

# Temple News

## Monthly Newsletter of Solomon's Temple Church

www.solomonstemplechurch.net

## February 2018



Pastor K. D. & (LL) Elder E. R. Shivers

### Joyful Abundance By: Bruce Wilkinson

Have you seen your Father's face lately? I can't think of anything else that would tell you more about your present state or your future prospects. Allow me to paint a picture of what I see: *If you are in the season of discipline*, the Vinedresser is kneeling beside you in the cool of the morning, He is reaching down to intervene in your life, to lift you up and bring you back to fruitfulness. The look on His face conveys concern and sadness – not disgust, not irritation, not even anger. He doesn't see a chronic loser in you, but a chosen, carefully tended branch that is one choice away from an altogether better existence. *If you are in the season of pruning*, the Vinedresser is standing beside you in the sun of midday. He's wielding some rather serious-looking shears, but He's not unhappy. In fact, the look on His face conveys delight and expectation. As He thoughtfully snips away unwanted shoots, He's impressed with your energy and promise. He can foresee the time when you will respond in faith to the test He has put before you today. *If you are in the season of abiding*, I see the Vinedresser leaning against a nearby trellis as the sun is going down, his hat pushed back. He's looking at your branch with pleasure, satisfaction, and joy. Just being here near you, enjoying your beauty, is His favorite moment of the day. The huge clusters of grapes crowding your branch are exactly what He's had in mind for you since your branch first sprouted. Now that you know how God is always at work in your life, and you see His face of love toward you, you need never again misunderstand His ways. Of course, misunderstanding and suspicion are exactly what your enemy wants. Through the devices of doubt, distrust, discouragement, and deception, Satan tries at every turn to prevent or steal your harvest and keep you from reaching greater fruitfulness. To guard the harvest of good works for God in your life, consider these important reminders: 1. *God can use you no matter what season you're in.* 2. *God's plans for you are unique and specially suited for your success.* 3. *It is never too late to begin bearing fruit.* 4. *You can rest in God's sovereign timing.* 5. *Remember the gift of joy.* No matter what season of fruit bearing you are in, when you look at your Father's face, I hope you see mercies waiting and a future as big as God's love.

### CHURCH EVENTS

- February 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Education Ministry will meet
- February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
2018 Ministry Agendas due
- February 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Couples Ministry will meet
- February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Youth Ministry Temple Nation
- February 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Lenten Love Feast /Ash Wednesday service
- February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Men and Women will meet
- February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Lenten Service
- February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Women's Ministry "7-UP" service
- February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Lenten Service

# What's the One Thing You Should Give Up for Lent this Year?

by Margaret Feinberg

The 40 days leading up to Easter can be some of the most life-giving, perspective-changing, revolutionary times of your year.

The Lenten Season marries repentance of sins and renewal of faith and is a rich opportunity to pursue God, stir your hunger for God and press your ear against the heavens so God can direct your path. This is the time to slough off the excess in our lives that we may live lighter and holier lives. This 40-day reset gives us the opportunity to live in gentle receptivity of God and create habits that we'll carry on throughout the year.

Often, however, the sole focus of the season is one simple question: "What are you giving up for Lent?"

Popular responses include everything from sugar to sodas, television to Twitter, Facebook to frenzied schedules. But perhaps we should be asking a better question as we prepare for Lent: "What do you want to lay hold of?"

A few years ago, instead of putting down the sweets or giving up the coffee, I felt compelled to read the entire Bible during Lent and invite others to join me. Thousands from around the world responded. I was left wonderstruck as pastors, churches, parents, kids, coworkers, and friends dove headfirst into the great big story of God. What I didn't realize at the time is that many of the passages that came alive as I read would soon become my lifeline. Just a few months later we were ambushed with a heart wrenching call from a doctor. I was diagnosed with cancer.

The reading of Scripture had prepared me to fight cancer with an unusual weapon: joy. and that has made all the difference, but that might not have happened if I was only focused on what I should give up instead of what I could gain during this special time.

As Lent approaches this year, I can't shake the nudge of the Holy Spirit to dive into the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Or, what I like to call: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. For about 10 minutes a day, for 89 chapters and 40 days, you'll journey through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It's a big commitment, but one I'm excited to make, and even more excited to ask others to join in on.

God wants to speak to you through Scripture. He has words that are written just for *your heart*, just for *this time*, and just for *what's coming* around the corner. Consider inviting your family and friends or small group to join in reading through the Gospels this Lent. Enter this time with prayer and faith that Christ will meet you, reveal Himself to you and surprise you as you seek to lay hold of more of Him.

I don't know the one thing you should give up for Lent, but I do know the one thing you should lay hold of: Jesus.

# Jesus

## Verse of the Month

2 Corinthians 3:17

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

## Thoughts to Ponder

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone. [www.BestQuotes4You.com](http://www.BestQuotes4You.com)

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - - they must be felt with the heart. Helen Keller

The Trustee Ministry signed and purchased the church and property located at 15088 Mount Holly Creek Lane, Smithfield, VA on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.  
Congratulations Solomon's Temple.



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# February Kingdom Schedule



## February Scriptures

- 2/4 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- 2/11 Proverbs 20:6-7
- 2/18 Song of Solomon 8:6-7
- 2/25 1 John 4:7-8

## Worship Leaders Schedule

- 2/4 Elder Wayne Hatton
- 2/11 Sis. Shirley Haskins
- 2/18 Min. Ernest Ruffin
- 2/28 Elder Edith Shivers



## Welcome Schedule

- 2/4 Sis. Sylvia Gundy
- 2/11 Kristiana Smith
- 2/18 Sis. Tami Drew
- 2/25 Bro. Barry Nichols

## Servant Leaders Schedule

- 2/4 Bro. Donald Watkins
- 2/11 Sis. Shirley Haskins
- 2/18 Sis. Wendy Johnson
- 2/25 Sis. Turekia White

## Door Opener

Bro. Earl Moton

## Communion Bowls

Sis. Shirley Haskins  
Sis. Wendy Johnson



## New to Solomon's Temple?

First of all **WELCOME!** We are so pleased that you have come to visit our church. Whether you are just inquiring about our church, a new visitor, or simply want to see if Solomon's Temple is the right fit for you and your family, we are grateful to have you among us. We hope you will find your spiritual home here. Here at Solomon's Temple, we offer many exciting ministries to assist in your daily walk.

Solomon's Temple holds New Disciple Orientation sessions that can provide information about our church, what we offer and what to expect from your church family. If you have any questions, please contact Elder Sarah Hatton, Elder Wayne Hatton. or Bro. James Green Sr.

## February 2018 CID Teaching Schedule



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### **Educational Partners for the month of February are:**

Elder Edith Shivers, Min. Cynthia Edwards, Sis. Lucy Watkins, Sis. Shirley Haskins

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> A Disciplined Faith | James 3:1-12  
Teacher: Elder Edith Shivers

**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> NO CID | Faithful Disciples | Acts 9:36-43**

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> The Good Fight of Faith | 1 Timothy 6:11-21  
Teacher: Sis. Lucy Watkins

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> The Lord will Provide | Genesis 22:1-3, 6-14  
Teacher: Sis. Shirley Haskins



**Explanation of the lesson can be found on our website.**

[solomonstemplechurch.net](http://solomonstemplechurch.net)

## February Youth Teaching Schedule

Benjamin Tribe

## Newsletter Submissions

Do you know someone who is doing great things in the community, school, or church? Nominate them to be the Solomonite of the Month. This person can be a youth or an adult. Don't forget to recognize those celebrating an anniversary, graduation (from high school, college, or any other), or special occasion. We also want to know about those who have made the honor roll. Let's not forget baby announcements, bible humor or recipes. If you have a story or idea that you would like to incorporate into the newsletter, forward the story to [stsecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:stsecretary1@gmail.com) or leave the idea on the secretary's desk.

*Happy Valentine's Day*

**For God**

so loved the world,  
that he gave his only  
begotten  
Son,  
that whosoever  
believeth  
in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.



*John 3:16*



# February



# Schedule of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT
2/1/18	6:00pm/7:00pm	Praise Team rehearsal / Mass Choir rehearsal
2/3/18	10:00am	Education Ministry will meet with Educational Partners: Elder Edith Shivers, Sis. Lucy Watkins, Min. Cynthia Edwards & Sis. Shirley Haskins
2/4/18		2018 Ministry Agendas are to be turned in to the Church Administrator
2/4/18	After service	Pastor and Church Anniversary committee will meet
2/6/18	5:45pm	Couples Ministry will meet
2/6/18	6:00pm	Youth Ministry will meet with coordinators and volunteers
2/6/18	6:30pm/7:15pm	CID Session/Bible Study
2/7/18	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kingdom Workouts
2/8/18	7:00pm	Sons of Solomon rehearsal
2/11/18	During service	Youth Ministry "Temple Nation". In observance of heart month everyone is asked to dress in red.
2/11/18	After service	Trustee and Finance Ministry will meet
2/11/18	After service	Asher Tribe luncheon at IHOP in Harborview
2/13/18		NO CID Session/Bible Study
2/14/18	All Day	Happy Valentine's Day
2/14/18	6:30pm/7:30pm	Lenten Love Feast/Ash Wednesday service
2/15/18	6:30pm	Youth Choir rehearsal
2/15/18	6:30pm	Men and Women will meet
2/18/18	After service	Singles Ministry will meet at Burger King
2/20/18	6:30pm/7:15pm	CID Session/Lenten service - Elder Sarah Hatton will preach
2/21/18	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kingdom Workouts
2/22/18	6:00pm/7:00pm	Praise Team rehearsal/Joyful Voices rehearsal
2/24/18	4:00pm	Women's Ministry "7-UP" service
2/25/18	After service	Intercessory Prayer Ministry will meet
2/27/18	6:30pm/7:15pm	CID Session/Lenten service - Min. Cynthia Edwards will preach
2/28/18	6:00pm-7:00pm	Kingdom Workouts

## Solomon's Temple - PHOTO DAY SCHEDULE

(All Pictures will be taken in Chapel immediately after morning service unless otherwise notified!)

Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>
No pictures will be taken	Couples Ministry	Bridge Ministry	Praise Dance Ministry
	Finance Sec/Committee	Youth Ministry	Hospitality
	Trustee Ministry	Outreach Ministry	Health Care Ministry
	Building Committee	Armour-Bearer Ministry	Intercessory Prayer

### Choir Rehearsal Schedule for February 2018

#### Thursday before 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

6:00pm Praise Team  
7:00pm Mass Choir

#### Thursday before 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

6:30pm Youth Choir

#### Thursday before 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

7:00pm Sons of Solomon

#### Thursday before 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

6:00pm Praise Team  
7:00pm Joyful Voices




In observance of Black History Month on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> Everyone is asked to dress in their African attire.



# February 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1. 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Mass Choir	2.	3. 10:00am Education Ministry will meet Robert White
4. 2018 Ministry Agendas due After service Pastor and Church Anniversary committee will meet	5. Mary Diggs Barry Nichols James Green Sr. Ashley Boothe	6. 5:45pm Couples Ministry will meet 6:00pm Youth Ministry will meet 6:30pm CID session 7:15pm Bible Study	7. 6:00pm-7:00pm Kingdom Workouts Joydan Taylor	8. 7:00pm Sons of Solomon	9.	10. JaiCiara Brock
11. Asher Tribe lunch at IHOP Trustee/Finance Ministry meet	12. Wille B. Warren Shaquita Taylor	13. No CID/Bible Study Jade Hunt	14. 6:30pm Lenten Love Feast/Ash Wed. svc Happy Anniversary Theodore & Sylvia Gundy Valentine's Day	15. 6:30pm Youth Choir 6:30pm Men & Women meetings Elaine Nichols	16. Jackie Ruffin	17.
18. After service Singles Ministry will meet at Buger King	19. Joyce Hagin	20. 6:30pm CID session 7:15pm Lent Service	21. 6:00pm-7:00pm Kingdom Workouts Kaden Taylor	22. 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Joyful Voice Anthony "AJ" Gray	23.	24. 4:00pm Women's Ministry "7-UP" service
25. Intercessory Prayer Ministry will meet after service Everyone asked to dress in African attire	26. Happy Anniversary Stanley & Dorothy Robinson	27. 6:30pm CID session 7:15pm Lent Service Happy Anniversary Nelson & Matthe Turner	28. 6:00pm-7:00pm Kingdom Workouts			

**2018 Theme: The Year of Elevation – 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6**

So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. (MSG)

## February Birthdays

### Happy Birthday

Robert White  
Mary Diggs  
Barry Nichols  
James Green Sr.  
Ashley Boothe  
Joydan Taylor  
Jai' Ciana Brock  
Willie B. Warren  
Shaquita Taylor  
Jade Hunt  
Elaine Nichols  
Jackie Ruffin  
Joyce Hagin  
Kaden Taylor  
Anthony "AJ" Gray



Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>  
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Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>  
Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Prayer List



Sis. Vernell Brown  
Sis. Mary Diggs  
Sis. Lonnie Batten  
Sis. Connie Payne  
Sis. Vernell Wrenn  
Sis. Ruby Clarke  
Sis. Mary Cornick  
Sis. Florence Turner  
Sis. Sonjia Moore  
Sis. Tami Drew  
Sis. Frances Wells-Robertson  
Bro. James Green Sr.  
Sis. Tamara Jones  
Sis. Marion Smith  
Bereaved Families



If there are any names that need to be added to the list, let the church administrator know. Thank You.

## February Anniversary

### Happy Anniversary

Theodore & Sylvia Gundy  
Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

Stanley & Dorothy Robinson  
Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>

Nelson & Mattie Turner  
Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>



*An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday and the hopes of tomorrow.*



### Solomon's Temple Outreach Ministry

*Is In Full Effect!*

Please let us know if anyone is in the hospital, in-outpatient surgeries and death in the family or any other life changing event (medical or death).

We have **"Care Teams"** for each month that is willing and ready to contact you. We love our church family and we believe love is not what it says – it's what it does.

#### Care Team for the Month

Sis. Tami Drew  
Sis. Vernessa Black  
**Sis. Phyllis Duck**

Please let the church administrator know of any disciples' address or phone number change.  
Thank you.



Solomon's Temple Women's Ministry  
Presents "The 7-UPS"  
Saturday, February 24, 2018 @ 4:00pm

Wake Up	Sis. Aisha Wise, Little Zion Baptist
Dress Up	Sis. Dana Cary, Solomon's Temple
Shut Up	Sis. Alison Edwards, Brown's AME
Stand Up	Sis. Ethel Hardy, Mt. Tabor COGIC
Look Up	Sis. Chevita Simmons, Shiloh Baptist
Reach Up	Sis. Jackie Clarke, Mt. Sinai Baptist
Lift Up	Surprise Speaker



Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart.



I'd been a widow for eight years. I was used to being alone on Valentine's Day. Or so I thought, until I woke up feeling blue. Before my feet even hit the floor I said to God, I don't have anyone to love me this year. I really need a Valentine. I mean the works. Roses, a card and dinner out tonight. But no chocolates, please. I'm trying to diet. By the time I'd had my coffee I felt more like myself. I went to work, my prayer forgotten. Then I found a giant Valentine's Day card taped to my office door. "We wanted to let you know how much we love you," friends had written. It's just a coincidence, I thought. A card was easy enough to come by on Valentine's Day. Late that afternoon my friend Sue called. "John and I want to take you out tonight," she said. "We've spent lots of Valentine's Days on our own. This year we want to treat you." They'd already made dinner reservations at my favorite restaurant. A card and dinner—wow! That was two out of three. Maybe it wasn't a miracle, but I put on a nice outfit that evening and drove to the restaurant feeling pretty blessed. I arrived a few minutes early. The place was jam-packed. I couldn't even see whoever it was making his way through the crowd, just the big bouquet he was holding. A dozen red roses all for some lucky woman—me? "Happy Valentine's Day," John said, reaching me at last. Sue gave me a hug. The three of us sat down at our table and I told them about my prayer. "The Lord gave me everything I asked for: a card, dinner and roses. I feel so loved." I touched my bouquet again. "What about you, Sue?" I asked. "Did John get you get anything special?" "A gorgeous box of chocolates," she said with a smile. "But don't even ask—I'm not sharing!"

**Favorite Love Quotes for Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day is an occasion to celebrate love in its many forms—divine, romantic, platonic, familial. We hope these inspiring quotes bring you warmth and joy in the season of love.

The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in. —*Morrie Schwartz, sociology professor and author*

Love is a friendship set to music. —*Joseph Campbell, author*

You know it's love when all you want is that person to be happy, even if you're not part of their happiness. —*Julia Roberts, actress*

At the touch of love everyone becomes a poet. —*Plato, philosopher and mathematician*

The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart. —*Helen Keller, author*

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead. —*Oscar Wilde, author*

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear. —*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor, author, and civil rights activist*

The love we give away is the only love we keep. —*Elbert Hubbard, author and philosopher*

Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do. —*David Wilkerson, pastor and author*

Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well. —*Vincent Van Gogh, painter*

Love is friendship that has caught fire. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses. —*Ann Landers, advice columnist and author*



**EXCITING & NEW**

**Welcome Youth to TEMPLE NATION starting February 11<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship area. Wear your red. Let the excitement begin. You will be dismissed from service then come immediately to the fellowship area. God loves YOU! Continental breakfast served, interactive lessons, music, the word on your level and more!**



*Siblings share a special bond.....  
Brothers & Sisters  
have a special connection that is the  
heart of the family.*



## February is American Heart Month



The American Heart Association wants to help everyone live longer, healthier lives so they can enjoy all of life's precious moments. And we know that starts with taking care of your health. American Heart Month, a federally designated event, is a great way to remind Americans to focus on their hearts and encourage them to get their families, friends and communities involved. Together, we can build a culture of health where making the healthy choice is the easy choice. Why? Because Life is Why.

### American Heart Month Statistics At a Glance

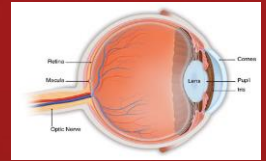
- 220.8 per 100,000: The overall rate of death attributable to CVD, based on 2014 data.
- **On average, someone died of CVD every 40 seconds.** That is about 2,200 deaths of CVD each day.
- On average, someone in the US has a stroke every 40 seconds. This is about 795,000 new or recurrent stroke each year. On average, someone died of a stroke every 4 minutes
- Stroke accounted for  $\approx 1$  of every 20 deaths in the United States.
- More than 65% of US adults have 2, 3, or 4 criteria at ideal cardiovascular health, with  $\approx 20\%$  adults within each of these categories. At any age, females tend to have more metrics at ideal levels than do males. Blacks and Hispanics tend to have fewer metrics at ideal levels than whites or other races.
- 85.7 million, or 34.0% of US adults are estimated to have hypertension, based on 2011-2014 data.
- 28.5 million, or 11.9% of US adults are estimated to have total serum cholesterol levels  $\geq 240$  mg/dL, based on 2011-2014 data.
- 23.4 million, or 9.1% of US adults are estimated to have diagnosed diabetes, based on 2011-2014 data.
- 1 in 6 males and 1 in 7 females in the United States are current smokers, based on 2015 data.
- On average, 1 in 3 adults, or 30.4% Do not engage in leisure time physical activity. Hispanic and Non-Hispanic black adults were more likely to be inactive.

## February is Macular Degeneration Awareness Month

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### What Is Macular Degeneration?

Written By: Kierstan Boyd



Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a problem with your retina. It happens when a part of the retina called the macula is damaged. With AMD you lose your central vision. You cannot see fine details, whether you are looking at something close or far. But your peripheral (side) vision will still be normal. For instance, imagine you are looking at a clock with hands. With AMD, you might see the clock's numbers but not the hands. AMD is very common. It is a leading cause of vision loss in people 50 years or older. **Two types of AMD are Dry AMD & Wet AMD**

**Dry AMD** - This form is quite common. About 80% (8 out of 10) people who have AMD have the dry form. Dry AMD is when parts of the macula get thinner with age and tiny clumps of protein called drusen grow. You slowly lose central vision. There is no way to treat dry AMD yet.

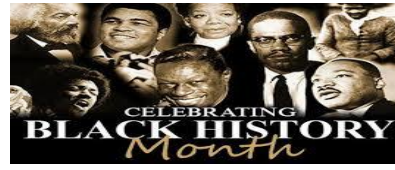
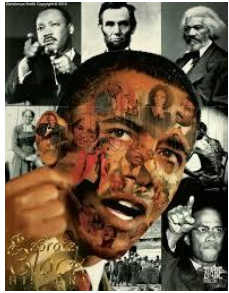
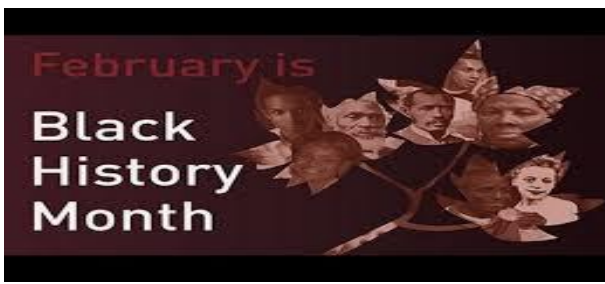
**Wet AMD** - This form is less common but much more serious. Wet AMD is when new, abnormal blood vessels grow under the retina. These vessels may leak blood or other fluids, causing scarring of the macula. You lose vision faster with wet AMD than with dry AMD.

Many people don't realize they have AMD until their vision is very blurry. This is why it is important to have regular visits to an ophthalmologist. He or she can look for early signs of AMD before you have any vision problems.

## Christmas Play "A Super Christmas" Sunday, December 24, 2017







Origins of Black History Month



The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures. The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Since then, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme

## Black History Month: Inspiring Black Americans



**Harriet Tubman** was a brave abolitionist and humanitarian credited for creating the Underground Railroad--a network of safe houses from the south to the north that helped hundreds of enslaved people get to a free state. But did you know that Tubman was also a spy? Tubman was an agent of the Union Army during the Civil War and became the first woman to head up an armed expedition when she led the Combahee River Raid, which liberated more than 700 enslaved people in South Carolina. After the war ended, she dedicated her life to helping formerly enslaved people and creating a home for elderly African Americans.



**Duke Ellington** is remembered as one of the most influential jazz musicians in history. His music completely defined the genre and as an artist, he transcended boundaries. He was a Pulitzer Prize winner with 13 GRAMMYS under his belt and, in 1969, he was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Richard Nixon.



**Oseola McCarty** was a Mississippi cleaning woman who saved more than \$150,000 in her life and donated it to the University of Southern Mississippi to fund a scholarship for deserving students who might not otherwise get a college education. She was also a Presidential Citizens Medal winner.



**Sojourner Truth** is the definition of courage. The prominent abolitionist was born into slavery and suffered through at least three of her children being sold away from her. After escaping slavery, Truth turned to evangelical religion and became involved in moral reform and abolitionist work. She collected supplies for Black regiments during the Civil War and advocated for formerly enslaved people during the Reconstruction period. She was also an unapologetic women's rights activist.



**Phillis Wheatley** was kidnapped from West Africa as a young child and enslaved to the Wheatley family. She learned to read and write while working as a servant and published her first poem when she was just 13 years old. Later, she would become the first African American woman, the first enslaved person and the third American woman in history to have a book of poetry published.

**Success isn't about how much money you make, it's about the difference you make in people's lives. Michelle Obama**



**Jesse Owens** was an American track and field athlete and four-time Olympic gold medalist in the 1936 games, but what he did off the track is even more inspiring. The youngest of ten children, the athlete grew up in poverty, working his way through school to support his wife and young daughter. Owens had to contend with racial inequality not only during the '36 Games in Berlin—where Owens shattered Hitler's racist agenda to promote a superior Aryan nation by beating Germany and everyone else to become the most successful athlete at the Games—but in America, as well, where Jim Crow was the law of the land.



**Madam C.J. Walker** was an activist, philanthropist and the first American woman to become a self-made millionaire thanks to her creation of a line of beauty care products for African American women. Not only did her business provide a needed service to the African American community, but Walker also made a point of hiring Black women, giving them the means to support themselves. She also founded philanthropies that included educational scholarships and donations to homes for the elderly, the NAACP and other programs focused on improving African American lives.



**Maya Angelou** was a celebrated poet, memoirist and civil rights activist. She worked as a journalist in Egypt and Ghana, became the coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at the behest of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was a professor at Wake Forest University and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2010. Angelou used her gift to speak up about taboo issues of the time, including her sexual assault when she was a young girl. Her bravery and beautiful poetry continue to offer inspiration and hope.



**Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson** were the groundbreaking mathematicians and human computers at NASA whose calculations helped put astronauts into space and land on the moon. They had their stories make it to the big screen this year with the Academy Award-nominated film *Hidden Figures* starring Guideposts cover star Taraji P. Henson. Vaughan, Johnson and Jackson not only made it possible for astronauts to make it to space and the moon, they pushed boundaries, shattered glass ceilings and achieved their dreams despite the racism and sexism they encountered.



Just two years ago, **Misty Copeland** made history by becoming the first ever Black principal ballerina in the American Ballet Theatre's 75-year history. Because of her determination, talent and drive, young girls of color across the country (and the world) can now see themselves in ballet and pursue their own dreams. Misty shared with Guideposts how she bounced back from setback and rejections in order to make history.



Born in Brooklyn, **Shirley Chisholm** became the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968. Just four years later she would become the first Black person and the first woman of any race to run for President of the United States for the Democratic party. Chisholm spent her political career fighting for education and social justice, and she spent her life breaking barriers and paving the way for future women politicians. In November 2015, she was posthumously awarded the distinguished Presidential Medal of Freedom.



**Charles Hamilton Houston** was born in Washington, D.C. and served his country during World War I as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Outraged over the treatment of Black soldiers accused of crimes and unfairly sentenced, Houston returned home to study law at Harvard Law School where he was the first Black editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He served as vice-dean of Howard University Law School for two years, training almost a quarter of the nation's black law students. But his most recognizable achievement came when, on behalf of the NAACP, he challenged the Jim Crow laws. His legal strategy eventually led the United States Supreme Court to declare segregation in American schools unconstitutional in the ground-breaking case *Brown v. Board of Education*.



**Nina Simone** made a name for herself, revolutionizing the jazz, blues and folk music genres with her unique voice and her memorable stage persona. What's even more inspiring about her music is that she used it to advocate for civil rights with songs that pushed boundaries and brought attention to the injustice faced by African Americans. Her courage and talent live on in her records and her legacy.



**Jackie Joyner-Kersey** is one of the most decorated female Olympians for Team USA. The former Track and Field star has won three Olympic gold medals, one silver and two bronze. She is a current world record holder in the heptathlon and the long jump. But even more impressive than her athletic resume is what she's done since retiring from sports. Kersee founded the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Youth Center Foundation, which is aimed at encouraging youth in her underprivileged hometown to play sports and helped establish Athletes for Hope, an organization that encourages athletes "to make a difference in the world."



**Serena Williams** grew up on the rough streets of Compton, practicing on the courts for hours a day. Her dad learned to play tennis from reading books and taught his daughters, Serena and her older sister Venus, the importance of hard work and dedication. The Williams sisters took those lessons and used them to become two of the greatest tennis players of their generation, and history. Serena just won her 23rd Grand Slam title, making her the most decorated female athlete in the sport. Nike has declared her the greatest athlete in history.

**If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress. Barak Obama**