G. T. A. H.

Volume 6 Issue 12

(Great Things Are Happening)

December 2018

Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr. First Lady Michelle Wilson Clarke



Assistant Pastor Teddy Madison Lady Jae' Madison



~ MISSION STATEMENT~

"To draw people to Christ, maximize our potential and creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community."

809 South Davis Drive Warner Robins, GA 31088

Fax:

f

Phone: (478) 922-6997

(478) 923-6551



E-mail: <u>UnionGrov1@aol.com</u>
Web: <u>www.thegrovewr.org</u>

~ December Calendar of Events ~			
1	Andrews/Stiggers Wedding, S & VC	TBA	
1	Security Training, HOP #3	9:00 a.m.	
4	Vessels of Honor, S	4:00 p.m.	
5	No New Members Class except on Sundays for December		
6	Voices of Prayer & Praise, S	12:00 p.m.	
7	Marriage Ministry Christmas Fellowship, VC	7:00 p.m.	
8	Golden Achievers Meeting Cancelled for December		
9	Pastor Clarke's 16th Anniversary	10:15 a.m.	
11 - January 2 Christmas Holidays, Church Office Closed			
13	Voices of Prayer & Praise, S	12:00 p.m.	
13	2019 Budget Call Meeting, S	7:00 p.m.	
16	Union Grove Scholarship Pageant Meeting after church		
17	Women's Christmas Social VC	7:00 p.m.	
19	Sounds Of The Season, S	7:00 p.m.	
21	MOTRvators Ministry, VC	TBA	
23	Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday, S	10:15 a.m.	
28	Friday Night Fire/Open Mic Night, VC	TBA	
28	Night of Prayer, S	10:00 p.m.	
31	Watch Night Service, Green Grove BC	10:00 p.m.	
31	FLAVA Watch Night After Party, VC	12:00 p.m.	

Merry Christmas

Church Service Hours



Sunday Morning Prayer 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Midday Manna 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Manna 7:00 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Additional Church Hours

Monday - Thursday 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



~ VISION STATEMENT ~

"To be a global network of learning, loving and life transforming ministries where hungry worshippers are discovering and walking in their God-given purpose with exceeding great joy".



~ From the Pastor ~

My dearest Union Grove family,

Grace and peace to each of you. God deserves the glory for what our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and what our hearts have felt this past year and throughout our 16 year journey. God is good and greatly to be praised!

I must express my gratitude to my lovely wife of 30 years, Michelle Wilson Clarke, for her undying love and support. To share this journey with her means so much. The Lord is using her at Union Grove and it is definitely making an indelible mark. We are blessed to have her as our First Lady.

I'm grateful for my children being present to celebrate this occasion with us. Janelle, Tenisha, and David II have grown

up and are making their own respective marks in the world. Union Grove, you have helped us mold and shape them into the trailblazers they have become. I've said it before and it warrants repeating: Michelle and I are forever grateful for the village you have provided for our children.

Shepherding the flock of God can be a very interesting endeavor, to say the least. But, having genuine, incredible people around me makes it very fulfilling and fruitful. I want to express my appreciation to our Assistant Pastor, Teddy Madison and his lovely bride, Jae', our full time staff, elders, vision leaders, ministers, deacons, trustees, and sub-ministry leaders for all their support. My life and our church are enriched because of them.

One thing that makes this anniversary special is our guest speaker, my spiritual father, Charles Reynolds. I have been undeservedly blessed with a spectacular biological father who now rests with the Lord. Other father figures have come into my life as well. But, my "Dad", Charles Reynolds has poured so much into my life that he has significantly impacted the way I think and lead. We are blessed to have him share this momentous occasion with us today.

Union Grove, in our next year together, I am trusting God to deepen our relationship with Him. My hope is to continue the monthly corporate fasts as one of many means toward this end. I also trust God to deepen the connections amongst our parishioners. I applaud the initiatives of various generations to connect with one another through fun and fellowship. I trust the Lord to bring us closer together so we can meet the emotional needs of our church like never before.

During these next 12 months, we will also upgrade our outreach efforts to our local and global communities. We currently have what we need to make this happen. The Lord is already working this out before our eyes. As we continue to align ourselves with Him, He will use us to draw people to Himself and meet the physical and emotional needs of our community.

I thank God for 16 wonderful years with you, Union Grove. I'm excited about our future. Let's continue to learn, serve, give, and connect and God will do exceeding abundantly above all we could ask or think.

Growing in grace,

Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr.

#sweetsixteen



\sim First Sunday \sim





If your relationship with Christ is real,

- 1) Watch your language.
- 2) Watch out for the less fortunate.
- 3) Watch your life style.





#
U
P
G
R
A
D

 \mathbf{E}







~ Veterans Day Service ~

"Fight On!"

Matt. 11:12

Minister Bridgette Oglesby

Learn - Serve - Give - Connect

























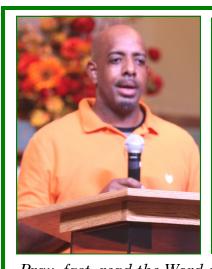








~ Youth Appreciation Sunday ~





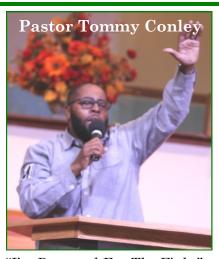
 ${\bf F} {\bf or saking}$

 $\mathbf{A}ll$

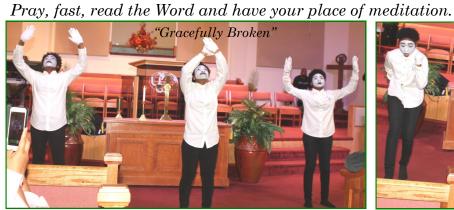
Ι

Trust

 \mathbf{H}_{im}



"I'm Prepared For The Fight"































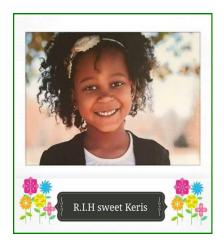






~ Keris Bembry Youth Courage Award









Recipients: Dewan Rush and Jasmine Jones (not pictured)
Presented by Deidre and Travis Bembry



Youth Leaders
Sister Harriet Marlowe
and
Sister Cassundra Brown
were selected to receive
Special Appreciation
by
The Student Council



~ Fourth Sunday ~





If the church is going to experience upgrade:

- The Elders play a part.
- Each generation plays a part.
- God plays a part.













Janelle Clarke and Kea'ya Reeves discussing the upcoming activities to be sponsored by the *FLAVA* (Young Adults) Ministry.





Weekend ~ ~ Youth Appreciation





















YAW Carnival



















































~ BREAD MINISTRY ~

Atlanta BREAD.



Bread is donated by Atlanta Bread Company and is distributed on Wednesdays.



Points of Contact:

Sister Denise Davis and Sister Annie Allen



~ True Servants ~

The Grove Zone Deacons are shown serving a member that just purchased a new home. They cleaned up their yard which was truly a blessing to the family.

Our Deacons truly are servants to the members and to the community.





















~ Nursing Home Ministry ~

Elberta Nursing Home and the Lodge

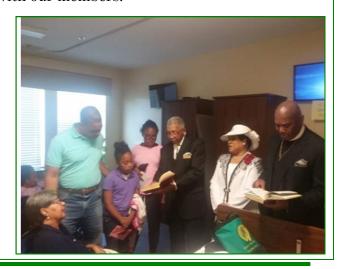
Psalms 71:9 – "Do not cast me off in the time of my old age and do not forsake me when my strength fails."



The team of Deacon Monroe Clark, Deaconess Shirley Clark, Deacon Jimmy Oglesby, Elder Milo Bradley, Minister Annie Lester and Minister Arie Freeman administer communion at Elberta Nursing Home and The Lodge on the first and third Sunday in every month. We always have an awesome time with the Senior Citizens who call this place home. These Senior Citizens are a blessing to us as they enthusiastically worship the Lord. We not only minister to our own members, Brother George Hill, Sister Maggie Bradley, and Sister Helen Doe but we have a complete worship service with all who gather in the lobby. We sing, pray and share the Word of God with all who attend. We were extremely blessed in November to worship with Sister Doe's sons and their family while they were in town.

Great time fellowshipping with our members.





~ Prison Ministry ~

Minister Arie Freeman, Jr.

Matthew 25:26, 40 - "I was in prison and you came and visited me ..."



We had an awesome time at Dooly State Prison on November 10th. Dooly's Voices of Praise and Union Grove Male Chorus sang inspirational songs and the spirit was high. Brother and Sister Myrick read scriptures and prayed. The inmates were pleased to see a husband and wife ministering together to them.

Minister Anderson brought the first message from 1 Samuel 3:1-20 with a focus on verse 10: "Speak, for your servant is listening. We must be attentive for the voice of the Lord when He calls. We ministered to 68 inmates during the first session. Minister Lester brought the second message from Matthew 20:1-16. She titled it "It Ain't Fair" focusing on verse 11. The workers grumbling for receiving the same pay even though they worked longer hours than the others. When you agree to something, accept what you agreed. Deacon Thorpe and Minister Thompson, your contribution to the November Worship gathering was greatly appreciated. We ministered to 116 inmates during the second session. Continue to pray for this Ministry as we continue the spreading of God's Word by fulfilling "The Great Commission", witnessing to the inmates.

We, the Prison Ministry, would like to take this time to THANK YOU for your continued support of the inmates at Dooly State. Your generous contributions of supplies for the inmates during this holiday season were greatly appreciated. Our next worship will be Saturday, December 8th from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



Thank You for being there to meet the needs of the Men at Dooly State Prison!



~ Financial Corner ~

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



It's December and Christmas is almost here. Are you ready? Ready or not, Christmas is December 25th! I am done except for the wrapping. That's a big chore for me with so many children and grandchildren.

Christmas is not the only thing on our minds this month. It's open season for health insurance (ends December 15th) Medicare (Ending December 7th) and for some of us we have to select a new dental plan (Ending December 7th). All of this can be a bit stressful. Let's get busy and get it done one thing at a time. This year has been especially hectic. Last week I had to renew my driver's license and my DEERs ID card.



Sister Wanda Verrett

If you're done shopping, it's a good time to start preparing for tax season. You still have time to make contributions to your IRA. If you are over 50, you can save an extra \$1,000.00. Funds put into a traditional IRA can reduce your tax liability for this year. When was the last time you changed your withholding amounts? A simple change from zero dependents to one or two could mean an extra couple hundred dollars in your pocket to pay down debt, start your retirement account or your short-term savings.

Now is a good time to review you debt load. List all of your debt, especially your credit cards, and check the interest rates. Are there any you would be better off paying out or consolidating? If you have a small balance, it might save you money in the long run to take the money out of your short term savings and pay it off. Then whatever you were paying on that bill, pay back into your fund. Do the math. You might be surprised what you can save.

In case you are still shopping, be careful. There are lots of scams and bad people lurking on the internet. Always shop from sites you trust. Also be careful of pop-ups. You may put in your favorite site and some other site comes up with it. Before you put in any personal information, double check the site address at the top.

There are still bargains to be had in the local stores. Don't forget that clearance rack.

After Christmas shopping can be fun and prosperous as well. If you see something you want in the sales flyer, be sure and take the flyer with you. Beware of the old bait and switch. "That item didn't come in, but we do have something just a little higher". Be prepared to walk away!

Don't forget to work on next year's budget.

As always, any questions give me a call. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



~ Youth Corner ~





JyKerion Hill

(son of Sis. Terri Kendrick)

- JyKerion is a student at Thompson Middle School
- He plays football for *The Warriors* as a Running Back.
- He scored the winning touchdown in a recent football game. (wearing his medal with pride)





Alexander Pegues

will be graduating

Magna Cum Laude

from

The Georgia Institute of Technology

with a

Bachelor of Science Degree

in

Mechanical Engineering

on

December 15, 2018



"NO MORE REGRETS"

Deacon Jimmy Oglesby

Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do? Well, don't worry about it; it'll likely happen again. It goes all the way back to early biblical days. Leaders back then were often blamed falsely. The Israelites blamed Moses for lack of water, bitter water, enemies' attacks and lack of food. Even David (man after God's own heart) was falsely accused in the Psalms. Unlike many of us today, he didn't shift blame nor make excuses of his actions. But rather, he took steps to deal with his slanderers. This year's theme for Cedine 2018 Men's Retreat was entitled, "NO MORE REGRETS!" Throughout the weekend, we focused on maintaining "spiritual integrity!" We took a look at the Apostle Paul and his resolve to, "forgetting what lies behind and straining to what lies ahead; pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14. What Paul came to realize was that throughout his difficulties, he could not hold on to the regrets in his life if he wanted to advance God's kingdom. He understood that though he was still in need of maturity, always moving forward was not optional.

How do you choose to move forward without placing blame? We could learn a thing or two from David. First, David had to take an honest examination (Psalm 26:1-3). Human nature does not want to admit it's wrong, but we need to examine ourselves. David walked in integrity. Integrity means "wholeness of character." He also walked in faith, without wavering. We find David open before God, walking in the light and letting God examine him. We would save ourselves a lot of trouble if we would let Him examine us. He wants to teach us what we are really like. If we are right before God, it makes no difference what people say. Next, David had to maintain a holy separation (Psalm 26:4,5). People accused David of being a hypocrite, even though he did not worship false gods. We must obey the biblical doctrine of holy separation (2 Cor. 6:14-18). After that, David had to enjoy a happy celebration (Psalm 26:6-8). David washed his hands in innocence. He was cleansed by water and blood. He was concerned about praising, loving and glorifying God. Just as Jesus sang before His crucifixion, David sang songs of praise around the altar, the place of sacrifice. Do we sing songs of praise when we have to make sacrifices? Finally, David had to maintain a humble determination (Psalm 26:9-12). David said, "As for me, I will walk in my integrity." When a person has integrity, he has a great defense, a great shield. Character is a marvelous shield against the accusations of men. A good conscience gives us courage in times of difficulty. As Christian men, our defense is the grace of God, His Word and His truth. Because of this, we're able to walk. David's foot stood in an even place. He was not standing alone--he was in the congregation. Let's take the same steps David took the next time someone slanders us.

People can and will hurt you with false accusations, but you need not let slanderers defeat you. If you walk with integrity, your character will shield you. Keep yourself pure and avoid compromising situations. When someone slanders you, God's grace, His Word and His truth will protect you. Before the enemy takes over, ask God to HELP YOU: help you to regret the "right" stuff, help you to not stay stuck, help you to choose differently. Will you make mistakes? Yes! But learn from them, and maintain your own personal spiritual integrity!



Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting thos things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press



Catching up with Sis. LaShondria Smith

Sis. LaShondria Smith was the Commencement Speaker for Wayland Baptist University at First Baptist Church of North Pole, Alaska on October 11, 2018 for graduates completing Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degrees.



Sis. Smith also provided a Domestic Violence presentation on the six types of abuse: physical, emotional/psychological, verbal, financial, spiritual, and technological supporting the Fairbanks Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated "She Screams, He Screams, It's Not Always Ice Cream" Forum.







FLAVA and Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church Scholarship Committee presents...

Miss Union Grove Scholarship Pageant





Theme: "Mardi Gras, unmasking the queen within"

Categories:

- Little Miss Union Grove (ages 5-8)
- Junior Miss Union Grove (ages 9-12)
 - Miss Union Grove (ages 13-18)

Interest Meeting December 16, 2018 Immediately following worship - Sanctuary

For more information, contact Sis. Kea'ya Reeves keayareeves@yahoo.com





















UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY

Sunday, December 23, 2018



Join the UGMBC family for worship in your "ugliest" Christmas sweater! We will have fun giveaways during service! Light refreshments and photo booth immediately following service.

Powered by FLAVA

For more information, contact Sis. Janelle Clarke at 704.870.1621

























** Save the Date **









VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! See Min. Jones or contact him at ecjcpt@aol.com

Union Grove, we are partnering with the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank to host a Mobile Pantry. We will distribute frozen foods and dry goods to members of the community. What an awesome opportunity to minister to the needs of our brothers and sisters! We need 15-20 volunteers. See Min. Ernest Jones or contact him at ecicpt@aol.com.

We look forward to reaching out with you!

** Save the Date **



Night of Prayer

Let us end 2018 with a bang. Come to the night of prayer.

When: December 28, 2018

Where: Union Grove Sanctuary Time: 10:00 p.m. until midnight

Purpose: To meet God at the altai

Join us at the altar and let us pray together

POC: Min. Phillips

** Save the Date **



* SAVETHE DATE *
February 9, 2019

Get ready for 3G's 70's Night

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

POC: Linda Gray or Rhonda Salone

"Dust off your Bell Bottoms and throw on your love beads". Mark your Calendar for the 3G 70's night, Saturday, February 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Carey W. Martin Conference Center located at the Houston Health Pavilion. Invite your family and friends. More information forthcoming.

Points of contact: Min Linda Gray or Rhonda Salone.



Odessa Allen Larry Austin J'Lexus Bass Iris Bracey Soraya Brown Doris Burns Rufus Burns Trista Bynum Jalaiyah Clayborn Jaeden Covington Bethany Davis Linda Davis Rodney Davis Charlie Davison Komola Edwards Dekosha Frazier Kendall Frazier Michelle Gaines Kamari Hardee

George Hill Levi Humphrey **Arthur James** Georgia Johnson Terri Kendricks Ikareem Lamar Jabari Leggette Dea. Charles Lenoir Annjanette L. Johnson Tobias Leonard Victoria Leonard Deborah Little Helen Lloyd Ntozake Mack Pastor Teddy Madison Kimberly Martin **Shade Mathis** Dorothy McNair Ty'asya Murrell

Angie Nalls Rieshun Newell Justin Phillips Min. LaTonya Phillips Cindy Pitts Tara Raines Valerie Richardson Chaquita Riggins Gerald Riggins Tameka Robinson Zillah Rogers **Deborah Sanders** Henry Scott Rosalee Short Amira Simmons **Dorian Smith** Faith Smith John Smith

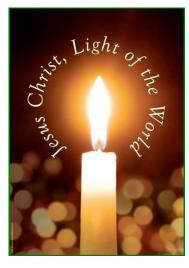
LaShondria Smith Shannon Smith Tracy Smith Joan Stewart William Tucker Benedict Turner McKinley Verrett Wanda Verrett Gertrude Walker Micah Washington Lucinda Wimbush Alice Wolmack Dea. Donald Woodard Jason Young

Happy Anniversary!!!



Minister Ann Lester
Mr. Fred Lester

December 26





Deacon Donald Woodard
Deaconess Maxine Woodard
December 30

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10

~ Ministerial Staff ~

Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr. Assistant Pastor Teddy Madison Pastor John Dukes Elder Milo Bradley, Jr. Elder Connie Dinkins Elder Tommy Gray Elder Rashee Ragin Pastor John Sutton Minister Marie Anderson Minister Denise Boyd Minister Dannie Dukes Minister Arie Freeman, Jr. Minister Linda Gray Minister Shane Hardee Minister Mary Lenoir Minister Annie Lester Minister James Madison Minister Edquader Marble Minister Bridgette Oglesby Minister LaTonya Phillips Minister Africa Porter Minister Nicole Steedley Minister Earnestine Thompson

~ Deacon Contact List ~

А-С	Deacon Jerome Stephens	929-1476
D-F	Deacon Slater Thorpe	218-8736
G-I	Deacon Donald Woodard Deacon Louis Laney	987-9865 329-0957
J-K	Deacon William Jackson	929-4918
L-N	Deacon T.C. Caldwell	293-8428
O-R	Deacon Monroe Clark Deacon Curtis Jackson	953-2044 953-1676
S	Deacon Jimmy Oglesby	987-4491
T-V	Deacon Charles Lenoir	953-2350
W-Z	Deacon Nathaniel Davis Deacon Hosea Laney	923-7713 954-3480

~ Administrative Assistant ~

Sister Janice Scott



DO YOU LOVE TO TRAVEL AND MEET PEOPLE? WE NEED YOU ON THE GROWVE ZONE BUS MINISTRY TEAM. The Bus Ministry is looking for volunteers who love to serve in a small group setting, fellowshipping with God's people while on the road. What a great opportunity to do this by serving as a driver.

Please contact Sis. Iris Bracey @ 478-273-1555. Welcome aboard!!!

*** ATTENTION ***



Effective immediately there will be NO PARKING under the overhead structure in the rear of the church. This area is reserved for disembarking of members during inclement weather and also unloading and loading of church van for members and visitors. We must have unobstructed entrance and exit to and from the overhead at all times. The church van will not be left under overhead during worship service. Any questions, see security leader Bro. Hank Allen.



Security Ministry

Greetings, we're asking you to help us with ensuring that proper security measures are being utilized when securing the church. We're asking that anyone remaining behind in the sanctuary after service is over, to please exit the building through any of the doors in the church office area. These doors will automatically lock and will allow our security personnel to concentrate on securing the front of the church. Your assistance will make our church that much more safer and secure.

Thank you,

Hank Allen - Ministry Leader





From the GTAH Staff

Carolyn, Shirley, Ardell, Jackie P., Tamara and Mack



The **Capital Campaign** is a building plan (voted on by the membership) to extend the right side of the church. It will provide much needed classroom and activity space for the growing ministries. There are several ways to give and everyone has the option to select the Giving Plan that best suits them.

The goal is to raise \$600,000.00... need 250 members to pledge \$2,400.00 over a 5-year period

GOLD LEVEL

Contribute \$2,400.00 in ONE to TWO years \$200.00 a month x 12 months or \$100.00 @ 24 months

SILVER LEVEL

Contribute \$2,400.00 in THREE to FOUR years \$66.66 a month x 36 or \$50.00 @ 48 months

BRONZE LEVEL

Contribute \$2,400.00 in FIVE years or less \$40.00 a month x 60 months

OTHER

Any amount of consistent giving

** ANNOUNCEMENTS **

- All announcements for the bulletin, screen and website must be submitted by your Vision Leader and e-mailed to Pastorteddymadison@gmail.com no later than Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Announcements must be submitted in PowerPoint or mp4 format.
- Church/Vision Center Rentals (members of Union Grove only): Please contact Brother Justin Phillips.
- To report deaths in the church family or to schedule funerals at the church (members only), please contact Minister Dannie Dukes at 478-952-5078.
- For a ride to Sunday services, please call Sister Iris Bracey at (478) 273-1555 by Friday at 5:00 p.m.
- The Healthcare Ministry tests for total cholesterol panel using the state of the art equipment on Sundays after worship service. Remember, you must fast for eight hours prior to the test...Appointment only. Leave your name and number at the church office. Minister Earnestine Thompson. Church forms are available at www.thegrovewr.org

If you wish to receive the GTAH via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address to be added to the distribution list. You may also download a copy from the UGMBC website: **www.thegrovewr.org.**

G.T.A.H Staff

Carolyn Jackson, Leader
Shirley Jackson
Ardell Johnson
Jackie Powell
Tamara Sanders
McKinley Verrett

Newsletter Submissions

Please forward your ministry highlights, good news, testimonies, praise reports, etc., for the January issue via e-mail to <u>GTAH-Newsletter@gmail.com</u>, call (478) 542-1739, place them in the Newsletter Ministry box in the copy room or contact any member of the GTAH Staff <u>by Saturday, January 5, 2019.</u> Please e-mail all pictures, <u>do not send via text</u>. Thanks for your cooperation.



G.T.A.H. Mission Statement:

"To aide others in spreading the knowledge of Christ and encouraging spiritual living through printed words."



G.T.A.H. Vision Statement:

"To keep the body of UGMBC abreast of the latest adventures, upcoming events, celebrations, reports, meetings and who's who in the steadfast work of the Lord. Our motivation is to make you SMILE."

Attention: When entering any building/property owned by UGMBC, you are giving consent to the church to use your image/likeness in church publications, media, website/Facebook, etc.

PAGE 40

GTAH - GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING