



Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist Church

A CHURCH OF LOVE, HOPE, AND HEALING

Sunday, July

KINGDOM PRESS

Pastor, Timothy W. Criswell, Servant

713 675-5111 - Fax 713-675-1522
<https://fwmbc.org/>

4300 Noble Street, Houston 77020

| Feature Story

A Father's Prayer, A SON'S CALL

On Sunday November 16th Minister Timothy Wayne Criswell II, delivered his initial sermon, "Come Out of the Hog Pin" to an eagerly supportive 5th Ward congregation. Minister Criswell's message was grounded in the scriptures, Luke 4:18, and Luke 15, and was presented with the fervor of the committed servant affirming a fresh anointing of God's Word for all. The FWMBC congregation celebrates Minister Criswell 2nd, and shares his passion and confidence as he grows in spirit and ministerial achievement on his continued mission for Christ.



81st Church Anniversary

The 81st anniversary of FWMBC was observed as a rich blessing for the church membership, and celebrated with accounts of church activity, expansion, and influence within the communities of Christian discipleship. The Reverend Dr. Delbert Mack Sr., delivered a powerful message to fortify the parishioner's faith and duty.

Pastor's Statement

Every positive change begins with a single act of kindness. Through volunteering, we come together to make a lasting difference uplifting communities, protecting our planet, and inspiring hope in others.

"..and all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God"

Deuteronomy 28:2



*Deacon James and Deaconess Lori, Semien (on left)
Deacon Livingston, and Deaconess Jean, Hampton*

Feature Story

A Legacy of Service, A Future of Promise

Our congratulations to the newly appointed Chair of the FWMBC Deacons Board, Deacon James Semien, and to his wife, Deaconess Lori Semien, who is appointed as President of the Deaconesses Board. Deacon Livingston Hampton Jr. is the newly appointed Co-Chair of the Deacons Board, and his wife, Deaconess Jean Hampton, received appointment as Co-President of the Deaconess Board. Deacon and Mrs. Semien have diligently served as Board Co-chair and Vice-president for more than 2 years under the leadership of the previous chair and president, Deacon and Deaconess Joe and Gloretha Bundage.

Deacon Joe Bundage was appointed by Pastor Criswell in 2016, and Deaconess Gloretha Bundage by the late Reverend Leonard Barksdale in 2013. Together, Deacon and Mrs. Bundage responded diligently to the numerous undertakings of the church's ministerial workings. Sister Bundage developed the widely popular "Angel's Clothes Closet", creating 5th Ward's biannual clothing donation ministry in 2020 to accommodate the burgeoning needs of community access to abundant, slightly used, quality clothing, educational, and other useful home items. Deacon and Deaconess Bundage's lengthy and effectual service are respected by all.

Deacon and Deaconess Semien, and Deacon and Deaconess Hampton are attentively championing promising strategies that build on valued deaconship and ministerial tasks within the church.

Devoted Deacons

Building the Kingdom Through Devoted Service

The breadth of devoted Deaconship enlarges with the 2025-26 addition of the Newly Appointed Deacons, Deaconesses pictured below. All have demonstrated commitment and character pertinent to a contributing officer of the church.



Deacon Galdwin and Sabrina Jones



Deacon Joe and Veronica Brown



*(In training)
Deacon Terry and Sheryl Turner*



Deacon Darryl and Alice Mitchell

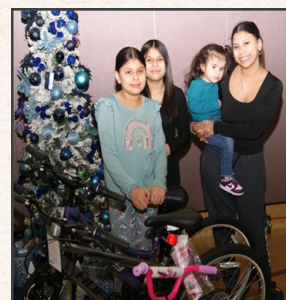


Deacon Joe and Deaconess Gloretha Bundage, enjoying their travels and relaxation.

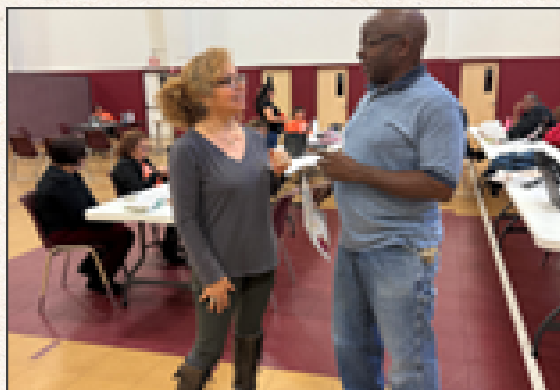
| FWMBC 2025

Christmas Bike Giveaway

FWMBC held its “Christmas Giveaway” event this past December 20th 2025, as part of a trio of community alliances. The giveaway included bicycles, food baskets, gifts, raffles and clothing as sponsored by the Complete Kingdom Ministries, the Leo (Leona) Daniels Foundation, and various membership components of the FWMBC. In totality, an impressive 90+ bicycles were delivered for donation at this eagerly awaited and attended affair. Sis. Demitra Wilkins, Bro. Larry Warren, and Brother Herman Burton Jr. steered the event structure and activities. Deacon Tracy Jones assisted in the photography of the event. Over 86 applications were received from potential recipients. “Walk-ins” were also received and serviced. Expressions of surprise, excitement, appreciation and pleasure on all participants’ faces summarized the real Spirit of Christmas, - deeds of selflessness, kindness, love for, and giving to, others.



CEER members and colleagues. Andy Escobar, CEER Campaigns Manager, (standing far right)



Dr. Carmen Caveeza, Sr. Climate Justice Organizer and Brother Larry Warren, FWMBC member, FRC Board President, and Carl Walker MPC Bldg. Adm.

| Community Spotlight

Building Strength, Wellness, and Hope for Greater Fifth Ward

The Faith Revitalization Center (FRC) has partnered with the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER) since 2020 to establish a “resilience hub” at the Carl Walker, Jr. Multi-Purpose Center for 5th Ward residents. This hub aims to provide essential services and resources, particularly for disaster or climate-related events, promoting overall wellness in the community. CEER supports this initiative by offering financial literacy classes, home weatherization, utility programs, and plans for a community “healing” garden, ensuring consistent services for the Greater Fifth Ward and northeast Houston.



Kingdom Building through Ministry

We are thankful for Kramela, “Kay” Thomas who heads the 5th Ward “We Care Ministry”. This past July 27th, 2025, endorsed by Pastor Criswell, 5th Ward held our first Ministry Fair. Kay determined that many church members were unaware of the 28 ministries at 5th Ward, and were only familiar with the choir, the ushers, or other more visible ministry units. Pastor Criswell approved unreservedly that Kay assemble a “Ministry Fair”. Ultimately, the fair was a transformative success, demonstrating the growing and effective variety of Kingdom Building works at 5th Ward.

Kay organized the assembly of all ministry leaders, asking each to participate in a planned ministry display that would aptly inform the 5th Ward membership on all active ministries. Through such effort, the church membership is exposed to both widely visible and less visible -“behind the scenes” ministries and their specific “kingdom building” activities. The fair, held following the 10 am service in the Carl Walker MPB, presented no competition, only the zeal of ministry leaders promoting their respective ministerial units, each exhibiting appealing displays and current teams. There were 23 participating ministries, attracting a bountiful number of 5th Ward worshippers, as the fair imparted awareness of our spirited church activities and of options to participate. Kay cites *Matthew 11:17-18* as her inspiration, gladly acknowledges the positive results, and plans to repeat the fair every 6 to 12 months. A list of 5th Ward ministries can be found on the FWMBC website.

As leader of the “We Care” Ministry, Kay and ministry teammates, contact both new and existing 5th Ward members to encourage their spirit of connection to the church. Should members become notably absent, assigned “We Care” teammates join Kay in extending calls, visitation, or prayer to these members, particularly those who are ill or otherwise hindered. Receiving members are invigorated and wholly grateful for this contact, appreciating their own personal value to the church. A “We Care” greeting card including an insert of the ministry “heart” motif is also presented. There are currently 18 “We Care” ministry members. Kay continues to target an increase in male membership. “We Care” has also, this past November, initiated off-campus visitations, the first being a prayer/dinner visitation to the “Quality VA Assistant Living Facility. FWMBC is indeed blessed by Kay’s unwavering spirit of commitment to 5th Ward’s Kingdom building activities.



“Quality VA” facility owner Audrey George, and Kay Thomas, 2nd & 3rd from left, ministry members Beverly and Michael Demby; seated facility residents (10.17.25)

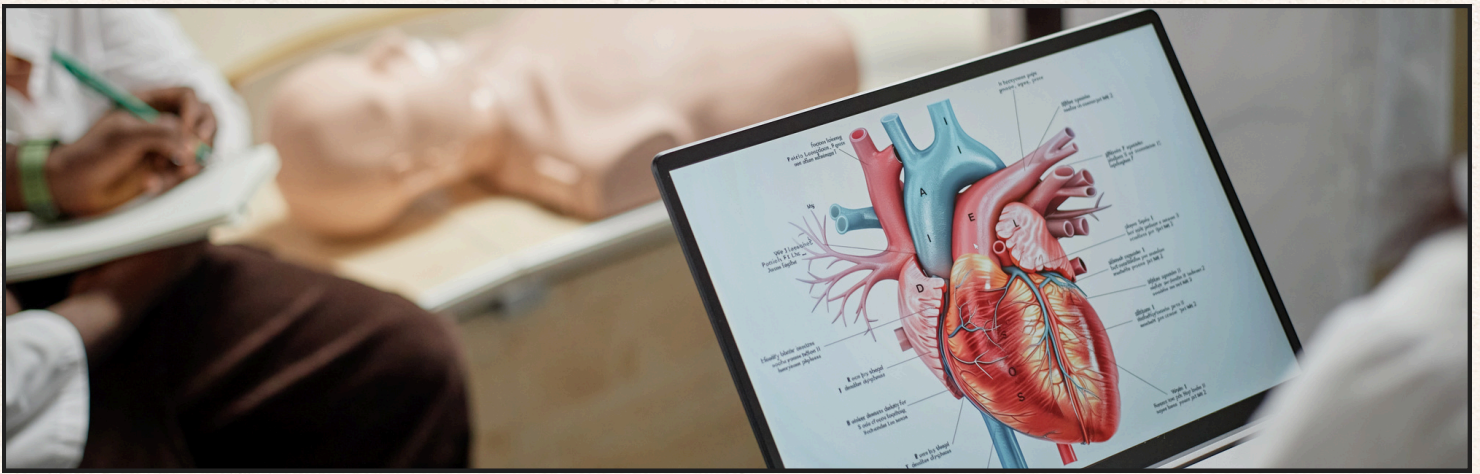
| Special Events

Celebrating 10 Years of Service

The Criswell family extends heartfelt gratitude to God and the Fifth Ward Church family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support. They offer sincere appreciation to the deacons, trustees, ministers, servant leaders, and the Pastoral Anniversary Committee for their faithful service and dedication. Special thanks are also extended to guest preachers Rev. Christopher Moore, Rev. Kenneth Isaac, and Rev. Rodney Curry, and Rev. Robert Green, their church families, and guest psalmist Michelle Anderson Davis for helping make the celebration spiritually uplifting and memorable.

The family is deeply thankful to Helping Hands, Tasha’s Delightful Treats, and the church’s deacons and men for their excellent service in preparing and serving dinner. During a recent hospital stay, the love and prayers of the church family provided strength and comfort for Pastor Criswell. As they celebrate 10 years of ministry, the Criswell family praises God for His faithfulness and looks ahead with hope and unity, continuing to move forward in Love, Hope, and Healing.





| Health

Heart to heart...

We seek the blessedness of a “clean heart” (Psalm 51:10), the maintenance of a “pure heart” (Matthew 5:8); Beyond these blessings which impart Godly thought and behavior; let us be attentive in the care of our physical heart

Simply stated, your heart is a four-chambered muscle consisting of two atria, right and left, and two ventricles, right and left. For the duration of our lives, it serves to pump oxygenated blood, laden with needed nutrients, to our bodily tissues. In concert, the healthy heart transports deoxygenated (used) blood, along with waste products from tissue digestion of oxygen and nutrients, back to our excretory organs (e.g. lungs, liver, kidneys), ridding us of potentially harmful waste contaminants. Unlike a car engine, or other mechanical pumps, there is no “off” time for our heart. No breaks, no furloughs, no sleeping, even when we are asleep. It is an automatic, involuntary muscle that knows no rest. A healthy heart, that is, one with efficient electro-physical rhythm and contraction of heart chamber valvular function, along with efficient cardio-vascular conduits, and nutritious and adequate blood volume, is vital to life.

As heart disease is most prevalent in the Black/African American U.S. populations, and is the leading cause of death in the U.S., it is imperative that we remain wary of our heart health, keeping consciousness of how our lifestyles, and as importantly, family history, might impact the well-being of this vital organ.

We recognize that we do not have total control, only God has such. Our task is to seek and utilize the available awareness and prevention resources that God provides, and maintain an effective selection of personal life choices that may impact our heart health.

We are grateful for the CPR training of 5th Ward volunteers, approved through Pastor Criswell, who is himself CPR certified. Fifth Ward encourages all to visit informative sites on cardiovascular health, and encourages you to sport the American Heart Association red dress/heart pin, as a “GO RED” heart health reminder during the month of February.

References: MedlinePlus, Centers for Disease Control (CDC.gov), American Heart Association (AHA); myClevelandclinic.org, Google AI, en.wikipedia, MayoClinic.org, Web MD, National Institutes of Health

| Activity

Test your heart disease awareness: Circle the correct answer, maximum of 100 pts.

Heart disease is:

- | | | | |
|--------|---|------|-------|
| 25 pts | 1. Any disease affecting the heart muscle or blood vessels of the heart | True | False |
| 25 pts | 2. The leading cause of death in the U.S. | True | False |
| 25 pts | 3. Affects African-Americans more than other ethnicities in U.S. | True | False |
| 25 pts | 4. One can best prevent or moderate heart disease by dietary control | True | False |

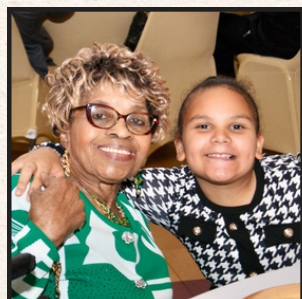
Sooo... your total score is? _____



Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist Church

A CHURCH OF LOVE, HOPE, AND HEALING

HOLY HIGHLIGHTS



| Youth Ministry

Celebrating the Season Through Youthful Praise

Our December 20th, 2025 Christmas program was a beautiful, youth-led presentation that celebrated the true meaning of the season while showcasing the talents and dedication of our youth.

The program was steered by Emily Criswell, Racquel Edwards, Dominique Thomas, Robbin Criswell and Shamika Mitchell, whose guidance and commitment helped bring the program vision to life. The youth diligently participated in four rehearsals to ensure a smooth and expressive presentation.



Each participant played an important role, contributing their unique gifts through spoken verse and dramatic character portrayals, including a reenactment of the Nativity scene, reminding us that “Jesus is the Reason for the Season”. A special program highlight was a performance of “Jingle Bells” by a youth flutist, adding a joyful, festive touch to the production. The 25-minute program, fully led by the youth, demonstrated their teamwork, confidence, and creativity, and made the presentation both uplifting and memorable for the congregation. We are exceedingly proud of our youth and grateful for all who supported our Christmas celebration.

KP Sport

* Complete the Challenge

Derive 20 words (actually listed in my current credible dictionary) from the word “rainbow.

The first to email their list to jeanhamp@yahoo.com receives a small prize and a written announcement in the subsequent KP edition.

The Team

Deaconess Jean M. Hampton PhD, Editor

Deacon Tracy Jones, Asst. Editor, Photographer

Editorial Staff: Lynn Baldwin, Lady Robbin Criswell, Deanna Robinson, Deacon Livingston Hampton Jr. ,

Emily Criswell ,Contributing Columnist

Ebony Jones, Graphic Designer

Latasha Dugar, Web Designer

| Black History Spotlight

The Park Freedom Built

This year of 2026, we observe the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States. An equally worthy celebration is that of the 100th year of Black History Month. Initiated in 1926 as Negro History Week (precursor to Black History Month), and founded by Washington D.C. journalist, author, publisher and historian, Carter G. Woodson, PhD., America now celebrates “A Century of Black History Commemorations”, this year’s theme as selected by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Black History Month informs American history through the celebration and recollection of authentic historical narratives of African American history. These accounts include many prominent persons and occurrences, and their impact. We have never had more need to impart the role of Black History Month than at present, when there are forces, weary of democracy, who seek to use legislative means and book bans to remove Black history from America’s schools and public culture.

In 1872, just seven years after the end of slavery, a group of formerly enslaved Black Houstonians made a bold and faithful decision. Led by Reverend Jack Yates, Reverend Elias Dibble, and Richard Allen, they pooled together \$1,000 to purchase 10 acres of land in Houston’s Third Ward. Why? So they could freely celebrate Juneteenth.

At the time, Black Houstonians were often denied access to public parks and gathering spaces. Instead of waiting for permission, they created their own. That land became Emancipation Park, one of the oldest public parks in Texas and a sacred symbol of self-determination.



Today, Emancipation Park continues to stand as a reminder that freedom is not only received it is nurtured, protected, and passed down. It represents resilience, community ownership, and faith in action.

