

VP NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

9am - 4pm

708-753-1975 (o)

No internet?

No problem.

Call in for

Sunday Service

at 10am

202-926-1080

Access Code

981434

Children's Church

is held following

Praise and Worship.

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

Black / 365

Every Week is

Black History Week

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

PRESIDENTS DAY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

**Your
Story**

IT'S GENERATIONAL!
NO BRAG, JUST FACTS!

Highlighting: Retreat CORE Team and Volun

See Page 3



MINISTRY TEAM RETREAT
SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, March 8th

**For Leadership, Ministry Members, Ministers
Assembly, Deacons and all who serve.**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Deadline: Sunday, February 16th

There will be two lunch options:

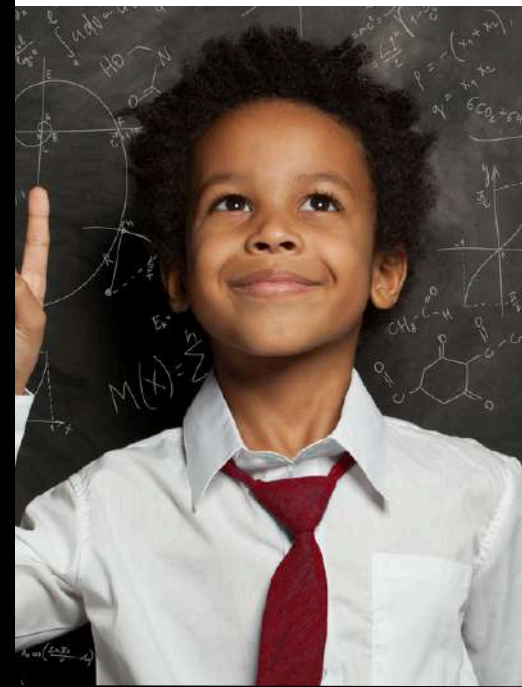
\$10 registration fee (sandwich, chips, water)

or BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)

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HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY
Black History Month

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February Anniversaries

Tony & Grace Beacham

5 years February 2nd

Franklin & Loretha Gray

17 years February 2nd

Hobart "Rae" & Elise Henry

34 years February 2nd

Pastor Frank & Monica Miller

13 years February 25th

John & Shirley Hill

56 years February 28th

Pray for our sick and shut-in

Bro. Denero Sanders

Sis. Bernice Peterson

Bro. Walter Alexander

First Lady Noreen Chin

Pray for our bereaved

Carolyn Williamson and Tiffany Frank

in the loss of their cousin

Sis. LaShunda Arceneaux

**He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

Psalm 147:3



NEW CONTENT ON:
[Facebook](#), [YouTube](#),
[Instagram](#)
and [VPCOG.ORG](#)

MONDAYS - 5PM
Moments in Marriage
Real Life Stuff

COMING SOON

TUESDAYS - 6PM
Poetic Perspectives
Catlin & Lady Maura

THURSDAYS - 6AM
Prayer Call
202-926-1080
Access Code 981434

THURSDAYS - 6PM
Power of Prayer
Min. Cassandra Ward &
The Prayer Team

SATURDAYS - 12PM
See What I'm Sayin'
The Bible & ASL
Talayah Stovall &
Carmen Banks

3RD SATURDAY-12:30PM
Monthly
Men of Destiny

4TH SATURDAY-10AM
Monthly
Women Of Purpose
& Prayer Ministry

SUNDAYS - 12PM
This Week in...
Black History

IT'S GENERATIONAL! NO BRAG, JUST FACTS!

Shoutout to the Strategic Planning CORE Team and Volunteers

CORE Team Members and Volunteers

Thank you for your dedication in laying the foundation for our impactful and informative retreats!

Denise Turner Alston, Maurice and Christian Brown, Quincy and Sharyn Dyer, Dawn Hatchett, Maura Gale January, Darwin and Tosha Jackson, Andrea January, Frank and Monica Miller, Jacqueline Morris, Talayah Stovall, Angelyn Vanderbilt, Mardelle Vanderbilt, Cassandra Ward, Ernestine White, and Marquita White.

1. Can you walk us through the planning process for the retreat? How did the team ensure that everything went smoothly?

Almost two years ago, a church-wide spiritual gifts assessment sparked Pastor January's spiritual gifts sermon series and ministry fair. These seeds hatched a vision to facilitate a 5-year strategic planning initiative starting with reaching the hearts and minds of our ministry leaders. Given our long season of survival mode, it was evident that our maturation would require us to get ready for the next 100-150 new members. The planning process of mobilizing the ministry leaders, teams, lay members and the community began with a summary of Pastor's White Paper. This included summaries of our history and ministry landscape, milestones, challenges, and opportunities over the last 10 years. The next phase involved planning meaningful retreat activities that would reintroduce the church to our **mission, vision and value statements** through a progressive theme: **Engage. Involve. Challenge.**

2. What were some of the biggest challenges the team faced during the planning and execution of the retreat, and how were they overcome?

Coordinating the schedules of our busy CORE team leaders was tough and required a great commitment from everyone involved. It required lots of communication and flexibility to ensure the retreat content was relevant and inspiring. We met bi-weekly between October and November 2024 and gathered input from each member to tailor the agenda and sessions to meet the needs of all our intended stakeholders. Organizing the retreat by Vision, Mission and Values activities and using a tree as a visual through-line helped streamline the planning and execution.

3. Can you share a particularly memorable moment from the retreat that you feel encapsulates the spirit of the event?

There were so many, but it would have to be the phone call we received from one of the participants expressing that they were unsure of what to expect coming into the retreat and not knowing whether they would be able to contribute to the discussions. It turns out they were extremely surprised that the activities were so interactive and engaging, allowing them to share personal stories and anecdotes. Their excitement highlighted the countless hours of preparation, prayers, collective strength, and synergy of the CORE team!

4. What feedback did you receive from the church leaders who attended the retreat, and how has it impacted the team's approach to future events?

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with leaders feeling encouraged to engage their teams in preparing for a Season of Manifestation at VPCOG. While this is just the beginning, Pastor January's goal is to foster a culture of equipping our church with new insights and strategies for reaching the broken and lost and giving them the best antidote to life – Jesus!. This initiative has encouraged us to prioritize a collaborative environment using strategic goals as a clear roadmap for the next 5 years. We look forward to seeing what God will do at the next **Ministry Retreat on 3/8/2025!**

**If you have a WIN to share, email: Vparkcog@gmail.com
for instructions on what we need in order for you to be included.**

Registration is open

Doors Open at 9:15 AM

VPCOG
Strategic Planning
MINISTRY TEAM RETREAT

MARCH 8
SATURDAY
9:30 - 2:00
AM PM

ENGAGE • INVOLVE • CHALLENGE

REGISTER BY
SUN. FEB. 16TH

CLICK HERE

If you feed it, it will grow!

VALUES

VISION

MISSION

"PLANS FAIL FOR LACK OF COUNSEL, BUT WITH MANY ADVISERS THEY SUCCEED." ~ PROVERBS 15:22



FEBRUARY IS...

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African Americans have made tremendous contributions to healthcare. From research to ground-breaking medical advancements, African Americans have been dynamic in improving the health of millions. One particular physician, Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, began his career when healthcare was segregated in America. He was a gastroenterologist at the Black-owned and operated Provident Hospital in Chicago, the same hospital Daniel Hale Williams opened.



While a German doctor invented the new and improved gastroscope (Wolf-Schindler Scope), Dr. Berry couldn't help but think about ways to improve the scope and his own practice. He went to Germany to train with the inventing doctor on using the scope, other gastroenterology techniques, and endoscopy. Through this education and further experience with patients, Leonidas developed the Eder-Berry biopsy attachment for the scope. This was the first time an attachment was able to view the stomach and could suction out any tissue that needed

examining. Prior to this, any visualization of the stomach required an incision. By the late 1960s, Berry was hailed as "One of the Leading Gastroenterologists in the World."

As the son of an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church minister, justice and civil rights weighed on Dr. Berry's heart. Berry was dedicated to bringing medical care to African American communities that had none. In the 1960's, Berry along with Dr. Jasper Williams and more than two dozen other Chicago medical professionals, organized the "Flying Black Medics." This team of nurses, social workers, dieticians, pharmacists, and biochemists would fly from Chicago to the rural town of Cairo, IL to provide medical care for the impoverished black residents.

Dr. Berry received several accolades for his achievements and advancements in medicine. His work has inspired young physicians and improved quality of care for many.

[Celebrating 10 African-American medical pioneers](#)

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