



RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER
GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPITIVE PURPOSE
FEBRUARY 2026

**"A Century of Black History
Commemorations"**





Contents

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 6

Lenten Season 2026	1
Ash Wednesday	2
Heart of Love	3
God Is Our Strength, Rock, and Shield	4
Manifestation Gifts	5
Black History of Health	8
Happy Birthday to You	9
Meetings and Rehearsals	10

LENTEN SEASON 2026

**Wednesday,
February 18
through
Thursday,
April 2**





ASH WEDNESDAY

**Mortality, Humility,
Repentance, and Hope**

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

February 18, 2026

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

HEART OF LOVE

Heavenly Father, we love you, adore you, and praise you. Lord God, I pray for more love in this nation; I rebuke and bind up all the hate, evil, and wickedness.

Your words teach us that we should love each other. Lord, help us to remember your Word as we go about our daily lives.

Lord, you have demonstrated your love for us while we are still sinners. Your Word shows us that love is patient and kind. It is not envious, boastful, and proud. Nor does love dishonor others, is self-seeking, or easily angered,

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that the life that we live should reflect your Word. This will come if we spend time in your Word--learning what you want us to do.

Lord, I am convinced that neither death nor life, Angel nor demon, the present nor the future, height nor depth, or anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from your love that is in Christ Jesus as we walk in obedience to your commandments.

We thank you; in the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Sis. Bonnett Nash

MONDAY'S PRAYER

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH, ROCK, AND SHIELD

Lord, it's another day's journey, and I'm glad about it. I'm glad to be alive and to be able to give you all praises and honor this day.

In our going and coming, the good and the bad, our soul depends on your everlasting presence. You are our strength, our rock and shield--an everlasting presence in the times of our storms.

Lord, this world is a place of uncertainties, injustices, sins, and shames. Lord, the only certainty is that you are omnipresent and omnipotent. It is only you that we can lean and depend on to see us through. Lord, it's no doubt for me as to where my/our help comes from.

Thank you, Lord, for our "Daily Bread."
Thank you for our slumber and sleep, for

"Watch Angels," and for our being: our existence. Lord, if I had ten thousand tongues, it wouldn't be enough.

Thank you, Lord, for your Son, Jesus, who made a way so that mankind could have an opportunity for eternal life, for all who "Believe."

Now, Lord, as we move about this day, let us not forget about praying for one another, our children, the sick and shut in, the incarcerated, and the ones that don't know what God can do in their lives--for when prayers go up, blessings come down.

For it is in His "Holy Name," I do pray.

Amen.

Deacon Wallace E. Dinkins

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Manifestation Gifts

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God.” --1 Peter 4:10

The Biblical Origin and Foundation of Spiritual Gifts

The idea of spiritual gifts, and specifically the "gifts from the Holy Spirit," really comes from the core teachings found in the New Testament. Essentially, these gifts are special abilities that the Holy Spirit gives to believers in Jesus Christ. They're meant to help each person play their unique role within the Church, the body of Christ.

The most significant New Testament event that marks the origin of these gifts is the Day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2. This is when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples after Jesus' ascension.

The outpouring of the Spirit was accompanied by miraculous signs, including speaking in tongues, which enabled the disciples to speak in languages they had not previously learned. This event signified the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (such as Joel 2:28-29) and Jesus' promises about the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7) of God's power.

(continued, next page)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Manifestation Gifts, continued

9 Manifestations of the Holy Spirit

- A message of wisdom
- A message of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healing
- Miraculous powers
- Prophecy
- Distinguishing between spirits
- Speaking in different types of tongues
- The interpretation of tongues

These manifestation gifts are how God works through us bringing joy and fruitfulness in every one of our lives.

WISDOM -- has supernatural insight, helping others to understand complex things; the ability to resolve life's problems and sort out difficult situations through the application of biblical truth (Cor 12:8-12).

KNOWLEDGE -- has ability in accumulating information and facts, the ability to understand biblical truth with unusual clarity and insight; has information that can only be revealed by God for the purpose of applying doctrinal truth; a revelation of information for a person, group, or situation that could not have been known by any natural means.

FAITH -- the ability to envision God's purposes and exhibit unusual confidence in His power to carry them out; has supernatural faith given by the Spirit to receive miracles or to believe God for miracles; the kind of wonder-working faith that moves mountains and waits expectantly for results.

(continued, next page)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Manifestation Gifts, continued

HEALING -- the divine enablement to be God's channel to restore people to health, also brings glory to God (Acts 3: 1-9). This is supernatural healing, beyond natural means, given by the Spirit; the many different ways and varieties of degrees in which God manifests healings.

WISDOM -- has supernatural insight, helping others to understand complex things, the ability to resolve life's problems and sort out difficult situations through the application of biblical truth; a revelation of wisdom beyond natural human wisdom that enables a person to know what to do or say.

MIRACLES -- to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin. God working through the believer's faith, used to bring glory to the Father in heaven; the demonstration of the power and action of God that goes beyond natural ways.

PROPHECY - the special ability to "receive divine revelations from God to be communicated back to His people"; an anointed proclamation of God through an individual to encourage, exhort or comfort.

DISCERNMENT -- the special ability to distinguish spiritually between good and evil, genuine and false; a person's ability to perceive what type of spirit is in operation in a given situation.

TONGUES -- to speak in a language not previously learned, so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or for the body of Christ to be edified; the languages, directed to God, given to the believer by the Holy Spirit but not learned or understood by the speaker.

INTERPRETATION -- to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues; the supernatural ability to express the content of what has been spoken in tongues.

Source: Fortune, Don and Katie. 2009. *Discover Your God-Given Gifts*.

HEALTH



Check out BlackDoctor.org (<https://blackdoctor.org/5-milestones-in-black-health-history/>) for “5 Milestones in Black Health History,” which consists of the following topics:

- The Tuskegee Syphilis Study
- The Legacy of Henrietta Lacks
- The National Medical Association
- Sickle Cell Disease Research and Screening
- Impact of COVID-19

Check out BlackDoctor.org for [Disparities Go Back To Slavery](#).| [Discovered Truth: Full Documentary](#).





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

*May the Lord bless you abundantly on
your special day and guide your steps in
the year ahead. Happy Birthday,
beloved in Christ!*

MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS

Meetings and rehearsals will be held as scheduled, Monday through Saturday.

Morning Prayer

Monday–Friday, 6:30am

Deacon Ministry

Thursday, Before 1st Sunday, 6pm

Brotherhood

2nd Saturday, 9am

Inspirational Choir

Wednesday, 6pm

Tuesday Bible Study

6pm, via Zoom & Conference Call

Ministers & Deacons Spouses Ministry

3rd Saturday, 12pm

Pastor's Aide Ministry

2nd Saturday, 11am

Senior Missionary Ministry

2nd Saturday, 12pm

Scriptural Presentations

Thursday, 6pm

Young Women's Auxiliary

1st Saturday, 10am

Trustee Ministry

2nd Wednesday, 6pm

Winter Months, TBA

Public Relations Ministry

1st Tuesday, 7pm, Zoom

Public Relations Committee

Wallace Dinkins

President and Editor

Alvenia Drakeford Dinkins

Web Editor/Content Manager

Myra C. Wright

Connectional Contributor/Secretary

Nancy Dinkins

YouTube Video Specialist

Emma Dinkins-Jackson

Health & Wellness Specialist

Bonnett Nash

Researcher/Chaplain

Nylasia Alston

Video Specialist

Julia Dinkins

Graphic Designer/Content Creator

Molasia Singleton

Graphic Designer/Content Creator



RAFTING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

GROWING AS A CHURCH WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE

**Join us on Sunday for Sunday Church School at 9AM (in person) and
worship service at 10AM (in person or via Facebook livestream).**

Web: www.raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org

Email: prcommittee@raftingcreekbaptistchurch.org

Telephone: 803-432-5411

Facebook: www.facebook.com/raftingcreekbaptistchurch/

The Rev. Melvin Mack, Pastor



