them so that you would be covered.
Me:	(softly) I see, God.	God:	Oh, and that foot massager had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.
Me:	I'm sorry God.	God:	Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me in all things, the good and the bad.
Me:	I will trust you.	God:	And don't doubt that My plan for your day is always better than your plan.
Me:	I won't God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.	God:	You're welcome, child. It was just another day being your God, and I love looking after My children.

Trusting God's decisions is the largest challenge we have, and we have to work harder to understand why things don't always go the way we expect them to.

Where and Why Did We Stop?

Written by Sister Schellie Johnson

"The fact is we made dramatic progress in the 1960s in eradicating hunger and improving the health status of children, and then we just stopped trying". *Marian Wright Edelman, founder of Children's Defense Fund.*

I read this quote and it seemed to hit home. Where and why did we stop? I remember a time when Black History Month meant something. Now even on BET they show reruns of the same gangster movies that were made in the 80's. Where and why did we stop? I remember a time when Black History was taught in our schools. It wasn't about the Lebron James' or Kobe Bryants'. It was about the Marian Wright Edelmans' and the Jesse Jackson, Jr's. Where and why did we stop? There was pride in going to church and seeing the church mothers in their hats. You remember the hats? The ones blocking the view of the pulpit. The pride in knowing that I just gave a quarter to UNICEF and it was going to help a child like me. It was the pride in my Pastor knowing my name and that I was so and so's grandchild. Where and why did it stop? Miss such and such telling on me to my grandmother. Knowing so and so's child was in jail and what a shame. It wasn't a badge of honor. It was a sin and a shame. And did you know that so and so dropped out of school? What a crying shame.

We had pride in our community. Nobody had to tell us to plant vegetables and share what we had. Nobody had to tell us to help Ms. Such and Such carry her bags up the street from the bus. And so and so's boy going to college was a badge of honor for the whole community. And, he came back to the community to help it thrive.

My generation was so quick to leave, to make a better life, that we forgot that life starts at home. So, here we are — almost sixty years later in the same predicament we started. Children hungry. Houses dilapidated. Rampant crime. Nobody has an answer. For some odd reason, in the 90's everybody had to be in activities with their children. The more you were in the better family you were supposed to be. Look at us now. Where's that loving family we were trying to culminate? Has your child visited you lately? We were so busy trying that we forgot to try. Our children have no direction. Our schools have no direction. Our churches, sorry to say, have no direction.

Here's the answer. Get a grip. Get up and get out. Meet your neighbor. Find a church home. Grow a vegetable. Donate your time. Do you remember the mantra, each one teach one? Well I say, love one, save one. Too many jails? Get out and vote. Too many killings? Get out and vote. Too many illiterate kids? Get out and vote. Too many of us out here have just stopped trying. Black History is not history it is His Story.

The Rocks of Our Faith

(Author Unknown)

[Submitted by Sister Ann McGloshen]

- ♦ GOD (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is knowable.
- ♦ "Word became flesh" in JESUS CHRIST and He, through the CROSS and RESURRECTION, opened the way for a relationship with GOD.
- ♦ The BIBLE is the divinely inspired WORD of GOD and is the authoritative guide for knowing and serving GOD.
- ♦ CHRISTIAN LIFE is a call to discipleship (the lifelong process of becoming more like CHRIST).
- ♦ CHURCH LIFE is equally built on individual and corporate Spiritual growth.

Olney Street Baptist Church



100 Olney Street
Providence, RI 02906
Phone: 401-272-1024/
401-272-1025
Website:
www.olneystreet.com
E-mail:
secretary.osbc@yahoo.com

Olney Street Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Johnny M. Wilson, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Bassey Ekpong, Associate Minister

Officers & Ministries — 2015

Church Officers

Sister Joyce Hall, Church Clerk
Deaconess Bettye Clanton, Asst Church Clerk
Deacon Charles Nobles, Chair, Deacon Ministry
Sister Dorothy Henley, Chair, Trustee Ministry
Sister Charlene Simmons, Treasurer
Brother Andre Williams, Asst. Treasurer
Sister Carolyn Addison, Chair, Christian Education
Sister Mary Henley, Sunday School Superintendent
Sister Agnes Ashe, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
Brother Edward Roberts, III, Church Moderator

Christian Education Ministry

Sister Dorothy Cooper-Browne	Sister Tina Scott
Sister Lucille Henderson	Sister Lezlee Shaffer
Sister Collita Miller	Deacon David Simmons
Brother Philip Renzi	
Sister Luisa Sanchez	

Deacon/Deaconess Ministry

Deacon James Dixon	Deaconess Hazel Bradley
Deacon Charles Ross	Deaconess Bettye Clanton
Deacon Raymond Scott	Deaconess Vivian Moore
Deacon David Simmons	Deaconess Cleo Nobles
Deacon Vincent Tiemo	Deaconess Thelma Ross
	Deaconess Lillie Scott
	Deaconess Dorothy Williams
	Deaconess Idela Wilson

Trustee Ministry

Sister Naomi Brown	Sister Cheryl Roberts
Brother Paul Dalrymple	Brother Albert Smith, Sr.
Brother Calvin Guyton	Brother Kinzel Thomas
Brother Charles Hall	Brother Wopre Tiemo
Brother Kwong Nuey	Brother Gary Washington
Sister Sharon Ottey	

Olney Street Baptist Church Mission Statement

To promote Spiritual Growth, Evangelism and Stewardship through Bible Study,
Prayer and the Development of Ministries throughout the Body of Christ and the Community.

Newsletter Committee Members

Sister Ann McGloshen	Deacon Raymond Scott
Sister Rosia Whetstone	Sister Lezlee Shaffer, Coordinator
Sister Schellie Johnson	Rev. Dr. Johnny M. Wilson, Jr., Ex-Officio