

The Great Preachers Series

Rev. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Senior Pastor
Donna Soaries, First Lady

Sunday, August 20

Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems, PhD

Co-Pastor

Ray of Hope Community Church

Nashville, TN

Order of Worship

7:00 am & 9:00 am

Praise & Worship

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn of Praise

Responsive Reading

FBC Music & Arts Ministry

Welcome

Pastoral Prayer

Introduction of the Guest Preacher*

FBC Music & Arts Ministry

Proclamation of the Word

Invitation to Discipleship

Offertory Prayer

Doxology

Benediction

* 9 a.m. Service only

11:30 am

Praise & Worship

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn of Praise

Responsive Reading

FBC Music & Arts Ministry

Welcome

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Prayer

Introduction of the Guest Preacher

FBC Music & Arts Ministry

Proclamation of the Word

Invitation to Discipleship

Doxology

Benediction

Happy Birthday Pastor Soaries!

Responsive Reading

The Vine and the Branches

John 15:1-8

Leader: I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Congregation: He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Leader: You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Congregation: Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Leader: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Congregation: If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Leader: If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

ALL: This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Offertory Prayer

God, our tithes and offerings are a symbol of your faithfulness to your people. Amen.



Care and Nurture

Pastoral Care Report as of August 16, 2017

Senior Members Homebound

John Alston, Vernell Bellinger, Beatrice Brown, Janette Callahan, Mildred Cannady, Marjorie Carden, Linwood Greene, Milton & Flossie Jackson, Garvester Kelley, Sr., Inez Moss, Beulah Slaughter, Eva Taylor, Frank Taylor, Jeanette Wilson, Martha Witt, Laura Sutton, Erlene Chiles

Members in Nursing Homes

Arista Care at Cedar Oaks - Nina Douglas
Atrium Senior Living of Princeton - Dorothea Booker
Care One - Niki Chukunta
Genesis Health Care - Mabel Randell, Lottie Cathcart
Marcella Center - Rosalyn Robinson
McCarrick Care Center - Eddie Martin
Park Place Rehabilitation Center - Ada Greer
Regency Jewish Heritage Nursing Home - Shawn Montgomery, Zelma Bishop Levels, Patricia Frazier
Somerset Woods Nursing Home - Lucy Faison, Fannie McCray
Stein Assisted Living - Tennie Green

Members in Nursing Homes (out of state)

Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
Aljean Maeweather
Fieldston Lodge Rehabilitation and Nursing Home - Kaymarie Bartley

Members in Hospitalized

St. Peter's University Hospital - Trustee Willie Walker
Dr. P. Phillips Hospital, Orlando, FL - Deaconess Ann Promise

Members in Bereavement

Sandra Gomes - loss of Aunt
Agnes Armstrong - loss of Husband
Delores Prescott - loss of Cousin
Dorothy Elbeck - loss of Great Aunt
Jean Roberts - loss of Granddaughter
George Roberts - loss of Granddaughter
Minnie Macon - loss of Sister
Lucille Morris - loss of Sister

Deceased Members

Albert Buford Armstrong

Great Preacher Series

About Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems, PhD.



Dr. Renita J. Weems is a biblical scholar, an academic administrator, a writer, a blogger, an ordained minister, and a public intellectual whose scholarly insights into modern faith, biblical texts, and the role of spirituality in everyday lives make her a much sought after writer and speaker.

Dr. Weems is the author of several widely-acclaimed books on women's spirituality and wholeness: *"Just A Sister Away"* (1987 & 2005), *"I Asked for Intimacy"* (1993), *"Showing Mary: How Women Can Share Prayers, Wisdom, and the Blessings of God"* (2003), and, *"What Matters Most: Ten Passionate Lessons from the Song of Solomon"* (2004). Her 1999 book, *"Listening for God: A Minister's Journey through Silence and Doubt"* (Simon & Schuster), won the Religious Communicators' Council's prestigious 1999 Wilbur Award for "excellence in communicating spiritual values to the secular media".

Ordained an elder in the AME Church since 1984, Dr. Weems is a former member of the faculty of Vanderbilt University and former William & Camille Cosby Visiting Professor at Spelman College. As a scholar she has numerous books, commentaries and articles on the bible and prophetic religion to her credit. In 2008, Yale University invited Dr. Weems to give the prestigious Lyman Beecher Lecture, making her the first African American woman to do so.

Upon her graduation in 1989 from Princeton Theological Seminary Dr. Weems became the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in Old Testament. In the 2008 publication of the book, *"Black Stars: African American Religious Leaders"*, a collection of biographies of some of the most important Black Religious Leaders over the last 200 hundred years, Dr. Weems is featured among such impressive figures as Adam Clayton Powell, Elijah Muhammad, Sojourner Truth, Howard Thurman, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Weems has been happily married for twenty-five years to Rev. Martin L. Espinosa. He is Executive Pastor and she Co-Pastor of a blessed inner-city ministry in east Nashville, Ray Of Hope Community Church. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Savannah Nia. Dr. Weems spends her spare time quilting and is a founding member of Zuri Quilting Guild of Middle Tennessee. When she's not quilting, Dr. Weems acts as Vice-President and Academic Dean at American Baptist College (Nashville, TN).

Walking Up The King's Highway

My way gets brighter, my load gets lighter,
Walking up the King's Highway.
There's joy in knowing with Him I'm going,
Walking up the King's Highway.

Refrain:

It's a highway to heaven,
none can walk up there but the pure in heart.
It's a highway to heaven,
I am walking up the King's Highway.

Don't have to worry, don't have to hurry
Walking up the King's Highway.
Christ walks beside me, angels to guide me,
Walking up the King's Highway.

Refrain

If you're not walking, start while I'm talking
Walking up the King's Highway.
There'll be a blessing you'll be possessing,
Walking up the King's Highway.

Refrain