



Recognizes
Goler/Depot Street CDC
*as a Special
 Recognition Award recipient*



**Goler Memorial
 AME Zion
 Church Pastor
 Seth O. Lartey.**



Michael Suggs is chair of the CDC board.

Great Tomorrows

There was a time when the stretch of Patterson Avenue where Goler Memorial AME Zion Church sits was a strong business and residential area for African-Americans. Several factors led to the diminishment of that past. A group of forward-thinking members of Goler want to turn back the hands of time and make the area a shining jewel once again.

The Goler/Depot Street Community Development Corp. was founded five years with the purpose of revitalizing the rag-tag community that surrounds the church. The mission to bring new life to the community has become a top priority for members of the church, many of whom have personally contributed their money and time to make the dream a reality. Financial support for the ambitious multimillion dollar project has also poured in from local businesses and foundations.

The hard work is paying off. A slew of run-down buildings and vacant lots have already been purchased by the CDC, including the multistory former Brown & Williamson Tobacco building on Chestnut Street. The acquired property will be the framework for the new community. In December, the CDC broke ground on the first phase of the project, Goler Heights, a series of town homes, some of which have already been sold.

"The new town homes represent one step in our plan to reclaim a historically African-American business district and transform it into a culturally diverse neighborhood that serves as a beacon for the city," said Michael Suggs, the chairman of the CDC board.

Plans for the project also include building a new sanctuary for the church, an enrichment center and a housing facility for seniors.

**A view of the
 historic Goler/Depot
 Street community.**

