

SUMMER/FALL 2019

# KOINONIA

*"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" --Jude 3*

Apostolic Faith Church - 265 Lafayette Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11238 - (718) 622-2295 - Rev. Heraclio J. Wyatt, Jr, Pastor

## CELEBRATING NEW SEASONS OF LIFE

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## PASTOR'S

## CELEBRATING LIFE

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In this edition of Koinonia our focus is on the different seasons of life and understanding that no matter what season we find ourselves in there is something to give God praise for. Even in the worst of situations there is significance in "Celebrating Life".

The psalmist declares emphatically, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth"(1). This year at the Apostolic Faith Church in Brooklyn there has been so much to praise God for! A couple of new members added to our ministry through the birth of new-born babes. This summer several of our young adults made the commitment of lifelong marriage. There were graduations from Sunday School as well as graduations from public school (we celebrated our children taking the step from one grade to another or one level of school to another). We even saw some of our young people move from high school to college and from college to full adulthood.

In the same vein there has been a few saints who have left us through death: Sis. Elis Caesar and Bro. Bienvenido Ramirez - two brethren that come to mind. Yet even in their passing, and in the midst of grief we choose to celebrate because we "rather be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."(2) Even in death the believer in Christ has a reason to celebrate.

Richard Foster in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, intimates that to celebrate is to do something uniquely Christian: "celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ." (3) As believers then it is important that we celebrate as an acknowledgement that what is taking place in our lives is a blessing from the Lord. This is what the writer James meant when he said, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."(4)

It is important however, to understand what our celebration as Christians entail. To be sure, as believers when we celebrate we are observing, and praising God for what is taking place in our lives; but to celebrate as a believer entails so much more. When we celebrate it is a proud proclamation of the greatness of God, "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord." First, Christian celebration then is a confession that what is taking place in our lives--the good and the bad--is because God is actively involved in our life. We live that life with His purpose and plan in mind. Second, our celebration of what God is doing in our lives serves to help those who are in less than joyous situations be encouraged in the current moment. The psalmist continues in chapter 34 to declare, "The humble shall hear thereof, and be glad". The humble includes those who endure suffering, those who need God to intervene on their behalf--the helpless, the powerless, and the hurting. Celebration also serves as a time of transition. It offers an opportunity to take stock of what has taken place in the past and the new opportunities in the future.

For those who have new born babies or are beginning a new marriage life, as you celebrate what is coming in the future you also acknowledge that there is a significant change taking place in your life. You're moving from one reality to a brand new state of being. Finally, the psalmist declares, "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Celebration for the believer is a corporate discipline; (5) we praise the Lord together. Like Old Testament characters such as Miriam and David, public celebration should include singing, and shouting, and dancing. We should invite others into the good news of what God is doing in the life of His people and in doing so our confidence in what God can do will grow--our faith will rise.

As you read this issue of Koinonia I invite you to celebrate with us. Celebrate life, blessings, and the transitions of life. Celebrate and give God thanks because He is present in all the activities of our lives.

1. Psalm 34:1a KJV

2. 2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV

3. Foster, Richard J., *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, (New York, HarperCollins, 1978), 190.

4. James 1:17 KJV

5. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, 197

Rev. Heraclio John Wyatt Jr.  
PASTOR





## MOTHER'S DAY CRUISE

On May 11, 2019 our Women's Fellowship Ministry hosted a Mother's Day cruise on the Long Island Sound that allowed us to celebrate and honor our mothers - both natural and spiritual! It was a day full of clear blue skies, the warmth of an impending summer, and a breeze that made some remove their jackets while others pulled their sweaters a bit tighter.

We enjoyed the bright sun on the deck, dined on delicious food, and shared many laughs together with family and friends. The day's activities, which also included a Bible trivia and culminated in a period of stirring tributes to our moms, were a great reminder of "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).







## MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Our annual Mothers' Day service was held on Sunday, May 12, 2019. Once again our mothers - young and old - were dressed in their finest. Some wore hats, others wore high heels, but all wore big smiles!

Sis. Susan Ojo led us in worship, while Sis. Jennifer Griffith directed the choir as they sang, "Faith of our Mothers" and "I Go to the Rock." The Children's Ministry also presented their mothers with flowers and certificates. Two of our mothers received special honor and recognition - Sis. Lilith Barry and Sis. Sannette Forrester. Later, the sermonic solo by Sis. Alicia Stacker expressed the sentiments of many as she sang, "I Pray We'll All Be Ready for His Return."

The surprise guest speaker of the day was our own First Lady Paulette Wyatt. Opening her message with the theme, "This is Not Where My Story Ends," she recounted the story of Ruth and Naomi, highlighting the faith and hope they showed in the midst of their loss.

Sis. Paulette spoke about the resilience women have and told us that "the past is not our final destination if we trust God." As we grieve our past - our "maybe I should have done this or that" - we should take our regrets to the Lord in honest conversation, she said, sharing scriptures about how the Lord is with us and will strengthen us (Isaiah 40:28-31, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 23:4). She also told us that God uses unlikely people for His purpose, which she illustrated by sharing about the lives of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary, who are all part of the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Just like God used them, He wants to use each of us, regardless of our past. But there's a catch, Sis. Paulette told us. In order to be used by God we must first trust Him!



# MAY REVIVAL

## OUR MAY REVIVAL SPEAKERS:

MIN. MAKTES BLANCO  
(AFC: BRONX, NY)

REV. ALFRED IKOTUN,  
PASTOR (AFC: OCEANSIDE, NY)

REV. JOSEPHINE MC ELVEEN,  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (AFC: WASHINGTON, DC)





# MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST







# SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION







# FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION JUNE 16TH, 2019







# Youth Revival

What a wonderful time we had in the Lord during our annual Youth Revival. We thank God for our revival speakers, Min. Lucrecia Passade, Min. Xavius Robinson (AFC: Atlanta, GA) and Min. Demetrius Mc Elveen (AFC: Washington, DC) for the inspirational words that was shared with us during the week. This year's theme was: "This Generation Seeks Him". The messages centered on coming out from where we are and seek the face of God. God wants the youth to be saved and to have a testimony that will stand - especially in these trying times.

On Saturday evening we experienced a beautiful Night of Praise & Worship like none other! Young people came from Wharton and Paterson, NJ, Washington, DC, East Bridgewater, MA, Oceanside, Brooklyn and the Bronx, NY just to fellowship and worship God together - what a night of unity!

As young people we were truly encouraged to walk in the power and authority that God has given us!





# BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES



Announcing the birth of Claudia Clottey born on August 22, 2019 to Janet & Nii Clottey



Announcing the marriage of Omolara Dami Iroko to Damilola Tosin Omotosho on Saturday, July 20, 2019



Announcing the birth of Naomi Love Gabrielle Toure born on May 17, 2019 to Anissia & Bobby Toure



Announcing the marriage of Fabian Best to Mercy Adebajo on August 1, 2019



# LEON C. DICKS ACHIEVEMENT GALA JUNE 28TH, 2019



## LIST OF GRADUATES

**Class of 2019 Graduates**

Sophia Ojo  
Maxwell Smith  
Dejevon Daniel  
Jayden Moore  
Enrique Castillo  
Aniya Daniel  
Abigail Wyatt  
Christian Charles  
Nathaniel Smith  
Asia Daniel  
Trayvon Daniel  
K-Sean Richie Stuart  
Katreena Stuart  
Bryana Morrison

A special thank you to our keynote  
speaker of the evening, Pastor Marlon  
Williams





# SIP 'N PAINT







# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL







# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"To God be the glory, great things He has done." We thank God for the opportunity to have Vacation Bible School this summer. We thank God for all the parents who registered their children to be with us for a week. The theme for VBS focused on faith. In our current environment, which can be challenging for people to walk, talk, drive, or even to stay alive, we must follow Abraham's example and go out by faith. Hebrews 11:8 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

During VBS, the children learned about...WHOOOSH meaning, to "Take Flight to Where God Leads You!" This curriculum used African American culture, history, and contemporary events as a lens through which to teach biblical truths and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It celebrates how, throughout the Bible, monuments are built to remember what God has done in the lives of His people. The children had the opportunity to learn and demonstrate a WHOOOSH word to describe who Jesus is to them. The children used different movements to express their WHOOOSH words such as: Incredible, Marvelous, Fabulous, Loving, Savior, Almighty, Caring, Loyal, Excited, Great, and New.

During the course of the day, the children received breakfast and snacks at the church. The children also received lunch at M.S. 113 Ronald Edmonds Learning Center in Brooklyn. After lunch the children had the opportunity to have recess in the neighborhood park.

Every afternoon when the children returned from lunch they had the opportunity to take part in different activities – some of which included arts and crafts. With the assistance of one of our instructor's, Deaconess Rosemarie Charles, the children created a "Ladder" and "Stained Glass Quilt". The children also had the opportunity to have a computer class led by instructors Sis. Marisa and Tiffany Morrison. They also led the children in learning our VBS theme song, "By Faith" for Music and Movement. The children enjoyed learning Music Theory by instructor Bro. Joshua Adesina. He also led the children to participate in fun sing-along activities. Sis. Tiffany Morrison also led the children in Music Fundamentals and let the children experiment using a keyboard to test each other's musical note skills.

We want to extend a special thank you to all our volunteers: Sis. Clarice Passade, Sis. Silvernee Harris, Min. Chrissy Bush, Sis. Pamela Morrison, Bro. Jayden Moore, Bro. John Morrison, Sis. Amee Charles, Sis. Marisa Morrison, Sis. Tiffany Morrison, Sis. Asia Daniel, Bro. Joshua Adesina, and Deaconess Rosemarie Charles for their hard work and time given to make VBS 2019 successful.



# Reaching Out Block Party 2019







# A JOURNEY TO AFRICA: EVOLUTION OF NIGERIAN MUSIC

On Saturday, August 24th we experienced, "A Journey to Africa - Evolution of Nigerian Music" at the Jeanne Rimsky Theater in Port Washington, NY. This breath taking musical was presented by the Lydore Music Network which featured one of our very own - Bro. Joshua Adesina.

The journey took us from Nigerian music from the precolonial era, the influence of western classical music on Nigerian folk / indigenous music all the way to Nigerian 21st century music. All of the musical compositions, song medleys and native dance arrangements were beautifully performed by some of the young brethren from various Apostolic Faith Churches. We look forward to more musical performances by the Lydore Music Network in the future.

"Culture entails a totality of traits and characteristics that are peculiar to a people - for it distinguishes them from other people and societies. These peculiar traits include: language, clothing, music, dances, etc... In Africa, these traits vary from country to country and from culture to culture."



# Pastor's Appreciation





# Harvest Night







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## Service Times

### Wednesday

12:00 pm - Noonday Prayer and Bible Study

6:30 pm - Prayer and Bible Study

### Friday

7:30 pm - Youth Night

### Sunday

9:30 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Morning Worship Service

