

INSIDE

FIRST HOLINESS CHURCH



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Touching Lives by the Light

New Membership at FHC

by Angelica Wilshire

Seven individuals gathered at First Holiness Church in the Fall of 2010 to understand what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ, and specifically, First Holiness Church. Each attendee was given a reader-friendly booklet of everything we were going to review in our time together. The sessions were warm, personal, inviting and included teaching sessions by Pastor Lorraine on the church's History, Mission, Vision and Family Covenant; the scriptural basis on Salvation, Baptism, The Lord's Supper and Doctrinal Beliefs; the Leadership and Ministries structure, our role and commitments as Membrs and Financial Stewardship which included Tithes and Offerings and Financial Stewardship (taught by Minister Glenda Allsopp and Minister Margo Brathwaite). Each session was interactive and supported with an abundance of Scripture that we were encouraged to study and read over in our free time.

Whether transitioning from another church body or becoming a member of one for the first time, these new membership classes give excellent orientation to what it means to be a member of The Body of Christ.

Meet Two New Members

Sis. Elizabeth Scott
 Hometown: Cambridge, MA

Sis. Shameka Gregory
 Hometown: Oakland, CA

What is the most outstanding point that you received from taking the Membership Class?

Elizabeth: What I enjoyed about the new members class was learning the history of First Holiness Church, and how it came to be. I also enjoyed their vision for the church, outreach to souls, and touching others from all backgrounds with the gospel and light of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Shameka: All of the tenants that FHC was founded on and its current principals of ministry (ICU)

How do you hope to use your gifts in the ministry of FHC?

Elizabeth: I intend to use my gifts to minister to souls, and provide outreach to the sick, shut-in, and those who are in nursing homes, prisons and wherever God wants to use me.

Shameka: I am just ready, willing, and able to assist with whatever.

How can the FHC community best support your life in God?

Elizabeth: First Holiness can support me through prayer, encouragement, godly counsel, and helping me to continue to grow in God.

Shameka: FHC already does an incredible job at supporting me spiritually and personally (a reason why I FINALLY decided to become a member)

CONGREGATIONAL VOICES

What are you agreeing with Heaven about in 2011?



"That many people will be saved."

- Bro. Stanley Greenidge



"That God's will be done in my life and prayers will be answered."

- Sis. Jessica Christian



"For me to advocate for single moms and families so that they can be restored through making a connection with God."

- Sis. Monica Eke



"For my spirit to be kept safe and to love my life."

- Bro. Hans Fredo Valcin

Have you ever spoken words like this - "I will never forgive you," or "I will never get out of debt," or "I will never figure this out?" Has God ever promised you something but then when things started looking bleak you said, "This will never happen?"

When we speak statements like these we are making an agreement. We are consenting to or approving a course of action, or admitting that something is true. If we were to look over our lives we will see that we have made agreements that were either not good or we were in agreement with the enemy (the father of lies).

I Peter 5:8, 9a says, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him..." There is an enemy whom wants to devour (consume, overwhelm, engulf) you, your family, your peace, your finances, etc. If he can get us to agree with him then we nullify what God wants to do in and through our lives. In Isaiah 28:18, God basically told the Israelites that when they enter into the land of Canaan that they were not to make any agreements with the enemy. I believe that God is saying the same thing now in 2011. God wants us to agree - have the same view as, to give consent, and harmonize in opinion - with Him. He wants us to resist the enemy by breaking agreements that we have made either consciously or unconsciously with the enemy. When all 'hell' breaks loose around us we have to be careful not to give up believing and agreeing with God's word.

In Numbers 13:1, 26, God told Moses to send out twelve leaders to investigate the land that He had promised them. When they returned, ten of the men reported that they were not able to occupy the land because the obstacles were too great for them to overcome. Yet, there were two men who declared that they were well able to overcome the obstacles saying if God has promised this land then they must agree with God no matter how things seem. However, the people listened to the words that the ten leaders gave and agreed with the report. When we agree with God we are learning to submit to His will and receive everything He has for us. The two men in the story above obtained the "promised land" while the other leaders did not. God wants us to succeed.

Words are like a seed that gets planted. The scriptures state that the power of death and life is in the tongue. Our words create some sort of life every time we speak. Before death there is life - so when you call your child no good or speak of someone in a negative fashion, be aware that you gave life to what you have spoken, even if what you said is negative or contrary to the word of God.

There is an old adage, 'Nip it in the Bud', which means to put a stop to something that is still in its early stages or to stop something before it grows or gets worse. If we are going to make right/good agreements then we are going to have to apply the 'nip it in the bud' principle - which is saying, I don't agree with that thought or what was said and I do not want that seed to germinate so I am going to cut it off right now. In Matthew 16, Jesus talks to His disciples about how He is about to suffer many things and be killed but on the third day He will rise again. Peter hears this and tells Jesus that this will never happen to him. Jesus applies the 'nip it in the bud' principle by immediately responding to Peter by saying, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me..." He was not saying that Peter was Satan but that the enemy was using Peter to try to cause Jesus to come in agreement with something that was not God's will for His life.

I want to encourage you this year to "nip" some things before they have a chance to develop in you. Nip that thought that you cannot accomplish or obtain all that God has for you. You have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives you (Philippians 4:13, Good News Translation).

Agree with heaven over your life - You can get out of debt; you don't have to live in fear; your children can achieve. Fill in the blanks - what do you need to agree with heaven about today?

Pastor Lorraine





FHC L.I.G.H.T. Steppers

by Raina Williams

“In the same way, let your LIGHT shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 NIV

On a regular step team, you have to have rhythm. On the First Holiness Church L.I.G.H.T. Step Team, you must also have a spiritual interaction with Christ to put power in our movements. The step team was birthed from the vision of then-college student, Khalilah Daley, in Spring 2008, with assistance from Sis. Jessica Bedney. Currently led by Sis. Jessica and Sis.

Thara Paul, The L.I.G.H.T. Steppers are **Leaders Introducing God’s Holy Truth**. Our mission is to spread the word of God throughout our community, encourage youth, and be encouraged.

Every single one of our steps has true meaning about Christ. Every beat inspires others to join us in lifting up His Holy name. Every sound, every stomp, is a significant praise to God for all He has done for us. We come to step for God for His favor and pleasure. Our team unifies to give thanks for the blessings that God has demonstrated in our lives.

Here’s what some of the members have to say about

ministering with the L.I.G.H.T Step Team:

“Our mission is to show to people that praising the Lord can be in many different ways, and to tell people about God in stepping.” ~Brianna Caban

“We also do a lot of fun things. We have talks about what’s happening outside of our church and we’ve gone on outings.” ~Christy Felix

“My perspective on stepping is to have an awesome show for our audience to enjoy. Also to create steps and skits for our shows and to come together with our ideas as One team, One voice, One sound.” ~ Yasmeen Caban

Meet the New Youth Ministry Leaders - Thara Paul, Chris Theodat, Gabriella Williams

What is the purpose of this youth forum? Who exactly is your target audience?

The purpose of the youth forum is to raise up bold, world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ. The youth group’s mission is to positively affect young lives between the ages of 12 to 17.

What topics will you be focusing on and discussing?

Topics that will be discussed and focused on include (but are not limited to) Godly relationships, college, success, and every-day issues our youth face today.

What do you hope to gain from leading this group?

From leading the youth, we hope to help spiritually empower them. Even more, we pray that they will grow to lead others to Christ one day.

First Holiness Church Worship Team

by Liane Thornhill

In mid-October the FHC worship team hosted a C.D. release concert that allowed the First Holiness Church family, as well as others, to enjoy spirit-filled, inspirational gospel music. Encouraging unity in our fellowship, the worship team brought nothing less than smiles to faces.

The worship team consists of vocalists Deborah Greene, Jessica Bedney, Leslie Sealey, Lisa Brown, Margo Brathwaite and Michele Scott, Jeremy Butler/instrumentalist as well as instrumentalists, Catherine Forde-Augustine, Dorston Bartlett, and Jonathan Greene. Although it was during February 2010 that this team started to work with other musicians, the process started months before. With the entire C.D. taking about a year to record, edit,

and finalize, the worship team definitely had their work cut out for them. Pianist and vocalist, Jeremy Butler states that a big challenge for everyone seemed to be “managing the complexity of schedules and overcoming numerous technological as well as musical challenges.” The album is titled "One Sound One Praise" and on it you'll find songs that are encouraging, uplifting, and promote unity in the body of Christ. “There were multiple writers for the CD, but I believe the message of all the songs put us in a place where we can flourish and live victoriously as followers of Christ,” comments Bro. Jeremy.

Since there was a large attendance the night of the release concert, I had to wonder how that affected the singers and musicians. Although many admit they played off their nervousness, Sis. Greene reflects that she “tried not to think about it –

[they] were simply there to praise.” As we all wait to see where the worship team goes next, they wait for their next signal from God. “I hope the next steps for the worship team are wherever God wants us to go, whether it is touring or preparing for another project. As long as God is in control it’ll be okay” says drummer Jonathan Greene. Bro. Jeremy responds, “My hope is that we will continue in our journey of keeping our ears to the heart of God and allow Him to sit on the thrones of our hearts. Where He leads us, we will follow. And the rest, I guess you’ll just have to wait and see.”

Planning to move only in the direction that He places them in, the worship team can only be on the right track. As we await another C.D. release or touring schedule, we as a church family can hope for nothing less than the best for our team. Keep up the good work guys!

MARTAY - Game Over

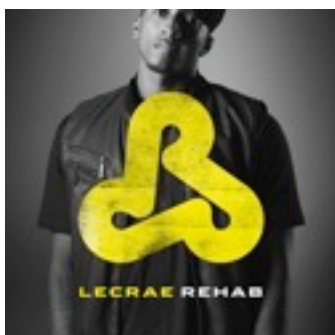


Gabriella Martay Williams is an amazing up-and-coming vocalist who on January 1, 2011 released her first full length album. The completed work features Disciple, J.A.Z., and Cross Movement Records' own K-Drama, along with a familiar touch from FHC's own Chris Theodat and Jeremy Butler.

The album opens with outstanding production and in-your-face vocals. Martay exposes not only her very soul, but the devil's feeble tactics and God's great love. The variety of styles show the versatility Martay possesses, from edgy with "Game Over pt. 1 and 2" and "Warrior - Remix" to smooth with "Lullaby" and "Hello Beauty." This album can appeal to anyone who likes R&B, hip hop, rock, urban contemporary, or just about any other type. Listening to songs, "I-Rock", "My Heart", or "My Beau," it's evident that Martay has a deep love for Jesus. From "True Love" to "I-Up" to "1,000 Voices," you can hear God's heart of love for you resonate in every note. This album is truly a God-sent blessing that is needed today.

Ramona Estelle - Concept of Love

Ramona Estelle Jones, wife of gospel hip-hop artist Canton Jones, takes on the vast yet simple "Concept of Love." From the beginning of the album, the pure smoothness will have you hooked. The fusion of jazz, pop, neo-soul, urban contemporary and R&B capture the amazing feeling of love that can't help but be glorified in this heart-felt explanation. This project has perfect melodies and harmonies that will have you absorbed by the Holy Spirit as you allow it to saturate your atmosphere. It's the perfect album to restore your spirit after a frustrating day, on that hectic drive, or to just take time and give God His well-deserved worship.



Lecrae - Rehab

The veteran of Gospel rap is in the building! Lecrae is back and hasn't lost a step. His anointed rhymes come as strong as ever in "Rehab." If the smooth melodies don't get you the banging beats will. When you get past all that and actually listen to what is being said -- simply incredible! The superb features in this album are like "a trail of stardust leading to the Superstar" (the Superstar clearly being God). Great vocals, great samples, great raps and everyone including Lecrae plays the "Background" to God perfectly.

If you're considering gospel rap, this is the perfect album to get your feet wet with some fresh cuts that are way beyond swag. Anything Reach Records releases will also be a good start, which is on par with with the high standard Lecrae has set.

FROM THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART

a place for poetry, short stories and creative writing

Compassion

by Leslie Sealey

Consciousness of others

Compassion is something you give from your heart.

You don't second guess yourself when you extend compassion.

It doesn't cost you anything to extend compassion.

It overlooks the state of class.

It also overlooks the very state one could find themselves in.

You extend compassion because you see the need more than the want.

You recognize yourself in the very person or individuals you are compassionate for.

So make a conscious decision to be.....Compassionate!!!!!!