

**Honors**

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was the perfect opportunity to honor the former ushers and greeters as well as the veterans.

"It was nothing big or



flashy, just to be appreciated. Rev. Dykes wanted to convey to his congregation that they have to hold onto hope during his sermon.

ed and to know that we have been recognized was great," said Herman B. Springs III.

Ronald Teeter, a former staff sergeant in the Marine Corps, said "It's an honor that the church recognizes us because usually a lot of folks in the world don't respect what we have done as far as trying to keep peace and keep them safe. Overall, I'm just glad it was done for us."

Both the ushers and veterans were given a special gift from the church. Before Dykes began his sermon, he wanted to personally thank the veterans and ushers for their service. He then touched on the recent presidential election and how it will affect the people. He wanted to convey to the people that we cannot afford to lose hope.

He posed the question of, "Where do we go from here?" He said we have to keep moving because God will be with us.

"For me, it's a big honor, and I think sometimes what we try to do is make sure we build a bridge between what is happening in the community and country as well as what's happening in the church," said Dykes. "The military definitely has a place not only in serving the country but also in serving the church, so today was a celebration of marrying the two."

Dykes continued by saying, "We wanted to give back. I am a person who was raised by my grand-



The veterans of the congregation at St. John CME were honored on Sunday, Nov 13.

Photos by Timothy Ramsey

mother. A lot of what I was trained came from my grandmother's kitchen table. So a part of my pastoral approach has always been, we have to give back to those who have paved

the way for us," when speaking about honoring the ushers and greeters.

Darryl West, U.S. Army veteran added, "It's nice that the church and the community would come

out and appreciate the veterans. It's appreciated every year for them to recognize us and give us a little token."

"For the people to recognize us, that was some-

thing we all enjoy every year," said Sylvia Fisher. "It was good to let people know that there were people of color in the military throughout every branch."

**Pastor**

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The ceremony was filled with wonderful singing from Beverly Alexander, a meal and an inspirational message from guest speaker the Rev. Dr. John Mendez, lead pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. Dr. Williams' mentor and former teacher, the Rev. Dr. J.T. Roberson, presented Williams with his Doctorate of Ministry degree.

"The Doctorate of Ministry program is about self-development as well as ministry development, and we measure a student based on the progress we've seen in them. He did a very good job of doing an introspection of himself seeing how that shaped the character of who he was," said Roberson. "The prophetic leadership was his project, and he exemplifies that, and I thought he did a very good job."



Mendez spoke about how proud he was of Diggs Memorial for their patience while he traveled. Photo by Timothy Ramsey. The crowd in attendance applauds Dr. Lamonte Williams as he approaches the podium to speak.

Williams for "taking the hard road and not the easy road." He said life is full of moments of celebration and that sometimes you must struggle to make you stronger as you pursue your goals.

Williams took the podium and thanked everyone for coming out to celebrate his momentous occasion. He had a special thank you to his congregation at

back and forth to Ohio to study for the last three years.

"It's humbling, exciting and I'm very appreciative and this was a wonderful event," said Williams. "More importantly I recognize there is a higher level of expectations now. I could have chosen some easier paths for higher education but this is an earned doctorate and there is

something to be said for all the blood, sweat and tears that I put in. It's made me a better minister because I know there are people depending on me to do the right thing."

Williams went on to say that he had thoughts of giving up but deep down he could not see himself giving up. He said the class started with 14 candidates and by the time graduation came around, only himself and one other finished. He said he was humbled that he could have been one of the 12 that did not finish but he had mentors that would not let him fail.

The Rev. Dr. Daryl Napper provided the blessing for the food and said Williams is a good friend of his and he was very proud of him. He said the ceremony was great and thanked God for the opportunity to share this experience with him.

Williams' mother, Doretha Williams, said "I am so proud of him and it's because of God's grace and

enable him to achieve his accomplishments. It's all because of God."

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**Mount Zion**

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the U.S. armed forces, flying with distinction during World War II. Though subject to racial discrimination both at home and abroad, the all-black units completed over



1,500 missions without losing an escorted bomber to enemy fighters. The Tuskegee Airmen returned home with 150 distinguished Flying Crosses. The highly publicized successes of the Tuskegee Airmen helped pave the way for the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces in 1948. The 2012 movie "Red Tails," starring Cuba Gooding Jr., tells the story of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Airman Bailey was unable to attend a White House Ceremony honoring the Airmen, but he was present when North Carolina paid tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen at the State Capitol in 2012. He and his wife, Hiji, were also guests for honors by the North Carolina

Transportation Museum. They reside in Winston-Salem.

\*James Garner Sr. was a decorated veteran of the Korean Conflict, for which he received two Purple Hearts, and the Soldiers' Medal, the highest honor for



heroism outside combat for saving the lives of two soldiers who were drowning in a river. Garner's war injuries, which included the loss of his left leg, did not prevent him from leading an active sporting life. A dedicated golfer, Garner sponsored an annual golf tournament to benefit Hospice of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County. He and his wife, the former, Dorothy Latham, reside in Kernersville.

Ruth Torrance chaired the committee that planned the Veterans Recognition. Others on the committee were Annette Henighan, Maurice Johnson, Veronica Jones, Annette Squire and Jerrye Griffin, president of the Senior Missionary Department..

**Lesson**

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making it full and satisfying" (verse 2) (Mac Arthur Study Bible). Because God will not judge sin again and will live in the city. There will be no more the curse of the ground caused by Adam and Eve's disobedience ... sin will no longer exist (verse 3). All will serve God in heaven (verse 3b). Jesus or an angel will stamp God's name on the foreheads of the righteous (verses 3:12, 7:1-3) and they will be able to look on God's face without harm because they are now holy (verse 4). The citizens of heaven will reign in God's continual

light (verse 5). The angel speaks to John and says for the second time "These words are faithful and true"... all that John has been shown must happen before the end days. "Shortly" was the term used by John 2000 years ago, so you judge the time frame intended. "... that day and hour knoweth no man ... (Matt 24:36) ... thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2). Jesus' return is imminent. The blessing here is for the one who listens to it being read and explained and then responds in obedience. (Mac Arthur Study Bible).

For Your Consideration:

The tree leaves have a healing value. How might they heal you?

**Life's Application:** "Seek those things which are above" (Colossians 3:1). We, for the most part, all want to transcend racism and economic injustice ... that would make for an ideal life. But we as Christians are urged to seek beyond utopia here on earth and instead aim for an eternal life in the new heavens and new earth. Our one guide is the Holy Spirit. So read with hope and guidance for the revelation beatitudes, quench your thirst and rest in the shade.

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