



Habari Gani



St. Peter Claver Church ∞ Volume VI Issue XX NOVEMBER 2010



GOOD NEWS!

This is a publication for and by the people of St. Peter Claver Church and School. It is designed to inform its community of past, present and future events. St. Peter Claver is a vibrant, spirit-filled, evangelizing community that is grounded in the Eucharist and celebrates the culture and traditions of our African-American heritage. Strengthened by our belief in Jesus Christ and trusting in God's word, we transform our community through acts of justice by caring for the spiritual and physical needs of His people..

Very Rev. Michael P. Jacques, SSE

Pastor

Mrs. Cheryl G. Wheeler

Editor

Dedicated Staff & Parishioners

Writers and Reporters

Church

1923 St. Philip St.

Parish Office

1910 Ursulines Ave.

(504) 822-8059

Fax: (504) 822-9251

School

1020 N. Prieur St.

(504) 822-8191

www.stpeterclaverneworleans.org

Dear Parishioners:

I would like to focus on two important seasons that we are entering in these next few weeks.

THANKSGIVING:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to His name. All praise be to God for the birds of the air, the fruit of the field, and interstellar space. We praise Him for all that is past and trust in him for all that is to come. For our history and our future we give thanks unto the Lord. Thankfulness should be a constant state of being, but during this Thanksgiving, we take special pause to give thanks. All love comes from God. Our prayer is to ask the Lord to teach us to love. We pray for our families and all who work to knit us in love. We pray to God, our Provider, we give thanks for all the places we call home. For nations and motherlands, cities and neighborhoods, places to lay our heads and tables blessed with food. We say thank you for jobs and the possibility of jobs. Thank you for well-being and the guardians of our well-being. Thank you for our Church and our Church family, for its ministers, staff, faculty and its elders. For laughter, joy and the beauty of the earth, we give you thanks. I invite you to join the Church family for Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. To you, oh God, we give thanks!

ADVENT:

Advent is a season in the Church year to get our priorities straight, to remember what is important to us and why, and to figure out how to let go of what we want in order to embrace with joy what we really need. It is a time of new beginnings to inspire us to make a fresh start. They make us look at where we have been, so that we can make the necessary changes to get where we're going. Let this prayer become our daily prayer during the Advent season.

"Gracious God, Lord of all, you bring us back to the beginning so that we might remember what it is we long for, hope for. We long for you to be born in our hearts, as you were born into a stable so long ago, that we may feel your presence and love every time we reach out toward another or call your name. We hope for your grace and Spirit to rain down and spill over into our lives so that our words and actions might bear witness to your presence in this world. We wait for your coming again to gather us in so that we can make our home with you through all eternity. Grant us joy in our longing, peace in our hoping, and patience in our waiting. And give us a quick step to respond to you when we see you at last." Please look at all the Advent activities in this newsletter and invite your family to share with you these new priorities of life.

Peace in the Lord,

Very Rev. Michael P. Jacques, S.S.E.

Pastor

"SWEET INSPIRATIONS"

(Taken from "God is in the Small Stuff" by Bruce & Stan)

- You are responsible for the depth of your spiritual understanding. God is responsible for the breadth of your ministry.
- Feeling good about God does not bring you closer to Him.
- Seek to know God and faith will follow.
- To love God is to obey God.
- God's anger lasts only for a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime.
- Rather than worry about what you don't know about God, concentrate on what you know.
- Love God, not godliness.
- Discover what pleases God and then make them habits.
- Exposing yourself to God's truth is risky, but it's a risk worth taking.
- The highest learning is to know God and from that knowledge, to love Him.
- Knowing God takes tremendous effort, but the reward is great.
- You begin to seek God for who He is when you stop seeking Him for what He can do for you.
- Ask the Lord to teach you His ways.
- Have a passion for God and compassion for people.



St. Peter Claver's
Tenth Annual

Jazz Extravaganza

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Our event was a tremendous success!!!

Thanks to all of St. Peter Claver's parishioners and supporters. Your contributions are appreciated and will always be remembered.

Visit St. Ann's Shrine

(2100 Block of Ursulines Ave.)

OPEN

Tuesdays and Saturdays

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Volunteers Needed!!)

THE ROSARY:

**A DEVOTION FOR
ALL SEASONS**

The Pope has called on us to deepen our appreciation for our Christian Faith by using the Rosary as an ideal means of meditating on the life and works of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Advent and Christmas** are perfect for meditating on the sorrowful mysteries.

"COME MARCH WITH THE SAINTS: NCCYM 2010"

Ansel Augustine, MPS

This December (12/09—12/12), adults from around the country and some from outside of the country will come down to New Orleans to fellowship, share, and sharpen their skills to help them be better ministers to and with young people. Will you be there? Or, do you know somebody that could benefit from the resources that this conference has to offer? With the conference being in New Orleans, there is a large push for the Black Catholic perspective to be represented during the conference. Therefore, much of the music, worship, workshops, etc., are geared toward our Black Catholic experience.

Several of us from around the country have been working on this conference to make sure the content is relevant for our community. It is up to us to get ourselves there so that our presence can be seen and voices heard at this national event. So I urge all of those who work with youth (pastors, youth ministers, teachers, DRE's, advisors, etc.) to join the Second Line as we all "March With The Saints."

Registration and Complete Conference Info can be found at www.nfcym.org under the "March With The Saints" logo/link.

St. Peter Claver Catholic School
Mr. Lawrence Houston, Vice Principal

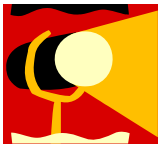
What is Catholic Education?

I remember attending a public elementary school and my grandmother making the decision that my older brother and I would be attending the Catholic school around the corner from our house the next year. For her a Catholic Education was very different from a public school education. My grandmother wanted discipline, a caring, nurturing environment and believed that the setting would provide for continued spiritual growth even though we were not Catholic. As I completed my eighth grade year, there was no doubt in my mind as to which Catholic High School I would be attending, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, St. Louis, MO., and would you believe my Catholic Education did not stop there? I chose the only Black Catholic University in the United States, Xavier University of Louisiana, to get my Bachelors and Masters.

I look back on those 14+ years and I can say that my life has been truly affected by the men and women who gave their lives as religious and those lay people who chose to share their gifts in Catholic Education. It affected me so much that I became an educator in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and have been asked many times if I would work in the Public School System. My answer has always been, NO.

Even though many of our Catholic schools no longer have religious as Principals or Teachers, the standards of Catholic Education remain. But do we really value them? Do we see the precious nugget we have in Catholic Education? Are there many schools where your child is known by their first and last names and possibly the nickname their parents call them? Can you think of any place where prayer is always welcomed other than church? What about helping our children see the value of who they are as God's Creations? Let's be real! Catholic Education means making an investment in your child. It means putting your money where your mouth is and being there to lend a helping hand.

What is Catholic Education for you?



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Edith T. C. Stevens

SPC School Librarian

By: C. G. Wheeler



Mrs. Edith T. C. Stevens was born on September 28th. She is a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania native, residing in New Orleans for 13 years. She was educated in the Philadelphia area and was a Pre-school teacher for thirty-three years. Mrs. Stevens has always been interested in the lives of children. She started an organization called "Model Teens" and taught charm and etiquette classes for young people in Philly.

Mrs. Stevens relocated to New Orleans and attended Xavier University. She is a graduate of the Institute of Black Catholic Studies. She later taught at the institute. She was hired as a Librarian at St. Peter Claver School and has developed an Afro-centric library collection. She also teaches African American Literature there.

Because of her love for children, she is focused on their social skills in addition to their academic studies. Mrs. Stevens founded and teaches the charm and etiquette classes at SPC, just as she did in Philadelphia. The name of her charm class is "Uzari Watoto", which means "Beautiful Child" in Swahili. Along with the African American studies and charm school activities, Mrs. Stevens started a book club called "E's Book Club", fashioned after Oprah's Book Club. The first book the children read and discussed was "Diary of a Wimpy Kid", which the children loved. Mrs. Stevens also spearheaded a Book Fair in September which netted \$5,000 for the school. What an outstanding accomplishment! Three cheers for and much love to Mrs. Stevens!

Besides working with children, Mrs. Stevens loves to dance, watch television and shop at "dollar" stores. She is married, for thirty-five years, to Deacon Allen Stevens and they have three children.

"Mrs. Stevens, continue being the kind, caring person that you are and may God forever bless you." CGW



Mary Boute'
Director

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Devin Boucree to the Youth Ministry. Devin is our Assistant Youth Director. Devin is joining us with a good heart, spirit, and knowledge, a great family foundation and a willingness to help our youth. Our children get to witness and work with a young man who loves the Lord and who wants to share his struggles and his triumphs as he helps assist the youth in building their relationship with God, family and the community.

Devin is also working on bringing back the junior high school ministry and will spearhead our high school children in getting involved in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) sports. This will be another opportunity for our youth to come together with other Catholic youth of different parishes to build a bond and enrich the relationship with other Catholic youth in the city.

Please join me in welcoming Devin to our team. I look forward to working with him.

World Youth Day

On October 24, 2010 our youth participated in “World Youth Day.” This is an event where Catholic youth from all over the city gather to participate in prayer and fellowship with one another. Several of our young people took an active role in planning this annual event. Our children attended and conducted sessions for the junior high track, emceed the events and participating in skits. The city’s Young Adult Choir performed for the closing Mass and many of the children from St. Peter Claver parish participated in the choir.

Jeremy Tauriac was our youth representative for Pastoral Council for this year.

In the coming months, the youth will be doing service hours within the church and the community.

I would like to thank all the adults who attended the “Safety Training” and made the commitment to give of your time and talent to work with our children.

HEALTH CORNER

Summer’s over, we will become less active as the seasons change and cold weather will keep us indoors. As a result of less physical activity, we need to be more aware of our caloric intake. Try including the following foods in your diet. All of these foods have a low glycemic index and provide key nutrients.

- **Beans (any type):** high in fiber, protein, magnesium, and potassium. You can save time by using canned beans, but drain them and rinse them first to get rid of extra salt.
- **Dark green leafy vegetables:** Spinach, collards, kale—these powerhouse foods are so low in calories and carbohydrates, you can’t eat too much.
- **Citrus fruits:** Grapefruit, oranges, lemons and limes. Pick your favorites and get part of your daily dose of soluble fiber and vitamin C.
- **Sweet potatoes:** A starchy vegetable packed full of vitamin A and fiber. Try in place of regular potatoes, they take longer to break down and will release sugar into your blood more slowly.
- **Berries:** They are all packed with antioxidants, vitamins and fiber. Make a parfait with layers of fruit and light, non-fat yogurt for a new favorite dessert.
- **Tomatoes:** No matter how you like your tomatoes, pureed, raw, or in a sauce, you’re eating vital nutrients like vitamin C, iron and vitamin E.
- **Fish:** High in Omega-3 fatty acids. Bake or broil. Stay away from breaded and deep fried fish.
- **Whole grains:** Breads made with enriched wheat flour are missing the germ and bran, which has all the best nutrition of the grain. They also release sugar more gradually. Oatmeal, barley, brown & wild rice are good.
- **Nuts:** Just one ounce gives you healthy fats and keeps you full longer.
- **Fat-free milk and yogurt:** Promotes strong bones and teeth, contain vitamin D, and are good all around.

The Consumer Corner



October is always “Cancer Awareness” month. Many manufacturers and retailers create and sell products that are marked for a portion of the products’ revenues to be donated to the cancer foundations for cancer research and cancer patients’ medical expenses. Please continue to purchase products with the pink ribbon symbol affixed to its label. That way you will be doing your part to battle this devastating disease.



Mrs. Alena Boucree
Director, Religious Education

Adult Faith Formation

There are several opportunities for adults to nurture their faith. These opportunities help us to renew our understanding of our Catholic faith and renew our relationship with God. It provides food for thought as well as active engagement to put our faith in action. Scripture says faith with action is dead.

Weekly Bible Study—Monday Evenings 6—8 p.m.

- Women in the Bible—October 25—December 6—Some of the women we will study are Rebekah, Ziporah, Mary and Martha, women changed by Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Poor Widow and many more.
- Bible Study for December 13 & 20 will reflect an Advent theme to prepare the way of the Lord.

JustFaith—Tuesday Evenings 6—8 p.m.

JustFaith is about formation and transformation, about God's moving us from one kind of life and love to another. This is done through prayer, discussion, reading and engagement. Currently the group is reading *Compassion: A reflection on the Christian Life* by Henri Nouwen. Quote from the book: "This all pervasive competition, which reaches into the smallest corners of our relationships, prevents us from entering into full solidarity with each other, and stands in the way of our being compassionate. We prefer to keep compassion on the periphery of our competitive lives." When in your life have you kept your compassion on the periphery? And, why? This Advent as you prepare for Christ's coming, open your eyes and notice those who are on the sidelines of life, the poor, marginalized, the forgotten, teen parents, homeless, sick, imprisoned and see them as God sees. Take time to reach out to those in need, be kind, be generous, be compassionate.

Lecture Series—Theology of the Body—God, Sex, the Meaning of Life—Nov. 30, 2010—6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Theology of the Body is the teachings of Pope John Paul II that were written and delivered between 1979 and 1984, the theology of the meaning of human embodiment and sexuality. Theology of the Body helps us to understand how we are in relationship to God and who we are as male and female, as sons and daughters.

Advent Family Catechesis Day—Saturday, December 4, 2010—9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

The Parish Elementary Religious Education program will gather with students and their families to learn about the church's season of Advent. Families will create a Jesse Tree. A Jesse Tree is a visual that traces the spiritual ancestors of Jesus back to David and Jesse and other people from the Bible. The morning will consist of family prayer, activities, discussion and community building. The students will begin collecting for the senior gift baskets. Each family is asked to bring two items for the basket.

Reconciliation—Saturday, January 22, 2011

Several children of the parish are preparing for their next steps in faith in celebrating God's gift of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

RCIA

Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church or know someone who is? We invite the following persons to join us here at St. Peter Claver Church:

- A) Un-baptized adults who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of becoming Catholic;
- B) Baptized Christians from other denominations who would like to learn more about the Catholic Church;
- C) Baptized Catholic adults who would like to prepare for first Communion & Confirmation.

Please call the Parish Office at 822-8059 for more information and speak to Deacon Allen or Ken Sears.

Father Michael P. Jacques' 25th Anniversary Party

Saturday, September 11, 2010

Gallier Hall



Father Michael P. Jacques' 25th Anniversary Party

Saturday, September 11, 2010

Gallier Hall



SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS & EVENTS

Weekly Events

Sunday Masses 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
RCIA, every *Tuesday* 7:00 PM (Ujima Center)
Young Adult Choir Rehearsal , every *Tuesday* 7:00 PM
Adult Choir Rehearsal, every *Thursday* 6:00 PM
CCD Classes, every *Saturday* 9:00 AM (School)
Food Bank, *Tuesday and Thursday* 10:00 AM-2:00 PM (Sankofa Bldg.)

Hall:

Pastoral Council Meeting *3rd Wednesday* 6:30 p.m.

In the UJIMA Center:

Senior Sodality, *1st Sunday* following the 9:00 AM Mass
Knights of Peter Claver, *2nd Sunday* after the 9:00 AM Mass
Ladies Auxiliary—Knights of Peter Claver , *2nd Sunday* after 11:30 AM Mass
Senior Citizens, *2nd Monday* 3:00 PM
Legion of Mary, every *Tuesday* 5:00 PM
Family Life Commission, *1st Tuesday* 6:30 PM
Social Ministry, *2nd Tuesday* 6:00 PM
NIA-IMANI, *2nd Tuesday* 7:00 PM
Liturgy Commission, *4th Tuesday* 6:30 PM
Local Organizing Ministry, *1st Wednesday* 6:00 PM
Men of UMOJA, *1st Wednesday* 6:30 PM
Education Commission, *3rd Tuesday* 6:00 PM
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts , every *Thursday* 6:00-7:30 PM
Bible Study, every *Monday* 6:00 PM



Calendar of Special Events

November 07, 2010—Baptism Sunday

November 25, 2010—Thanksgiving Day—Mass: 10:00 a.m.

December 02, 2010—Deanery Communal Penance Service (Confessions) Corpus Christi/Epiphany Church—7:00 p.m.

December 04, 2010—CCD Family Day—9:00 a.m.

December 04, 2010—Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick—Church—4:00 p.m.

December 11, 2010—Ordination of Lawrence Houston—The Cathedral—10:00 a.m.

December 16, 2010—SPC School Christmas Program—Hall—6:00 p.m.

December 19, 2010—SPC Christmas Dinner—Hall—3:00 p.m.

December 19, 2010—Christmas Concert—Church—6:00 p.m.

December 24, 2010—Children's Mass—Church—6:00 p.m.

December 24, 2010—Midnight Mass—Church—11:30 p.m.

December 25, 2010—Christmas Day—Mass: 10:30 a.m.

December 31, 2010—New Year's Eve—Vigil Mass—4:00 p.m.

January 01, 2011—New Year's Day—Mass: 10:30 a.m.

SPC Advent 2010 by Henri Reed

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. Our overall theme for Advent is **“Wake Up! Wrap Yourself in Jesus.”** There is no better way for us to keep in mind that Jesus is the reason for the season than to wrap and totally cover ourselves in the love and saving power of Jesus. We want to go week by week in anticipation and preparation of the Savior’s coming while getting deeper in His word.

1st Sunday of Advent, November 28 Theme: **“Awaken in Jesus”**

In the readings Paul exhorts us to rouse ourselves from lethargy and put on armor, not for battle but for defense against the deeds of darkness in this world. The old clothes of our lives without Jesus must be removed. Instead, we are to “put on” Jesus, our garment of salvation.

Wrap yourself in Jesus, and try not to ignore those things in your life that end up hurting us. Jesus recalls the days of Noah, when the people were oblivious to the impending flood that was about to destroy them. Jesus compares himself to a “thief in the night.” “Stay awake!” he cautions us: “You do not know the hour.”

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 5 Theme: **“Reformed in Jesus”**

In the readings John the Baptist urges us to reform our lives to prepare a place for the Lord’s coming. Our crooked ways must be made straight, and our rough ways smoothed. As sons and daughters of God, we must give evidence that our lives are changed.

Wrap yourself in Jesus and make the changes in our lives that will glorify His name. Paul urges us to find hope and encouragement from the lessons in the Scriptures. Then we can live in harmony with one another and glorify God with one heart and one voice.

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 12 Theme: **“Alive in Jesus”**

In the readings the prophet proclaims the good news to all who are prepared to see and hear the coming of the Lord. From his prison cell, John the Baptist could not see or hear Jesus. Uncertainty filled his heart. “Are you the one, or are we to look for another?” Jesus opens the eyes of the blind to see God’s presence all around them. He unstops the ears of the deaf to hear the gospel of peace and justice preached to them.

Wrap yourself in Jesus because His blessings will surely come. In the light of God’s presence we realize that we are the ones who are blind and deaf. We are like fragile reeds blown this way and that by every changing wind. The fullness of God’s reign in our lives is still to come. Seed planted in the winter and watered by the spring rain takes root and blossoms. If we have prepared the soil, we can be confident of a great harvest. The least ones on earth can become great in God’s kingdom.

4th Sunday of Advent, December 19 Theme: **“Proclaim the Good News”**

In the readings Paul says that this good news was promised long ago by the prophets. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God becomes flesh in the virgin womb of Mary and in our empty lives. Through Jesus, God is with us to save us from our sins. God is with us to rescue us from a meaningless existence. God is with us when we need to hear words of consolation: “Do not be afraid!”

Wrap yourself in Jesus because of God’s mercy; we are called to proclaim this gospel to all who live in darkness and fear. We who are Christ’s are God’s beloved, called to holiness. Grace and peace come to us from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Let the Lord enter! He is king of glory!

AWaken **R**eformed **A**live **P**roclaim = **WRAP**

“Wake Up! Wrap Yourself in Jesus”

Just like the Magi (Three Kings or wise men) brought precious gifts to the infant Jesus, the gift we can give is our best self.

Dec. 2, 2010 Wrap yourself in forgiveness at Corpus Christi Communal Deanery Penance Service at 7:00 pm

Dec. 4, 2010 Anointing of the sick at the 4:00 Mass at St. Peter Claver

Wrap yourself in giving every Sunday of Advent

Nov. 28, 2010 Bring Toiletry Items such as tooth paste, tooth brushes, lotions, powers and wash clothes etc.

Dec. 5, 2010 (White Only) Tee shirts, socks, bath towels, etc.

Dec. 12, 2010 Underwear for men, women and children

Dec. 19, 2010 Baby Items

Adopt a Family and help bring a smile to another family during the holidays. Call the parish office to receive the name of a needy family.

The MICAH Project

(Moving in Faith, Courage and Hope)

Mission

Established in 2007 by clergy who want to see real change in their communities, the MICAH Project is a faith-based social justice organization working to create innovative solutions to the many social problems facing our families in the parishes of Orleans and Jefferson. Many of these clergy and their congregations have had a history of organizing with the PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) National Network since 1990. The MICAH Project represents a non-partisan, multiracial, multicultural collective of congregations who are united to work for a common good based on faith values.

Focus

The focus is to develop leadership and build power in order to improve our communities on issues like access to affordable health care, affordable housing, neighborhood services, public safety and education.

Vision

The MICAH Project believe that great accomplishments can come from our faith communities. We believe that in providing families and our religious congregations with the motivation, inspiration, tools and resources to walk humbly for justice, we can change lives for the better.

St. Peter Claver Church's Involvement

The parishioners of St. Peter Claver have been very active in The MICAH Project. Many have attended the community meetings at the Sojourner Truth Center with The Recovery School District (RSD) and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Our input was used in the decision to demolish and replace the existing facility at the Phyllis Wheatley Elementary school site. There were over two hundred fifty signatures affixed to a petition that demanded demolition of the old structure and a new 21st century school be built in its place.

The RSD has reported that it has authorized Holly & Smith to start the design process for the NEW Phyllis Wheatley School. This means that they will soon meet with the community to plan the first phase, site and footprint. Please plan to attend the next community meeting on November 9th at Sojourner Truth Center at 6:30 p.m.

FEMA has assured us that educational materials regarding Phyllis Wheatley School will be developed and made available for public distribution to document the architectural significance of Phyllis Wheatley School and the context of the 1950s Orleans Parish School Board Master Plan.

Along with the Phyllis Wheatley School issue, SPC is active in working with the 1st District Police Department on public safety. Community input in identifying neighborhood "hot spots" is high on the MICAH Project's priority list. Another main focus is to support city closure of nuisance bars and other unsavory businesses that plague or threaten our community. Sitting in on the New Orleans City Council meetings is one way to voice our public safety concerns. Contacting elected officials is another. The new administration has vowed to address all of their constituents' concerns and complaints.

SPC School Construction



Work is steadily developing at the new school construction site. Below are a few pictures of the existing school and the progress being made.



ST. PETER CLAVER'S 2010 WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

“NIA IMANI”

(Women of Purpose—Woman of Faith)

This year's Women's Day celebration was held on Sunday, October 3, 2010. The program was beautifully orchestrated by chairperson, Ms. Jean Hood. The celebration began with the permission to begin being granted by church elder, Mrs. Bernadette Gilbert. With a warm heart and pleasing inflection, Ms. Audrey Lombard gave the welcome address. Then Ms. Eleanor Chapital led the St. Peter Claver Liturgical Dancers into the edifice as she so eloquently spouted a wonderful prelude to her reading of “Phenomenal Woman” by Poet Laureate, Maya Angelou.

Our dynamic keynote speaker was Mrs. Alice Grooms, who had been admiringly introduced by her lovely daughter, Mrs. Kenitra Grooms-Williams. Kenitra let us all know from where the kindness she shows to others began. It is evident that her mother is truly her inspiration and has reared her well. “The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.” These are two lovely women who show love, friendship and service to others. God is definitely present in their lives.

Alice proved to be THE phenomenal woman as she spoke of the many trials and tribulations she endured on the road to a successful life she now enjoys. She spoke of the female influences in her life and the things that make her the person she is today. Her speech was impressive, heart-wrenching and moving. She evoked deep thoughts, tears, smiles and a few chuckles as her words touched the hearts of everyone in the building. She also engaged the congregation in a vocal testimony of outstanding female influences in our lives. Several of us rose to the occasion and shouted the names of phenomenal loved ones who have gone on to glory or who are glory-bound.

The presenters, dancers, drummers, musicians, singers and other participants can all share the accolades for a job well done. We thoroughly enjoyed this year's Women's Day Celebration. “To GOD be the Glory!”



Covenant of Love



Marriage enrichment and education is an essential element of our church's effort to continue to minister to the couples of the parish long after the wedding day. Over the years we have worked to strengthen marriages in the parish with various activities. We have had retreats, supper and substance evenings, the “Not so Newlywed” games and special prayer nights. Many of our couples have gone on to become involved in many ministries and continue to serve side by side in church.

At this time we are preparing to develop a new ministry for all married couples entitled “Covenant of Love”. We have six couples preparing to lead us on this wonderful journey for couples of any age and any stage of life. Please pray for the following couples, Antoinette and Cobie Guillory, Michèle and Michael Crossley, Alvin and Kathleen Lee, Claudette and Reginald Vicks, Erica and Lawrence Houston and Henri and Donald Reed as they train to help shape and form a new marriage ministry for us.

Pearl's Place

(Chasasa Mahali)



The Food Bank is

O P E N

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Call the parish office for assistance. 822-8059

During this time of **Thanksgiving**, parishioners are asked to continue bringing your **canned goods and donations** to Mass each Sunday or stop by the Food Bank and leave other items such as macaroni, rice, beans, instant coffee or tea, fruit drinks and bottled water. You may also contact Mrs. Pearl Dupart, the Food Bank Coordinator or one of the other hardworking volunteers. Ask if there are any other non-perishable items that are needed. Thanks in advance for your support.

Mercedes Lewis, Barbara Green, Pearl Dupart, Gerri Gant, Sylvia Bloom

Not pictured: Vicki McLairen

Keep Christ in Your Christmas!



Christmas Day is right around the corner. Have you adopted a needy family yet?? Contact the SPC parish office for names of individuals who may need your help during the holiday season. Happy Holidays!!!

If you have any suggestions, articles and pictures for future Habari Gani issues, please email them to the Editor at:
cwheeler@spclaverchurch.org