



Volume 8, Issue 1

HIGH TIMES

A Ministry of Highview Christian Fellowship
"Providing World-Class Ministry Deserving of an Awesome God"

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*Bishop Phillip O. Thomas
Service of Consecration
July 10, 2005*



Bishop Phillip O. Thomas

Arlington - After over 100 years of serving Arlington's Highview Park community, Highview Christian Fellowship (formerly Highview Park Christian Assembly), one of the oldest African-American churches in Arlington, is moving to larger quarters in Fairfax, Virginia.

Bishop Phillip Thomas, pastor of the nondenominational church, and who is also head of the Northern Virginia Black Pastors Council, said the move represents both a move up for his own congregation and shifting demographics in the region. "Membership of historically black churches in Northern Virginia is less and less community-based as younger generations move to outer suburbs in search of affordable housing," he says. "This trend is particularly true in expensive North Arlington where all three black churches are within a few blocks of each other here in Highview Park." Highview Park is a once racially segregated neighborhood that is now experiencing the area's redevelopment trend.

Thomas says his own congregation has been able to hold onto many members as commuters and to use a radio broadcast to attract some racially diverse new membership.

Media Release: A Fond Farewell to a Century of Memories

Excerpt from Media Release sent to local newspapers and radio stations

After 100 years in Arlington, African- American Church Bids Farewell

Member Carolyn June says, "I already drive 20 miles to get here from Largo, Maryland. I'll just have to drive a little farther to get to Fairfax, because this is my church home and God hasn't led me to go anywhere else."

"I'm going to miss their presence," says longtime resident Sandra Green who is retired Director of Recreation Services for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Supervisor of Area One, to which the Highview Park community is assigned. "They have made a wonderful contribution to the community. Pastor Thomas is very giving and always available, particularly with outreach programs in the park and making contributions to the community center. They are a very nurturing church and opened their doors to whoever needed assistance. Just knowing they were there was a blessing. They will be a great loss to this community."

Highview Christian Fellowship will be moving to a building they have purchase from Fairfax Community Church at 4100 Hunt Road, just off Little River Turnpike in an area known as church row. The relocation is scheduled for late April, pending completion of Fairfax Community's new building on Braddock Road.

The move by Highview Christian Fellowship leaves Mount Salvation Baptist Church and Calloway United Methodist Church, both of which have been fixtures in the community for over 100 years, as the last, remaining, historically black churches in North Arlington.

Moving Up – Two Churches Shift Places on Fairfax’s Church Row

Fairfax – In a reshuffle of the churches just outside the Capital Beltway in Fairfax, one church is moving out to a larger building and another is moving in with an ambitious agenda for community service.

Fairfax Community Church is moving to a large new facility on Braddock Road after 40 years on Hunt Road just south of the intersection at Rte. 236, known as church Row. Fairfax Community's building has been purchased by Highview Christian Fellowship, a predominantly black church based in Arlington for over 100 years.

Although the move is still pending completion of Fairfax Community's building expected in April, Highview's Mark of Excellence community service arm has already opened a preschool and a Transitional Living Center (TLC) at the Hunt Road location. In a recent get acquainted session, Fairfax County supervisor Sharon Bulova welcomed the TLC, which provides up to 6 months of low cost housing, training and job referral. Noting that affordable housing is one of the county's top priorities, Bulova said the TLC is already "a valuable service for those transitioning to the mainstream."

The Mark of Excellence is also studying possible locations for a restaurant-based job center, according to its director, Cynthia Butler-Jones. Highview's Pastor, Bishop Phillip Thomas, said, "We plan to be a total-man ministry for this community, and we're eager to have our new neighbors join us in this work."

In addition to community service, Highview will also bring what its website refers to as its "jubilant, arm-waving, electric praise music." Fairfax Community Fellowship got a taste of this music on the weekend of Martin Luther King's birthday, when the two churches celebrated a joint service. "That's it, we're staying here with you," quipped FCC's Pastor, Rod Stafford.

Pastor has been too kind to us in this transition, and we've become great friends," said Bishop Thomas. "I foresee that our two churches may be doing some great work together."

WORTHY SISTER*Submitted by: Nancy Bailey*

In a brief conversation, a man asked a woman he was pursuing, the question "What kind of man are you looking for?" She sat quietly for a moment before looking him in the eye and asking, "Do you really want to know?" Reluctantly, he said, "yes," she began to expound. "As a woman in this day and age, I am in a position to ask a man what he can do for me that I can't do for myself. I pay my own bills. I take care of my household without the help of any man...or woman for that matter. I am in the position to ask," What can you bring to the table?" The man looked at her. Clearly he thought that she was referring to money. She quickly corrected his thought and stated, "I am not referring to money. I need something more. I need a man who is striving for perfection in every aspect of life."

He sat back in his chair, folded his arms, and asked her to explain.

She said "I am looking for someone who is striving for perfection mentally because I need conversation and mental stimulation. I don't need a simple-minded man. I am looking for someone who is striving for perfection spiritually because I don't need to be unequally yoked... believers mixed with non-believers is a recipe for disaster. I need a man who is striving for perfection financially because I don't need a financial burden. I am looking for someone who is sensitive enough to understand what I go through as a woman, but strong enough to keep me grounded. I am looking for someone whom I can respect. In order to be submissive, I must respect him. I cannot be submissive to a man who isn't taking care of his business. I have no problem being submissive...he just has to be worthy. God made woman to be a helpmate for man. I can't help a man if he can't help himself. When she finished her spiel, she looked at him. He sat there with a puzzled look on his face. He said, "You are asking a lot." She replied, "I'm worth a lot."

(Praise God, some of you have been blessed already.)

Happiness keeps you sweet, Trials keep you strong,
Sorrrows keep you human, Failures keeps you humble,
Success keeps you glowing, But only God Keeps you going!



March 2005--Bishop Heber M. Brown and PCIF Overseers attend the Joint College of Bishops in Cleveland, OH

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

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An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

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A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

#####

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5- and 6-year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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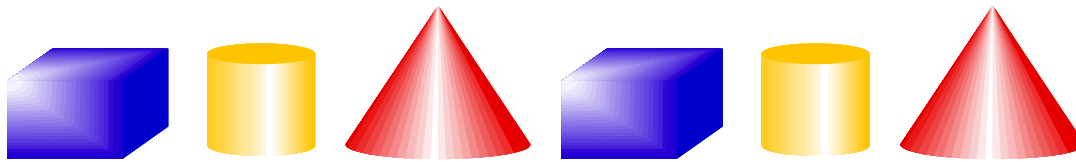
At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

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Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

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A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"



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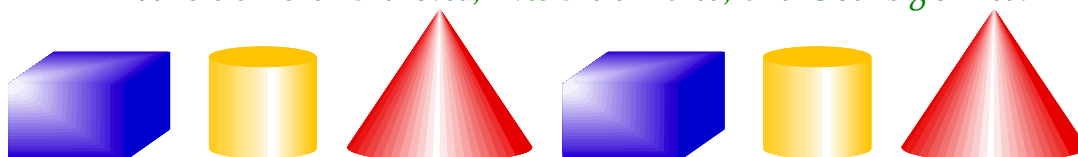
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- ✂ **Luray Cavern**
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www.markpreschool.com

“Where children are loved, lives are enriched, and God is glorified!”



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Somebody Special"*

We're on the Web!
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www.highviewcf.org

In the Valley...

It is in the valley I grow
Starting as a broken seed in the dirt of hurt and fertilizer of love
Where I'm lovingly watered by His Spirit and shined upon by His Son
Where I'm pruned by the vine dresser and cared for by the gardener
It is in the valley where I grow
In a place full of shadows
A place only illumined for a short time before darkness takes over
It is in the valley I grow
The valley where the One who is unchangeable, non-shifting and unmovable
resides
It is in the valley I grow
Waiting for my appointed season to break forth in glorious praise
As my leaves and petals arch toward the source of my growth
Where I receive my health, life and strength
It is in the valley I grow
Only wanting to give Him glory
With each push against the dirt that has both repressed me and nurtured me
It is in the valley I grow
I grow
I grow to display the glory of the Lord after having suffered for a little while
Now fully able to glory in Him and glorify Him
To sing the praises of my maker to every passerby
Who sees the work of beauty wrought by the loving hands of a God who
planted me
A God who watched me, fertilized me, watered me and pruned me
It is in the valley I grow
Now ready to share my beauty with others
My experience is open to all who stop by
To be the glimmer of hope for others in the valley
For it is
In the valley I grow.

--*Anonymous*

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