



Excellence of Ministry

From the Heart Newsletter

25th ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP “BIG SUNDAY” SERVICE: The Torch Is Passed, The Vision Continues

2007 Theme:

*Declaring Our Oneness
through Our Character, Conduct,
and Commitment to the Faith*

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*Preaching the Gospel,
Building an Infrastructure,
Reforming the Church!*



25th Anniversary Sunday Service at the Verizon Center, Washington, DC.

By Sis. Summer McLin

“It’s a wonderful thing for a father to be able to see his son take up the mantle.”
– Episcopal Pastor John A. Cherry

The Processional

The largest church processional in the history of From the Heart Church Ministries began early Sunday morning, June 4, 2006, when dozens of ministry workers descended upon the Verizon Center in Washington D.C., to transform the state-of-the-art sports and entertainment facility into an authentic From the Heart sanctuary. Men’s Fellowship, Special Services, Ushers, and Deaconess ministries all worked to ensure that the facility was ready for worship, complete

with all of the traditional From the Heart (FTH) regalia including the pulpit from our South Location in Clinton, Maryland. When the doors opened at eight o’clock many more volunteer ministries were in operation as people poured into Washington D.C., from as far north as upstate New York, as far south as South Africa, as far east as Indonesia and as far west as California - all to worship the Lord and to witness the first ever change in leadership of our local church.

Pomp and circumstance were not forsaken on this historic day. In addition to an estimated 10,000 parishioners parading down the aisles to their seats,

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FROM THE HEART OF THE EPISCOPAL PASTOR

By Episcopal Pastor John A. Cherry

God's richest blessings upon you as you begin this New Year!

It is almost impossible to believe that another year has expired. On New Year's Eve 2005, I announced our theme for 2006 as "Allow God To Do A New Thing" and informed the Church that I had appointed my son, John A. Cherry, II, as Pastor-elect of this local church. Mrs. Cherry and I then left the area to allow God an opportunity to speak to and to perfect the Pastor-elect.



June 2006 marked the end of my 25-year vision for the local church, and on June 4, 2006, I had the awesome privilege of installing my son as pastor of From the Heart Church Ministries - Parent Church. We praise God for divinely orchestrating the seamless transition from me to my son. Mrs. Cherry and I sincerely thank each of you for your share in helping to ensure this smooth, seamless transition. Words cannot adequately express our joy on Big Sunday, June 4, 2006, as we had the awesome privilege of having our members, From the Heart churches, Macedonian Ministries, family, friends, and supporters from around the world under one roof at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC. What an awesome, breathtaking sight to see all of you as we came together in oneness to celebrate our new beginning.

Mrs. Cherry and I are eternally grateful to God for His faithfulness to us during the past 25 years of ministry as He used us to preach the Gospel, build an infrastructure and reform the Church. As we move forward in our new assignment, we are excited about what God is doing and shall continue to do through From the Heart Church Ministries, Inc. - Worldwide. God is aligning other like-minded Pastors with this ministry to co-labor with us in the Gospel as we carry out the plan of the ministry worldwide, which is to seek and save the lost, to destroy the works of the devil, and to leave a deposit in the earth for the next generation. To that end, on July 11-14, 2006, we held our first Co-Laborers in the Gospel Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. The Conference was attended by Pastors and ministers from our From the Heart churches, the Macedonian Ministries churches, Go Tell It Ministries - World-

wide churches, and other like-minded Pastors and evangelists. This conference provided a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in an oneness to be perfected in the Word of God. We also had an opportunity during September and October to bring some of our Eastern and Western European Pastors to the Parent Church for perfecting to prepare them to be From the Heart churches.

The Office of the Episcopal Pastor has been organized and the first Episcopal Council meeting was held in October prior to our bi-annual From the Heart Pastors meeting. As part of that meeting, we had Pastors from Russia, Moldova, Belarus, and Italy who are in training to become From the Heart Pastors. What an awesome God we serve! We are busier than ever as I continue to "drag Mrs. Cherry all over the world, from pillar to post." We have a new level of energy, zeal, and grace to carry the Gospel around the world so that God's Church will be reformed. We solicit your continued prayers as we carry out our new assignment.

In November, we received the From the Church Ministries of Las Vegas into full fellowship with From the Heart Church Ministries, Inc. - Worldwide. We had a wonderful three-day celebration and induction service in Las Vegas, which was well attended, including several members of the Parent Church. Las Vegas proudly advertises itself as "sin city;" however, on our first visit there many months ago, I proclaimed that Las Vegas is the "city of Grace" (**Romans 5:20-21** - ***"Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."***) God's grace is greater than abounding sin!

As we transition our focus to the global Church, it is very comforting to know that the members of this local church (the Parent Church) are continuing to be fed the uncompromised Word of God to strengthen them to be bold witnesses so the world would know that *our God is God!* It is a blessing for Mrs. Cherry and me to now enjoy the fruit of our labor as our son, Pastor John A. Cherry, "the II," and Reverend LaWanda Cherry continue the furtherance of the vision, the plan, and the motivation of the local church with the *"same God for a new time!"* We thank God that our son and daughter, by marriage, have done an outstanding work of preparing the hearts and minds of the congregation to move forward from what was to what is, while encouraging us to allow God to do a new thing by building on the foundation already laid. Mrs. Cherry and I are enjoying being members of the finest church in America.

The theme for 2007 is ***Declaring Our Oneness through Our Character, Conduct, and Commitment to the Faith.*** We look forward to how God will allow us to express this theme through our oneness so that other like-minded co-laborers will be able to teach oneness ☩.

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

By Pastor John A. Cherry, II

Need
photo
selection

Happy New Year! Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Mrs. Cherry and I are excited about what God has done in the past year. I stand in awe of His faithfulness toward us since being appointed the Pastor-elect of the Parent Church at the New Year's Eve celebration in December 2005. I praise God for the privilege

of serving you, our members, throughout last year and look forward to what God will do as we move forward to carry out the 2007 theme, ***"Declaring Our Oneness through Our Character, Conduct, and Commitment to the Faith."***

In retrospect, Mrs. Cherry and I have truly been blessed to have a smooth, seamless transition that took place last year. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for the "Excellence in Ministry" that was evident throughout the entire 25th Anniversary celebration as we "honored the man and celebrated the vision" and hosted thousands of friends and family who came to celebrate with us. I believe we truly met the heart's desire of our Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. Cherry as we celebrated their 25 years of faithful and dedicated service to preaching the Gospel!

Mrs. Cherry and I have both been tremendously blessed by the level of excitement, joy and love that we have experienced from the beginning of 2006 to the close of the year. There is a great fellowship and love that is being felt throughout the entire church and we thank God for the BEST CHURCH IN ALL THE WORLD!

As we progress forward in the assignment that God has given this local church, as your Pastor, I want to remind us to stay focused and committed to that which we have already heard and seen over the past year by reflecting on what has been taught.

In January 2006, we kicked off the year with *"It's Time for a New Thing."* In this series, we learned that the "new thing" is the will of God for our lives. God desires to do a new thing in us personally, in our ministry, and in the local church. God desires that we change our mindset in order to change our state.

In our teaching, *"It's Time to Change the Times,"* we learned that we must change the times because the world is influencing the Church; however, God called the Church to influence the world. We learned that we have a hope in perilous times and that in our faith is our hope.

As we moved further in the year, God had to let us know that He is *"The Same God for a New Time."* We learned to understand God's unchanging nature by knowing that He is the same God of the Bible. God's will for man has not changed; we are to conform to His image and to His likeness, realizing that we are a spirit and His Spirit dwells on the inside of us. We also came to realize that we needed to have the same life that Jesus promised us so we learned some things from the series, *"How to Live."* In that teaching series, our goal was simply to have "life." We wanted to be connected to the Source of life, be alive on the inside and to know how to live regardless of our external environment.

Before we could move on into the life that Jesus promised, we had to clean up some things in our life. The teaching on *"Restoring the Breaches"* helped us identify those things that would keep us from walking in the fullness of God. We had to rebuild, repair and replace those things in our life that would cause repeated failure. Then we were able to move forward with a mind to work.

As we approached the end of the year, we were taught how to make Jesus clear and visible to a dying world through the teaching *"Lift Up a Standard."* We were taught that our standard is Jesus; He is the banner that we want to lift up.

Finally, we were taught in *"Establishing the Plan for My Life"* how to make sure that God is the one who provides, directs and establishes the plans for our lives. Godly plans will allow us to conform to the image of Jesus Christ, live the life that Jesus has promised us, restore and repair those broken places in our lives, and cause us to lift up a standard.

As we move forward in the will of God, it is my prayer that we continue to maintain our focus and keep a steady course so that we can be an example of righteousness in the earth. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to build upon the foundation that has been laid!

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Sister Monica Griffin



Pastor John A. Cherry, II addresses new members at the first New Members Orientation of 2006

As we whispered adias, pakah, arrivederci, good-bye to 2005, we delighted in the development of our good character. We were perfected and we were prepared; prepared for the next mighty move of God, prepared for A *New Thing*.

Our theme for 2006 was *Allow God To Do A New Thing* and our foundational scripture was taken from Isaiah 43:18-21. God exceeded our expectations for 2006. Pastor Cherry transitioned full-time into his position as Episcopal Pastor, having oversight over all of the From the Heart churches around the globe. Reverend John Cherry, II was installed as Pastor of the From the Heart parent church and his wife, Sister LaWanda Cherry was ordained as Reverend LaWanda Cherry.

During 2006 our harvest saw an increase of 70%. A total of **700 new members** joined the FTH parent church. Our ministerial team introduced **1,303 new converts** to the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, performed **25 baptisms**, **43 infant dedications**, and there were **20 pre-marital class**

graduates married at From the Heart and ___ Home-going celebrations held at the church for FTHCM.

As the scrolls of our membership changed, it was evident that we had to



Pastor John A. Cherry, II admonishes congregation to "Allow God To Do A New Thing."

change as well when our Pastor told us *It's Time for A New Thing* in the first Sunday teaching series of the year. He taught us how to change during the series *It's Time to Change the Times* and we learned that in order to change the times, we must be identified with Christ.

Pastor Cherry taught us that we serve a God who is unchanging during the series *The Same God for A New Time*. We learned that we must apply God's Word to our lives during this time and in the series *How to Live*, we learned how to find life, how to live in our present state, how to live according to our faith, how to live in peace, how to live through adversity, how to live a fulfilled life and how to maintain our new life in Christ.

With a greater understanding of what God has called us to do, our Pastor has also prepared us for the task at hand; however, prior to executing our mission we had to first *Restore the Breaches*. During this teaching series, Pastor Cherry taught us that breaches are those things that keep us from walking in the fullness of God and are areas of repeated failure in our lives.

In 2006, our Pastor challenged us to *Lift Up a Standard* - a banner that can be seen from afar off; a unit of unchanging measurement. We learned that Jesus is our standard and that we must no longer acknowledge the world's standard.

In 2006, we hosted five church events. The Marriage Enrichment Seminar was held in March; a weeklong 25th Anniversary celebration was held May 29 – June 4 and there was an estimated 20,000 attendance in total for the week; the 2006 Youth Institute was held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia in July; the 2006 Women's Retreat was held at Sandy Cove Retreat and Conference Center in November; and the 2006 Men's Retreat was held at Blue Mountain Christian Retreat Center in December.

Together as members of the FTHCM congregation, as ministry workers, husbands, wives, parents and children, we established a new standard for our church, our homes and ours lives. We thank God for this new thing ☩.

WEEKLONG CELEBRATION, “HONORING THE MAN, CELEBRATING THE VISION

By Sis. Patricia Brown



The year 2006 marked 25 years of Excellence of Ministry® for Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. John A Cherry, as well as the 7th anniversary of From the Heart Church Ministries. During the first week of June, From the Heart rendered excellence to the man hand-picked by God for this local church by “Honoring the Man and Celebrating the Vision.”

A weeklong spiritual feast of activities reflecting the life, the love, and the heart of the ministry brought thousands of well-wishers from around the world to give honor to whom honor was due. From Monday, May 29 to Sunday, June 4, From the Heart showed forth the love of Jesus in thought, word, and deed by gratefully acknowledging the wonderful things God has done through and for the ministry over the years. And for seven days, From the Heart Church Ministries® lifted up the name of Jesus with joyful anticipation as each celebratory activity of the anniversary week captured the true essence of the ministry and reflected upon its impact far and near.

As one long-time From the Heart member who attended most of the activities summed up the week, “It was awesome and amazing! I felt privileged to be a part of what God was doing. [I]

felt that I was special for God allowing me to be a part of it.”

The anniversary week activities included:

1. Monday, May 29, 2006 Memorial Day Cook-out – Going back to its roots as a family ministry, From the Heart kicked off the anniversary week with a cookout at Fort Washington Park in Fort Washington, Maryland. A fitting tribute to its familiar roots, the day featured activities geared for the entire family. From flag football to basketball to tug of war and horseshoes; and from arts and crafts to board games for the young and the young-at-heart; fun, fellowship and family carried the day. As one member stated, “It was done in From the Heart style – organized and [in] a family atmosphere.”

2. Tuesday, May 30, 2006 Special Reflections Bible Study – In this “voices from the past” musical ministry tribute, former From the Heart psalmists, now pastoring churches, returned to give unto a ministry that had given so much to them. Pastors Willie Duval, Scot Moore and Jamila Wood-Jones each ministered in song and briefly exhorted the Cherrys for their obedience to God and the resulting impact on their lives and countless others. Bro. Duane Casey, our very fist Choir Director, ministered in song as well. Gift presentations to Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. Cherry from volunteer ministries and the Christian School rounded out the evening. As a show of appreciation to the congregation, Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. Cherry hosted a reception for all that attended following the service.

3. Wednesday, May 31, 2006 Memorial Service – “I wondered what happened to that person,” says Pia Johnson-Sutton, upon seeing images on the screen of From the Heart members who had passed on. “I thought people had moved around [or were] attending 8:00 service — in the military — then to see that they had passed on ... had me crying through the entire service.” Sutton attended the memorial service for members who were no longer with us, but present in their heavenly homes. More than 300 names of deceased members were read by ministers of the church during the poignant service representing every member of the church that have gone home to be with the Lord. With each name read, a bell sounded and for most a photo was also displayed.

4. Wednesday, May 31, 2006 From the Heart International Celebration International night featured From the Heart Churches from around the globe – some bearing cultural gifts and others making presentations. Whether it was a gift or an expression, it was obvious and clearly understood that Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. Cherry were a tremendous blessing to the Body of Christ worldwide, and had made an enormous impact on these churches and their prospective ministries through the Reformation messages. Each grade of the From the Heart Christian School (from K3 up to the high school seniors) was assigned to represent a country or region where there is presently a From the Heart church. The children did a wonderful job of displaying the culture and ministry of Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Italy and South Africa through praise, song and dance.

5. Thursday, June 1, 2006 From the Heart (U.S.) Celebration – “Teaching is repeating until learning takes place.” In a humorous and unique way, From the Heart Pastors took an opportunity to share with those that attended the Thursday evening service how Episcopal Pastor Cherry gives them instruction and correction by putting to music some familiar “tidbits” often spoken to them by

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25th Anniversary Weeklong



Memorial Day Cookout at Fort Washington Park



Episcopal Pastor John A. Cherry receives a scroll of all the members who joined the church since 1981



Golf Fellowship at Mariton Golf Course



FTH Pastors comedic sketch on FTH Night



Memorial Noontday Service
gone home to



The children bless the Lord on International Night

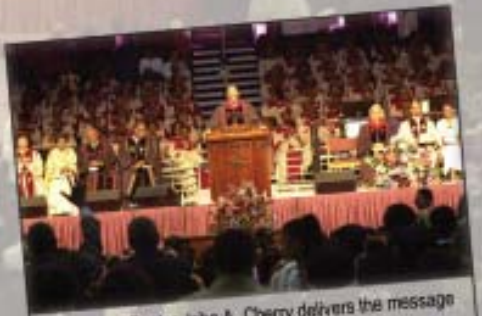


The FTH Christian School finale on International Night

ong Celebration of Events



The FTH Ensemble ushers in the Spirit of God at the Gala Banquet at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC



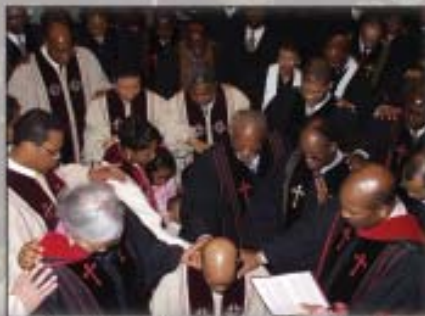
Episcopal Pastor John A. Cherry delivers the message at the Big Sunday Service in the Verizon Center



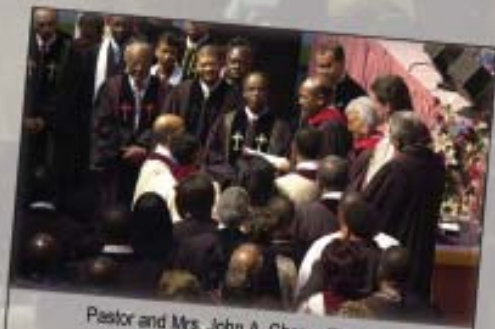
Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. Cherry give salutations at the DVD Premier on Friday evening



Service for members
to the Lord



John A. Cherry, II is officially inducted as Pastor of From the Heart Church Ministries Parent Church



Pastor and Mrs. John A. Cherry, II receive the charge from the Episcopal Pastor



To God be the glory for the things HE has done!

FROM THE HEART CHURCH HIGHLIGHT

From the Heart Church Ministries of Richmond

By Sis. Thomasine Mitchell



From the Heart Church Ministries® (FTHCM) of Richmond, Virginia came into existence as a result of the Reformation teachings by our Episcopal Pastor, Dr John A. Cherry. In Richmond, Christians began to leave their former churches because of a desire to hear the uncompromised Word of God and a Focus Group was formed. As a result, Dr. John A. Cherry established From the Heart Church Ministries® (FTHCM) of Richmond on May 28, 2000, and was its first pastor. On February 11, 2001, Pastor John Cherry, II was installed as pastor of From the Heart of Richmond and under his pastorate, 10 service ministries were established and the membership grew to 455 members. Due to the church growth and its need for a full time pastor, on June 1, 2003, Dr. Cherry appointed Pastor James Z. Ransom as the new pastor. Under the leadership of Pastor Ransom, the membership has increased by approximately 200 members and seven additional ministries have been established.

When asked about the vision of the Richmond church Pastor Ransom stated, “We have an established vision that God gave our Episcopal Pastor 25 years ago. Our vision is our foundation.” When

God gave the Episcopal Pastor the vision, Pastor Ransom further states, “I was 19 years old at that time, in college at Iowa State University, and not thinking about God. Little did I know that the vision included me and my family.”

Pastor Ransom talked about the fact that he had been following the television ministry of Episcopal Pastor Cherry for 15 years and had taken our Episcopal Pastor into his heart as a mentor although he had never met him. Pastor Ransom was moved by the fact that our Episcopal Pastor did not leave the original instructions of God but remained consistent for 25 years. “Our vision is simply the original instructions from God given to Episcopal Pastor Cherry: (1) to love God, (2) to hate sin (in Richmond we say that we “Hate sin in our own lives first”), and (3) love to give.”

Pastor Ransom stated that the Richmond church does not have an emphasis such as ministering to the male seed, the family or outreach. Their desire is that FTHCM of Richmond would be a church filled with “free” members “bound” to Christ. “Jesus has ransomed us,” Pastor Ransom says, “We have been bought with the price of the precious blood of Jesus. Therefore we can be free from sin, free from addiction, free from the bondage and trickery of deceitful men, free to love, free to hate sin, and free to give. Our heart is simply to embrace the fullness of truth that is in Jesus so that no matter what state we are in we can be free because of our

faith in Him.”

Pastor Ransom was born in Lakeworth, Florida, and in 1978 he moved to Ames, Iowa after being awarded a football scholarship by Iowa State University. Pastor Ransom admits that, while he was in college, he did not give any attention to God or the things of God. In Iowa he met a freshman named Tresa Jenkins who was not afraid to witness to him about Jesus Christ. As a result of pursuing her, he started attending church, heard the Gospel, and gave his life to Jesus. They got married in 1985. “I began going to church for the wrong reasons, but I got the right thing – the Gospel.” From that point on, he began to faithfully serve in the church and has not stopped since.

In 1988, their first child was born and Pastor Ransom was called to preach the Gospel and in 1990, Pastor Ransom was asked to return to the college ministry he had been a part of to pastor. The following year Sister Ransom answered the call of God to preach the Gospel. “Although we both had full-time secular occupations, I must say that it was a joy to travel the 90 miles three or more times a week with our two little girls (at the time) to care for the church.”

After five years of successful ministry, Pastor Ransom was asked to leave his secular occupation to become the Assistant Pastor of Cornerstone Family Church where the pastor is Reverend Dan Berry. Cornerstone Family Church is a Macedonian Church located in Des Moines, Iowa. After serving at Cornerstone for eight years, Pastor Ransom was asked to become a part of From the Heart Church Ministries.

The Ransoms have four children: Traya – age 19, Trakaya – age 17, Trinity – age 11 years, and son, Samuel – age 5. As an added blessing, Pastor Ransom’s mother-in-law, Tiny Jenkins, has been together with them for 19 years. “Without her gracious love, support and sacrifice, it would not have been possible for my wife and me to work in the ministry in the manner that we have.”

If you would like to worship with FTHCM of Richmond, they are located

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VOLUNTEER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

By Sis. La Shawn M. Turner

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16b) *It is exciting to see the manifestation of our prayers answered. Communicating to Jesus through prayer is rewarding and an honor. What a blessing to communicate to our Heavenly Father in prayer!*

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry at From the Heart Church Ministries® was established in 1982 with a charge of responsibility to pray and intercede for the needs and requests of the Church as directed by the Office of the Pastor. Sister Cheryl Vincent is the ministry’s current Ministry Head.

The Prayer Ministry includes the Intercessory Prayer Council and the 24 Hour Prayer Vigil and members of this ministry are committed and dedicated members of the church who have been called to pray and intercede on behalf of others. The Intercessory Prayer Council provides leadership and direction to the members of the 24 Hour Prayer Vigil and membership to the Prayer Council is by the appointment of the Pastor only.

Council members are responsible to pray and intercede for the Pastor, Episcopal Pastor, ministers, congregation, From the Heart staff, volunteer ministries, leaders, From the Heart and Macedonia churches and pastors, and members of the Body of Christ. In addition, Council members fast, pray, and intercede every day each week. Members of the 24 Hour Prayer Vigil fast 24 hours and pray 1 hour on one day a month.

The purpose of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry is taken directly from Jeremiah 1:9-10. “Then the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and

to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”

The Lord has given the Intercessory Prayer Ministry seven aspects of their purpose:



1. To stand in the gap for the local church, world-wide From the Heart Church Ministries, From the Heart and Macedonian pastors and churches, and the entire Body of Christ.
2. To root out everything that is contrary to the express will of God.
3. To pull down every imagination and high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
4. To destroy every tongue that shall rise up in judgment against the saints of God.
5. To throw down every hobby and bad habit that has the people of God bound.
6. To build a wall of protection around our families, our church, and our community.
7. To plant seeds of prayer for salvation, deliverance, healing, and personal needs.

The objective of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry is to lay out a systematic plan of development based on the Word of God which will:

1. Develop prayer warriors as intercessors.
2. Provide around-the-clock prayer.
3. Develop an awareness of prayer among the members of the church.
4. Provide an atmosphere whereby members may see (get a spiritual perception) and work to achieve God’s plan for their lives.

The goal of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry is to produce a cadre of intercessors whose lives are fortified and effectual in the earth through prayer. The Intercessory Prayer Motto is “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.” which is taken from Romans 12:12

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry meets four times a year in the months that have a 5th Friday where the entire ministry comes together for words of encouragement and membership interaction ☩.

From the Heart Church Highlight

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at 2401 Byron Street in Richmond, VA. Sunday Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Prayer and Exhortation is held at noon. Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Other activities at the church include Church School Ministry, the None Like Us Ministry for elementary aged children, the Light of Zion Youth Ministry for middle and high school aged children and the Eagle’s Nest Ministry is the nursery and toddler age ministry offered during Sunday worship services. There is also a Men’s Fellowship and Women of Wisdom Ministry at FTH of Richmond. The teachings at FTH of Richmond are designed to make sure that each individual, whether they are male or female; young or old; a child or adult; single, divorced, married, or widowed, understands how to apply God’s Word to their lives ☩.

ONE TO WATCH

By Sis. Emerson Zora Hamsa



Wendy Dupree used to stutter. Then in sixth grade, her teacher, Dr. Amenta Crouch, at Full Gospel Christian School (now From the Heart Christian School) required students to participate in the school-wide oratorical contest.

The shy and apprehensive sixth-grader realized that despite her speech impediment, she would have to overcome

insecurities about speaking in public and prepare for an event that God would use to change the course of her life. "I was determined to get through the entire speech – it was the first time in my life I did not stutter while speaking for so long. My speech was three minutes and I won the competition," Sis. Dupree said, as she recalled fondly her days as a student at the Christian School.

Sis. Dupree attended the Christian school from grades 1-12 and after graduating in 1997 she attended Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, Florida. She graduated from college in 2001 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications.

Now she supervises a team of broadcast editors at From the Heart Church Ministries® parent church and Sis. Dupree is the voice you hear on the weekly television broadcast. Sis. Dupree said she joined the church staff because the church is like her ex-

tended family. "I grew up here. I am a part of something bigger than what I see."

In addition to her full-time ministry work, Sis. Dupree is a member of "The From the Heart Gospel Heirs," an a cappella singing group at From the Heart. Sis. Dupree and her husband, Jeremiah, are also youth workers. The youth ministry is a volunteer ministry that is designed to help Christian youth live better lives as they face the challenges that a secular society presents.

Sis. Dupree says she feels like From the Heart is where she is supposed to be at this time in her life, and she is grateful for the example of Pastor and Mrs. John A. Cherry, II.

"My desire is that people stay true to being a Christian. It is not always about what you have to say; it is about how you live—let your life speak for itself," she said ☩.

25th Anniversary "Big Sunday" Service

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nearly 100 From the Heart and Macedonian pastors and clergy processed in behind 23 banner carriers representing every FTH church in existence. Everyone was in step with the 200-member FTH mass choir, musicians, and orchestra who led the processional in song with *God of Our Fathers*.

Episcopal Pastor John A. Cherry, who started this grand processional some 25 years before in the aisles of a little storefront church, was the last to enter. He was immediately preceded by his wife, Rev. Diana P. Cherry, Pastor John A. Cherry, II and his wife, Reverend LaWanda M. Cherry, who on that day was ordained an Elder in the church.

The Service

Big Sunday was the climatic end to a week-long celebration of Episcopal Pastor John A. Cherry and the church's 25-year anniversary. It marked the day that

Episcopal Pastor Cherry, the church's Founding Father, would officially move into his worldwide episcopal ministry, and his son John A. Cherry, II would become the new pastor of the From the Heart Church Ministries Parent church. "This is a milestone in my life," Episcopal Pastor said, assuring the congregation that he is not retiring, but simply moving into the office of the episcopacy.

In his sermon entitled "God Has Prepared a New Thing for Us," Episcopal Pastor Cherry reminded the massive congregation that in the Church failure is a permitted response, and that the Church should never give up on God, for He has "ordained before-hand whoever and He has prepared whatever is needed for us to do a new thing." He described his 25th anniversary of ministry not as an end, but as a new beginning, one in which God will reward the church's obedience with the necessary provisions and protection, as well as with His presence.

Episcopal Pastor's remarks were reflective and directive. Using Moses and Joshua as a biblical example of how God transitions from one thing to another, he admonished the congregation to be strong and very courageous during the transition, declaring that "as God was

with Moses, and God was with Joshua, and God was with John Cherry, so will God be with John Cherry, II and this congregation."

Sixty-three souls accepted Jesus Christ as Savior on "Big Sunday" and every person in attendance at this High Worship Service was served Holy Communion.

The Ordination and Installation

"As my father has taught me how to live, I'm committed to teach all who will listen how to have life and have it more abundantly." - Pastor John A. Cherry, II

Pastor John A. Cherry, II and Reverend LaWanda Cherry were installed as a ministry team. First, Reverend Cherry was ordained an Elder in the church; then, with their three children (Abriona – age 9, Aleah – age 6 and John, III – age 4) standing with them, Pastor Cherry, II accepted the appointment as the new pastor of From the Heart Church Ministries. "Today is a humbling experience. Overwhelmingly humbling. It's humbling because of the love, and the trust, and the confidence that you have placed in me since the announcement. It's humbling because of who I am following ...

It's humbling because of the foundation that has already been laid ...," Pastor Cherry, II said in response to the installation. Overflowing with emotion, he thanked and acknowledged his wife, his children, his parents and family members, and his eldest aunt, Sister Josephine Hill, the matriarch of the Cherry family.

To the church, Pastor Cherry, II shared what the membership should expect in light of the leadership change. He vowed to always preach the uncompromising Word of God, to ensure that the church builds on the foundation that has already been laid, and to teach the people how to live, meaning to have the abundant life that Jesus promised to his followers "beyond the mechanical operation of the human body."

The Celebration

Big Sunday was the first time in nearly ten years that the entire FTH congregation was able to attend church together in the same place at the same time. "It was a blessing," said Sister Earline Robinson, dittoing the sentiments of most. "Especially when Sister LaWanda Cherry was ordained," she continued. "The whole service was beautiful. It was the top – the cat's meow – you can't celebrate any more than we did."

Sister Carol Lipscomb agreed. "You could feel what they felt – the joy and happiness that God was able to use them," Sister Lipscomb said as she described the time in the installation service when all of the FTH pastors gathered around the altar to lay hands on Pastor and Mrs. Cherry, II.

After the Worship Service, all of the congregation and guests were invited to dinner and fellowship at the From the Heart North Location in Temple Hills, Maryland.

In addition to the many parishioners, pastors and ministers from around the world, several local, state, and national government leaders including United States Congressman Benjamin Cardin, Representatives from Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich's office, Senator Thomas Mike Miller, Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan, among others, attended the service, many giving proclamations in honor and support of the ministry.

The entire service is available on DVD at the From the Heart Bookstore ☩.

Weeklong Celebration, "Honoring the Man, Celebrating the Vision"

(continued from page 5)

their spiritual father. Although humorous, it was apparent that the From the Heart pastors understood our Episcopal Pastor's wisdom. As one member who attended this service put it, "They knew it was truth and did it." During this service, From the Heart Church Ministries of Atlanta, Back to Basics, Belpre, Charlotte, Chicago, Harrisburg, Houston and Philadelphia were each represented by its members that ministered in song, dance or interpretive movement.

6. Friday, June 2, 2006 Gala Banquet – "It was wonderful to be able to celebrate," says a longtime member. [I] really get excited when From the Heart can get together and dress up. [It was] good to see people that you don't normally see—who may go to a different service. It felt very much like family, even though it was a lot of people."

An anniversary celebration as momentous as 25 years would not be complete without a From the Heart Gala Banquet – in every sense of the word. That

means a celebration like none other for God's royal heritage. In fine regalia and among family and friends of the ministry, the From the Heart Gala Banquet was held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. Bro. Morris Chapman and Sis. Cece Winans were guest musical artists for this festive occasion. The Women of God: Lifegivers Ministry gave a tribute to Mrs. Diana Cherry and collective gift presentations from the Parent church and the From the Heart pastors were given at the Gala Banquet to Episcopal Pastor and Mrs. Cherry in honor of their 25th Anniversary in ministry.

7. Saturday, June 3, 2006 DVD Documentary Premiere – "This is My Story" – This special documentary presentation recounts the ministry of our Episcopal Pastor and the history of our local church, beginning long before Episcopal Pastor Cherry received and answered his call to the ministry. Through the voices of family, friends and church members during the early years, the story of how From the Heart came to be

is told in this 2 hours, 5 minute video presentation, which was completed from beginning to end by members of From the Heart. "This is My Story" covers the legacy that started it all, the sacrifices made along the way, the establishment of a standard for preaching the uncompromising, unadulterated Word of God, and a heartfelt desire to seek and save the lost which has all culminated into a collection of believers around that world that loves God, hates sin and loves to give.

The weeklong celebration ended on Sunday, June 4, 2006 with a High Worship Service that was held at the Verizon Center in downtown Washington, DC. From the Heart, a world-wide ministry, has made a difference right here at home. A sentiment that is sure to be held by many, Sis. Pia Johnson-Sutton commented on the overall celebration, "God is allowing us to be a part of a world-wide church, which is From the Heart. I am a part of this. I need to step it up. It's not about Martin Luther King or Rosa Parks. It's about how much [we] can change the world. It's about how little we're dealing with things and how big God is. Just to see what God is doing and to be a part of it, that's awesome." ☩



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NBTV-9 Sunday 8:00 a.m.
 Georgetown, Guyana

CNLTV Sunday 8:00 p.m.
 Russian Network, Almaty, Kazakhstan

WLPC-TV Sunday 3:30 p.m.
 Detroit, MI Friday 10:00 p.m.

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God's Plan of Salvation

Acknowledge: God be merciful to me a sinner. (Luke 18:13)

Repent: Repent ye therefore, and be thou converted, that your sins may be blotted out. (Acts 3:19)

Confess: If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Believe: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Will you make your decision now to be saved and say this simple prayer?

Lord Jesus, I believe you came to earth, lived and died for my sins, and was resurrected from the dead. Please forgive my sins. I invite you into my life as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

If you would like to be a contributing writer for the FTH newsletter, please complete the Registration Form in the weekly Sunday Bulletin.