

# The *DC Pulse*

Your Connection to a Church with a Heart for the Community

The David Chapel Music Worship and Fine Arts Ministry

PRESENTS

A Citywide Production of:

## BLACK NATIVITY



Saturday, December 19, 2015

SHOWTIMES: 1:30 PM | 7:00 PM

Join the DC Drama Ministry and witness a dynamic production of "Black Nativity!" Black Nativity is the joyous account of an historic event that occurred 2,000 years ago. It's a celebration that tells the original story of the Nativity in scripture, verse, music and dance. Based on the Gospel of St. Luke and combined with the poetry of Langston Hughes, this joyous presentation delivers a powerful message of joy, hope, victory and liberation. The production features outstanding singers, actors and dancers from across the Austin area. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-nativity-tickets-19771022661> and every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Witness a theatrical wonderment in verse, music and dance!

## CELEBRATE DC SENIORS WITH DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lorena Griffin	December 6
Cecil Reed	December 8
Bernice Miller	December 9
B. Shirley Easley	December 11
Ora McCormick	December 22
Rosie McCall	December 26



Are you a senior adult with a birthday not listed? Call or [email](#) the church office.

## DECORATE DC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!



Each year, David Chapel members help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas by bringing poinsettias to honor or memorialize a loved one. If you wish to participate, please purchase a poinsettia and place it in the sanctuary the first (Dec. 6), second (Dec. 13), and third (Dec. 20) Sundays in December. The deadline to turn in names is Thursday, December 17, 2015.

Names should be given to Edith McKinney (512-926-9133) or Ernestine Hill (512-926-0441) by telephone or in person.



Wednesday worship service is on the Wednesday following the first Sunday from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This month, Wednesday worship is on December 8, 2015. Come and get into the true holiday spirit.



# THE MUSIC WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS MINISTRY PRESENTS

## #TOGODEVERYONEMATTERS

CONCERT FEATURING  
GAYE ARBUCKLE

SATURDAY  
JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00PM



PASTOR  
JOSEPH C. PARKER, JR.



2211 EAST MLK, JR. BLVD  
AUSTIN, TX 78702

Save the date and spread the word! In addition to the concert, all David Chapel members can begin registering for the workshop that will take place on the evening of Friday, January 15, 2015 through the morning of Saturday, January 16, 2016. Gaye Arbuckle, Pam Parker and Reverend Courtney Williams will serve as featured clinicians.

Register by Sunday, January 3, 2016 in person or online at [www.DavidChapel.org/go/mwfa](http://www.DavidChapel.org/go/mwfa). For questions regarding registration, please contact Shaunda Cooper at [musicworshipart@yahoo.com](mailto:musicworshipart@yahoo.com). Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

## *Save the Date...*

*You've heard about our 2016  
spiritual journey, and now it's  
time for the BIG reveal!*

Ladies of all ages, you're invited to join the  
Women's Enrichment Ministry leaders  
(aka DIVAS Divinely Inspired Virtuous Anointed Sisters)  
on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, immediately after service. We'll share our  
exciting plans for how we'll achieve our spiritual goals together.

*2016 will be a year you won't forget!*

*Saturday, January 30, 2016 | 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.*

## AUSTIN BAR FOUNDATION GALA



Join the Austin Bar Foundation for its 13<sup>th</sup> annual Gala, *Fire and Ice*, on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at the Four Seasons - Austin. Proceeds from the Gala benefit Austin Bar Association projects, including the Veterans Legal Clinic, and Austin Adoption Day, as well as the Justice Mack Kidd Fund and Volunteer Legal Services. Since its inception, the Foundation has given over \$85,000 in grants to law related charities. Tickets are \$175 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austin-bar-foundation-2016-annual-gala-tickets-18690124666>.

Awards given include the **David H. Walter Community Excellence Award**, the **Distinguished Lawyer Award**, the **Larry F. York Mentoring Award**, and inaugural **Joseph C. Parker Jr. Diversity Award**.



## Financial Ministry



The DC Financial Ministry continues to educate our church on the importance of financial health and God's desire for us to manage our finances biblically. Each month, the ministry is going to give you a tip or reminder to stay on track towards God's goals for you!

With Christmas right around the corner, it seems to be a perfect time of year to remember to be extra vigilant about spending. Here are three things that will help:

1. I will learn to say "no" to "sales" for which I have not budgeted.
2. I will avoid late charges by paying my bills on time because late charges are a waste of money.
3. If I am buying lunch every day and spend \$5.00 every time, that is \$25.00 a week, which adds up to \$100.00 a month which adds up to \$1,200.00 a year. By bringing my lunch, I could use the saved money to pay off debt or work toward a life goal like saving for retirement or for my children's education.



"Love offering" envelopes have been placed in the back of the pews and will be available throughout the month. Please use these envelopes for holiday expressions to Pastor Parker and the family. Make all checks payable to Joseph C. Parker, Jr.

To receive credit for tithes and offerings given this year, you **MUST** make your donations before midnight, **Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**, either online or at the church. Contributions received after midnight will be credited for the next year, 2016.



### Publication Deadline

All announcements and articles for the January publication must be submitted to the church office or Keisha Nunn ([communications@davidchapel.org](mailto:communications@davidchapel.org)) by **Sunday, December 20.**

# The Purpose of Christmas

An excerpt on "A Time for Celebration."

Pastor Rick Warren

The following article is an excerpt from Rick Warren's *The Purpose of Christmas*.

Christmas is a party. Specifically, it's a birthday party — for Jesus — and birthdays are meant to be celebrated. It's why we say "Merry Christmas!" Ironically, at most Christmas parties the person whose birthday we're supposed to be celebrating is completely ignored. He's never even mentioned. Although Jesus is the reason for the season, he's often overlooked or merely mentioned along with Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus, the Grinch, elves, and a long list of celebrated fictional characters.

As I was writing this little book, I decided to take a survey of Christmas shoppers. I asked, "What are you celebrating this Christmas?" Most answers had nothing to do with Jesus:

- "I'm celebrating that I made it through another year."
- "I'm celebrating being home with my family."
- "I got a Christmas bonus."
- "My son is home from Iraq."
- "The candidate I voted for got elected."
- "I'm celebrating that I've finished all my shopping."
- "I'm not celebrating anything. I'm just trying to survive."

Preparing for Christmas can be a lot of work, especially for moms. With the pressure of buying gifts, sending greeting cards, decorating our homes, putting up lights, cooking, attending parties, and cleaning up afterward, we have little time to actually enjoy the meaning of Christmas. The first purpose of Christmas is celebration! We learn this from the angel's opening statement to the shepherds of Bethlehem. God had wonderful news for us that would cause us all to rejoice, celebrate, and throw a party: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

The good news of Christmas is worth celebrating for three reasons. It is personal: "I bring YOU." It is positive: "GOOD news of great joy." And it is universal: "for ALL the people." It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, where you've been, or where you're headed — this news is for you. A national magazine used to carry a feature called "News You Can Use." I always read that section first. The angel brought us news we can use. It's the best news in the world:

- God loves you!
- God is with you!
- God is for you!

Christmas is a time to celebrate that God loves you!

The most famous statement in the Bible is Jesus' explanation of why God sent him to earth: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." The entire reason for Christmas is the love of God. God loves you so much that he came to earth as a human so you could get to know him and learn to trust him and love him back. Theologians call this the Incarnation. God became one of us, a human being, so we could understand what he is really like.

God has given us, as human beings, the capacity to know him in ways animals can't. He created us in his image, which includes the ability to enjoy a personal relationship with him. Then he took the initiative to send Jesus so we could understand his love and our need for him.

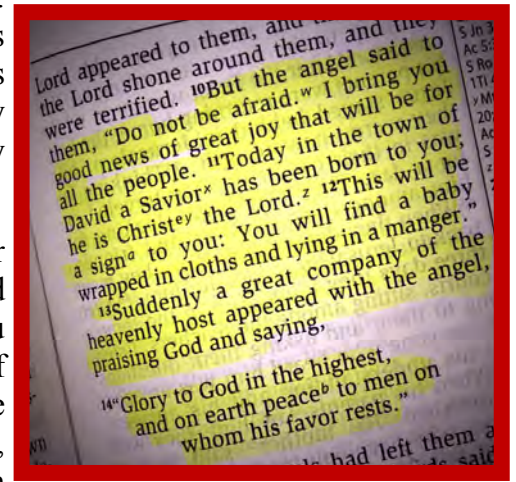
Until Jesus arrived, our understanding of God's love was limited. So God invaded earth! It was the greatest invasion in history, and nothing has been the same since. God could have chosen thousands of ways to communicate with us, but since he designed us, he knew the best way to communicate with us would be face-to-face. If God had wanted to communicate to birds, he would have become a bird. If God had wanted to communicate to cows, he would have become a cow. But God wanted to communicate to us, so he became one of us. He didn't send an angel or a prophet or a politician or an ambassador. He came himself. If you really want people to know how much you love them, you can't send a representative to communicate it. You have to say it personally. That's what God did at Christmas.

The Bible tells us that God is love. It doesn't say God has love, but God is love. Love is the essence of God's character. It is his very nature. The reason that everything in the universe exists is because God wanted to love it. "The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made." Think about this. If God didn't want to love something, he would not have created it. Everything you see, and the trillions of things you can't see, was made by God for his enjoyment. He loves it all, even when we mess it up with our sin. He still has a purpose for it. Every star, every planet, every plant, every animal, every cell, and, most of all, every human being was created out of God's compassion.

You were created as an object of God's love. He made you in order to love you! His love is the reason you're alive and breathing and reading this book. Every time your heart beats and every time you take a breath, God is saying, "I love you." You would not exist if God had not wanted you. Although there are accidental parents, there are no accidental babies. The parents may not have planned them, but God did. Did you know that God was thinking of you even before he made the world? In fact, it is why he created it! He designed this planet's environment with just the right characteristics so human beings could live on it. The Bible says, "God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made." We matter to God more than anything else he has made.

Because God's love for you is unconditional, he loves you on your bad days as much as on your good days. He loves you when you don't feel his love as much as when you do. He loves you regardless of your performance, your moods, your actions, or your thoughts. His love for you is unchanging. Everything else will change during your lifetime, but God's love for you is constant, steady, and continuous. It's the foundation for unshakable confidence. There is nothing you can do that will make God stop loving you. You could try, but you'd fail — because God's love for you is based on his character, not your conduct. It's based on who he is, not what you've done. The Bible says, "Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love."

One potential problem of our annual Christmas celebrations is that many people only think of Jesus as a baby! Their conception of him is only as a helpless newborn in his mother's arms. If Jesus had never grown up to do what he did, he'd have no power to transform our lives. But the baby born in Bethlehem did not stay a baby. Jesus grew to manhood, modeled for us the kind of life that pleases God, taught us the truth, paid for every sin we commit by dying on a cross, then proved that he was God and could save us by coming back to life. This is the Good News. When the Romans nailed Jesus to a cross, they stretched his arms as wide as they could. With his arms wide open, Jesus was physically demonstrating, "I love you this much! I love you so much it hurts! I'd rather die than live without you!" The next time you see a picture or statue of Jesus with outstretched arms on the cross, remember, he is saying, "I love you this much!"



DAVID CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
2211 E. M.L.K., Jr. Blvd ▪ Austin, Texas ▪ 78702 ▪  
(512) 472-9748 ▪ [www.davidchapel.org](http://www.davidchapel.org)  
“Like” us on Facebook!

Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Esq., D.Min., Senior Pastor

Remember to check the [church calendar](#) regularly for new events and scheduling changes.



In celebration of Christmas and the New Year, the church office will be closed the following days:

Thursday, December 24  
Friday, December 25  
Thursday, December 31  
Friday, January 1

**ONLINE GIVING** — Members and non-members may give their tithes and offerings online safely and securely through checking account, debit/credit cards and electronic fund transfers. Visit David Chapel's website for online giving, more information, and instructions at [www.davidchapel.org](http://www.davidchapel.org).

**BABY DEDICATIONS** are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, unless it is a holiday or an annual day. Please contact the church office at (512) 472-9748 to schedule your child's dedication and to obtain additional information regarding the event.

WE WISH YOU A  
**MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Sunday Morning Bible Study**  
Sunday School -- 9:15 a.m.

**Tuesday Bible Study**  
Tuesday Morning -- 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Prayer & Praise and Bible Study**  
Prayer & Praise Service -- 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study -- 7:30 p.m.

**BIBLESTUDY**  
JOIN US THIS WEEK

