



Volume 27, No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 26, 2014

Calvary MBC's 25th Pastoral Anniversary

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Escort Clara Brown and Rev. Floyd Smith, Jr.

Unresolved Issues

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor



... No justice, no peace.

- Al Sharpton

There have been a number of recent questionable traffic stops of high-profile African-American citizens in Toledo by the Toledo Police Department. Some, like that of community activist Art Jones who was pulled over around the corner from his home, found their way to TPD's Internal Affairs. Other individuals, perhaps fearing retaliation, have been hesitant to challenge the "reasonable suspicion" claims by local police.

However, Mayor D. Michael Collins, during his campaign, strenuously asserted that the TPD does not engage in racial profiling. This position, of course, became a thorn in Collins' relationship with the black community and ultimately led to the resignation of former Police Chief Derrick Diggs.

With Chief of Staff Bob Reinbolt quarterbacking the Collins administration, former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner coaching from the sidelines, and the unions calling the plays, current Police Chief Bill Moton is not even in the huddle or on the field. Collins' practice is to deal directly with the unions and Deputy Chief Kral on police matters while Moton holds the clipboard and is regularly bypassed.

The classes of the most recent police recruits are nearly all-white at a time when blacks on the force are retiring in great numbers. The newest officers have been described as those

who "have little knowledge of the community's needs and culture, and bring a policing perspective derived from television programming."

Does the Toledo Police Department engage in racial profiling?

If racial profiling is defined as "the unconstitutional use of race as an indicator of criminal suspicion," then the answer is a deafening YES!

Police officers are normal individuals like the rest of society and inherently carry the same biases and frailties that we all do. Therefore, though difficult to prove, most (if not all) police departments across the nation profile based upon race.

The problem is that racial profiling creates a sense of alienation from the dominant society among those singled out and exacerbates the friction and lack of trust that already exists between the community and the Collins administration. Profiling also makes the community less safe because citizens are more likely to expect to be treated badly by the police and are therefore uncomfortable calling them to report criminal behavior. Crime is then likely continue to thrive in poor areas of color.

What then, does the community want from Collins?

What the black community does not want is the continued denial of the TPD's targeting of African Americans in traffic stops. Nor do we want silence, indifference or ignoring of the problem.

Rather, the community wants transparency and to hear how Collins plans to deal with the issue of racial profiling in Toledo.

Recent research (Alpert et al. 2007) suggests that specific initiatives should be developed and implemented to address the problem and show the administration's commitment to diversity and fairness in policing. Explicit policies that prohibit racial profiling should be implemented and enforced. Police officers and administration officials should also undergo training and educa-

tion on the impact of racial profiling in communities of color. Most importantly, relevant data that accurately measures police activity should be kept and monitored in order to provide meaningful assessment and evaluation.

Yet, the buzz from the uppermost floors of One Government Center indicates that plans are in the works to discontinue the Toledo Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (TCIRV), a successful evidence-based program to reduce

... continued on page 5

Community Calendar

March 29

Calvary MBC 25th Anniversary Pastoral Musical Celebration: 6 pm; Featuring Min Chris Byrd, Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir, Calvary MBC Mass Choir, United Vision Mass Choir, Brian Thomas Chorale, Pastor Johnnie Hobbs, Vanessa Williams, Greater St. Mary's Creative Arts: 419-242-8379

March 30

2nd Baptist Empowerment Series: 11 am; Spencer Township Community Building; Speakers Terrence Pound, Sr and Marquis Kimble, co-owners of KP Financial Management: 419-865-7702
Bethlehem Baptist 20th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration: Pastor Derek A. Arnold, D.Min; 4 pm; Guests Rev. Floyd Smith and Calvary Baptist: 429-241-9360

April 4-5

Phillips Temple CME Fish and Chicken Dinners: Pre-Women's Day Event; 10 am to 5 pm each day: 419-202-7906
Toledoans United for Social Action 1st Annual Conference: Monroe St United Methodist Church; Friday - 6 to 8 pm, featuring Rev. Fouglass Powe, Jr; Saturday - 9 to noon, prayer breakfast

April 6

Bethlehem Baptist 20th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration: Pastor Derek A. Arnold, D.Min; 9 am Conclusion service: 419-241-9360

April 9-11

City of Zion, The Mt. Zion Church Conference 2014: "Let's Go Higher:" Toledo Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Interspersory Prayer Conference; 6:30 nightly; Guests - Bishop Duane Tisdale, Pastor Kim Davis, Bishop William Murphy: 419-246-1850

April 12

Grace Temple #424 Easter Egg Hunt: 1 to 3 pm; Ages 0 to 12 must be with parent or adult; Fun, games, food, prizes: 419-243-6409

April 13

Beulah Baptist 8th Pastoral Anniversary: 10:45 am - guest preacher Rev. P.J. Harris of United Vision; 4 pm - guest preacher - Rev. F.A. Sheares of Rossford First Baptist

April 28

Annual Nehemiah Action Rally: Sponsored by TUSA; Friendship Baptist Church; 7 pm

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word - Publisher and Editor
Folasade Oladokun - Office Manager

Artisha Lawson - Reporter
Carla Leonard - Social Editor
Michael Hayes - Entertainment Critic
Rev. D.L. Perryman - Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz - Webmaster
Kathy Sweeny - Graphic Designer
Jessica Crans - Layout

A Certified MBE

The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604
Phone 419-243-0007 * Fax 419-255-7700
thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com
www.thetruthtoledo.com

Cotton Comes To Toledo...!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Aaah! Don't you smell it! You can't miss it! Come on...take another whiff and what do you smell? It's cotton, man...cotton! Unmistakable smell.

It is almost cotton time again for Toledo!

People are gearing up for this big shindig again. Flowers...costly dresses...tuxes...expensive dance lessons...practice sessions...hours and hours of meetings.

All about cotton! You are probably one of those who did not know that cotton was such a big deal in Toledo. Been that way for many years.

Some black folk in Toledo simply love da smell of cotton. It is clean. It is pure.

It is wholesome. And most of all, it is white! We just loves dat white cotton!

Oh..I could say it over and over again and never tire of saying it: COTTON...

COTTON...COTTON!

I think about cotton practically every day. It makes me feel clean and with cotton by my side, I can do anything because Cctton has taught me how to behave.

I know...I know. It sound silly but it is true. When cotton came into my life it changed everything. Now, everything looks different. You..me..my family...society...my hopes and dreams.

They all have been shaped, and for the good, by cotton.

I owe it all to cotton (slight pause as I wipe a tear from my eye).

Without cotton, I have no way of telling you where I would have ended up.

For you see, cotton gave me direction. It gave me hope when there was none.

It has given me a vision when I was blind.

I don't know about you but cotton was there for me when no one else was.

So, if I get choked up about talking about cotton, now you know why.

I cannot begin to tell you how cot-

ton came into my life and where it is now taking me.

It is taking me to heights and places that I never dreamed of. Who would have thunk it that something so simple as cotton could have such a power, have such an influence on me that I can hardly sit still when I think about the benefits of good ol' cotton.

Now, it is close again to that time, when we celebrate the joys and benefits of cotton. I am antsy just thinking about the upcoming events that cotton has spawned that I can hardly wait for tomorrow!

See, that what cotton does for me at least. It has placed me on a firm foundation and the others that celebrate cotton time with me would also agree that cotton is good.

Wait...! Oh no! I am so sorry! I am speaking about something and the whole time I was spelling and misusing the word, 'cotton' wrong.

My profuse apologies for this gross error. It just shows you what can happen when you get caught up in the joys and fun of cotton.

What I should have been saying in the place of the word, "cotton" was the word, Cotillion.

Now that makes better sense doesn't it!

I am rhapsodizing about the upcoming Cotillion where me and my bros and sista's can don formal tuxes and white formal gowns with long white cotton gloves and we can waltz (what is a waltz come to think of it?) away the night at the Stranahan Theatre and do funny bows and have our names announced before we enter the dance floor.

Now, don't be asking me about why black teenagers are running around dressing up looking like white folks from the 1920's. I am doing what I am told.

I don't know why we do these funny dances and put on airs as if we are European royalty.

All I know is that this cotton... sorry, this Cotillion Ball is supposed to make us act whiter and learn manners (don't black folks have manners?) and think that if we dance waltzes we will be more civilized.

But answer me this question?

Why don't you see white families spending hundreds of dollars each year on their kids and prepping them to act like black kids and learning "black" dances' and desiring for them to be introduced to "black society?"

Who came up with this cornball idea that if you have black kids mimic white folks dancing and strutting around and putting on airs, that you will be a better person?

The organizers says that this cotton dance, er,... I mean this Cotillion Ball is our "introduction to society." Society..... whose society?

Funny, after last year's dance night, I didn't feel any different and no one from their "society" has called me about having lunch with them or giving me a chance at a job.

What is even odder. I still talk the same...think the same... and what makes me mad is that when I left the Hall after the last Ball, two white cops stopped me and frisked

me on the ground (my tux was ruined!) saying that I matched the description of a burglary suspect of some local apartments building.

They let me go when the drug dog found no hits and the trunk of my car only turned up some battery jumper cables and an empty gym bag.

Well, so much for that Cotillion. I thought it would my "mojo" to protect me since there I was, a black man in a 180 dollar rented tux with my date in a 300 dollar rented dress and still I was stopped by cops for no reason.

I thought these cops knew about Cotillion Balls and we dancing to funny sounding waltzes. I thought it would make "us" one of "them."

I was wrong! That wasn't no Cotillion...it is still just a Cotton Ball after all!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

April is National Minority Health Month

Minority Health Month Kickoff

Saturday
April 5, 2014
10:00am-Noon

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Councilman Ford Lashes out at Republican Vote Suppression Efforts

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

During a news conference this week, Toledo City Councilman Jack Ford condemned Ohio Republicans attempts to change voting practices and asked Toledo-area voters to give their support to petitions designed to amend the state constitution with the Ohio Voter Bill of Rights.

"I've watched the legislature for many years, as well as serving for seven, as well as becoming one of the leaders and I have never seen the tactics being used now to curtail the vote," said Ford as he opened the news conference surrounded by several other councilmen, two area ministers and a prominent local attorney.

"It's harmful and shameful," he added. "and a direct sham to prevent votes – targeted towards black voters."

Ford's ire was raised by recent state Republicans move to shorten the early voting period – reducing it from 35 to 29 days before an election; new restrictions on absentee balloting and a restriction on the number of state employees who may



Front Row - Rev. Cedric Brock, Councilman Jack Ford, Rev. John Roberts. Rear - Ray Wood, Councilmen Matt Cherry and Mike Craig, Richard Mitchell

... continued on page 5

African Art Has Arrived!!

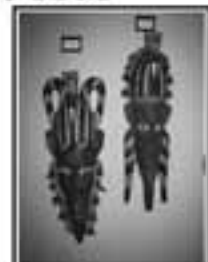
Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!



The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM



See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com



The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
419-242-7650

Perryman... continued from page 2

gang-related violence. Other data-driven policing activities are also being dismantled including plans to end the purchase of any additional crime cameras.

In the meantime, the National Science Foundation has funded a California policing research organization with a \$1 million

grant to develop the first national data base on police profiling and inequitable use of force. The project, called "The Justice Database," provides a universal and scientific way to measure disparities and equity in police activity. More than 40 police departments and law enforcement agencies across the nation currently

take part in the project.

Should the Toledo Police Department choose to participate in data driven research like The Justice Database, racial profiling in Toledo will no longer remain underground or be a matter of debate.

Instead, the problems with bias and unconstitutional policing, so

apparent to African Americans, will be readily and accurately identified for all to see.

Otherwise, this summer could be long, hot and quite interesting.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@center-ofhopebaptist.org

Ford... continued from page 4

mass mail absentee ballots.

Certain provisions, such as the early voting days, were enacted after the 2004 presidential election during which the nation witnessed long lines of voters and defective voting machines in Ohio, especially in central citing polling sites.

"We didn't pay enough attention to what [Ohio Secretary of State] Blackwell was doing in the run-up to the [2004] election," recalled Ford. "If we had, [Democratic candidate] John Kerry might have won the presidency."

The early voting provisions were then passed in the General Assembly with bipartisan support.

However, the presidential elections of 2008 and 2012 brought

out African Americans in record numbers to support candidate, now president, Barack Obama. Nationally, black voters turned out in greater percentages than any other ethnic or racial group.

"It is feared that a Republican can't win in Ohio without diluting the black vote," said Ford on Monday as he pointed out just why the majority party would now wish to change the early voting provisions.

Ford said that he would be trying to mobilize various segments of the population to get petitions signed and the Voter Bill of Rights on the ballot. He will be contacting the bishops of large religious conventions - such as, Baptists, Church of God in Christ, AME; he will be sending correspondence to state NAACP directors, the UAW, fraternities and sororities, etc.

Noting that he teaches several

courses at The University of Toledo on African-American studies that touch on the Reconstruction period after the Civil War and Reconstruction's aftermath, Ford compared the present day effort to roll back voting rights with what happened in southern states after 1877.

"That was an attempt to roll back the impact of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution," he said of such measures as poll taxes and literacy tests. "In a way, that's what we're doing here in Ohio now."

He suggested that the Democratic members of the General Assembly should shut down the legislature in Columbus to bring attention of the matter to voters.

Also in attendance at the press

conference were Toledo City Councilmen Mike Craig and Matt Cherry; Revs. John Roberts, pastor of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, and Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; attorney Richard Mitchell and Ray Wood, president of the Toledo chapter of the NAACP.

"This shows that we are going backwards," said Brock of the attempts to roll back voting practices. "A quantum leap backwards. This is a tragedy."

"I concur," said Wood. "We need 385,000 signatures to push through this petition. We have to make sure people understand this attack on voting."

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Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Scholarship Application



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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

High School: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____

Grade Point Average: _____ ACT/SAT Score: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Number of siblings living at home: _____

Number of people in family who will be attending college this year: _____

Have you been accepted to an accredited college or university? _____

If yes, please give the name of the college/university or provide a copy of the acceptance letter from the college/university in which you plan to attend: _____

Have you been awarded any other scholarships? _____

If yes, please give name(s) and/or type and amount(s): _____

On a separate sheet, please submit a typed autobiographical essay that includes the following information:

1. Your high school extracurricular activities
2. Community and church activities
3. Anticipated major in college
4. Goals and ambitions in terms of your career choice

Applications should be submitted by 3/7/2014 and must include an "Official", sealed transcript and photo.

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“LYDIA” Ladies Your Destiny Is Awaiting!

By Carla Yvette

“LYDIA” Ladies Your Destiny Is Awaiting” 2014 Annual Entrepreneur Business Women’s Luncheon was held March 1 at UTM the hotel.

“LYDIA,” the vision and passion of conference host Janet Harrington, owner of InVision Salon and Spa, was born in the 1990’s when Harrington began opening her home to a small group of women who met every first Monday.

This led to the now inspiring annual luncheon.

Harrington recently moved back to her home town of Toledo, OH from Atlanta, GA where she had resided since 1988. She has been an entrepreneur for over 35 years and has owned and operated four successful studios in the fashion and beauty industry and wanted to bring the conference to Toledo to help inspire women to find their niche and pursue their destiny.

The conference is geared toward motivating and inspiring women to

open their businesses or take their current businesses to the next level.

The day consisted of speakers who shared information on grant writing, accessing capital, 501c3 application process, as well as techniques in promoting, publishing and branding your business and wealth building techniques. It also included several 20 minute enrichment sessions which covered topics such as: “Are you doing what God created you to do?” “Communicating in a Spirit of excellence, yet getting your point across!” “It’s already yours, asserting skills that lead to success.” and “Leadership” and “Conflict Resolution”.

Women enjoyed lunch and the opportunity to shop from the local vendors who were on hand. Speakers and facilitators were: Lisa Lawrence, Michelle Klinger, Rhonda Sewell, Brenda Mc Fall, Linda Alvarado, Gretchen DeBacker, Carla Leonard, Alice Quinn and Olivia Holden. The event coordinator was Donnetta Carter.



Conference Host, Janet Harrington



Vivian King and Nicole Rice



Sheila Willis, Kamesha Hairston and Ann Hairston



Amber Hawkins and Janet Harrington



Cassandra Barnhill, Barbara Rome, Michelle Klinger with Vondean Rome and Wanda Bell




Zaneta Williams, Dr. Marjorie Holt and Kynna Johnson




Ronald Dowl and Serena Allen

NO LINES, NO EXCUSES



VOTE EARLY
2014 Primary Election
Monday, April 7, 2014



African American Leadership Caucus (AALC)
8:30am -9pm
Lucas County Early Vote Center
Register to VOTE and VOTE at the same time
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Voting begins April 1, 2014
Voting ends May 6, 2014

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Mt. Nebo's "Stepping Out in Faith" Annual Celebration

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist church, for the past 14 years during the Church's annual Black History Month program, has honored local leaders who serve the community. The leaders, called silent soldiers, were publicly thanked before a crowd of 300 people on March 2 at the Premiere Banquet Complex.

The celebration entitled, "Stepping Out in Faith," recognized 17 honorees: Henrietta Armstrong, Lionel Brock, Emma Brown, Augustine Buchanan, Andrae Ellis, Venetia Harris-Tate, Alice King, Laura Lloyd-Jenkins, Johnnie Love, Barbara Mitchell, Bishop Henry Newsom, Elsie Seay, Wilma Sheares, Jackie Simmons, Bobby Smith, Georgia Trigg and Anne Walker.



Lisa Dunnivant and Theresa Wiggins



Thettis Reed and Ingrid Abercrobiegins



Rev. F. Alexander and Wilma Sheares



Mother Porter with daughters Shareese and Sheronda Jones



Mt. Nebo Youth Dept.



Lisa and Joyce Dunnivant with Theresa Wiggins and Pearline Knapp

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The NANBPWC Inc. Toledo Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Artisha S Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The ladies of yellow and red gathered to celebrate Founders' Day and Women's History Month on Sunday, March 23 at The Pinnacle, under the theme, "What Women's History and Founders Day Mean to Us." The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc program began with the Negro National Anthem, formal welcome and greetings and reading of the organization's history.

"This is our 50th anniversary, and celebrating our wonderful history, and

celebrate our charter members that are here. We are acknowledging three honorees for all of their community contributions and accomplishments in the Toledo community," said Toledo Club President Denise Black-Poon.

Guests and club members received a message from guest speaker Elizabeth Moncrief Chaney, NANBPWC Inc. North Central District Governor. She has received the Ollie Chin Porter Presidential award, is an active member in several community organizations and actively volunteers.

The organization presented awards to three community leaders: Cynthia Lynne Battles, Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson and B. Janelle Butler Phifer. Cynthia Battles is employed through Lucas County Children's Services, is a licensed attorney, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and has received various community and leadership awards.

City of Toledo Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson is the council president, serves on several non-profit boards, is a member of community organizations and the minister of music at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

B. Janelle Butler Phifer is employed as staff attorney at Legal Aid of Western Ohio and provides legal representation to two additional companies, is a member of

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a member of The Links, Inc, and several other community organizations.

The program honored the living charter members of the Toledo Club, and awarded Barbara Tucker, the 2014 Sojourner Truth Award. "The Sojourner Truth award winner, Barbara Tucker, is a hard worker and dedicated to service. She has paved the way through her leadership for countless others in the community," said Toledo Club president Black-Poon.

The NANBPWC, Inc. Toledo Club was chartered in the summer of 1964 under the organization of charter members: Evelyn Alexander, Gertrude Bardo, June Boyd, Mursey Catlin Benton, Bethel Cooper, Leatha Crawford, Lucille Dunlap, Helen Harris, Margaret Jones, Willie Mae Curry Lamb, Gladys Mitchell, Eleonor Bluiett Sanders, Ardelia Simpson, and Victoria Sydnor. NANBPWC, Inc. Toledo Club's executive board consists of: Denise Black-Poon, president; Wanda Terrell, first vice president and NCD Protocol chairman; Frances Collins, Ed.D, second vice president, NCD program chairman, Youth Club advisor; Barbara Tucker, former NCD governor, Vocal Arts chairman and financial secretary; Sharon Gaines, corresponding secretary, parliamentarian; Denise Cardwell, recording secretary; Ethel Scott, director of membership; Wilma Brown, treasurer and Cotillion chairman; Donnetta Carter, Public Relations chairman; and Clara Brank, chaplain, Founders Day co-chairman, 2014 Fundraiser co-chairman.

"I want to thank our club members and the NCD Governor. We have 50 years of service in the Toledo area and we thank the community supporting us these 50 years," said Black-Poon.



NANBPWC Club Members

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NCD Governor Elizabeth Moncrief Chaney, Sojourner Truth Award winner Barbara Tucker, and Toledo Club president Denise Black Poon



NANBPWC Toledo Club youth group and advisors

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Rev. Floyd Smith Jr celebrates 25 years at Calvary MBC

By: Artisha S Lawson
The Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Community residents, elected officials, and people of faith gathered to celebrate the 25 year anniversary of Rev. Floyd Smith Jr., pastor of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, March 23, 2014 under the theme, "Remaining diligent in God's purpose," that was organized by the Pastor's Aid Committee.

"Pastor Smith has done so many wonderful and great things in this church. Pastor Smith is an awesome man of God," shared Frances Ester, Pastor's Aid Overseer.



Rev. Smith Jr. and Rev. James Willis



Program Escort Clara Brown and Rev. Floyd Smith Jr.



Deacons of St Paul Baptist Church

The deacons of St. Paul Baptist Church... continued on page 12



Rev. Smith Jr. and Pastors Aid Committee

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Cabaret... continued from page 16

Although Devillbiss is no more, Kerry says, "We both agreed that we wanted to give back so we decided to allow the cheerleading and the track coaches from Scott, work the room and raise funds to offset some of their costs."

Each year, vendors are given to opportunity to sell merchandise in order to raise money for their organization. This year's vendors were Carvella Smith and

Marvin Gardner who provided set-ups. Proceeds will benefit the Scott High School track team.

Andreania Allen conducted the 50/50 raffle and all proceeds will benefit the cheerleading squad. Shapeme Jeans not only gave a pair of custom made jeans to the winner of the 50/50 raffle but also donated \$500 in the Emerys' name to the Scott High School cheerleading squad.

Other vendors included Celeste

Smith of Celestial Treats, Erika Garza along with her dream team, Cynthia Warner and Kim Stafford who sold authentic Mexican tacos, part of the proceeds will benefit the track team and cheerleading squad. Darryl Nash provided alumni gear (t-shirts, hats, scarves, hoodies, etc.) and Albert Earl and Wakeso Peterson captured the entire evening taking pictures.

Music was provided by DJ Kaj Boogie and DJ MPress. The Em-

ery's also made a special introduction of Ian English who will be running for Judge for the Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

"At the end of the day, this cabaret is about bringing all of us together to have a good time and get in the spirit of giving back to our community," says Kerry.

The Emerys asked The Truth to thank everyone who attended the 4th Annual Scott/DeVilbiss Throwback Cabaret.



Colleen Carson, Alicia Lawson, Kerry Emery, Arlinda Williams and Paula Carr



Cheryl Johnson and Rena Ramsey



Dana Sams and Latoya McClendon



Candy Robinson, Nikki Heffner and Nikki Hill

MIGHTY MONDAY



VOTE EARLY
2014 Primary Election
Tuesday, April 7, 2014



African American Leadership Caucus (AALC)

8:30am - 9pm
Lucas County Early Vote Center
Register to VOTE and VOTE at the same time
"MY VOTE COUNTS"

Voting begins April 1, 2014
Voting ends May 6, 2014



Celeste of Celestial Treats

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Leon.. continued from page 16

hamas, Florida, Vegas and LA and opening for such greats as Chaka Khan, Parliament Funcadelic, The Mannhattans, The Dramatics, Cedric The Entertainer and Steve Harvey and has also worked with Johnny Carson, Lou Rawls, Jerry Lewis and others.

Whittington, who describes himself as a vocal impersonator says people have followed him over the

years because of his ability to change his voice and imitate different artists. Whittington's vocal talent and dance moves combined with a touch of humor captivated the audience of predominantly women who swooned and swayed as Whittington sang love songs by Luther Vandross.

By the end of the night, Whittington and Manning had men and women alike not wanting to leave the dance floor.

Whittington currently resides in Loraine OH where he is involved in full-time ministry as a praise and worship leader for his home church, God's Kingdom of Elyria Ohio, with Pastors Charles and Valerie Howard. Whittington says he's been coming back to Toledo to perform at the Avenue Bistro for about a month or so and the crowd has increasingly gotten bigger, primarily through word of mouth.

"This particular night was special,"

says Whittington. "I've seen people I haven't seen in over 40 years, people from as far back as elementary school."

C.J. Manning & Company features local artists such as Lady K, Isis Aubrey, Cookie, Whittington and others every Friday.

Whittington's next performance will be April 11, 2014, two shows 9:30 and 11:00 PM with a short 15 minute set to end the night.



C.J. Manning



Deidre Kelly LaTonya Cox and Shannon Jacobs



Dana Houeston, Toni Battle-Gaines and Sharlene Roberts



Leigh and Armon Miller



Gwendolyn and Christopher Whittington with Twana Boyd



Kelly and Sardara Jones



Loreta McClain and Tera Johnson



Whittington serenading audience member Twan Boyd



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State Rep. Ashford Announces \$66,000 for Toledo-area Projects

Initiatives to enhance local medical technology innovation, community development programs

Special to The Truth

This week, State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) announced the release of \$66,000 in state funding for the Toledo area.

\$50,000 will go to The University of Toledo for the development of new technologies that would improve current orthotics products. The funding is part of the Third Frontier Technology Validation and Start-Up Fund, which seeks to assist universities and research facilities in Ohio to develop new technologies that they can then sell to companies

in Ohio. The university will also provide a \$50,000 match in funding.

"Investing in medical technology that will be produced in Ohio is a smart financial move for the state," Ashford said. "As the medical field continues to expand and change, we need to continue to support innovative centers, like the University of Toledo, that are garnering reputations for excellence in the medical technology field."

The Area Office on Aging of NW Ohio in Toledo was awarded a grant of \$16,000 to assist elderly and disabled low-income residents maintain rental housing in the Toledo region. The money will go towards the statewide Resident-Services Coordinator Program initiative, which works with elderly, low-income residents to connect them with services focused on helping tenants maintain independence, decreasing vacancy rates and increasing access to housing for people with disabilities. Data

suggests that 1,469 Ohioans will have access to the program as a result of this funding.

"Initiatives like the Resident-Service Coordinator Program provide important services to older Ohioans who want to maintain their independence and need resources to will help them do so. This is a common sense initiative that offers opportunities for older Ohioans to stay in their current home and maintain their lifestyle," said Ashford.

Calvary... continued from page 9

tist Church led a spirit filled praise and worships segment, immediately followed by the entrance of the honoree, Rev. Smith, Jr. and escort Sister Clara Brown. All in attendance rose to their feet, applauded and cheered as Rev. Smith Jr., entered the sanctuary.

Sister Anne Walker served the mistress of ceremony, and St. Paul Baptist Church presented three choir selections. Sister Ruth Penamon welcomed all guests in attendance, and Pastor Gregory Bennett delivered a tribute to Pastor Smith Jr. The guest speaker, Rev. Willis, the Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church was introduced by Rev. Mary Jo Brazzel. Deacon Willie Tucker, Jr. shared words of gratitude, Rev. Smith, Jr gave remarks as Rev. Willis closed the service with the benediction.

The theme, "Remaining diligent in God's purpose," was taken from Biblical scripture Psalms 37:23. The Pastor's Aid Committee was organized in 2002 and current members are: Durrell and Mary Burden, Frances Ester, Leonia Lyle, C.J. and Glenda Manning, Robin Marr, Pat McFarland, Charles Meredith, and Deacon Willie Tucker.

"We're excited because this upcoming Thursday, the City of Toledo will rename the street to Pastor Floyd Smith Street at 12:30pm. Several political officials have presented Rev. Smith with acknowledgements such as United States Representative Marcy Kaptur, State Rep. Michael Ashford, City of Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins, candidate for judge Jay Feldstein and Toledo City Council members Jack Ford and Larry Sykes," explained Frances Ester, Pastor's Aid Overseer.

The anniversary celebration began March 9, 2014 with guest speaker Bishop Duane Tisdale, Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, and continued on March 16, 2014 with guest speaker Rev. Melvin

Barnes, Pastor of Greater Faith Fellowship Church. The final two celebration days are March 29 with a musical celebration at 6:00pm at Calvary Baptist Church and April 4 banquet at the Radisson Hotel. Individuals interested in purchasing banquet tickets can contact the church at 419-242-8379, guest speaker is Bishop J. Delano Ellis of Cleveland and musical performances by Bishop Rance Allen.

Reverend Floyd Smith, Jr. was born in Toledo, Ohio to the late Floyd Sr. and Mary Smith as the eldest of four children and he attended Toledo Public Schools. Rev. Smith Jr. accepted the ministry at age 18 and mentored by Rev. L.H. Newsome, licensed to preach in 1973, ordained in 1982, earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1986 while majoring in Bible and Theology. Rev. Smith Jr. accepted the call to pastor in 1982 at Big Walnut Grove Baptist Church, located in Kentucky before returning to Toledo in 1986. Rev. Smith Jr. served Calvary Baptist Church as Director of Youth Department before becoming pastor in 1989. In addition to serving as Pastor, he's second Vice President Moderate of the NW Ohio Missionary Baptist Association on the local and state level; a recognized instructor for the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Toledo Extension Program, and NW District Congress of Education; and military veteran. Personally, Rev. Smith Jr. is father of Kimberly Yvonne, Floyd III, Brandon, and Beverly Michelle.

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Writing God's Obituary: How a Good Methodist Became a Better Atheist by Anthony B. Pinn

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Your second home is a grand one.

It's much bigger than the house you live in during the week. No, your second home has huge windows to let in the

light, fine linens, and it's usually filled with music. The furniture might be sparse, the chairs hard and the temperature uncomfortable, but there's always joy there.

Church is like that for many people. But, as you'll see in *Writing God's Obituary* by Anthony B. Pinn, church is just a building to others.

c. 2014
PrometheusBooks
\$18.95 / \$20.00 Canada
241 pages

Anthony Pinn was a "miracle baby."

Doctors had warned his mother not to have another child. She'd already lost one son and was sickly herself (as was Pinn's father), but Pinn was healthy when he was born into their Buffalo, New York family.

Growing up in a mostly blue-collar neighborhood, Pinn went to church every Sunday with his mother. Her father was a deacon in a small Baptist church, and he made sure Pinn behaved during service and knew God. The church was a comfort to Pinn – so much so, that at around age 12, he told his minister that he wanted to be a preacher, too.

His church leaders seized that childhood wish, and began to teach the boy to preach and minister to a congregation. One of them became somewhat of a mentor and father figure to Pinn, whose own father had left the family. Though Pinn "didn't enjoy going to Sunday school" and he didn't like school in general, he says he loved his church and he embraced his future role in its leadership.

And yet, there were things he didn't like about it: the "fine art of... shunning," for instance, sexism and homophobia. That bothered him and his faith began to crack.

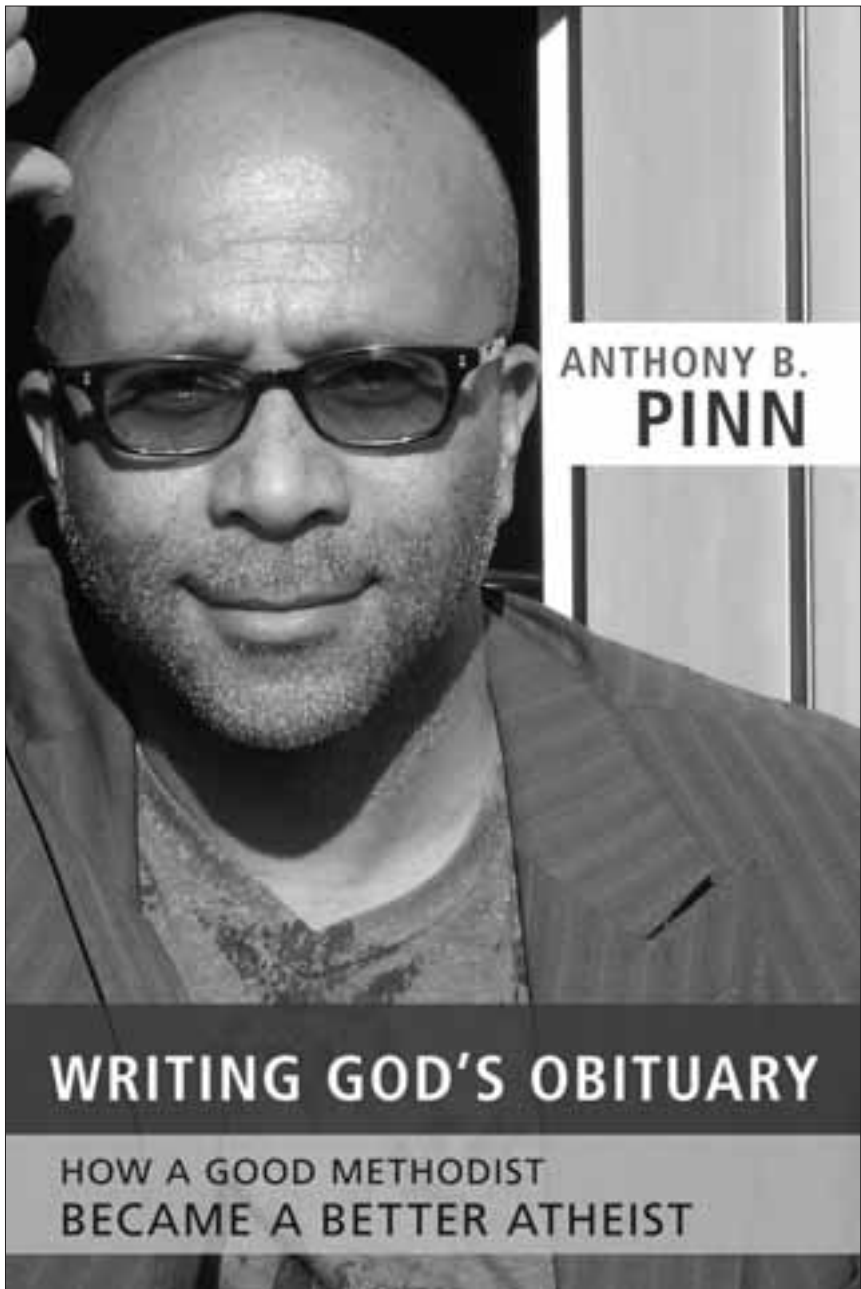
Still, he stuck with it. He graduated from high school and entered college to study sociology and religion. He learned about other religious traditions and that "The Bible didn't matter in the same way" at college that it did in high school. He began to listen to worldly music, and started to "unlearn" his fear of life.

"We are screwed-up animals, self-aware, communicative, and evolving," he says, which didn't mesh with the wrathful God of his childhood. And so, while studying divinity at Harvard University, he kept asking one question: "Does God exist?"

For author and humanist Anthony B. Pinn, the answer is personally "no" and in this controversial-but-thought-provoking memoir, he explains how he came to that conclusion.

But *Writing God's Obituary* isn't just about religion. Pinn recalls his parents and grandparents with warmth and love, telling their stories and savoring the things they taught him. Those reflections make his journey all the more poignant; we can sense pain here sometimes, and an emptiness for what was never experienced and what might have been.


I liked this book, but beware before you pick it up. It may make you fearful, it might make you angry or prayerful, but if you've ever wrestled with issues of faith, *Writing God's Obituary* may be a book to bring home.



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CLASSIFIEDS

March 26, 2014

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Request for Proposals Geotechnical Investigation, Construction Testing, Inspection & Reporting Svcs.

RFP #14-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for the above services. Received in accordance with law until Thurs., Apr. 10, 2014, 3PM ET; Pre-Proposal Conf., Thurs., Mar. 27, 2PM ET. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9400 (TRS: Dial 711). Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



AOD Therapist

Opportunities are available for experienced AOD Therapists to provide individual, family and group counseling and case management services to children, adolescents, adults and families in various treatment programs.

Candidate must have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Dual mental health (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC) and chemical dependency licensure (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LICDC) required. Independent licensure preferred

Human Resources - AOD
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1425 Starr Ave.
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Fax: 419-936-7574
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EOE

CLINICAL THERAPIST – FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICES

Unison is seeking a Clinical Therapist to provide services to children and adults with severe emotional disorders in community settings. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing treatment plans and providing individual and family therapy.

Position is based at Starr Avenue but requires significant work in the community. Master's degree and current Ohio licensure as a LSW or PC required. LISW or LPCC preferred. Experience working with children and families is preferred.

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Scott Class Reunion

The Scott High School Class of 1969 is having our 45th class reunion on July 25 and 26 2014 here in Toledo. We are looking for classmates who we have not and cannot locate. These are the people and numbers to use for contact, Mary 419-536-9544 / Tommy 419-704-1835 and Evelyn 419-490-6851..

CARE MANAGER

Accountable for overall care management and care coordination of the consumer's care plan, including physical health, behavioral health and social service needs and goals. May provide health home services as needed.

Must be licensed in Ohio as an LISW, LSW, PCC, PC or RN. Prior experience as a care manager preferred.

Send resume or apply to:

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Fax: 419-936-7574
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Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Maintenance Instrument Supervisor. This position is responsible for the execution of Instrument PM's and repairs as well as ensuring quality is a priority for the crew members under his/her direction for continued quality results.

Principle responsibilities for this position include but are not limited to following:

- Provide technical assistance, direction and supervision to Instrument Mechanics to meet day-to-day maintenance requirements of the refinery.
- Coordinate and communicate issues and daily progress with schedule.
- Attend daily schedule update meetings.
- Report job status and next day resource needs including equipment, support crafts, and contractor needs.
- Coordinate other groups/crafts and contractors as required.
- Work to overcome and eliminate barriers to effective field execution including coordinating unplanned craft steps.
- Work with all levels of the organization to ensure safe, quality, efficient and effective Maintenance Instrument execution is achieved.
- Other duties include but are not limited to: conducting business in the Maintenance Team environment and interacting closely with peers and supervisors to optimize the maintenance effort as well as having the responsibility for quality of repairs and quantity of work performed by crew.

Candidates must have a minimum of 5 years of refinery Instrument maintenance experience as well as 3 years related supervisory experience. A two year Instrument Technology/Technician certificate and Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society (ISA) Level 1 or higher is preferred. Candidates should have knowledge of the four primary process variables and a basic understanding of Honeywell TDC. Please note, this position will require the ability and willingness to respond 24/7 to unscheduled call-ins, holiday and/or weekend work.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbenergy.com and selecting the Career tab. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

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Psychiatrists

Unison is seeking full-time and part-time Psychiatrists to work with adults, adolescents and children with a mental illness or substance abuse diagnosis. In addition to performing diagnostic assessments, psychiatric medical treatment and medication management for adults and children related to their behavioral health or substance abuse issues, our psychiatrists work as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team of case managers, therapists and nurses.

Current Ohio medical license with psychiatric specialization and DEA registration required. Board certification and experience in community mental health is preferred. Excellent interpersonal communication skills and proficiency in computer use are essential.

Unison provides a competitive wage and benefit package. Send resume with salary requirements to hr@unisonbhg.org. Please feel free to call with any questions regarding this opportunity at 419-936-7560.

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EOE



Scott/DeVilbiss Throwback Cabaret

By Carla Yvette

What started out as pillow talk between husband and wife, Willie and Kerry Emery, reminiscing about their high school days and how much they loved their schools, DeVilbiss and Scott, has resulted in the highly successful, always anticipated, Scott/DeVilbiss Throwback Cabaret.

Kerry says, "I always felt that I had the best experience in high school and Willie felt the same way, so I suggested to him that we have a cabaret to bring our high schools together for a night of fun and fellowship."

Willie, a 1989 graduate of DeVilbiss, played football and was on the wrestling team. Kerry, a 1987 graduate of Scott, says of herself, "I was the class clown, period!"

It took them two weeks to plan the first cabaret and the rest is Bulldog/Tiger history. Now in its fourth year, the Scott/DeVilbiss Throwback cabaret, a/k/a The Dogs and Tigers Throwback, has given the Emerys the opportunity to give back to the schools that gave so much to them.

... continued on page 10



Alisaan and Amber Vines



Brother and sister,
Tyrone Thomas and
Katrina Conway



Eugene Byrd and
Roxanne Harris



Arnold Brooks and William Scott



Enjoli Coleman and
Jennifer Smith



Fionne Wright and
Barb Hampton



Father and daughter,
Ward and Jasmine
Williams

Back By Popular Demand: Leon Whittington

By Carla Yvette

Jazz musician and house band, C.J. Manning, featured Leon Whittington March 14 at the Avenue Bistro for a night of pure entertainment. What should have easily been a ticketed event is Toledo's best kept secret and free of charge as a regular part of Friday nights at the Avenue Bistro.

The evening began with selections from the seasoned, world traveler, saxophonist C.J. Manning who has performed with artists such as Anita Baker, The Spinners and James Brown and has opened for acts such as Shirley Murdock, Slave and Roger Chapman of Zapp, to name a few.

Then, as if teleported to a venue on the Las Vegas strip, the audience was treated to performances from Stevie Wonder, Elvis Presley, Luther

Vandross and Jackie Wilson, personified through the talented impersonations of Toledoan Leon Whittington.

Singing since the age of seven, Whittington once again joins C.J. Manning for two shows every third Friday. Says Whittington, "We sang together about 15 years ago right here at the Avenue Bistro."

Since then, Whittington has traveled the world performing in places such as China, Japan, the Ba-

... continued on page 11



Leon Whittington



Leon Whittington and C.J.
Manning



Chrystal Lindley, Richelle Wood, and Kenney Lindley with Lois McDougel and Wendy Wood