



Join us for Sunday worship services at 8:00am and 11:00am.



GOT NEWS?

We hope that you are enjoying the newsletter and it is fulfilling you inspirationally and resourcefully. EBC News welcomes you and wants to publish your newsworthy articles, including spiritual messages and poems; and EBC ministries' events and pictures. The **deadline for our March newsletter submittals is Friday, February 17th.** Please e-mail submissions to either Sis. Joyce Barge-man at joycebargeman@hotmail.com or Sis. Karen Shields at karen-dshields@hotmail.com.

Inside this issue:

- Ministry Spotlight 1
- Inspirational Message 1
- Announcements 2
- Did You Know? 2

EBC NEWS

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT EBC Praise Dancers Ministry



Byron J. Day, Pastor



EBC Praise Dancers Ministry, founded in June 2003 by Sis. Shirley Belin and her daughter Shannon, performs at EBC on the third Sunday of each month. Chairperson Sis. Belin was inspired by God to start a ministry to praise, worship, glorify and celebrate with thanksgiving the Lord Jesus Christ through the expression of dance. King David danced with celebration and thanksgiving when the ark was brought into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14; 1 Chronicles 15:29; Psalms 149:3). *"Our prayer is to exhort and edify the body of Christ through dance,"* explains Sis. Belin, who also serves as choreographer.

For guidance in choreographing routines for the group, Sis. Belin states, *"I pray, pray, and pray some more. I listen to the message of a*

song and seek God's leadership on the song, and wait on His leadership for the movements." The Praise Dancers practice every second and third Saturday of each month.

Sis. Belin's plans for expanding the Praise Dancers Ministry include adding mimes and providing additional workshops and training. Teen members of the ministry include Ciera Cooke, Eboni Whiting, Alana Joseph, Tiffany Hill, Azaria Bryant and Portia Holloman. In addition to Sis. Belin, adult members include Ministry Assistant Jonell Jones, Rochelle Day, Melissa Griffin, Mallecia Sutton, Kendall Sutton, Tanya Proctor, Marita Douglas, Deborah Gross and Kim Holloman.

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

Changing The World

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

So live each day as though you were walking with Jesus. Our future will be better for it and you WILL make a difference.

- Author Unknown

"And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God." Acts 3:8



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH of LAUREL, MARYLAND
*** A BIBLE PREACHING, BIBLE TEACHING, BIBLE BELIEVING CHURCH ***

Emmanuel Baptist Church

11443 Laurel-Bowie Road
Laurel, Maryland 20708

CONTACT INFO:

Phone: 301-490-5149
E-mail: ebc.laurel@verizon.net

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Thursday, 10am - 4pm

WEB SITE:

www.emmanuelbaptist-laurel.org

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Emmanuel Baptist Church is to corporately and publicly worship, praise, glorify and give thanks to the Trinity God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; to minister the Word of God to believers; to promote fellowship among the body of Christ; to promote evangelism at home and abroad, and to reach out to minister to the needs of the local community and the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Feb 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th—Pizza & A Movie 2012, 7pm, EBC, Laurel, MD
- Feb 4th—Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8am, EBC, Laurel, MD
- Feb 11th, 18th—Praise Dance Ministry rehearsal; 10am adults, 11am youth
- Feb 12th—Baptism Service, 1pm, Faith Baptist Church
- Feb 25th—Leadership Training, 9am-1pm, EBC, Laurel, MD (all ministry leaders should plan to attend)

DID YOU KNOW? ...The History of Halltown, EBC's Neighbor Across the Road



For generations, the residents of Halltown have sought recognition. But to officials at almost every level, this tiny, historically black community simply doesn't exist. Now, however, its two dozen or so residents are finally being recognized—GPS has found them. Not Halltown, Maryland, precisely, but Halltown Road, which technically does not exist except in a mistaken sign that sits by a homemade bus shelter at the entrance to the community on Route 197. "My nephew had the sign made up," explains Gwendolyn Hall Morgan, whose great-great grandfather founded Halltown.

The community was founded in 1891 by James Hall. Family lore has it that he was born in 1859 to a white slave owner named Hall and an Indian slave woman. As a free man and carpenter, Hall worked for John Snowden, whose family owned a large plantation nearby. "Jim Hall's lot" first appears on an 1891 deed dividing a large tract among several Snowden heirs. On this land, James Hall built his home, which was torn down in the 1950s. A handful of homes went up in the early 1980s for other members of the Hall clan. The entrance road leads to a cluster of houses on Forest Lane and C.W. Hall Road, named after Charles Wesley Hall, the founder's son.

The streets were dirt and gravel until 1996, the community, however, must maintain them, as well as plow the streets when it snows. There are no fire hydrants, nor streetlights, in Halltown, and no water and sewer lines to allow for expansion. Currently, land must pass a perc test to accommodate a septic system before construction can occur, and even then, only one house per acre is allowed.

That has pretty much left Halltown where it's been for years: nine houses and lots of undeveloped land. This, residents say, is not a good thing. They don't want to sell lots to rapacious developers. They want their sons and daughters to be able to build their own homes and live here, too. But right now, they can't. They live instead in Laurel, Upper Marlboro, or Glenn Dale, in subdivisions or apartments that are not in Halltown. Once entirely African-American, Halltown's demographics now include a Latino family. During last January's blizzard, the wife went into labor, and the entire neighborhood helped dig them out, all the way to Route 197. Also during that record storm, one of the Halltown women gave hot chocolate to a school bus full of children stuck in the snow. "I tell you, we're one big family here," says Gwendolyn.

Current and former residents converge here for the Fourth of July, Memorial Day, and an annual cleanup day the first weekend in May. They may not all live here now, but there is still hope as Halltown struggles to ensure its geographical legitimacy and its future over 120 years after a free black man brought it into existence.