

WORSHIPPING
 Scriptures | Singing | Supplication
 Serving | Sacraments



WITNESSING
 Equipping | Evangelizing
 Embracing | Engaging | Energy



WORKING
 Teaching | Training | Time
 Talent | Treasure

59th Church Anniversary

Servant and Ministry of the Year Awards announced

She has led multiple ministries – helping to transform them for the better. And on Sept. 16, Sister Vernetta Williams received the Carol Moore Servant of the Year Award during the church’s 59th anniversary celebration.

The award is based on Williams’ dedication to ministries over the years and her ability to move them to a higher level. She was a ministry leader and teacher for the former Christian Women’s Fellowship (CWF), which evolved into what is now Today’s Leading Ladies. She was superintendent for the Sunday School and this year agreed to take on the challenge of leading the New Members Ministry. Along with the various leadership duties, Williams has often helped in other areas as needed, including with the Kitchen Ministry. She developed Greater Progressive’s T3 (Training the Trainer) program that started this year to help prepare and equip individuals with an interest in teaching.

Church Administrator Leslie Alford said Williams is a role model for leadership, ministry and servanthood. Pastor

Anthony R. Pettus Sr. said Williams makes him “look good.” She is one of the individuals he feels free to tell “run with it” because he knows her focus is biblically based.

“All I can say is to God be the glory,” Sister Williams said, in accepting the award.

The Greeters Ministry was named Ministry of the Year. Pastor Pettus credited the Greeters, led by Sister Fran Grant and Deacon Dennis Campbell, with setting a consistent example in both service and unity within the body of Christ.

The Greeters are known for frequently fellowshiping together, including with a summer brunch and Christmastime potluck. Last summer, several of the Greeters went on a cruise to the Bahamas.

Pastor Pettus said the Greeters can be counted on whenever called. In his eight years at Greater Progressive, Pastor Pettus said he has not had to intervene in the ministry because of chaos or conflict, an example of what he calls a “low-maintenance” ministry.



CONGRATULATIONS to Sister Vernetta Williams, head of the New Members Ministry, who received the Carol Moore Servant of the Year Award during the church’s 59th Anniversary celebration. The award is based on Sis. Williams’ dedication to various ministries over the years and her unique ability to move them to a higher level!



CONGRATULATIONS to the Greeters Ministry, which during the church’s 59th Anniversary celebration was named Ministry of the Year. The Greeters, led by Sister Fran Grant and Deacon Dennis Campbell, were credited with setting a consistent example in both service and unity within the body of Christ!

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE



P2

◀ **GPBC has 13 New Deacons!**
 The Deacon Ordination Service is highlighted with photos.



P4

◀ **New Members Graduate!**
 The GPBC New Members ministry graduates 15, changes the class structure, and encourages everyone to attend



P7

◀ **Photo Highlights**
 With Minister Mel Johnson, Sister Ruby Bates, and the new addition of Brother Caleb Goldsmith - Pictures are flooding in!



2215 John Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46803

phone (260) 744-6235
fax (260) 744-6460
www.greaterprogressive.org

Church Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00am - 4:00pm

Staff

Anthony R. Pettus, Sr.
Senior Pastor

Leslie E. Alford
Church Administrator

Delania Oman
Church Secretary

Anthony "T.J." Pettus, Jr.
Minister of Music

Ace Hawthorne
Custodian

Social Networking:

facebook.com/
greaterprogressive

twitter.com/gpbc_social

Newsletter Info:

If you have an article you would like to include in the newsletter please email: press@greaterprogressive.org or fax it to the church. The newsletter staff may not publish an article if it is not in line with the mission of the Greater Progressive Baptist Church. The staff also reserves the right to make corrections and/or changes to articles submitted. In addition, time sensitive articles get priority when space is limited.

CHANGING LIVES THRU
WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING & WORKING



FROM THE
Pettus Pen

THE MONTHLY VISION SHARING OF PASTOR ANTHONY R. PETTUS, SR.

Greetings GPBC Family,

It is time for another article. I have really been thinking hard about this month's article. Last month I talked about church health, and in the last thirty days I have noticed more and more that we need to become a healthy church in order to go to the next level in ministry. In our staff meeting we came up with the phrase "MAKE It Happen," so I would like to talk

about making it happen in this article.

As I have stated in the sermons the past two weeks, it is up to every individual to make it happen. Those of us who are already engaged in ministry should spend some time taking a look at our performance thus far this year, and honestly evaluate the volume of work and service we have given to The Lord. Have we given God our best? Have we been faithful to the ministry that we serve in? Have we been faithful in supporting our church with our time, talent, and treasure. Have I been faithful in living for Christ? We all need to evaluate all of the relationships that we're involved in to see if we need to let some people go in our lives that have only taken from us and not given anything. I believe that these are the kind of questions that will help each of us to assess where we are. These are the kind of questions, while they may be hard, that will help us become better.

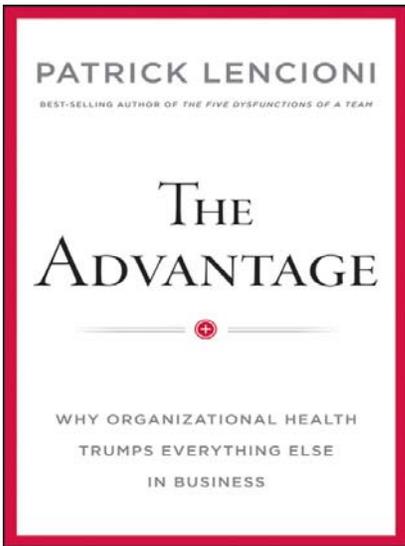
The key to making it happen at GPBC as a whole is for every individual become better! We have great potential as a church but if we never live up to our potential, it will just be another statement about what could have happened. In closing, let me just say that I believe in church, I believe that we are the hope of the world, I believe that we have what it takes to bring ministry to another level in this city. I believe in you, that you and I together can make a difference in this city. I believe that the only thing that can stop us is us.

Love You Much,

Pastor P

MAKE IT HAPPEN
MEMBERS ADVANCING KINGDOM EFFORTS
'I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.' John 9:4

**We can't expect the world to get better while we stay the same.
If the world is going to get better, we have to do better.**



BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Advantage

Organizational Health Trumps Everything Else in Business” by Patrick Lencioni.

This author was one of the keynote speakers at this year’s Global Leadership Summit, which largely caters to Christian leaders and is attended via satellite locally by many Greater Progressive leaders. Lencioni says in his book that leaders often ignore assessing organizational health because it is easier to focus on traditional tasks such as strategy, finance, marketing and technology – areas in the “smart” category that are key to success. But other requirements for success are minimal politics, minimal confusion, high morale, high productivity and low turnover – areas that fall under the “healthy” category. Focus tends to lean toward the “smart” topics rather than the “healthy” topics because most leaders want to avoid “subjective conversations that can easily become emotional and awkward,” Lencioni said. But he makes the argument that organizations that are healthy actually “get smarter over time.” Lencioni is founder and president of the management consulting firm The Table Group. He is the author of several other books, including “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team.”

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ESV

Signs of Financial Problems

by Sheila L. Alexander: Sheila is a Retail Center Manager and Assistant Vice President at Old National Bank.



Most of us have probably found it challenging to maintain our finances, especially with the rising costs of everything, including food and gasoline. There are a number of warning signs that can help all of us.

- Have you used one credit card to pay off another?
- Have you used credit card advances to pay bills?
- Do you charge items when you are short on cash?
- Do you use your credit cards to buy groceries?
- Are you reluctant to open monthly statements?

- Do you regularly charge more each month than you pay off?
- Do you write checks when the funds are not available?
- Do you apply for new credit cards when the limit is reached on other cards?
- Are you receiving late and over the limit fees?

Although symptoms of financial problems can be devastating, it is much easier to practice prevention rather than recuperation.

- Abstain from borrowing. “The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but

the righteous is gracious and gives” (Psalm 37:21).

- Saving. “There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up” (Proverbs 21:20).
- Making hasty decisions. “The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but every one who is hasty comes surely to poverty” (Proverbs 21:5).
- Develop a budget. “Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored” (Proverbs 13:18).

MAKE It Happen!

Congratulations: 13 New Deacons



Dennis Campbell, David Foster, Cornelius Goldsmith, James Goree (Pictured Below), Aaron Jones, Willie Frank Lipsey, Robert Love, Tyrone Mays, Curtis Paschall, LaMotte Price, Christopher Reid, Carl Springer and Larry Yates.



Deacons in Prayer



Deacon James Goree and Family



Wives of our new deacons

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 28, 2012

HONOR, RESPECT & FOLLOW

Pastoral Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Anthony R. Pettus, Sr.

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

8 YEARS @ GPBC
20 YEARS PASTORING
35 YEARS PREACHING



GPBC Family is Still Growing

15 complete new members classes and graduate during the Anniversary Celebration!

People who join are asked to complete a series of classes before they receive the right hand of fellowship, and many are meeting that expectation. The classes are designed to help better

acquaint new members with church life and prepare them for ministry.

The 15 most recent graduates were recognized in a brief ceremony at the

end of the second service on Sept. 16 as the church celebrated its 59th anniversary.



Here is a list of the 15 graduates in alphabetical order:

**Cecilia Banks
Stephanie Braden
Devin Day
Cortez Ellis
Anita Hammond**

**Jenee Harris
Jemal Johns
Jill Johns
Anna Lovell
Cassandra Morris**

**Omotoke Oloruntoba
Jacquelyn Pittman
Trent Pittman
Taqwania Ward
Patricia West**

The New Members Class will begin Sunday, October 7 at 9:30 am. ALL New Members that have joined but never attended the New Members Class are encouraged to attend. These classes are required in order for a member to serve in ministry. The classes are informative and attendance will ensure that you are operating in a decent and orderly fashion.

New GPBC Family Members

Nearly 100 people have chosen to make Greater Progressive their new church home in the first nine months of this year, according to records from the New Members Ministry.

Through Sept. 23, the church had added 98 people, many of them candidates for baptism. Individual pictures of the five who joined Greater Progressive between Aug. 26 and Sept. 23 are below.



Kasey Carr



Jojuana Spears



Lawauna Grimes



Katherine Thomas



Jamal Wyley

Website of the Month: www.abebooks.com

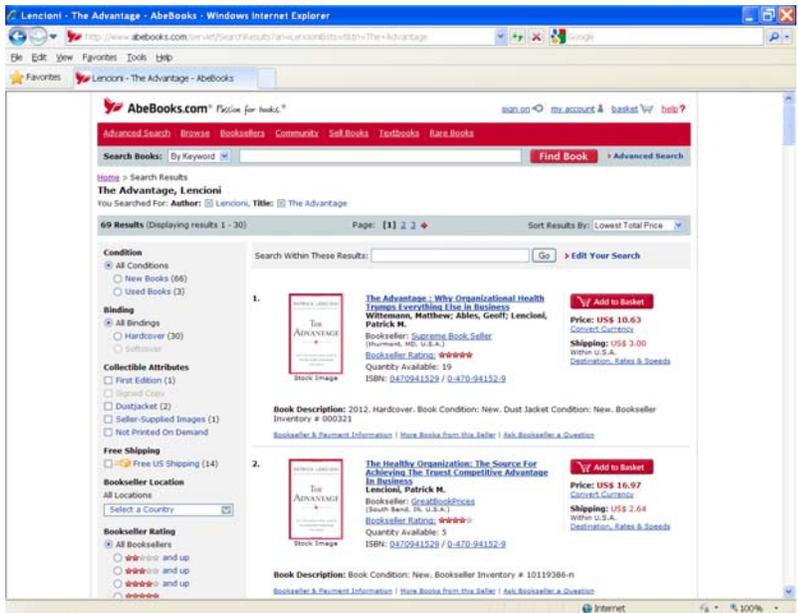
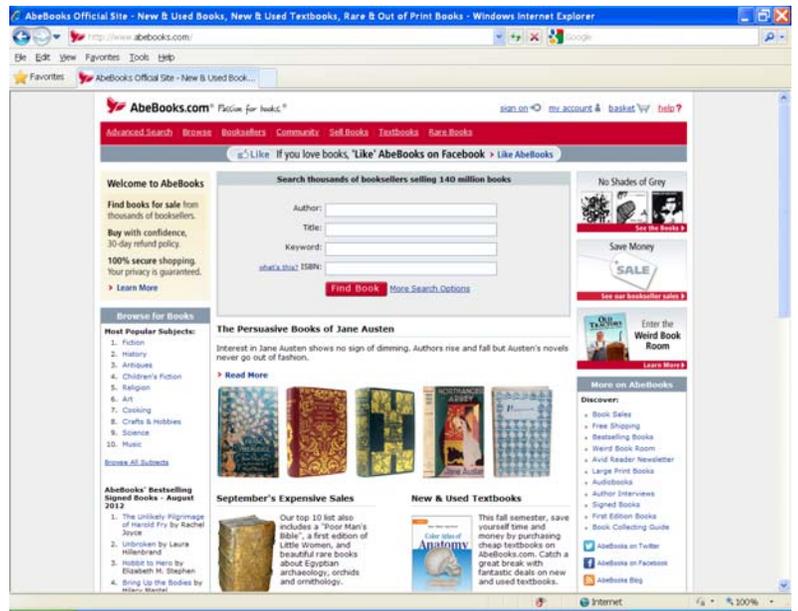
Please always use good, safe web practices while on the internet. Always be careful and aware.

"Launched in 1996, AbeBooks is an online marketplace where you can buy new, used, rare and out-of-print books, as well as cheap textbooks. We connect you with thousands of professional booksellers around the world and millions of books are listed for sale. Shopping on AbeBooks is easy, safe and 100% secure - search for your book, purchase a copy via our secure checkout process and the bookseller ships it straight to you."

If you have heard Pastor Pettus ever speak about purchasing a book, you have probably heard him mention Abe Books. Not only has he suggested it before, but he uses it as his first source to look for books.

Many times you can find books at 1/10th the price. This site is not exclusively a Christian book site, but it has many Christian titles.

Take a look the next time you are searching for a book you have heard Pastor Pettus talk about from the pulpit or you hear mentioned elsewhere. It could make the difference in spending \$25 or spending \$2.50.



Check Us Out
On Facebook!



Follow Us
On Twitter!

facebook.com/greaterprogressive
twitter.com/gpbc_social

Lovers of the Word

Minister Scott Bent Preaches His Initial Sermon



Minister Scott Bent preached his initial sermon on Sunday, September 28. Pastor Pettus introduced him as a man who loves the Word of God. Minister Scott brought the Word of God to the congregation from John 11:1-4 - "Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha... When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but

for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."

"I can't win for losing... If it ain't one thing, it's another... Been there... Said that. But sometimes you're just "Going Through For His Glory," Minister Scott Bent said. He reminded us that faith is the key. "There ain't room enough to receive what God has for you if you choose to believe."

Celebrating 59 Years!



Pastor Robert C. and Lady Twylia Jones



Pastor Robert C. Jones Jr., Pastor Anthony R. Pettus, Sr., Minister Robert "Ty" Jones, III



Carol Moore Servant of the Year Award Recipients (past and present)

Choir Musical – Seeking His Face through Song



Combined Praise Team and Mass Choir



Deacon Cornelious Goldsmith

MANDATORY
Child Abuse Training
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH FROM 9AM TO 12 NOON
All Leaders and Ministry Workers
MUST attend at least one training a year
Call the church at 260-744-6235 to sign up

now streaming live at
 Rev. Anthony R. Pettus, Sr., Pastor - www.greaterprogressivelive.com

FITNESS & Fellowship

Every 2nd & 4th Friday
 Starts @ 7:00pm

Line Dancing to Good Music
 Gives You a Workout and
 is a Great Time and Lots of Fun!



So Come Get Those Feet Shuffling and Slide into a Healthy Body in No Time!

I can do everything through Him whom gives me strength. Philippians 4:13



Contact Ca Sandra Johnson @ 260-740-2980
 Family Life Center, 2221 Reed St, Fort Wayne, IN



New Ministry Helps Provide Support to Sick

Greater Progressive has recently started a Sick and Shut In Ministry to help ensure members who are facing illness or life changes that prevent them from getting to 2215 John St. still feel connected to their church family.

The new ministry will help provide a personal touch and minister through calls, cards and prayer. It will assist Deacon Chairman Dennis Campbell and the other deacons to provide communion upon request on the first Sunday.

For the Sick and Shut in Ministry, getting timely and accurate information from local hospitals – but also from families or close friends of church members who are sick – is crucial to its success.

Deacon Aaron Jones was appointed to lead the Sick and Shut In Ministry and his wife, Brenda Jones, is his assistant. They will work closely with Church Secretary Delania Oman, who is typically the first to receive information on the sick.

At the beginning of each week, Sister Oman calls Parkview, St. Joseph, Dupont

and Lutheran hospitals and, based on using a private code, can receive information on inpatients who have told hospital staff they are Greater Progressive members. But due to federal privacy laws, hospitals only give out information if the patient has consented, so members should not assume that the church or Pastor is automatically told of their hospitalization.

In addition to the calls Sister Oman makes, the hospitals are sometimes proactive and call Greater Progressive during the week to report church members admitted. However, some members may have outpatient surgery and the church office may not always receive timely information alerting that a member may be recuperating at home. And occasionally, information may simply – but unintentionally – just not be reported to the church. That's where family members and close friends can help by communicating to ensure the church can better respond.

Sister Oman can be reached weekdays at 744-6235 or by email, doman@greaterprogressive.org. She will convey information to the Sick and Shut In Ministry. Sister Oman and Deacon Jones can communicate to the Pastor if there is a special request for a visit from the Pastor and First Lady.

In addition, some other ministries in the church also occasionally send cards and reach out to sick members whom they become aware of. The various contacts are an example of how the church overall is making efforts – when it has the right information – to minister to members.

Matters of the Heart

by Venesta Compton

Hearts can be shattered like crystal, be gentle

Dreams can be crushed like ice, be gentle

Minds can be torn down like great monuments, be gentle

Remember to uplift others, and don't tear them apart.

Be Gentle...



GP GREATER
BC PROGRESSIVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER

14th - Pastor preaches at Friendship Baptist @ 4:00 pm

14th - Train The Trainer Graduation at GPBC @ 11:30 am

24th - Monthly Vision Meeting at GPBC @ 5:30 pm

28th - Pastor's 8th Anniversary Celebration – Honor, Respect & Follow - 7:30 am, 9:30 am, & 11:30 am

NOVEMBER

2nd - Movie Night at GPBC @ 6:00 pm

10th - Child Abuse Training at GPBC @ 9:00 am