



## First Jurisdiction Celebrates at HTC Grand Opening!



**Woodbridge, Va** – Bishop Ted Thomas and the entire Historic First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Virginia came to celebrate with and dedicate Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ (HTC), where the pastor and founder is Assistant Superintendent Eddie B Pruitte, Jr., on Saturday, February 27.

“Brother Pruitte, you did a good job of building a meeting house so you can rejoice!” proclaimed Bishop Thomas. It was a day of rejoicing as the saints joyfully praised God for his awesome provision.

From its early beginnings in February 1998 in the

Pruitte family living room, the Lord has blessed and grown the ministry and in May 2009 the Church was able to purchase its very own property in the northern Virginia region, right on the doorsteps of the Prince William County.

The sanctuary was packed as members, guests, visitors and friends came in to witness the historic event. In addition to church officials, Chairman Corey Stewart and Vice Chairman Michael May of the Board of County Supervisors were in attendance to show their support.

“Perhaps you’re familiar with this verse,” began Vice Chairman May. “Blessed are

those who are short in speech, for they shall be re-elected!” With that humorous introduction, both he and Chairman Stewart welcomed HTC to the county and thanked them for doing “what the cold hand of government” could not do to reach out to the community and today’s youth.

Coming from Matthew 16: 13 -18, Bishop Thomas preached on *The True Church*. “Some folk in the church aren’t in the true church... the church the Lord purchased on the cross!” said Bishop Thomas. He went on to explain that when the believer became a part of the body of Christ, he was no longer his own, but belonged to God.

After the preached Word and altar call, Bishop Thomas led the congregation through the ceremonial litany of dedication for the new building.

“We the people of this congregation,” came the thundering response of the church, “...dedicate this house as a temple, for the

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### Special points of interest:

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- *2010 Theme: “Chosen”*
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# Pastor Pruitte Selects “Chosen” as 2010 Theme



Late last year the Holy Spirit, while ministering to me, started doing what the Scriptures tell us He would do – bring all things to our remembrance (John 14:26). He told me that I had been chosen to minister in this community. He chosen to have great impact in the Woodbridge community. Of course our old foe doubt

continued to impress upon me that not only would I minister, but that I had been immediately paid me a visit, but the Spirit continued and reminded me of something that happened about three years ago.

HTC was fellowshipping with one of our sister churches in the Great Northern District, The Lion of Judah. After ministering and really exhausted, I sat down while the host pastor, Elder Kenneth Hackett, took the microphone. He told me and the assembly of saints gathered that the Lord had chosen me to build a church in Woodbridge. He instructed someone to read I Chronicles 28:10: *Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.* After we read the verse the Spirit fell on us and we rejoiced. Pastor Hackett told me to

return home and write a check for the amount of money we would need for our church in faith. Mind you, we had been looking for years for a facility more suitable for the ministry, but nothing was working. I felt the Spirit bare witness within me and got a number in my head - I wrote a check the following day.

This past spring approximately three years later, in the middle of a recession, the Lord favored us to be approved for a mortgage for the exact amount I had written a check for three years earlier. Not only did we purchase property during what was a season of drought for many, but we purchased in a prime commercial location. It is a location that a couple of major corporations desired, but the Lord chose us to occupy. At closing when I saw the numbers on

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2010 Theme: “Chosen” Deut. 7:6; 14:12; I Chron. 28:10; John 15:16, 19 & I Peter 2:9

## Words To Live By: Perfect Peace

By Mother Deborah Brown

Several years ago, when I lost my husband to stomach cancer, I cried out to God and asked God, "Lord, what am I going to do?" How am I going to make it? I can't take care of everything by myself! My husband helped me with everything and now he is gone. My companion, my friend, and my supporter, is gone! The person I spent time with and did everything with is now gone! Lord, what do I do? It was during that cry God spoke directly to me from the book of Isaiah 26:23, and told me, "I will keep you in perfect peace if you keep your mind on Me." Not fully understanding what He really meant or how to do it, I just began to trust God and rely on Him and listen to His word and He continued to lead and direct me. So many days when my faith got weak God reached out and helped me and on the days when I became overwhelmed

and thought I could not take anymore, God kept me.

Since that time, I can honestly say that God has never left my side. He has walked with me every step of the way. When I wondered how I would pay my bills because my financial demands were based on a two income household, God blessed me with a job that doubled my husband's salary and allowed me to continue to pay my bills and fully function. Whenever I get sick and wonder who will care for me, God heals me and comforts me and lets me know that He is with me and that He will care for me. Even now around holidays and special occasions when I get lonely because I miss my husband's companionship the most, God always sends someone to call, knock on my door, or do something special for me, just to lift my spirits, to remind me that He cares for me and that He is with me.

Saints, sometimes our circumstances in life try to weigh us down and distract us from seeing who God really is and who God wants to be in our lives, but I can testify that God can handle all of our problems and that He can fill any void. I encourage you to keep your minds on God, by reading His word, getting involved in God-related activities such as prayer and bible study, and by creating a special time to meet with God to develop your personal relationship with Him. He will keep your mind in Perfect Peace.



# Students Discover Meaning of Servant Leader at MLK Oratorical and Poster Scholarship



Excitement and anticipation filled the air as students of all ages participated in the first HTC *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical and Poster Scholarship*, Tuesday, January 12. This year's theme, "What Does it Mean to be a Servant Leader?" was taken from King's Drum Major Instinct speech.

"After earnestly searching, and trying to find an adequate explanation... I've come to this conclusion. For ladies and gentlemen, this question can only be truthfully answered by those willing to serve," recited Michael Benjamin, winner of the oratorical collegiate category of the competition.

The Scholarship, open to students from pre-K through college, allowed participants to express their thoughts on

the theme through a poster or oratorical submission. Cash prizes were awarded to those who won in their particular grade category and the youth were pleasantly surprised to discover that additional funding doubled each of the scholarships.

When asked why she decided to participate in the Scholarship, Deloris Pruitte said she did it because she knew

***The greatest lesson learned – everyone can be a servant leader!***

some people around her that were servant leaders. "I learned that being a servant leader means that you serve other people and you don't just have it all to yourself." Deloris was the youngest participant in the Scholarship and winner of the poster competition within her category.

"I can tell that the kids who participated put forth a lot of effort and learned a lot in the process," said Danielle Benjamin, the Scholarship coordinator. "I am so proud of them!"

Perhaps the greatest lesson learned that evening was that everyone can be a

servant leader. Students shared stories about young people who were jailed for standing up for social justice, regardless of skin color. Others told of volunteers who helped to dig wells in Africa so that families could have access to clean drinking water. Even everyday servant leaders, and those who live sacrificially, were recognized as young people spoke about the ones who made an impact on their lives through their servant's heart.

"When will the next Scholarship be?" asked one young person at the conclusion of the program – giving strong indication that next year's competition is sure to see even more participants and more scholarships awarded. Plans for next year's competition are already underway and students are eager to find out how they can get involved.

The purpose of the Scholarship is to give students the opportunity to realize the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., reflect on how his legacy continues to shape the course of history today, and recognize and give an opportunity for students to grow in their writing, artistic and communications skills as they pursue academic excellence.

Holiness Tabernacle would like to give a big congratulations to the participants and winners of the *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical and Poster Scholarship*:

**Group II Poster Winner: Deloris Pruitte - \$50**

**Group III Poster Winner: Dymond Starr - \$70**

**Group IV Poster Winner: DeAnna Pruitte - \$100**

**Group IV Oratorical Winner: Michael Benjamin II - \$200**



# HTC Grand Opening *continued from page 1*



***“Some folk in the church aren’t in the true church... the church the Lord purchased on the cross!” said Bishop Thomas.***



worship of the almighty God, in the spirit and name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.” Instructing the people to place their hands on the walls of the building, Bishop Thomas offered a prayer of dedication over HTC, that lives would be changed and become tabernacles for Christ because of the ministry.

With obvious, heartfelt emotion, Pastor Pruitte, with First Lady Vivian Pruitte at his side, expressed his thanks. “Holiness Tabernacle, I thank you for your

support,” he said, and then turning to Bishop Thomas, “The folk just support the work.”

“Yes, 2009 was a year of toiling,” continued First Lady Pruitte, “but I thank God for bringing us through it.”

In addition to the building, Pastor Pruitte also announced the name of the community park that would be built on the adjoining lot as the Bishop Mason/Thomas Memorial Park.

“I believe in this church,” said Pastor

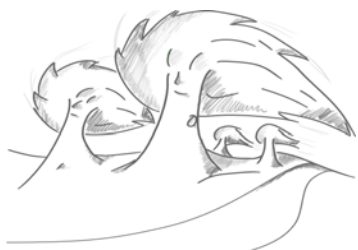
Pruitte, referring to the historic foundations of the Church Of God In Christ and the leadership of Bishop Mason.

“This church gave me an opportunity.” With steadfast conviction, Pastor Pruitte continued, “Bishop, you’ve got a church in Woodbridge.”

Indeed, as the people prepared to head home one thing was certain: Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ was establishing itself as a true church in Woodbridge.

# Word Of The Month: The Mysterious and Mighty Wind

By Deacon Jeff Howard



As we enter the month of March, many people throughout the United States are eagerly anticipating the upcoming season of spring. Some of us have endured the hardship of a long, cold, and snowy winter. Along with the excitement of melting snow, budding trees, green grass, and picturesque flowers, comes one of God's mysterious phenomenon forces of nature – the invisible wind, often associated with spring. God's awesome wind may come as a calm, soothing, and refreshing breeze or as a mighty force of power.

The wind has a very active role in the word of God. Two words in the Bible, the Hebrew *rauch* and the Greek *pnema*, bear the basic meaning of wind but are often translated as "Spirit." Manifestations of God were often associated with the wind. When Job was at his breaking-point of suffering, and everyone had turned against him; God spoke to him out of the midst of a whirlwind. His response to Job consoled him reminding him that He has control over creation and everything that happens in it (Job 38:1-40:2). The Lord used a raging wind to catapult Prophet Elijah into heaven (2 Kings 2:1, 11).

When Jesus witnessed to Nicodemus, telling him he must be born again of the Spirit, he told him in John 3:8, *"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit."* On the day of Pentecost, we find

God's *pnema* in action. As the saints gathered together with one accord in the upper room, the Spirit of God came as a mighty rushing wind and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

Allow God's wind to be prevalent in your life. He will calm you during times of trials and suffering, which is unavoidable for Christians, as he did with Job. Allow God's wind to overtake you and fill you with his Spirit for ministering to those who are lost. As for the unbeliever, God's Spirit will come over you like the invisible wind, once sins are sincerely repented of and Jesus is allowed to come into your life to be your personal Lord and Savior. Like Prophet Elijah, I'm looking forward to that day to be caught-up to meet the Lord in air with the mighty power of God's invisible wind – *His Spirit*.

## "Chosen" Theme *continued from page 2*

the HUD 1 paperwork, I started smiling. When the brokers, attorneys and trustees inquired the source of my humor, I reminded some and informed others of that service and prophecy.

Why am I sharing this testimony? First of all the Lord tells us to tell of His goodness and to make His deeds known; secondly we are called to encourage others. Some of you may or may not know the challenges new churches experience in the Northern Virginia area, trying to purchase property. Not only is land expensive, but the local government poses a challenge as well. I dare say it is not often you will find a congregation less than 12 years-old that has accomplished what we have, unless God be with them.

I suspect there are several of you reading this that may be (or have) experienced a time when you doubted the Lord or had questions about His plan for your life. Rest assured that which He promised He will perform because you have been **chosen**.

Now, before someone gets high-minded or braggadocios, let's look at the Word.

Deuteronomy records that when the Lord chose Israel, it wasn't because they were the most powerful nation (they had just been freed from 400 years of captivity); it wasn't because of their wealth (what they had, Egypt had given them); and it wasn't because they were so holy (all but Joshua, Caleb and their families died in the wilderness because they rebelled against Moses, the Man of God). God chose them because He knew in spite of their short comings He could do something great in them that would bless everyone else. The Lord did not choose Solomon because he was better than all of David's other sons (or David himself for that matter), but because Solomon had a heart for the people (II Chron. 1:10).

Additionally, do not be surprised if people do not understand you or disagree with you because you have been chosen. In fact you should expect this (John 15:19).

Jesus told His disciples that because He had chosen them out of the world, people would hate them. You do recall it was the leaders of the organized church that plotted against Jesus. Finally, do not be concerned that you cannot be like or be with everyone else; you must be peculiar, different (I Peter 2:9). There is a price to pay for being chosen – are you willing to pay it?

Holiness Tabernacle began this year in consecration as we have done in the past. Most if not all of the saints fasted and prayed before the Lord. However, this year we went a little further. Some of us expanded our fast days (and hours); some of us even went on to deny ourselves of other niceties and pleasures (television, shopping, etc.) because we wanted something special from God. We have not been disappointed. I have seen an outpour of the Spirit that has been most unique and powerful. Seemingly, the Holy Ghost meets us tremendously in every service.

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# HTC Sponsors “Bless Haiti Day” - Jan 24, 2010

The following is an open letter from Pastor Pruitte of HTC, calling for the support of Haiti survivors after the devastating earthquake.



**UPDATE: Thanks to your support, Holiness Tabernacle donated more than \$2,500 to the Church Of God In Christ Charities to support Haiti. We are still accepting donations for those who want to help.**

January 2010

My Dear Friends and Neighbors:

By now you have heard of the devastation and tragedy that has befallen our neighbors in Haiti. My heart is grieved to see human beings experiencing such suffering and misery. I have been moved to declare this Sunday, January 24, 2010 – ***Bless Haiti Day***. Our local assembly will not only offer special prayers for the victims (as we have been for the past several days), but we will also collect a sacrificial offering to forward to the non-profit organization, Church Of God In Christ (COGIC) Charities.

The Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr., as well as Bishop Ted Thomas, Prelate of Virginia’s First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, has called upon our denomination to make a special sacrifice during this most crucial time. Because of the urgency, we have been asked to forward all monies to COGIC Charities no later than January 29, 2010.

The Scriptures are laden with messages that admonish us to take quick and decisive action. Romans 15:1 states, we that are strong must bear the infirmities of the weak. When Cain was asked by the Lord where his brother Abel was, Cain responded by asking was he his brother’s keeper. Years later Jesus answered this question when he told the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Apostle James, also the brother of Jesus, tells us that pure religion is visiting orphans and widows when they are in need (James 1:27).

The Church Of God In Christ has a long and rich history in the ministry of Missions. Not only is there an established “Home and Foreign Missions” auxiliary, but our founding father, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, traveled the globe preaching Holiness and witnessing to the down-trodden and impoverished. Our present Presiding Bishop Blake has made Missions and Education a focal point of his administration. Just this past September, Bishop Thomas and Virginia’s First Jurisdiction raised more than \$50,000 for the Save Africa’s Children organization.

Our local church has a mind for Missions as well. From the 2004 Tsunami, to Hurricane Katrina of 2005, to distributing food baskets to families in need, to our first annual Turkey-Give-Away, Holiness Tabernacle has been an active participant in reaching out to those in need – and we will do the same in this crisis.

I want to invite you to join us in supporting our brothers and sisters in Haiti. If you cannot join us on this Sunday, January 24th for our ***Bless Haiti Day***, you can send your contribution to our post office box, or select the “Donate Now” icon. Please note **EVERY DOLLAR WE RECEIVE WILL GO TO COGIC Charities**. In fact, if you select the “Donate Now” icon, you will be redirected to the Church Of God In Christ official web site, [www.cogic.com](http://www.cogic.com).

Please join us as we do what the Lord requires of us – we are laborers together.

I bless you in the name of the Lord.

I remain,  
Your servant in Christ

Pastor E. B Pruitte, Jr.



# HTC Congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Paxton!

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*Saturday, November 28, 2009*  
**Hotel Monaco**  
Alexandria, Virginia

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## **“Chosen”** *continued from page 5*

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As I see the Spirit moving upon the saints, and the numerous visitors and guests that testify of the power of the Lord in our services, I do not get caught up in myself. The Spirit reminds me why I was chosen: (1) to build Him a house; (2) to show forth the praises of Him who hath called me out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Have you been chosen? Do you know why you were chosen? Stay tuned for more on this theme that has our entire congregation stirred!!

I bless you in the name of the Lord.

I remain your servant in Christ,

Eddie B Pruitte, Jr.

Pastor and Founder,

Holiness Tabernacle COGIC

## *Happy Birthday!*

### **March**

Daelena Paxton - 14

Elder Guilford - 26

### **April**

Dymond Starr - 3

Eryn McCown - 28





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*Feel free to email information, articles, testimonials, etc by the 15th of each month to [pr@holinesstabernacle.com](mailto:pr@holinesstabernacle.com).*

**We're on the Web!**  
[holinesstabernaclecogic.org](http://holinesstabernaclecogic.org)

*Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ (HTC) is located in Woodbridge, VA a suburb of Washington, D.C., in eastern Prince William County. HTC is a chartered branch of Church Of God In Christ, Inc. The Church Of God In Christ is a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in which the word of God is preached, ordinances are administered and the doctrine of sanctification or holiness is emphasized as being essential to salvation of mankind.*

***Our mission** is to preach the gospel and to spread the message of holiness such that men's lives will be changed and become living tabernacles; that God may have a place to dwell.*

**Upcoming Events**

GND Women's Rehearsal	March 6	Resurrection Sunday	April 4
VA #1 State Rehearsal	March 13	East Regional Rally	April 9-10
VA #1 State Worker's Meeting	March 23-28	GND District Meeting	April 19-23
Palm Sunday	March 28	VA #1 State Leadership Meeting	April 24

**HTC Services**

Sunday	Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Sunday	Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
1st Sunday	Holy Communion	6:00 P.M.
3rd Sunday	Evangelistic Service	6:00 P.M.
Tues.—Thurs.	Early Morning Prayer	5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	Prayer and Bible Band	7:30 P.M.
Thursday	Pastoral Instruction	7:30 P.M.
Friday	Noonday Prayer	12:00 P.M.