

**Compassionate Outreach Ministries**



Pastor & Founder: Bishop Larry J. Dennison  
First Lady: Sister Margaret Dennison

**Main Sanctuary**

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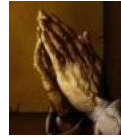
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*We Are Reaching Out,  
Not Out Of Reach*

**My Daily Prayer**



The hour that I treasure most is when the day is new, before the rush comes crowding in with tasks that I must do. As I humbly kneel in prayer, all fears and worries cease. There is no other time I know that brings this inner peace. I thank God for his blessing and seek his forgiveness too, for the wrong that I have done and the good I failed to do. I asked Him for His guidance for my day as on my pathway old and new, that I will be kind to those I meet in all I say and do. I pray for each dear loved one and place them in His care. I pray that all men will pray and live like brothers in places everywhere. And when it seems like no one cares, it is then I hear my savior's voice so sweet saying, "Child, I still love you." When the day draws to a close, I give thanks for all that's been done and then I ask Him to keep watch over me until morning comes again. This is my daily prayer. (By *Mother Inez McKinnon*)

**Saved**

Yes, I'm saved. But, aren't I supposed to be 'too blessed to be stressed' and 'too anointed to be disappointed?' So, why is it that I frequently find myself stressed and consequently disappointed? Why are the unsaved people around me living more comfortably than I am? I know everyone has a season, but when will my springtime come? I've been toiling in winter for so long that my face and my fingers are numb. I try to smile but I can't. So my friends and family ask me what's wrong I tell them "Nothing. I'm fine." But my heart and mind aren't where they belong. I can't think straight because I'm fighting off depression and I feel like I'm being taken for a ride. I know You said You'll never leave me or forsake me, but sometimes You're hard to find. I realize that there is a blessing in every lesson, but I'm sick of guessing what's next. We're supposed to reap what we sow, but sometimes I reap the worst after I've sowed my best. Life is full of tests. What answers are You trying to get? Recently, this hasn't been an easy quest. But I'm determined not to veer from it. There have been times when I wanted to give up, when I wanted to throw in the towel. But I kept pushing, I kept trying. I did some crying but I kept climbing. I gotta be faithful. The one thing I can't lose is faith. I want to go to Heaven. I've gotta go to Heaven. I'm going to go to Heaven. But I can't do it on my own. This road is unevenly paved and long. When I'm internally weak I need You to make me strong. I love You. Although You made me feel worthless. Yeah, I said it. You made me feel worthless. That's why I need You. Because I'm nothing without You. Am I perfect? No. Do I make mistakes? Yes. I'm sorry... But I am saved. And I want to live more comfortably than the unsaved people around me so that they can be reeled in. I want them to look at me and desire You after witnessing how You've molded my life. I want to help save souls. Not become a lost one. (By *Sister Harmony J. Allen*)

**Homeless Ministry Holiday Feasts**

As in previous years, the Homeless Ministry of COM will host a Thanksgiving Day Feast as well as a Christmas Eve Feast at the Downtown Plaza to feed the homeless population of Gainesville. The Thanksgiving Day Feast will be held from 10am to 12:30 pm on Nov. 26th. The Christmas Eve Feast will be held on Dec. 24th from 5:30pm to 9pm. It is expected that we will feed at least 250 people at each event. If you are interested in assisting this arm of the ministry in any way, please contact Sister Bonnie Means.

**COM Health Clinic**

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have a small snack before going, so you don't feel hungry. At the party, eat vegetables, fish, poultry, or meat and avoid high carb and high fat items. You should also get plenty of exercise during the holiday season. It helps muscles take up more sugar from the blood, thus lowering blood sugar levels. For more info, talk to your health care provider or visit [www.dLife.com](http://www.dLife.com) (COM Heath Team)

Volume XII Issue VI

Nov./Dec. 2009



COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

**Heart-To-Heart Newsletter**

**First Lady's Surprise Birthday Dinner**

For First Lady Margaret Dennison's birthday this year, Bishop Larry J. Dennison arranged a surprise celebration dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Gainesville, Florida. A few weeks in advance, he invited all of the ladies of Compassionate Outreach Ministries to attend and asked the members to keep the surprise a secret. On the day of the surprise, he told First Lady that he was taking her to celebrate her birthday with dinner and a show. Indeed, he did just what he said that he would do! When the couple entered the main ballroom, the lights were dim and Bishop Dennison started singing Happy Birthday to First Lady Dennison and all the women joined in. First Lady was truly surprised and she cried tears of joy. After the First Lady was seated, Bishop Dennison shared his feelings of love, admiration, and appreciation for his wife and told her "I promised you dinner and a show. This is the dinner and you are the star of the show!" The ladies cheered as the Bishop personally served his wife her dinner. He said that she has served him dinner consistently for 31+ years of marriage and that he wanted to serve her on this special occasion. After all the guests were served, attendees were given the opportunity to make comments. Sister Dennison's mother led this segment of the evening and was followed by well wishers that included friends, co-workers, and church members. After the comments, Sister Dennison saw that she was certainly the 'star of the show,' as a slide-show chronicling her life from birth to the present was shown. It was a beautiful tribute to a beautiful woman. Afterwards, Bishop Dennison dedicated the song "It's Your Turn" to his wife. Finally, First Lady Dennison shared her gratitude and surprise. She reported with a chuckle that when she saw that they were going into the Hilton, she was amazed to learn that the Hilton offered dinner and a show. All who attended the surprise birthday dinner will remember the tender love that Bishop Denison demonstrated to his wife in planning and executing this auspicious event.



**Christmas**

COM is planning a spectacular Christmas Production! The event will include dance, drama, singing and recitals. Teens and adults are invited to participate. For more info, see Sis. Shawndria Dennison.

**Electronic Giving**



With more people choosing to handle financial matters in a cashless manner, COM now offers members the opportunity to pay their tithes and offering electronically. Using this advanced technology can help members give more faithfully and more consistently! If you are interested in giving in this way, please see Sis. Addie Davis or Sis. Vivian Alexander.

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**Dates To Remember**

11/21	Men's Fellowship Bowling Event
11/26	Thanksgiving Feast for the Homeless
12/5	Women's Fellowship Brunch
12/10-12	Marriage Retreat
12/20	Annual Ministry Celebration
12/24	Christmas Eve Feast for the Homeless
12/31	Bishop Dennison's Birthday
12/31	Out With The Old, In With The New

## Special Recognition

### SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES!

To Bishop & First Lady Dennison  
*We Wish You Many More!*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To everyone born in the months of November & December  
*We Love You, We Do!*

### HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Ricky & Mrs. Carol Blaylock	13 years	12/31
Mr. Clifford & Mrs. Edwennia Britt	9 years	11/25
Mr. Jethro & Mrs. Blanch Clark	25 years	11/26
Mr. Hal & Mrs. Lisa Davis	20 years	12/29
Mr. Cleve & Mrs. Ruthie Ferguson	6 years	12/5
Mr. Jeffrey & Mrs. Jackie Madison	25 years	11/02
Mr. Curtis & Mrs. Priscilla Reese	34 years	12/05
Mr. Bob & Mrs. Karen Woods	1 year	11/1

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Leon Cummings, Jr. made all A's and B's on his 10th Grade Progress Report at Oak Hall High School.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Kaitlyn Henderson outranked 96% of all 6th graders in the State of Florida on the Math portion of the FCAT. As such, she has been invited to participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program for 7th graders.

## Family Fun Day

Mother Woods was waiting as her two grandsons stumbled out of the SUV and raced to be first to give her a kiss. "C'mon Grandma, let's go," they yelled, barely able to contain their excitement. Brother and Sister Woods greeted Mother Wallace and Mother Woods and everyone piled into the SUV. Brother Woods shouted "Everybody Ready?" The kids shouted back in unison "Yes" and just as quickly as they had arrived, the Woods family was on the way to the COM Men's Fellowship Family Fun Day at the YMCA's Camp McConnell.

As they travelled, the warm sun illuminated a perfectly beautiful blue sky and puffy white clouds. Just a few minutes later, they arrived at the camp. The parking lot was filling quickly as cars continued to arrive carrying family members from grandmothers and fathers to infants. Almost before the SUV could come to a complete stop, the rear doors flew open and the boys jumped out, running to where they could see the rest of the children from the church playing.

As the families entered the large, main lodge, we

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## COM Health Clinic

### Diabetes & Holiday Meal Planning

The holidays can be a tough time for families dealing with diabetes. But there's no reason you can't take it all in stride.

With a little preparation and some diabetes know-how, you'll be ready to face any holiday head-on. The most important thing about managing diabetes during any holiday season is to plan ahead. The more you know about what's going to happen, the better you can plan for good diabetes care.

What does your family schedule look like for the holiday season? Are you going out of town? Having visitors stay with you? Do your plans usually include a lot of parties and food-oriented events? Or are your holidays more active, with events such as the annual family Thanksgiving football game? Getting a handle on what your schedule will look like ahead of time will help out a great deal as you tackle each day.

Once you know what your day will consist of, you should then examine your menus. There's no need to completely rework your menu just because of diabetes, but you may want to fine-tune it a bit. Planning ahead can help. For example, maybe there are some ways you can make your traditional holiday foods a bit healthier. Will that casserole taste just as good with fat-free or light sour cream instead of regular? Can you steam the green beans this year instead of sautéing in butter or season with turkey necks vs. ham hocks? There are plenty of ways to lower fat, sugar, and carb counts in your favorite foods while still keeping the taste and texture you love. If your family looks forward to your famous sweet potato pie -- go ahead and make it, but first talk to your diabetes educator or dietitian about ways to work a piece or two into the meal plan. It may mean eating less of other treats, getting more exercise, increasing insulin doses, or a combination of all three. But you can do it! If you attend a party

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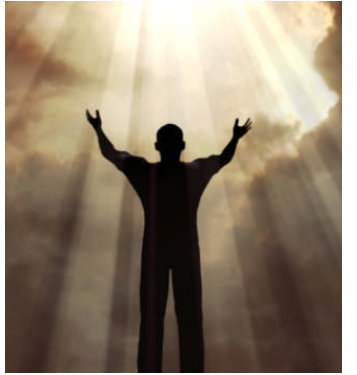
## He Is Waiting

I knew you while you were still inside your mother's womb. We played together, I talked, and you listened. I told you that you would grow up to be great and that you would do great things. The day you were born, I held you in my arms and never let go. Remember when you first looked up at me... you felt comfort, you felt safe, you felt love. I was always your favorite and I could do no wrong. You never disobeyed and tried your best to please me. You would always come to me when you were scared, when you needed protection, and when you needed to feel love! Remember how I held you and never let go?

Now that you have grown up, you never want to be around me anymore. You say I'm always wrong and that you need space... You fell in love with someone else. You turned your back on me and forgot me. You changed. However, whenever you needed protection, I was here. Whenever you were scared, I was here. Whenever you felt lost and needed to be loved, I was here. You are like a flower that I planted and am watching grow. At first you were growing into a beautiful rose, but when you were no longer in my light you began to wither and die. However, if you want I can come along with my love and cover you with my rays of joy and peace... And oh how you will grow!

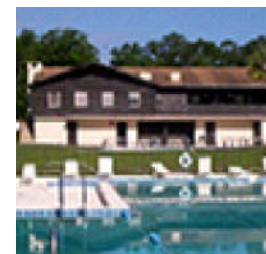
Remember when you were in your mother's womb and I knew you and you knew me? Remember how I told you that you were going to be great and do great things? Remember how I held you and never let go, even though you did? Remember how I was always there through the rain and the light? I loved you when you were mad and cursed me out. I loved you when you walked out and forgot me. I loved you when you didn't love me! I am waiting for you to come back to me.. Waiting for you to realize that I'm all you need! My arms are still stretched out waiting Are you ready to come back and be held and never let go?

God is waiting for your answer. He never left your side and he never will. He never says, "I told you so" and he always forgives. God will forgive you no matter what your sins are and no matter how bad they are. Just open your heart and let him back in! Are you ready to be set free? Are you ready to be delivered? Are you ready to trust? He is waiting..... what is your answer? *(By Sister Ayisha Deloatch)*



## Family Fun Day

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heard the sound of multiple conversations, as congregation members talked with each other. As we looked for a place to sit, everyone began to say hello to us and we experienced the feeling that one gets when attending a family reunion. "Hello Brother....," or "Hey Sister..." And then, as if on cue, our pastor and the head of our spiritual family, Bishop Dennison stood to make announcements. "Praise the Lord and thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to fellowship with one another today," said Bishop. "I pray that the Lord will bless the food that is here for you today. Please take your meals and enjoy them, but most of all enjoy yourselves and each other as you enjoy this wonderful facility." And that's exactly what we did for the next 3-4 hours. There was activity everywhere as 80 to 100 members ate, talked, walked, swam, relaxed, played tennis or basketball and tossed Frisbees. The young women talked about...well, whatever it is that young women talk about. The young men debated about who the best players were in everything from table tennis to basketball. The elders kept a watchful eye on the very youngest.

Towards the end of the day, we said our good-byes, packed up our things and headed toward the SUV. The children had played themselves into exhaustion and settled into the backseat. As we headed home, we gave thanks to the Lord for a blessed day of good weather, good food and a great facility. It was a special day that the Lord filled with fun, family and friends. It was the COM Men's Fellowship Family Fun Day and it was something more...It was a day filled with new memories of my relatives and of my church family that I will cherish always. *(By Brother Bob Woods)*