



# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 34, No. 1

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 24, 2015

## Why Are You Doing This?

- Victim to Gunman



Ethel Lance



Cynthia Hurd



Rev. Clementa Pinckney



Rev. DePayne  
Middleton-Doctor



Tywanza Sanders



Rev. Daniel Simmons



Myra Thompson



Sharonda Singleton



Susie Jackson

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"Any death of this sort is a tragedy, any shooting involving multiple victims is a tragedy. There is something particularly heartbreaking about death happening at a place in which we seek solace and we seek peace." - President Obama

# Jesus and Violence

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.  
The Truth Contributor

*...The tensions which we witness in the world today are indicative of the fact that a new world is being born and an old world is passing away.*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr. in "The Birth of a New Age"

The Christian commands to "Love your enemies" and "Forgive those who have wronged you" seem irrelevant, unrealistic and unreasonable in light of the unspeakable mass shooting that killed nine and wounded three innocent black worshippers in a Charleston, SC church last week.

Yet, it was no escapist, apolitical or "pacifist" Jesus who gave the commands. Although he opposed violence, Jesus' love and forgiveness commands were part and parcel of a nonviolent social (and indirectly political) revolution designed as the supreme Jewish resistance strategy against violent and oppressive Roman rule.

I stand in solidarity with all of those who look with outrage upon last week's massacre of unarmed innocents at Emanuel AME Church. I stand in fellowship with those directly affected by last week's despicable act. I also stand in community with those committed to end the culture of racialized violence and oppression in our day just as Jesus did for his social-historical context.

Evil is not threatened when we use violence to repay violence or respond to injustice with rioting, burning and looting. According to the ethics of Jesus, change will only occur where there is solidarity and commitment to the cause of justice because the tools of evil do not function to tear down the house of evil. I applaud Emanuel AME and the city of Charleston, SC for responding to the tragedy with a dignified resistance in line with that of the biblical Jesus.

This week I present a personal reflection by Rev. Waltrina Middleton, who was directly affected by last week's tragedy. Her commentary exemplifies the forceful but dignified response to violence and the unifying call to the social revolution espoused by Jesus.



Commentary: Charleston Violence, Unspeakable Grief  
Written by Waltrina Middleton

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

... continued on page 12

## The Sojourner's Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604  
Phone 419-243-0007 \* Fax 419-255-7700  
thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

# Dr. Donald L. Perryman – Father to his Daughters, Father to the Community

By Tracee Perryman  
Guest Column

Dr. Donald L. Perryman has been a mentor and father-figure to so many in the church, and in the community. Today, I want to focus on the father he was at home. Father/daughter relationships are very complex. Fathers parent very differently from mothers. Whatever the parenting style, fathers play such an integral role in the lives of children, and especially girls.

This is my father's day tribute to my dad, Donald L. Perryman. Warm, fuzzy and affectionate is not the way we do things. But, this tribute still gives me great pleasure because I can shed light on one of the most talked about and misunderstood relationship – OURS.

I guess being a part of the church and the community subjects you to an excessive amount of off-base speculation. My father's parenting has often been labeled as "over-protective and overbearing," on one spectrum, and on the other spectrum, I was labeled as "Rev's son."

The reality is that he is VERY protective, and yes, he has always kind of treated me like a boy. He calls me "Junior." For some reason, he has always believed that I can do literally ANYTHING!

He rarely interferes and does not feel the need to swoop in and save the day, as if I am vulnerable and helpless. He in his heart thinks I'm WONDERWOMAN – and has raised me to be comfortable in that. Where as some would have felt burdened by his high expectations, I believe that his approach demonstrates these compliments:

- I am independent – and not needy
- I can think for myself
- I can speak for myself
- I am strong

When I was about four, I remember him telling me – "You are very special. God has given you something special, and he has something special for you to do. Do not let ANYONE get in the way of God's plan for your life." To this day, I've done my best to honor that. He

... continued on page 12



Tracee Perryman

## Community Calendar

### June 22-28

Greater St. Mary's MBC 90th Church Anniversary: Celebrations 7 pm nightly with guest speakers; 4 pm Sunday service with guest Rev. IJ Johnson and St. Mark's MBC: 419-243-3343 or 419-973-4157

### June 27

Juneteenth Block Party: Noon – 6 pm; Powell's Beauty Supply; Music by DJ Miss T and performances by Audamatik, TFOAR, Kandace Meroe: 419-984-0395

### June 28

Calvary MBC Annual Women's Day Program: "Christian Women Transformed by God;" 11 am; Guest Speaker Evang. Sheila Cook of New Life COGIC  
End Time Christian Church Fellowship Fest: Free food and fun; Games for the whole family; 10 am: 419-4725993  
Third Baptist of Holland Choir Appreciation Day: 3:30 pm

### July 20-24

Pilgrim Church Vacation Bible School: "The Kingdom of the Son;" 6 to 8 pm; Free for children ages 4-12: 419-478-6012

### July 22-26

Trinity Faith Tabernacle Annual Summer Conference: Wednesday – Friday nightly service 7 pm; Thursday and Friday 10 am and 2 pm sessions; Sunday worship service at 11 am: 419-340-6253

# White To Black In Ten E-Z Lessons!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

What I am about to tell you is very hard for me to disclose. Very hard. I feel guilty as if I pulled the trigger. As if I lowered the guillotine. As if I let out the hounds of hell. My guilt is almost unbearable!

As you may have been watching on television lately, there is a remarkable and dramatic story of a white woman who has been passing for black and obviously doing a good job at it. Crinkly, twisted hair, darkened skin color... saying the right racial phrases. The whole nine yards.

Just doing a fab job by anyone's estimation. I mean, she obtained jobs ostensibly based upon her profile of being a black woman

She had photos showing her with what was thought to have been a black male that she birthed and even a photograph showing her and an older black man that she indicated is her daddy.

This Rachel Dolezal had it goin' on! She even became a leader of the NAACP chapter in Spokane, Washington. She talked about growing up in a teepee and even living in Africa (note: both of which are not true according to her distraught parents).

I mean, she had the street cred (at least according to her own accounts) to tell anyone that she had the right to say, "Say It Loud, I'm Black And I'm Proud!"

But, recently, her craftily-built house of cards came tumbling down when her parents (both white) and one of her brothers (four black kids adopted by her parents) blasted her and outed her by saying, she is white as the driven snow. She is genetically white as whole milk. She is culturally white as copy paper. White..white..white!

Now, that should not make a wit of a difference in regards to her efforts or work on behalf of people of color but the fly in the soup is that she ostensibly lied about her real DNA and family tree and used those lies to gain "advantage" as a black person.

When I first saw the story about this caper, I froze as though being hit with a two by four. I lost my breath and when I got up from the couch from watching the story about Rachel Dolezal, my legs were wobbly and I had to sit down to regain my strength.

Why you ask? My confession is that I found out that it was through the reading of one of my essays that I published around the time that Rachel voluntarily underwent a self-designated "cultural reassignment" that caused her to do a mental flip-flop and... voila! She became a wannabee black woman.

How do I know this? When they interviewed her, mockingly staring at me from the bookshelf behind her and as clear as day, was my essay called, "How To Go from White To Black In Ten E-Z Lessons."

I must confess that I wrote the essay and sold it on e-Bay as a lark not knowing that people would not only read it but follow its lessons to a tee!

Imagine my shock when people started calling my office about how did I educate or radicalize Rachel to do this fantasy based transformation!

I was tongue tied to say the least. I could only surmise that Rachel was then in such a state of mind that she was susceptible to the book's influences; and she saw it as a way to reinvent herself and go from white to black in order to fulfill some dream she may had about being a savior to black people.

For those unfamiliar with my now popular essay, here is a brief and condensed sampling of some of its contents.

I must warn you that if you are white person who reads the entire essay, do not follow what it says or, if so, you too can become a Rachel Dolezal type and find yourself warming up to a plate of chitlins, greens and skillet cornbread and not knowing why. Read at your own risk!

**LESSON ONE:** Start calling your own mother, "Mammy!" Get use to the sound of that word and use it often to start the needed psychological wedge between your natural mother and that of warming up to the black experience.

**LESSON TWO:** Instead of saying, "Hi!" start saying, "Wuzz Up, Homey!" This phrase will go a long way to ingratiate you with your newly-found black brothers and sisters.

**LESSON THREE:** Go to a black beauty parlor and ask that they freak out your straight hair with either dread locks or twistees. During the whole process, repeatedly tell the puzzled beautician, "Ya know what I'm sayin'?" or, "Are you down wid it?"

**LESSON FOUR:** Regularly go to a tanning salon and ask them to caramelize you.

Go until your skin at least matches a brown paper lunch bag.

**LESSON FIVE:** Whenever you see a named Republican on the television and you are with your white friends, tell them to turn the channel or they will be some trouble, "Up in Here!"

**LESSON SIX:** When you go out with your newly-found soul sisters and you run into some black men, always remember to say



Lafe Tolliver

out loud, "Those are some fine bruthas!" as you nod your head.

**LESSON SEVEN:** Whenever possible, always wear T-shirts or hoodies that show a black college like, Tuskegee, Howard, Southern, Fisk, Florida A&M or Grambling.

If asked do you attend the college, simply say, "Naw dog, I just want to be there!"

**LESSON EIGHT:** If someone gets suspicious of you and wants to know where you are from, tell them, "don't be dissin' me like dat!"

**LESSON NINE:** If you are ever invited to a Cotillion, refuse and simply say, "Homey, don't play dancing in white Gone With The Wind gowns!"

**LESSON TEN:** When you see a soul sister or brother at a mall and they give you a quizzical look, give them the "sign" which is the oh so slight up and down nod of the head with your eyes half closed and keep pushing on. If that does not work, give them the fist double bump over your heart. That is a sure sign of solidarity.

I can only surmise that Rachel Dolezal got "caught" when she did what no white person passing for black should do and that is, she got real uppity and when you get that uppity and you really ain't black, it will tell on you!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Tolliver@Juno.com](mailto:Tolliver@Juno.com)

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# 2015 Fatherhood Walk – “What Do We Want?” – “Fathers!”

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

For five years now, R.E.S.T.O.R.E. founder Mark Robinson has led hundreds of fathers, women and children on what is known as the annual Fatherhood Walk through a central city neighborhood. On June 20, the two mile walk, which is held to raise the awareness of the importance of the roles fathers play in the lives of their children, was once again part of June's significant activities.

The walk started and ended at Central Catholic High School and wound its way through surrounding neighborhoods. Family activities took place afterwards on the lawn of Central Catholic as Robinson was the keynote speaker for the day.

The event was sponsored by the City of Toledo, McDonalds, Seaway Marketplace, Lucas County Family and Children First Council, House of Day Funeral Home, Systems Dynamics Communications, Lamar Advertising, the Toledo Fire Department, Care Source, The Ridge Project, the National African Male Wellness Walk Initiative, Franklin Park Lincoln Mercury, Buckeye CableSystem, Toledo Area Ministries, NPI, The Andersons, Kroger and Target.

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc. was founded in 2006 by Robinson, a social worker by profession and currently serving as executive director for Toledo Area Ministries.



*Organizer Mark Robinson and Council candidate Jennifer Scott*



*Sponsors Pamela and Brian Byrd*



*The March Starts*

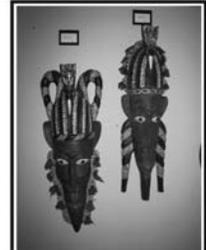
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# Dribbling with Dads Draws Community Support

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dads, with sons and daughters, plus community residents participated in the 2015 Dribbling with Dads on Saturday, June 20, 2015 on the grounds of the Frederick Douglas Community Center.

"This is my second year serving as the master of ceremonies. Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority has sponsored another successful community event. It's always important for fathers to step up and participate in the lives of their children," said Christian Lee Kynard.

Festivities started with a community walk from the center, down residential streets of Indiana, Hawley and Dorr before returning to the center for family-oriented activities. Junior Role Model Mentoring sponsored a mini basketball camp and shoot out, families participated in a free-throw contest and family basketball.

"This event is important for a few reasons. The number one reason is because, we're following this initiation from the United States Housing and Urban development. This is our fourth year, and attendance is larger than previous year. Dribbling with Dads drew a lot of people here today, and we're encouraging dads to become more involved. That's the main reason why we're at a community venue," said Linnie Willis, executive director,

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Immediately following the free lunch, winners were announced in the free-throw contest, family basketball contest, coloring contests, lip sync contest, and essay contest.

"This fatherhood initiative is organized across the nation, with over 1,000 participating agencies. Our objective is to encourage males to participate in the lives of our youth. This is also a way to say thank you to our fathers, and we've heard positive feedback from fathers over the years. I'm excited this event is a part of our region. The father is a part of the family," said Willie C.H. Garrett, EMPA, Regional Public Housing Director of Region V.

Dribbling with Dads community supporters: Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, Toledo Area Metroparks, Frederick Douglas Community Center, Anaconda Sports, Toledo Youth Commission, Toledo Zoo, Dairy Queen, UAW Region 2B, The Butterfly House, Toledo Walleye, Toledo Mudhens, Skyway, MIX 95.7FM and radio personality Brandi Brown, and the University of Toledo. All participants received a free shirt and basketball during registration.



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# Blanche Hogue Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Surrounded by family and friends, Blanche Hogue celebrated her 100th birthday this past weekend at the Radisson Hotel. The centenarian was born June 14, 2015 in Overthrop, GA.

She married JB Hogue in 1939 and in 1945 the couple moved to Toledo. They had three sons – Clarence, Johnnie B and Ronnie Hogue. JB passed away at the tender age of 96.

Blanche has five grandchildren – Joseph Austin, Corey Hogue, Lamarr Hogue, Christie Hogue and Ja'Nae Hogue. In addition she has 11 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

Blanche Hogue is a member of longstanding of Friendship Baptist Church – the second oldest mother there. She has devoted her life to giving to others and being the cornerstone of her family, says son Ronnie.



Clarence Hogue, Ron Hogue, Blanche Hogue (seated)



Blanche Hogue (seated) and family

# Hundreds of Local Seniors Compete in Annual Sports Classic

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The 2015 50+ sports classic invited area senior citizens to participate in various activities on Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Activities included: golf, discs, shot put, javelin, long jump, football toss, track, swimming, table tennis, basketball, chess, volleyball, tennis, softball, horseshoes, and bowling. The majority of activities were held at St. Francis de Sales High School on Bancroft, but other locations were Ottawa Park Golf Course, Oregon Fields, Jermaine Park, and Bowlero Lanes.

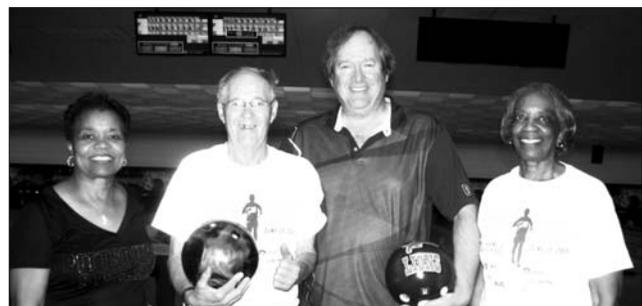
Participants and volunteers enjoyed the various activities, registered participants received a T-shirt and schedule of events.

"This was my first year participating in the classic. The opening ceremony was nice and seniors should sign up to attend next year," explained Pat Lyons.

Lyons's husband saw the classic advertised in a local newspaper and urged his wife to sign up. She's an avid bowling and participates in a senior bowling league. "I participated in horseshoes and bowling. I love

sports and even ran into a friend that I hadn't seen in years," said Ms. Lyons.

The Area Office on Aging and The Blade presented the event in collaboration with sponsors Aetna, CPW Health Center, BCSN, YMCA and JCC, and Mobile Care Group. The 2016 sports classic is scheduled for June 11, 2016. Contact the Area Office on Aging for details.





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# June Festival Fun



Candace Garmon, Darlene Hunt, Tyrone Riley



Councilman Tyrone Riley and Dedra Brown and ex-gang members giving back to the community.



Happy bike recipients



Horse rides provided by the Toledo Horsemen Club



Dedra Brown, Tina Butts, Tylesha Riley

Photos Courtesy of Twana Boyd / Dedra Brown

Smith Fest 2015, presented by Toledo City Councilman Tyrone Riley, was held June 20 at Smith Park. Free swimming, food, prizes, horseback rides and bike give-aways were just a few of the fun activities enjoyed by residents.

## Old West End Festival 2015

Toledo's largest outdoor neighborhood festival was held June 6 - 7. Thousands gather to enjoy the King Wamba Carnival Parade, historic home tours, entertainment, children's activities, an Art Fair, food and much more.



Tyjanae Richards waiting or the parade to start



David Perkins with daughter Olivia



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson



The Scott High School Marching Band



Makayla and Andrea Gordon enjoying the OWE Festival children's activities tent.

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# Spectacular ZOOtoDO Fundraiser Brings Out Eclectic Styles

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Perfect weather greeted the 1,500 attendees during the 2015 ZOOtoDO fundraiser held on Friday, June 19 at the Toledo Zoo. The annual black tie and tennis shoes event was anticipated to raise more than \$250,000 for Zoo operations.

As usual, dozens of local restaurants participated in the event offering virtually every type of food in the area – shrimp, beef tips, barbecue, pastries, nachos, stuffed pasta, fruits, sushi.

Guests were dressed in a wide array of formal and informal wear – often mixed together and various bands offered live music and dancing.

The zoo's new aquarium was the hit of the night as most of the guests were able to tour the building for the first time ever.



Heavenly Sweet's Jera Stewart and Bill Stewart



Karen and Larry Anderson



Stephanie and Kim Dixon



Peak Electric's Milton McIntyre and Rhys Petee



Thomas and Kelli Winston, Gina and Ron Thompson

## A Byrd's Eye View of Fathers:

Soulcial Scene Special

A gallery reception for Ambershaun Byrd, Toledo photographer and owner of "aByrdseyephoto Productions," was held at the Sanger Branch Library June 16, 2015 to showcase her Dad&Me Project.

The gallery of her photos is being showcased at the Sanger Branch Library during the month of June, in honor of Father's Day. The goal of the project, which was started in 2013, was to highlight fathers in a positive light.

"I aim to provide a pleasant, memorable experience for fathers with their children," says Byrd. "And produce a product that visually combats the negative media presentation of black males, and fathers."

Byrd says, in all of her family portrait sessions, she makes it a point to capture the fathers alone with the children. Pictures are posted on the aByrdseyephoto media pages, with a brief bio of dad and his accomplishments when possible.

Byrd also says the project has been well received in the Toledo community, and is expanding through other photographers in other places. To date, over 30 fathers have been captured for the project.

For more information visit [www.abirdseyephoto.com](http://www.abirdseyephoto.com) or email: [abirdseyephoto@gmail.com](mailto:abirdseyephoto@gmail.com).  
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Ambershaun Byrd, Toledo photographer and owner of aByrdseyephoto Productions

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# Second Baptist Congregation Celebrates the Church's 63rd Anniversary

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Sunday, June 14, Pastor Jerry Boose and the congregation of Second Baptist Church celebrated the church's 63rd anniversary with an afternoon service that featured a sermon by guest speaker Pastor Michael Prince.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Standing in Faith, Leaning on the Lord," from Romans 5:1-5.

Second Baptist, located in Holland, OH was founded on May 15, 1952 in the home of Rev. Frank and Viola Bowen, the moderator was Rev. GW Marcus.

The church purchased property on Frankfort Road in 1953 and celebrated its first anniversary there. Frank Bowen served as pastor for three years and thereaf-



Mother Georgia Rogers (standing) with pastors, first ladies and eldest members of the congregation

... continued on page 10



First Lady and Pastor Boose with Mother Canary Tilman and Elder JB Goings



Pastor Boose, First Lady Debra Boose, First Lady Sabrina Prince, Pastor Michael Prince

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8pm-10pm	DJ Battle	H Lounge														
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10pm-2am	After Party Hosted by Earthquake Music by DJ Webstar															

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# Positive Force School of Dance 2012 Production: *No Weapon*

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Positive Force Christian School of Dance's 2015 production – No Weapon – was held this past weekend at The Armory Church on Saturday, June 20. The dance company, under the direction of Artistic Director Sheila Gibson, has been hosting such productions since 2003.

This year's production featured 14 dances, choreographed by Gibson, with help from Giselle Hunt, her daughter.

Gibson, an accomplished performer also, was the owner and choreographer of Giselle's Dance Theater for eight years prior to the formation of Positive Force.

A serious student of dance from an early age, Gibson has trained under Gail Grant, author of the Technical Manual & Dictionary of Classical Ballet, jazz master Gus Giordano and other respected instructors. She also became a model and a model instructor with John Casablanca School of Modeling here in Toledo. She eventually travelled to Europe and co-owned a modeling and dance company in London.

She has accumulated numerous awards for her choreography with various companies. Many of her students have qualified for and have won competitions held by the Dance Educator of America and Star Power National. Several have pursued professional careers in dance.



*Second Baptist... continued from page 9*

ter Second Baptist was served by a half dozen pastors until, in 1983, Rev. Eddie Brown was named to the position. Brown served as pastor for 23 years until his death in 2006.

Under Brown's leadership a building fund was established in 1996.

After Pastor Brown's passing, the congregation finally found a new leader in 2008. A retired firefighter, Jerry Boose was a member of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. He became pastor on March 1, 2008 and since that time has implemented a number of ministries and programs such as the Outreach Ministry, the Young Adult Ministry, the Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, the Mime Ministry, the Couples Ministry, the Discipleship Ministry, the Tutoring Ministry and the Women's Ministry, among many others.

The church has now obtained 10 acres of land, the Irwin Park Property, which is now been named the SBC Annex.

This year's anniversary celebration consisted of a three-part series. On May 31, Pastor Robert Bass of United Missionary Baptist Church was a guest speaker; on June 7, Pastor Alexander Sheares of Rossford First Baptist was the guest speaker and, this past weekend, Prince of The Cross Church offered the sermon.

The church anniversary committee consisted of Chairman Sister Helen Brown, Co-Chairman Sister Renee Johnson and members First Lady Debra Boose, Mother Emma Brown, Trustee Regina Tilman and Sister Kaye Williams.



*Pastor Prince Holds Forth*

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Everything That Glitters.. continued from page 16

The highlight of the event was Daryana Watkins. The theatricality, of her strut and style captured the runway, earning her the nickname, "Runway Destroyer." The event was Hosted by Dolla Bill with music provided by DJ Boogodi.

The Ken and Barbie Kids Fashion Show was just another event to add to Watkin's already impressive resume. What started out as a creative hobby for Watkins has grown into to a passion, compelling him to enter local competitions and fashion battles such as "Mama Coffees Fashion Battle" where he won first place.

In 2011, Watkins debuted his very first fashion show, "A Night of Fashion," for Toledo's Fallen Stars which raised awareness and honored victims of tragedies such as breast cancer, HIV and Domestic Violence. In March of 2012, Watkins launched "PricelesDesignsoneofakindcustomboutique.bigcartel.com", an online boutique which displays some of his most creative and detailed pieces.

As Priceless Designs has prospered, Watkins has had the opportunity to work with celebrities such as MoNique, Sommore, Karlie Redd, Kash Doll, Khia, Trina, Bambi, Dorinda Clark Cole and Zuri Hall.

In March of 2015, Watkins debuted his third project "On the Run" with Priceless Designs hosted by Love and Hip Hop Atlanta's (LHHA) Karlie Redd, which debuted his spring collection and helped raise awareness for Kidney Awareness month that is also in March. As a seasoned designer, Price will continue to show his creative ability through his custom pieces and annual fashion shows.

Still to come, on Nov 29, 2015, Watkins and the Ryan White program will collaborate on northwest Ohio's premier fashion show for World Aids day 2015 hosted by LHHA Rasheeda. Watkins says, "With God, priceless designs will reach new heights in the upcoming year."

His motto? "Everything that glitters ain't Gold! . . . It's Priceless!"



Corrie and Christel Burrell



Neicy Stewart holding granddaughter Zairia Parker and son-in law holding his son Leavell Jr.C



Lamont Walker and Rachel Blackshear



Princess Delapaz with daughter Dasia Thome



Lavaya and Lanissa Leavelle



Bailey and Charli Walden and Kamryn Beene with Dylan Smith and Tahyah of Tahyah's Dance Studio



Danielle Fuggate with son T.J. Blackshear



Donn and Price with Daryana Watkins The Runway Destroyer



Daryana The Runway Destroyer



Jasmine, Maya, Brittany and Mother Katrina Cogdell

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*Jesus and Violence... continued from page 2*

My heart experienced the unimaginable late last night as the sun began to set in some places, and before the moon could peak through weary cloud-cast skies in others.

The very thing I fight and organize against—a deeply masked and far-reaching culture of violence in our society—has descended upon the steps of my family and worked its way into the sanctuary of the church. Last night during Bible study and prayer service, a gunman entered the historic Mother Emanuel AME church of Charleston, S.C., and opened fire on the 12 persons gathered there. There were only three survivors.

With deep sorrow, I write to share that my beloved first cousin was among the nine fatalities. Her death was confirmed this morning, and the unspeakable grief of this loss has knocked me and my family off-kilter.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box..." But suppose your life depended on that invisible rope that is your faith? Today, the weight of that invisible rope tugs at my trembling

heart, and such invisible faith is tested as we walk through the valleys of the shadows of death all around us. We are reassured to fear not evil, but to trust in the rod and the staff for comfort, protection, guidance and perhaps understanding when the morning comes.

Please keep my family, Mother Emanuel congregation and all those impacted by this rampant culture of violence in the center of your prayers.

Let us come together for such a time as this to the sacred clearing—no matter our faith or practice—and be of one accord in the spirit of love, hope, and healing to seek justice and peace for these and other victims of hatred and violence.

Let us put our faith to action and be more than empty drums that have long lost their melodies or arrangements. Let us remove our instruments from the poplar trees and call the people, the public officials, and, yes, the church to action to address the festering sores of racism, classism and militarism—as they intersect in this culture of violence. How can we begin to eradicate this evil without acknowledging the realities of racialized polic-

ing, hate crimes, and the disproportionate acts of violence against Black and Brown bodies?

Alas, it is morning and tear-filled dewdrops fall fresh upon my face, with eyes watching God and a soulful lament. Our hearts are troubled, but our faith remains steadfast, trusting and believing in the reconciling power of God for the brokenhearted and the oppressed.

Yours in faith and justice,

**The Rev. Waltrina Middleton,**

*United Church of Christ National Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership*

First published by United Church News on Thursday, June 25 @

[http://www.ucc.org/news\\_commentary\\_unspeakable\\_grief\\_charleston\\_06182015](http://www.ucc.org/news_commentary_unspeakable_grief_charleston_06182015)

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Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.orgxx](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.orgxx)

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

always wanted to protect me, as I am his child, but it is also about protecting that special mission he believes I am destined for.

At the same time, his approach to raising me has been to make me tough enough to go out in this world, survive, and thrive. And for that, I am very grateful! While I really do appreciate all of the warm affection, I know that one day either I will depart from loved ones, or they will depart from me. I like to focus on the things I learn from loved ones, so that their wisdom and ways of being can for ever live in my heart. So these are just a few of the great wisdoms my dad taught me.

- Jesus IS REAL!
- Back up your talking about Jesus with the life you live
- Religion is about more than emotion - discipline, study and love are equally important
- How to play the piano, take photos, play sports
- How to speak, play and sing in front of large crowds – whether they are supportive, ambivalent, and hostile
- How to do everything with conscientiousness and excellence
- How to successfully navigate men – how to hear what they are saying, what they are not saying, and what they really mean – how to set boundaries and limits
- How to love with my eyes wide open, lose love, and embrace life in the aftermath
- Relationship breakdowns do not have to be anyone's fault – there are seasonal relationships, and some relationships are just incompatible
- To be feminine without being a fool - to approach situations with a healthy level of suspicion
- How to be multidimensional and diverse – and navigate in all types of social circles
- How take risks – to not fear closed doors
- How to be assertive
- How to be confident in assuming leadership
- How to make NO APOLOGIES for who I am
- How to serve others and the community with gladness

- How to make decisions based on the future rather than the here and now
- How to work tirelessly - the work day is complete when the work is complete

But, at this season in my life, the lessons he taught me that I find myself needing the most are how to keep fighting. He taught me how to box physically, and definitely how to argue! But, he also taught me that my most powerful weapon is my mind. These are the fighting tips that I have to use so much during this period:

- Protect your vulnerable "psychological" organs – don't let people have access to your dreams or your fears
- Winning is not just about how many punches you can throw, but how many you can take
- Many can throw jabs, but it takes a real fighter to endure 16 rounds
- The real winner is the one that can endure to the end without falling apart

And, from any one who knows Dr. Donald L. Perryman – he can throw AND take punches with the best of them – physically, mentally, and spiritually. Those who have tried to block his anointing and many, many talents are baffled at the way he continues to stand and reinvent himself, his ministry, and his work in the community. **YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN (GOD'S ANOINTED) DOWN!!!**

You always pronounced greatness upon me, but today I say to you –

"Eyes haven't seen, nor have ears heard, the things God has prepared for YOU!!"

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!!!

Love, Tracee

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# Four Mile Strip of Nebraska Avenue Now Jack Ford Way

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Saturday, June 20, scores of Jack Ford admirers gathered at UMADAOP headquarters at 2447 Nebraska Avenue to pay homage to the former mayor by dedicating a four-mile strip of Nebraska Avenue to his name.

The event, organized by Toledo City Councilwoman Theresa M. Gabriel, featured remarks by UMADAOP Executive Director John Edwards, Ford close friend Weldon Douthitt, former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and daughter Jessica Ford.

All of the speakers touched on the impact the Ford, a former mayor, councilman, state legislator, school board member, social worker, had on the Toledo community – most in very personal terms.

Ford, who passed away earlier this year in March, founded two substance abuse clinics – SASI and Adelante – and the fact that the street dedication was held in front of UMADAOP – a drug counseling center – was particularly appropriate.



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson



Jessica Ford talks about her father



Weldon Douthitt addresses crowd



Carty Finkbeiner praises his late friend

# In Memoriam – Regina Gabriel

Regina Delaine Gabriel passed away June 14, 2015 in the presence of her loving family. The first of two children, she was born in Toledo, Ohio to Robert and Theresa M. Gabriel. A graduate of Robert S. Rogers High School, Regina earned an associate's degree in Health Care Administration from Brown Mackie College. She accepted Christ into her life at an early age as a member of Third Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir and was involved in many other church activities.

Starting at the age of 16, Regina worked as a seasonal employee at Columbia Gas, eventually earning a full-time position and working with the company for over 15 years. She was later employed at the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department of the City of Toledo. She then worked 23 years with Toledo Public Schools as a paraprofessional, working with special needs students as well as youth within the juvenile detention center. She was also a licensed beautician.

From the age of 10, Regina was a member of the National NAACP youth and young adult chapter of Toledo, holding positions on the national NAACP youth work committee, region three chairman, president of the State of Ohio and Toledo chapters. She was the first outstanding youth volunteer of the nation. Regina served as a liaison, traveling all across the United States, organizing youth chapters. She also volunteered at the Coalition of Quality Education.

Regina was preceded in death by grandparents, Sylvester and Laura M. King, as well as Daniel and Edyth Gabriel; father, Robert L. Gabriel, Sr. She is survived by her mother Theresa M. Gabriel; brother, Robert Gabriel, Jr. Also surviving are sons Tareaun D. (Sharon) Gabriel and Ian M. Gabriel-Walker; aunt, Lavinia M. King; uncles, Ronald E. King and Edward Young; five grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, dear friends and loving boyfriend, Charles Caldwell, Jr.



Regina Gabriel

Regina was a loving daughter, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. The work she did with special needs students was done with extreme love. Everyone whom she has touched will miss her kind and loving smile, humor and laughter.

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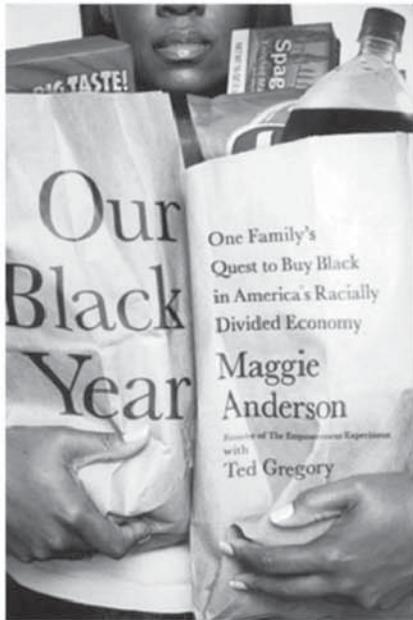
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# CLASSIFIEDS

June 24, 2015

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## Call for Artists

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Testing must be conducted through the National Testing Network ([www.nationaltestingnetwork.com](http://www.nationaltestingnetwork.com)) and completed no later than June 30, 2015. For more information visit [www.ottawahills.org/employment](http://www.ottawahills.org/employment) or email [police@ottawahills.org](mailto:police@ottawahills.org).

Pay range: \$18.23 - \$20.54 hr.

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## Invitation for Bids Waste Removal Services IFB #15-B005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for **Waste Removal**. Received in accordance with law until **Thu. Jul 16, 2015, 3PM ET**. Pre-Bid Conf.: Jun. 30, 2015, 10AM ET. For Documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org), 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446/419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711).

Bidders required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



## Request for Proposals Pest Control Services RFP#15-R010

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for **Pest Control Services**. Received in accordance with law until **Fri., Jun. 19, 2015, 3PM ET**. **Pre-Prop Conf: Jun. 4, 2015, 11AM ET. 425 Nebraska Ave.** For Documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org), 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446/419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711).

Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

### TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by the Board of Directors that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:

#### OVERLAND INDUSTRIAL PARK Warehouse Access Road 1000 Jeep Parkway Toledo, Ohio 43610

This contract is for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the OVERLAND INDUSTRIAL PARK Warehouse Access Road located at 1000 Jeep Parkway in Toledo, OH 43610, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604 until Thursday, June 18, 2015, at 2:00 PM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The project "OVERLAND INDUSTRIAL PARK Warehouse Access Road" is for the excavation, grading, aggregate base installation, paving and striping. The engineers estimate for the base bid of this project is \$250,000.00.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by contacting Gilda Mitchell with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at either 419-243-8251 or [gmitchell@toledoportauthority.org](mailto:gmitchell@toledoportauthority.org).

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 10:30 AM in the office of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, 7th Floor, Toledo, Ohio 43604. Attendance is helpful, but not mandatory.

#### TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

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## Special Notice

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted July 6-10, 2015 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY16-01, (Project # 1030-15-114) for Main Campus Parking Lot 2 Reconstruction for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, 2015. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$30.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Rick McGuckin of DGL Consulting Engineers at 419-535-1015. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 12.5%. Project Estimate: \$195,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$195,000.00.



# Everything That Glitters Ain't Gold! . . . It's Priceless!

Price Watkins of Priceless Designs together with Donovan Blount of Donn Cuttz presented the Ken & Barbie Kids Fashion Show & Runway Battle June 14 at the Charlottes' Web Activity Center, Bancroft St. Toledo.

Friends, families and parents packed out the center to watch their children ages 12 months to 15 years old compete in the Fashion Show/Runway Battle. The first part of the show consisted of children modeling their original, Disney themed fashions. Participants were judged on their unique designs, modeling and dance.

The second half of the show featured young models sporting the custom designs and creations of Price Watkins, CEO and founder of Priceless Designs. The evenings event also included appearances by life sized Ninja Turtle Leonardo and Hello Kitty courtesy of Eva's Party Pals.



Host Dolla Bill with Fashion show participants



Fashion battle contestant, Lavaya Lavelle



Kennedi Harris



Runway Diva, Aryana Watkins

... continued on page 11



Kids Fashion Show Contestant



Lanissa Leavelle



Event Coordinator, Donovan Blount with Designer, Price Watkins



Models wearing Priceless designs

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Please RSVP on The Soulcial Scene Facebook page or comment below if you plan on attending and hey, SPREAD THE WORD!

Be sure to check The Soulcial Scene page for updates!