BUILDING A LASTING LEGACY

Reflections By A Long-Time Member

Honoring 40 Years Of Pastoral Excellence

A Legacy Of Producing Pastors

Salute To Bishop Thomas

Getting To Know Bishop Thomas Better

Our First Lady

Famous Quotes From Bishop Thomas’ Sermons

Bishop Thomas’ Event Timeline

Reflections From “Sons & Daughters” Of NPBC

Visit us online at www.NewPsalmist.org
BUSINESS OWNERS
WORKSHOPS & SHOWCASE

Current and potential business owners can purchase tickets for workshops and the business showcase vendor tables at www.newpsalmist.org.

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER
CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH CUMMINGS

MAY 23, 2015
DOING BUSINESS BIG WORKSHOPS

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM
NPBC CHAPEL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Current and potential business owners

TICKETS:
$25 Per Person
Includes lunch with guest speaker, Congressman Elijah Cummings

WORKSHOPS:
• How to start a business and how to write a business plan
• Sources of funding
• Marketing your business

MAY 30, 2015
MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT HELP BUSINESS SHOWCASE

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
BANQUET HALL AND CHAPEL

WHAT TO EXPECT:
NPBC business owners showcasing their businesses. Attendees will have an opportunity to connect and purchase their products and services.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Congregation and Community (free)

VENDOR PRICING:
MEMBERS ONLY:
$75, APRIL 1 - APRIL 30
$100, MAY 1 - MAY 15
$150, MAY 16 - MAY 22
NON-MEMBER: $150, MAY 1 - MAY 22

BISHOP WALTER S. THOMAS, SR., PASTOR
6020 MARIAN DRIVE • BALTIMORE, MD 21215 • 410-945-3000 X3024 • NEWPSALMIST.ORG

/NEWPSALMIST @NEWPSALMIST #NPBC /NEWPSALMISTBC
From the 
Editor 

By: Joi Thomas

I am so excited about this edition of Empowering Disciples Magazine. This magazine is in honor of our Pastor’s 40th Pastoral anniversary. For 40 years, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr. has been pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church. What an honor and privilege it is to be a part of such a wonderful ministry.

New Psalmist will celebrate 116 years as a church in June, and for those 116 years, we have only had 3 pastors. New Psalmist is a great church, and we have been blessed with extraordinary leaders. Bishop Thomas has taken New Psalmist to higher heights and deeper depths. His preaching and teaching have helped so many, including myself. I am a better person because I attend New Psalmist and because Bishop Thomas is my Pastor.

I have the unique privilege of also calling him Dad. I have been a Preacher’s Kid (PK) all my life, and New Psalmist has been my only home church. I remember when we were on Franklin and Cathedral Street and we only had one morning service. than all of a sudden, we had two. People came from everywhere, and church was always packed. I used to marvel at how my Dad would get up and preach something new week after week and never get tired.

I get to see what happens behind the scenes. I’ve seen my father preach when he was sick. I’ve watched him push through exhaustion to help a family in need. I watched him in February of 2001 eulogize his father, in what must have been one of the hardest moments of his life, but he did it, and he conquered it. Being a Pastor is a 24 hour, 7 day a week job. I honor my Father for accepting the call to do this work, and I honor my mother for always supporting him, and helping us understand that our father worked for God, and his work was important.

Bishop Thomas, Dad, enjoy this edition of Empowering Disciples magazine that is dedicated to you and your 40 years in pastoral ministry to New Psalmist Baptist Church.

Be Blessed,
Joi Thomas
COME WALK WITH ME
RUTH 1:16

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 25–27

2015 WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

WOMEN’S DAY IS JUNE 28TH

NEWPSALMIST.ORG /NEWPSALMIST /NEWPSALMIST NPBC /NEWPSALMISTTBG
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One way to honor Bishop Thomas, Sr. on the occasion of his 40th Pastoral Anniversary is to share the thoughts, memories and reflections of Deaconess Christina Johnson, a member of New Psalmist Baptist Church (NPBC) for more than 50 years. She laughed and smiled with joy while discussing Bishop Thomas and NPBC then and now.

Deaconess Johnson, her husband, and two daughters joined NPBC in 1960 when it was located at Druid Hill and North Avenues under the leadership of Pastor F.C. Atkins. Pastor Atkins died suddenly in 1975. Along came an energetic, full of vigor, spirit filled man of God — with lots of hair, Rev. Walter Scott Thomas, Sr. “He brought a unique preaching style,” said Deaconess Johnson, “and in less than five years, the church grew from 200 to 500 members (including other members of her own family who joined), and new ministries and auxiliaries were born,” she continued.

When NPBC relocated from Druid Hill and North Avenues to Franklin and Cathedral Streets in 1978, Deaconess Johnson’s fondest memory was the size of the new church with its big choir loft and long pews. She recalled how packed the church would be with parishioners from all over Baltimore and beyond. News spread quickly about this new preacher and how he was on fire for the Lord. She became a deaconess there.

Reminiscing about April 7, 1996, the day that NPBC’s motorcade travelled from Franklin and Cathedral Streets to the grand opening of NPBC located at 4501 ½ Old Frederick Road, Deaconess Johnson said, “there was plenty of excitement in the air among members on that rainy but glorious day – and even more excitement was felt as the church transitioned from Old Frederick Road to Marian Drive.”

“I enjoy Bishop Thomas’ fiery preaching as much now as I did back then. He is not only a pastor and preacher, but a dynamic teacher,” said Deaconess Johnson. Filled with gratitude and honor for Bishop Thomas, Deaconess Johnson’s final words in our discussion were for Bishop Thomas to keep on serving the Lord because his labor has not been, and will not ever be, in vain. She paraphrased I Corinthians 2:9, *Eyes have not seen nor ears heard the GREAT things God has prepared for you!*
“every time Bishop Thomas speaks from the pulpit, words are said that speak directly to one’s life.”
“We have a powerful leader who knows how to institute change,” said Sister Debra Godsey, member of New Psalmist Baptist Church (NPBC) for 48 years. She remembers going with her grandparents to NPBC when the congregation selected a new preacher in April 1975. Rev. Walter S. Thomas, Sr. was voted in as pastor and the church rapidly gained popularity as word spread of his powerful, easy-to-understand sermons. At age 17, Sister Godsey heard Rev. Thomas’ first sermon at North Avenue and Druid Hill. “He made the Word of God come alive for me,” she said.

Many sermons have resonated with Sister Godsey, but her testimony is that “every time Bishop Thomas speaks from the pulpit, words are said that speak directly to one’s life.” She said it is as though he has telepathy with people and has sat at our kitchen tables. He is truly an anointed pastor who God uses to speak to believers for God’s glory.

Sister Godsey shared memories of church anniversary dinners, and about witnessing the congregational growth phenomena at NPBC, from less than 200 members then, to more than 7000 now. She said that from edifice to edifice, people have been able to see God’s plan manifested in the steady progression of this Body of Christ. New Psalmist Baptist Church is a prime example of God’s favor.

The groundbreaking ceremony at the Holy City of Zion in fall 2010 was top of mind as Sister Godsey travelled down memory lane. In her eyes, when the Mayor of Baltimore and other local dignitaries joined the ribbon cutting, NPBC had reached its pinnacle.

To Bishop Thomas’ credit, NPBC is a trendsetting church. Literally, the world is watching what we have accomplished as a church and with 40 years of preaching under his belt; the next 40 years are likely to be as successful. “We take our queues from our leader,” Godsey said. “He is quick to address topics of the times and the impact they have on the church and our lives,” she continued. The analogy Sister Godsey made was that like any protective father of his child, Bishop Thomas is the father of our congregation, taking care to ensure our covering.

Sister Godsey believes that Bishop Thomas’ 40 years of setting examples for worshippers has yielded more mature believers whose lives have changed by his conveyance of the Word of God in “real” and relevant ways. New Psalmist members are empowered disciples who continue to minister like Jesus under Bishop Thomas’ leadership excellence.

Sister Godsey mentioned the Taking Charge campaign as one example of Bishop Thomas’ leadership skills. “Look at what we have been able to do with funds raised,” she said. In her opinion, the Taking Charge campaign has been successful because of the accountability Bishop Thomas imparted in ways we could understand and take ownership of our choices.

As Bishop Thomas celebrates his 40th pastoral anniversary, Sister Godsey’s prayer is that “the devil stays out of the details because we are marked for greatness.” Our church started in the basement of a house and emerged as a mega church. God trusted three pastors with this Body of Christ and as members, we strive to show God that we are trustworthy too. New Psalmist Baptist Church is still standing and prestigious in all of God’s glory. “That’s the relationship God has with our shepherd and his flock.”

Sister Debra Godsey is an empowering and anointed disciple who traditionally reads aloud the names of deceased NPBC members at the first and last Holy Communion services each year. This is an important role because calling the names of saints who have gone to be with the Lord awakens the spirit of loved ones left here on earth to mourn.
“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” - 2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV)
Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr. has manifested the spirit of this verse by guiding more than 20 sons and daughters in ministry to pastor their own churches. “Sons and daughters in ministry” are ordained ministers who have been called by God to pastor a church. How has he produced so many pastors? On the occasion of his 40th pastoral anniversary, he shared his thoughts on the subject.

**EDM:** Why do you think such a large number of your ministry sons and daughters have been called to pastor?

**Bishop:** They have caught the fire of what ministry is, and those who want ministry have seen it and asked them to come be with them. They have an enthusiasm and an excitement about serving God in ministry. They see it as a calling and not a profession.

**EDM:** How do you explain the large number of your ministry sons and daughters who’ve become very accomplished (bishops, pastors of large churches, churches with phenomenal growth, etc.)?

**Bishop:** They have worked at it. They put their A game into it. They have managed distractions. They stay focused, and they are committed to the A game.

**EDM:** How did you prepare your sons and daughters to pastor?

**Bishop:** Pushing them beyond what they think are their limits. Helping them understand who they are as individuals and people and helping them integrate their sense of who they are in the sense of their mission for God so that they are not a church person and another person, but just one person.

**EDM:** Do you feel a responsibility to your ministry sons and daughters who are now pastors? If yes, in what ways?

**Bishop:** Yes, I feel I have a responsibility to help them, help them grow and nurture in their ministries, and to still be their Pastor. That’s the title of a Bishop, a Pastor of Pastors.

**EDM:** In general describe your relationship with your ministry sons and daughters.

**Bishop:** It’s a good relationship. They know they can come to me and I’ll be there for them. They know that I love them. I can’t preach for them as often as I might like or would love to because it’s a lot of them and the time doesn’t permit, but the relationship is one of deep and mutual respect and trust.

**EDM:** What are some of the moments that make you most proud as a father in ministry watching your sons and daughters?

**Bishop:** Watching them among their people. Also, when I see them exercising their gifts and abilities and at the same time operating in the best of their humanness and seeing the people love it.

**EDM:** Considering the many ministers you’ve sent out to pastor from New Psalmist what goes through your mind when you consider the number of people influenced by your ministry?

**Bishop:** I look at how ministry is a tree, that Jesus is the seed, and all of us are just pushing out branches and branches off of branches making the tree as big as it can possibly be. I don’t look at the tree in connection to other branches. I just keep working to make sure our section of the tree is nice and fluffy.

A list of Bishop Thomas’ sons and daughters in ministry are listed on NPBC’s website at http://newpsalmist.org
About 40 years ago, I was privileged to meet, the newly appointed pastor of the New Psalmist Baptist Church, the Rev. Walter Scott Thomas as he was the guest preacher for The We Need Prayer Annual Prayer Breakfast sponsored by my mother, the late Rev. Dr. Mary Antoinette Phillips, in the basement of the Saint John A. M. E. Church. Much like Martha, I was busy in the kitchen scrambling eggs while he was burning, on the floor. Little did I know what a tremendous impact this young man would have in the future, on not just my life, but the lives of my entire family.

Some three years later, I was driven by the Holy Spirit to visit the new sanctuary of the New Psalmist Baptist Church. It was their 2nd Anniversary in their new home located at the corners of Franklin and Cathedral. After hearing the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ I joined the church. That same Sunday evening my son united with the church and one year later my husband joined us, even though he never missed a Sunday attending worship at our home church. Russell would faithfully go there at either 8 or 11 and worship with Jeff and I in the afternoon. Thus, Rev. Thomas became our family pastor.

I answered the call to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ after sitting under his prophetic and powerful preaching and teaching. He licensed me to preach and later ordained me to the Gospel Ministry. He also ordained my husband, Russell as a Deacon. I was so honored when Saint Mary’s Seminary chose my pastor, Rev. Dr. Walter S. Thomas to give the commencement address as an alumni at my graduation. In 1994 I was honored as Dr. Thomas installed me as the Pastor of the then, Remnant Baptist Church which made local history, as I became the first woman to be called to pastor an organized Baptist Church in the state of Maryland. On Sunday, February 1998, when Remnant relocated and became Greater Faith Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Walter S. Thomas preached our first afternoon service and became our first Guest Preacher and in a large way, The Father of the Greater Faith Baptist Church Family. More recently, he served as the Consecration Preacher and laid hands on me, as I was consecrated Executive Overseer of Sisters In Ministry, Inc.

He has not only been our Pastor, but our families became friends, eating Sunday afternoon dinners, traveling and even celebrating holidays and special occasions together. Russell and I were honored when he officiated the renewal of our vows for our 25th Wedding Anniversary. He married my son, Jeffrey and his wife, Donna and later licensed both of them to preach. He has blessed and baptized both of my grandchildren, Jeff Jr. and Dominique. He also eulogized both of my parents, the Late Rev. Dr. Mary Antoinette Phillips and the Late Bro. James L. Mosley. Finally, he was my boss when I was blessed to become the Administrator of The New Psalmist Christian School in 1984, which became the largest approved Christian school in the state of Maryland. Indeed, Bishop Thomas has been intricately involved in both my life and the lives of all of my family.

Over the past four decades, we have come to respect his commitment and compassion for the things of God, appreciate his generosity and admire his intellectual genius. He has stood as a role model of spiritual integrity and excellence in the Kingdom. He’s an example of a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and son. But, for my family and I, he has been a trusted and loyal “FRIEND”.

Few people have impacted my life, as much as Bishop Walter S. Thomas. Throughout the past four decades, he has sown into my life by loving me, nurturing me, encouraging me, praying for and with me, and speaking into my life. That’s why, I thank my God for every remembrance of him.

Today, I salute you, Bishop Walter S. Thomas and may your later days be even greater than your former days.

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP THOMAS AND THANK YOU FOR OPENING YOUR HEART TO INCLUDE MY FAMILY AND I IN YOUR LIFE.

With Love and Appreciation, Leah
“These are his sheep who continue to remember how Bishop strengthened and grounded them in their faith and commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
KEPT FOR THE MASTER’S USE: “Keep my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose”
- Arthur, Frances Ridley Havergal

Bishop Walter Scott Thomas Sr. truly displays the character of a leader being “Kept For The Master’s Use”. He pastors, teaches the word of God as well as enriched imparted skills to men and women of all ages. At the New Psalmist Baptist Church, he encourages his members to achieve their highest spiritual goals, and helps to prepare them to find and use their special gifts for works of service within and outside of the body of Christ. Always striving to “make life better for someone else” is the key principle emphasized regardless of the subject matter of his teaching and lecturing.

Bishop Thomas’ outstanding leadership and timeless loyalty to his own gifts of teaching and mentoring others has allowed him to sow into the lives of a commissioned group of men and women appointed as pastors and bishops. Referred to as the “Sons and Daughters” of the New Psalmist Baptist Church they have been called into service at other churches within and outside the state of Maryland. These are his sheep who continue to remember how Bishop strengthened and grounded them in their faith and commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As it is written in Ephesians 4:11, 12: “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God” (NIV).

When asked to reflect on their relationship with Bishop Thomas as he celebrates his 40 Years of Service, this is what they had to say:

“40 Years of outstanding service. When I think about the remarkable journey of my Pastor, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., the following words come to mind: Encourager, Enthusiastic and Educator. Thank you, Sir, for being a positive source of inspiration, and for pushing me and others to become all that God has designed us to be. You are indeed an Epic Leader”.
- Bishop Oscar E. Brown
First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church, Linthicum MD.

“The number 40 has great spiritual significance in the Bible and you have made significant contributions in the lives of so many. I am eternally grateful for the deposits you have made in my life and ministry. Congratulations and thank you for modeling what faithful leadership looks like”.
- Bishop Heber M. Brown II
Shiloh Baptist Church of Baltimore County

“Today I salute Bishop Walter S. Thomas for forty years of pastoral ministry. Congratulations Bishop. You have been my pastor for thirty-one years and I praise God for each moment you have shepherded me. Over that time, you have given me many nuggets of truth that blessed my life and enhanced my ministry. Here is one: “Do not let anything dead kill you”. Thank you for your wit and wisdom, God bless you Bishop.
- Love, Reverend Terry G. Thornton
Sweet Hope Free Will Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD

Bishop Thomas has taught and mentored more than twenty men and women (including his oldest son Walter S. Thomas Jr.) who have been called to be pastors at other churches. A list of all of the Sons and Daughters along with the names of their individual churches can be found on the web site www.newpsalmist.org, click About Us.
How do you start your day?
I start my day reflecting on the day before and anticipating the new day.

When did you realize that preaching was truly your calling?
I was going to New Shiloh Baptist Church and working for the phone company when I began understanding that the stuff I had studied in school was only part of the human problem. The basis of the human problem was spiritual.

How did you feel the very first time someone referred to you as, Pastor Thomas?
Strange, because it meant that I was responsible for them.

What was the title of your first sermon?
Ecclesiastes 12:1. I think the sermon was called, “A Time to Remember.”

How much time do you spend on writing your sermons?
At least a week.

How do you keep your stamina to preach three sermons every Sunday?
Exercise! I don’t do a lot of extraneous stuff before I preach. I don’t believe in burning out before a major event. I rest up on Saturdays. I don’t hang out with negative people and I don’t entertain serious issues. It’s like training or getting ready for a big race, I minimize distractions.

Does your voice ever get hoarse from preaching so often, and is there anything you do to protect it?
Yes, I drink plenty of water and try to be mindful of how I’m using my voice because it’s an instrument that can be abused. I try to give it a rest when I can.

How do you come up with the brilliant ideas and initiatives for NPBC?
I look at what we need and think outside of the box. I talk to other persons and ruminate over ideas and try to find novel ways of expressing them. Also, I synthesize ideas; hook stuff together and see how it can flow in a new way. I know that this is one of my God-given gifts.

How does being a bishop differ from being a pastor?
As a bishop, I’m responsible for the care of other pastors who have care of their own flocks – this is a constant awareness. As a pastor, I was responsible only for my local church.

What does the red attire and gold chain that you wear represent?
The red attire is the symbol of the Presiding Bishop, leader and caretaker for the other bishops. The cross and chain represent the ecumenical office.

Who are your heroes and why?
The late Dr. Harold Carter, Sr., Dr. Alfred Vaughn, Dr. Gardner Taylor, Dr. Samuel Procter, Dr. William March, Congressman Cummings and Arnold Williams. I name these heroes because they are [were] the best at what they do [did] and they never stopped being the best. They persevered against all odds, and they are good people.

Who are your favorite authors?
I have so many but to name a few; William Barclay, Henry Cloud and John Townsend – these authors often write together, and I also read books by Frank Peretti.
How many books have you written and what are the names of your books?

What is one of your favorite scriptures?
Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many Advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)

Have you ever taken singing lessons?
No.

How old were you when you learned to play the piano?
Maybe 10 or 12, or younger.

Do you like to exercise and do you take vacations?
Yes, and yes.

How do you overcome bad days?
Work through them; keep pressing forward.

What concerns you most about the members of NPBC?
That they endure struggles silently and alone; some are equipped to handle struggles alone but others really are not.

Looking ahead to the next decade, where do you see yourself and NPBC?
Hopefully, we will serve people at a much stronger level. Having learned how to minister in the 21st century, we can build upon the foundation instead of continuing to build the foundation.
“We know Lady Thomas, as an awesome Woman of God, a supportive wife, great mother, and loving grandmother”
In 1975 Bishop (then Rev.) Walter Thomas was called as Pastor of New Psalmist. In 1976, he married Patricia G. Lyles, and gave New Psalmist a First Lady. For 39 years, Lady Thomas has been in the trenches with Bishop Thomas, working by his side, praying for him, and encouraging her church family. We know Lady Thomas, as an awesome Woman of God, a supportive wife, great mother, and loving grandmother. We love to see her beautiful hats each Sunday, and we listen intently whenever she addresses us as a church family. We took some time to ask Lady Thomas a few questions to hear her thoughts about being first lady of New Psalmist.

How did it feel your first Sunday at New Psalmist?
I felt at home. I was determined not to join until the spirit led me to join, and that’s what I did. Once I joined I was involved in the music ministry.

Have you grown as a first lady?
Yes, I’ve learned that I don’t need to be so cautious and paranoid about what others thought I should be doing. With the help of the Lord and members I started growing and evolving into the First Lady I am today.

As a mother, how did you find balance with church and rearing your children?
Prioritizing. Sometimes they came first, sometimes church came first, sometimes my husband came first. I wear many many hats and I had to know which one to wear at what time. In my later years I learned even sometimes I can come first.

What are some of your fond memories of New Psalmist through the years?
Friendship and fellowship. The sisterhoods that I have developed, and Sunday morning worship. The music of the church always uplifts me.

Do you have a favorite sermon preached by your husband?
It would be hard to pick just one. They all seem to have a special nugget just for me.

What is some advice you would give another First Lady just starting out in ministry?
First of all love husband and family, follow his leadership and remember there is always a time and a season for everything even your dreams and goals. God has you in that position for a very special reason. Never clash or smother what God is doing with and for your husband. You are special to God just as your husband is. Think of how parents love each one of their children, that’s how God loves us.

Is there anything you would like to say to the New Psalmist Family on this historic occasion?
I want to thank New Psalmist for supporting my husband and following his leadership in all areas. I want to thank them for loving my family, and supporting us through life’s ups and downs with their love and prayers. We are such a blessed church because we are obedient to God through his servant. New Psalmist has helped me become the woman I am today. I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful loving church family.
• Received the call to be the next Pastor of NPBC
• Easter Sunday, first time preaching at NPBC
• Rev. Thomas took over as Pastor of NPBC
• Rev. Thomas is ordained
• Installed as Pastor of NPBC
• Division of Health Services begins
• Board of Educational Ministries begins

• Went to Liberia to preach for the Progressive National Baptist Convention
• First son in Ministry, Rev. Wayne Scott goes out to Pastor
• New Psalmist Christian School was founded
• President of the Baptist Minister Conference
• Began the One in the Spirit Crusade with Bishop John R. Bryant
• Wrote the book Spiritual Navigation for the 21st Century
• Wrote the book Good Meat Makes Its Own Gravy

• Licensed first Associate Minister-Min. David Major
• Church wide Institute began
• Received Masters of Divinity degree
• Married Patricia Grace Lyles

• Morning preacher for Hampton Ministers Conference
• Lecturer for Hampton Ministers Conference

• Joshua Thomas was born

• Licensed first Associate Minister-Min. David Major
• Church wide Institute began
•Received Masters of Divinity degree
• Married Patricia Grace Lyles

• New Psalmist moved to Franklin and Cathedral Street
• Radio broadcast begins

• Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors is born
• Consecrated as Bishop and Presiding Prelate of Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors

• Wrote the book Good Meat Makes Its Own Gravy

• Church wide Institute began
• Licensed first Associate Minister-Min. David Major

• Consecrated as Bishop and Presiding Prelate of Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors
• Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors is born

• New Psalmist moved to Franklin and Cathedral Street
• Radio broadcast begins

• Consecrated as Bishop and Presiding Prelate of Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors
• Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors is born
- Noonday service begins
- Walter Thomas, Jr is born
- NPBC experiences explosive growth
- Church moves to 4501 1/2 Old Frederick Road
- Bishop records his first Sermon to CD in a studio- Get Up and Shout
- Moved to the 6020 Marian Drive, the Holy City of Zion campus
- 8 am service begins
- Purchased 4501 Old Frederick Road
- First Men’s Conference
- First Young Adult Congress
- Empowering Disciples National Television Broadcast begins
- 9:30 a.m. service is added
- President Clinton visits NPBC
- Millenium Conference begins
- Second Grandchild was born- Wayne Dudley, III
- Received his Doctorate in Ministry
- Watch Night and Easter services held at the Baltimore Arena
- First Women’s Conference
- First Grandchild was born- Lillian Thomas
- Second Grandchild was born- Wayne Dudley, III
- Spoke at Windsor Castle, representing all the world’s major religions on Faith and Conservation

- Church wide institute becomes Faith Conference
- Became a certified personal and executive coach
- Received an award for 7 year plan on how to care for God’s creation at Windsor Castle in London, from Prince Phillip and Sec. General of the United Nation Ban Ki-moon
- Discipleship begins
- Went to South Africa to be the conference preacher for the National Baptist Convention
- First Men’s Conference
- First Young Adult Congress
- Empowering Disciples National Television Broadcast begins
- First Women’s Conference
- First Grandchild was born- Lillian Thomas
- Second Grandchild was born- Wayne Dudley, III
- Spoke at Windsor Castle, representing all the world’s major religions on Faith and Conservation
- Second Grandchild was born- Ava Thomas
- Fourth Grandchild was born- Walter Thomas, III
- Represented the Christian Faith at the Traditions for the Future Culture: Faith and Values for Sustainable Planning conference in Ise, Japan
- Third Grandchild was born - Ava Thomas
- Watch Night and Easter services held at the Baltimore Arena
Famous “quotes” from BISHOP WALTER S. THOMAS, SR.’S SERMONS

By: Teresa Hall

Over the years Bishop Thomas has preached thousands of sermons. I have been a member of New Psalmist for quite some time, and am always blessed by our pastor’s sermons. Below are quotes from his sermons that I have collected through the years.

“All of us dream, but most of us don’t believe dreams. God says I’ll speak to you but you have to discern in your own spirit whether it is me.”

“All you need is one word spoken from the Lord.”

“Before you can serve the Lord with power, you must have some confidence.”

“Before you fall apart, fall on your knees.”

“Bring your A game. You were recruited high. God drafted you in the first five picks.”

“Bring your pain and sufferings to the Master. The Master will deal with it. Bring your disappointment and despair to the cross where you see nails in my hand.”

“Consecration is not just about your actions. It is about your attitude. It’s not about the oil on your head but the oil in your heart.”

“Don’t let anyone take your hope away from you.”

“Empower us to be more like Jesus.”

Everybody will get older. The only way you won’t is if you die young.”

“Fear is about the unknown. Favor is about the known. Look at the historical evidence that the Lord has been on your side.”

“God has to raise up somebody sometimes to walk by you to show you what you should do.”

“God is always demanding or forcing us to do things. He will force us to put up or shut up.”

“God is going to bless you because of your obedience.”

“God is holding you, keeping you, and working things out. I don’t have to see evidence, because evidence is in me.”

“God will only tell you so much. God requires that we do some higher thinking. God will force us to evaluate some evidence and draw some conclusions. He will give you a little bit and the rest you have to work out.”

“House, you have to serve God, Job, you have to serve God, Neighborhood, you have to serve God, Family, you have to serve God.”

“I love to see the children in church. They want to come to church. They want to be involved.”

“If you train your children right, they will go farther than you.”

“If you want to feel good, you have to have some accomplishments.”

“If you want to get out of hell, you better find Jesus quick, fast, and in a hurry.”

“It’s not about how smart you are, but about how strong you are.”

“Keep your ears up for a word spoken from the Lord. One Word!”

“Life is difficult to say the least. Life has tremendous power, accumulated, circumstantial, situational events.”

“Life is short on giving us instructions. We are taught how to read and write, but no one teaches a class on how to treat people, how to care for people, how to be nice to people. We are living without direction and we don’t know what to do.”

“Move from defeat and desperation to anticipation and expectation.”

“Our days are not spent by happen stance. There is something purposeful behind our living.”

“Our God is able to deliver us.”

“Our problem is not with being blessed, but how we handle our blessings.”

“Out of our relationships with God, we have certain things. Jesus makes it simple.”

“Situations have a way of making us rethink our decisions.”

“Something happens when you connect yourself with God.”

“Strife in your mind produces tension. Tension creates confusion and confusion will take your peace every time.”
“Before you fall apart, fall on your knees.”

“The adversary is going to attack where he first makes you weak. He is never going to attack where you stay strong.”

“The controversial Christ, the unconquerable Christ, nobody takes him out!”

“The first work God did in me was to save me. Ever since I met Him, He has been showing me what love means.”

“The thing to be afraid of is the attack of who you are in Jesus Christ.”

“There is a solution to every problem. It is spelled J-E-S-U-S.”

“When it came to building this House, it was God doing the heavy lifting. God said if I give you the vision, I’ll give you the provision. The heavy lifting in your life and my life has been done by God.”

“When the God who created heaven and earth is on your side and talking in your ear, you can shout and get happy. You can stand your ground.”

“You are picky and you are choosy. When you know your self-worth, you will know that certain people can’t afford you.”

“You don’t need a Ph.D. to be wise.”

“You must be a public worshipper. You must be involved somewhere.”

“You ought to know something now that you didn’t know earlier. Wisdom will help you understand life.”
BISHOP WALTER S. THOMAS, SR.

Bishop Thomas answered the same questions that are featured in the Minister of the Month section of most editions of Empowering Disciples Magazine (EDM). In commemoration of his 40th pastoral anniversary, EDM shines the spotlight on Bishop Thomas:

1. WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU DON’T HAVE ON YOUR MINISTERIAL COLLAR?
I like to watch television, go to the movies, exercise and spend time with family.

2. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE GOING INTO THE MINISTRY?
Work hard, pray sincerely and always bring your A-game.

3. WHAT IS YOUR “PASSION” IN MINISTRY? WHY?
To see people change their lives, because changed lives change the world.

4. WHAT MOTIVATES YOU FOR MINISTRY?
Knowing that this is a new day with God; a new activity with God; and a new experience with God motivates me for ministry – the whole sense of excitement about the novel.

5. WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT MINISTRY?
I enjoy teaching and preaching then seeing its effects in the lives of people.
What have other Pastors & Preachers said about BISHOP WALTER S. THOMAS, SR.?

From Dr. Charles Booth at the first Revival at the Holy City of Zion, November 28, 2010:
“You ought to be proud today that the Lord has given you such a visionary leader. God has given you a jewel in Bishop Thomas. The hand of the Lord is upon him and this great church.”
“There is no other church, African-American, in history during a recessional period that has done what you have done. God specializes in the impossible.”

From Bishop Claude Alexander at the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors Annual Conference, Turning the World Upside Down, NPBC – July 11, 2011:
“For twenty years, I have been blessed by a man of integrity; a man of faith. I thank God for such an investment in my life.”

From Dr. Harold Carter, Sr. at Holy Communion, NPBC – January 5, 2012:
“Thank God for this miracle church. Thank God for this miracle pastor!”

From Dr. Harold Carter, Sr. at the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors Annual Conference, The Case for Integrity, NPBC, July 18, 2012:
“Walter, when you go there for the first six months, don’t change anything because you are the only one who don’t like it. Don’t change nothing, just preach. Preach on Sunday morning. Preach your way into their hearts.”

From Pastor Clifford M. Johnson at Holy Communion, NPBC – March 12, 2015:
“Bishop Thomas, you have such a spirit of excellence.”

From Bishop T.D. Jakes:
“Dr. Walter Thomas is an amazing blessing to the Body of Christ.”

From Rev. James Green:
“We have the greatest Pastor and First Lady.”
It is an honor to celebrate Bishop Walter S. Thomas for 40 years of Pastoral Ministry. April 19th is the Sunday we come together and celebrate through worship, but it is the kick off to a year long celebration. Make sure to check the anniversary website all year long for updates and additional events. Plan now to attend these events and visit the anniversary website at www.bishopthomas40.com.
LIST OF EVENTS FOR THE
Anniversary Season

The Legacy Celebration – Anniversary Day – 19 April 2015

Honoring the Legacy – The Legacy Wall – 19 April 2015
Stop by the Legacy Walls at Entrance 2, 4 and balcony center to check out the images showcasing Bishop Thomas and his legacy.

Building a Lasting Legacy – Educational Legacy – Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr. Scholarship at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute – April 2015
An Annual Four year Scholarship for a graduating senior of Baltimore’s Polytechnic High School (Poly) has been established in honor of Bishop Thomas. He attended and graduated from Poly at a time when the school was transitioning slowly to the acceptance of minorities among its student population. His success as a student is evidenced by the fact that he graduated with honors in his class. As an Alum, he now Pastors the New Psalmist Baptist Church, and he’s probably the most well-known graduate of his generation, still making an impact in the Baltimore Community.

Legacy Exhibit – Museum Legacy – 18 July 2015
A museum boasting items from NPBC and Bishop Thomas’ collection will be on display. These items will be reminiscent of a period spanning 40 years and 4 locations of the NPBC. The museum will be erected on the Holy City of Zion Campus and will be open from July - November 2015.

The Golf Classic was established to fund the Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr. Scholarship Fund. The event will take place at the Turf Valley Country Club, Ellicott City, MD and is open to all golf enthusiasts. (Ticketed)

Honoring the Legacy – The Bishop’s Cup – 26 Sept 2015
The Bishop’s Cup is a 5K Fun Run/Walk for the entire family. The objective, to provide health and wellness through physical fitness; create a healthy living activity in honor of Bishop’s 40th Anniversary and to support Crohn’s disease and Breast Cancer Awareness. (Ticketed)

The “Talk” television show set comes to New Psalmist Baptist Church. The Chat & Chew event is in honor of First Lady Patricia Thomas and will be an audience driven talk show with a few of First Lady’s favorite things. Enjoy samples of food, decorating tips and discussions about faith and family. Hosted by the Thomas Klan- (Walter, Joshua, Joi, Jarrette, Candice) with special guests appearances. Let’s Chat & Chew! (Ticketed)

Honoring the Legacy – Legacy, Honors, Achievement: Honors “Purple Carpet” Event – 30 October 2015
A Purple Carpet event. An evening of Elegance in celebration of Bishop and First Lady Thomas. The evening will boast tributes and performances from NPBC members, Son and Daughter of NPBC ministry and featured artist both national and local. (Ticketed)

Legacy Continues – TBA Events in 2016
- Honoring the Legacy – Culminating Celebration Party (Ticketed)
- The Legacy – Documentary with a Premier Showing (Ticketed)

If you would like to help plan one of these events, email the anniversary committee at info@bishopthomas40.com
## APRIL 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/19/15, Sun</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Bishop Thomas’s 40th Pastoral Anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/26/15, Sun</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Worship with Sweet Hope Baptist Church</td>
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## MAY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/3/15, Sat</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3/15, Sun</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Ushers 115th Anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6,13,20,27/15, Wed</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Destiny Women’s Ministry Prayer &amp; Worship Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/7/15, Thur</td>
<td>6:45pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/10/15, Thur</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16/15, Sat</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Discipleship Prayer Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/17/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Young Adult Day - Rev. Dharius Daniels, preaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/17/15, Sun</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Baby Blessings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19/15, Wed</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Barnabas Celebration of Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/23/15, Wed</td>
<td>8:30am - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Business Owners Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/24/15, Wed</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Installation Service – Rev. Walter Thomas, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/24/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pentecost Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Day [Building CLOSED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/29/15, Thur</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Discipleship Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/15, Sat</td>
<td>1:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Business Owners Fair</td>
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## JUNE 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/6/15, Sat</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/15, Sat</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Leadership Meeting w/Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/15, Sat</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crohn’s &amp; Colitis Walk [Offsite Location]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Church 116th Anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/11/15, Thur</td>
<td>6:45pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/14/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Children’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/14/15, Sun</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Baby Blessings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/21/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/25-27/15, Thur-Sat</td>
<td>Women’s Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/28/15, Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29-7/17/15 Mon-Fri</td>
<td>9:00am - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Vacation Bible School / Choose to Be Great Camp</td>
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## JULY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/3/15, Fri</td>
<td></td>
<td>Building CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/4/15, Sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independence Day [Building CLOSED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8/15, Wed</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/9/15, Thur</td>
<td>6:45pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion [Rev. Carl Solomon, preaching]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/19/15, Sun</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Baby Blessings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/21-23/15 Tues-Thur</td>
<td></td>
<td>KACP Conference [KACP 10th Anniversary]</td>
</tr>
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**Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Operating Officer</td>
<td>Odell Dickerson, Jr. <a href="mailto:odickerson@newpsalmist.org">odickerson@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Music</td>
<td>J.D. Alston ext-3023 <a href="mailto:jdalston@newpsalmist.org">jdalston@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Outreach</td>
<td>Alfred Bailey ext-3193 <a href="mailto:abailey@newpsalmist.org">abailey@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Relations and Promotions</td>
<td>Joi Thomas ext-3015 <a href="mailto:joi@newpsalmist.org">joi@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Assistant to the Office of the Bishop</td>
<td>Deaconess Renita Fulton ext-3018 <a href="mailto:rfulton@newpsalmist.org">rfulton@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Congregational Care</td>
<td>James Green ext-3042 <a href="mailto:jjgreen@newpsalmist.org">jjgreen@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Discipleship</td>
<td>Monique Lemmon ext-3043 <a href="mailto:mlemmon@newpsalmist.org">mlemmon@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Administrator</td>
<td>Deaconess Linda Harris ext-3024 <a href="mailto:lharris@newpsalmist.org">lharris@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administrator</td>
<td>Janine Hawes ext-3002 <a href="mailto:jhawes@newpsalmist.org">jhawes@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Worship Arts</td>
<td>Tamba Giles ext-3195 <a href="mailto:tgiles@newpsalmist.org">tgiles@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Family Wholeness</td>
<td>Dianne Roberts ext-3192 <a href="mailto:droberts@newpsalmist.org">droberts@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Counseling</td>
<td>Angela Smith ext-3039 <a href="mailto:asmith@newpsalmist.org">asmith@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Audio, Video and Media</td>
<td>Joshua Thomas ext-3020 <a href="mailto:jthomas@newpsalmist.org">jthomas@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Services</td>
<td>Holly Archer ext-3025 <a href="mailto:harcher@newpsalmist.org">harcher@newpsalmist.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women in Worship

Wednesdays in May at 6:45 PM

Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr., Pastor • 6020 Marian Drive Baltimore, MD 21215

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