

# The Vanderveer Park *Perspective*

NEWSLETTER OF VANDERVEER PARK UMC  
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021 – VOLUME 11 NO. 5

*BEST YEAR EVER!*

## *From the Pastor's Pen*

*Rev. Melvin D. Boone*



Grace and Peace,

It is a wonderful privilege to serve as shepherd to the congregation here at Vanderveer Park United Methodist Church. This vital and vibrant congregation is known for its service to the community and commitment to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. To that end, I feel right at home!

I am committed to using all of my gifts and graces to serve and support the many ministries that are currently active, and also being an inspiration for the new ways we may find to be of service to God's kingdom. I welcome conversations that explore the endless possibilities.

Together we will stir up the gifts that God has placed within us and continue to be relevant and important in this part of God's vineyard.

These are challenging days for our world, our community, and our church. We are pressed on every side, but thanks be to God, we are not crushed or abandoned. Our God is all knowing and all powerful. No matter if we face challenges in our health, our relationships, or our finances; at home, work or in school, our God is willing and able to address our every need.

I believe that if we serve the Lord with gladness, worship the Lord in spirit and truth, believe and trust in His word, and seek and appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit, there is nothing we cannot do. What is more, we will live in God's favor and power as was intended since before the beginning. I pray that we are likeminded in our faith and the belief that the best is yet to come!

May God bless you and give you peace.

Anchored in the Lord,

Reverend Melvin D. Boone

## Church Events

- **Sept 5th – Communion**
- **Sept 12th – UMW Meeting 2:00 pm (Zoom)**
- **Sept 19th – Women's Day**
- **Sept 22nd – Bible study Meet-n-Greet 7:30 pm (Zoom)**
- **Oct 3rd – Anniversary Month Kickoff**
- **Oct 10th – Sunday School Resumes**
- **Oct. 17th – Laity Sunday**
- **Oct 20th – Oct 22nd Fall Revival**
- **Oct. 31st – Youth Sunday**

# Surviving Together in the Impending School Year

by Wilma Ambrose

If anyone ever questioned the resourcefulness, resiliency, and dedication of educators, the year of the Coronavirus should certainly have put those queries to rest. Teachers in all of the five boroughs in New York City, some with limited technological capabilities, discovered and created pathways to continue to provide instruction to the 1.1 million students in our school system. I doubt that there is anyone who thought that, as we are about to embark on the 2021/22 school year, a variant and vaccine

hesitancy, an unholy alliance, would be the backdrop against which we would be beginning this school year. While the various governing bodies grapple with composing a cohesive message, it will be up to those in the trenches to continue to provide safe spaces and instruction for our students. It will take the entire village to ensure that our schools and classrooms will be safe spaces where everyone will be able to work collaboratively to address the learning loss and deficits while preventing outbreaks in our classrooms.

Family members can play an essential part by following these few simple suggestions:

Talk to your child about the importance of wearing his/her face mask in place at all times, except during meals. Although wearing a mask might be uncomfortable, it is essential to keep the virus from spreading.

Encourage your child to practice proper hand washing techniques.

Discourage students from sharing personal items with classmates and from bringing toys and other such items from home.

Inform teachers of any issues at home of which they should be aware.

Keep your child at home if he/she becomes ill.

Prepare your child ahead of time for the changes that have occurred at school and encourage him/her to be compliant.

Stay connected with your child's teachers and educational facilities for updates.

The New York City Department of Education successfully reopened schools in September of 2020 without a significant increase in numbers of covid cases within the schools. We are New York strong and if any institution can reopen safely at this time of the emergence of the variant, it will be the NYCDOE. However, it will take the entire village to pull this off. Here's to a successful, 2021/22 school year!

## Anniversary Alert

Next month Vanderveer Park UMC, known as the church of the sweet, sweet spirit will celebrate its one hundred and twenty-first anniversary. The church has been a beacon of hope in this area of Flatbush. Over the years, the ethnicity of the congregation changed. From its foundation in 1900 by Howard E. Sand, originally from Germany, to the present, the church has remained a beacon of hope in this area.

When we look back at the history of Vanderveer, it has always had its challenging moments. The church survived war and depression. It survived a three-alarm fire in 1974 that resulted in much

destruction; yet members remained faithful, and the church was restored to its original beauty.

At this moment in our history, we face new challenges arising as a result of the current pandemic. Only recently were we able to gather in person by following the guidelines for church reopening. We lost members and friends to COVID and illness; as members were confined to their homes, and we could only visit by phone.

We are now entering a new phase in our church life. This is a time of renewal and transformation. It is a moment to transform our

lives and rededicate ourselves to service. We could begin by evaluating our current ministries and programs and further extend into the broader community. Let us, as Reverend Boone exhorted in his sermon "Living into Your Faith", be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love, [and] make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4: 2-3.





# More Than A Ballot

By Tanya Rodriguez

A few months ago, we celebrated Juneteenth, the mark of the end of slavery for hundreds of thousands of African Americans in the United States. Sadly however, though the new proclamation granted citizenship, privileges like voting rights continued to be systematically barred for decades. To remedy this problem, Congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870:

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.*

Still, African Americans, especially in the southern states, faced many unfair practices that prevented them from exercising their right to vote. Some methods used to turn away black voters from the polls included poll taxes, literacy tests, fraud and intimidation. Many states used the "grandfather clause" which decreed that individuals could not vote unless their grandfather had voted, an impossibility for most people whose ancestors were slaves. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the clause in 1915.

Many brave Americans have sacrificed over the years protesting, marching, facing violence, risking arrest and some even losing their lives in the fight for fair voting rights. Movements led by great activists such as Dr. Martin Luther King and John Lewis maintained the stand for justice until victory was won.

Changes came in 1964 with the Twenty-fourth Amendment which prohibited the use of poll taxes. Then again in 1965 with the Voting Rights Act prohibiting states from using literacy tests and other methods of excluding African Americans from voting. Following these laws, the number of black citizens registered to vote increased from an estimated 23% to 61% by 1969.

More recently, following the 2020 Presidential elections, state lawmakers have enacted 32 laws that restrict ballot access in 17 states. More than half of these new laws make it harder to vote absentee and by mail, while some bills are designed to curtail early voting, impose restrictions on voter registration efforts, limit the power of local officials to oversee elections and stop private donors from supplementing their operational budgets. States such as Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wyoming have already passed such laws with restrictive language. Many of these restrictions are believed to be targeted at the black and brown communities.

It almost seems as though history is repeating itself. We must not let it happen. We must not allow restrictions to take away what our forefathers fought so valiantly to gain on our behalf. For every ballot represents more than a vote; it represents every freed slave, every beaten protestor, every life lost in battle.  
*Continued on page 4*

# Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

By Wanda Coleman-Hutchins, MSN, RN, FNP, ANP-BC

In the United States most people with SCD are African American.

About 1 in 13 African American babies is born with the sickle cell trait.

About 1 in every 365 African Americans is born with the sickle cell disease.

SCD can also affect people who come from Latin American, Southern European, Middle Eastern or Asian Indian backgrounds.

Sickle cell disease is a lifelong inherited disease. It occurs when both parents have the sickle cell trait.

The problem occurs in the hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Normal red blood cells are round smooth and flexible. This allows the red blood cells to move easily and fit through exceedingly small blood vessels, bringing oxygen and other nutrients to bones, muscles, and every organ. Normal red blood cells live up to 120 days (about 4 months) before the body replaces them.

In SCD the red blood cells are C shaped. They are stiff, sticky, and hard. Sickle cells die early (60-90 days) causing a shortage of red blood cells. Due to the shortage of red blood cells people with SCD have anemia. The sickle cells stick together causing blockage that slows or stops the blood flow. When this happens oxygen cannot reach tissue and organs. The decrease in oxygen can cause sudden severe pain resulting in a sickle cell crisis. The pain can be mild to severe. The crisis often occurs without warning. These blockages can cause organ damage or stroke.

Common areas of pain are arms, legs, chest, abdomen and back.

In hospital treatment can include pain management, blood transfusions and IV fluids.

To prevent a crisis people are encouraged to stay warm in cold weather, exercise, drink fluids (stay hydrated), get rest (8 hours of sleep) and manage stress.

There are medications that reduce the onset of a crisis by preventing changes in the hemoglobin. Stem cell and bone marrow transplants are beneficial, but are not done routinely.

For further information and support contact the **Sickle Cell Disease Association of America**.

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# Greetings from Virginia State University

*Jayda Frett and Franchesca Marcellus sent us a picture to let us know they have settled in and are doing well.*



## More Than A Ballot

*Continued from page 3*

Every American that chose to take a stand for justice at the polls, showed up not just for themselves, but for you and me, let's continue to show up for them.

*"But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" Amos 5 vs 24*

Sources:

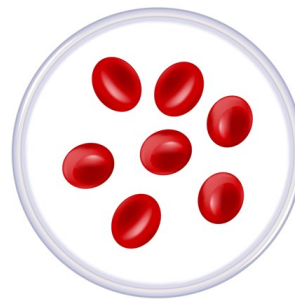
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## Sickle Cell *continued from page 3*



Normal red blood cells



Sickle cells anemia

# Higher Education Ministry Report

*by Maggie Tattall & Olive Mahoney Harriell*

## 2021 - 12th Annual Back to School Event and 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholarship Award

Greetings to the Vanderveer Park Church Family. Congratulations on your historic 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholarship Award Program and the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pathways Back to School Event.

The Higher Education Ministry is pleased to announce that despite the continued threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, the vaccine controversy, and the uncertainty of college reopening, with the help of GOD and lots of prayers, we were able to accomplish the following:

### **PATHWAYS BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT:**

(A Positive Self Esteem Program for Children, Youth and Parents) was held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, in the sanctuary. The program was a success with the participation of several of our own Vanderveer Park Education & Health Professional invitees, who spoke on various topics.

One of the highlights was the presence of and participation of Dr. Jacinth Hanson, Director of the Brooklyn Economic Opportunity Center at the NYC College of Technology.

Our youngsters were not afraid to participate and at the conclusion of the Program, they were treated with a 'GRAB-n-GO lunch and FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

**The 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD** was also presented on SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021, with disbursement of awards totaling \$6,350.00 - ranging from \$250- \$500 from our General Scholarship Fund (all majors) and \$1,300 from the Detective Andrew Prendergast Trustees Memorial Scholarship Fund to the following students:

### **2021 COLLEGE FRESHMAN**

Selwin Antrobus (Ferrum College, VA)

Taneil Correia (CUNY – John Jay College)

Javon Durrant (CUNY – Medgar Evers)

Jayda Frett (HBCU – Virginia State University, VA)

Christian Nwenyi (University of Pennsylvania)

Franchesca Marcellus (HBCU – Virginia State University, VA)

Jean Marcellus (CUNY – Kingsborough C.C.)

Noah Stewart (Ononconda Comm. College, Syracuse, NY)

Miles Stennett (George Washington State University)

### **2021 CONTINUING STUDENTS**

Tylar Boone (SUNY-University of Albany)

Macaela Cox (CUNY Brooklyn College)

Isaiah Caldwell (SUNY-University of Albany)

Nayancie Matthews (CUNY-Baruch College)

Janai Correia (CUNY-Brooklyn College)

Nicholas Ramphal (CUNY-LaGuardia CC)

Jonathan Logan (Howard University)

Briana Watson (SUNY-Oswego)



# Higher Education Ministry Report *continued*

## **2021 TRUSTEES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

(1). The Detective Andrew Prendergast Memorial Scholarship Award (all majors) is awarded to 2 (two) students annually who are making excellent Academic Progress (GPA). The 2021 recipients are:

1. Nayancie Matthews – CUNY-Baruch College

2. Briana Watson – SUNY-Oswego, NY

**\*\*Special Recognition Award—Tylar Boone—SUNY-University of Albany**

## **12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ESSAY CONTEST**

TOPIC: One of the challenges for our youth is to maintain positive self-esteem. How are you preparing yourself to meet this challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

There were six participants:

## **2021 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS:**

### **1<sup>st</sup> PLACE**

Javon Durrant	<b>Cash Prize</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
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### **2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

Ian Daniel	<b>Cash Prize</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
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### **3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

Christian Nwenyi	<b>Cash Prize</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
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### **4<sup>th</sup> PRIZE**

Jayda Frett	<b>Cash Prize</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
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## **Consolation Prizes:**

Selwin Antrobus & Miles Stennett	<b>\$ 25.00 Each</b>
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Congratulations to our students for their courage and resilience in such a time as this. Grateful thanks to our congregation and all those, who have contributed financially, donations of goods, their time in support of our students as they strive faithfully in the pursuit of their educational goals and aspirations.

*We give God thanks for what He has enabled us to do in making a difference in the lives of our college bound students these past 23 years.*

On Behalf of the Higher Education Ministry

*Magdalene Tattnall, Chairperson*

*Olive Mahoney-Harrielal, Co-Chair*

## Health Advisory from the NYC Department of Health: COVID-19 Outbreaks with Current and Emergent Variants

In New York City, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are once again increasing, and the Delta variant now predominates. The vast majority of recent NYC cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have occurred among unvaccinated people, underscoring the importance of vaccination. Vaccination remains the most important tool we have against COVID-19. CDC recommends urgent action by all

- Unvaccinated people (including children older than 2) should wear masks in public indoor settings.
- In areas with substantial and high transmission – this currently includes NYC - people who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings to prevent the spread of the delta variant
- People who are fully vaccinated should get tested if symptomatic or if they've had close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- If someone fully vaccinated has been around a person with COVID-19, they should get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if without symptoms. They should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result. Those who test positive should isolate for 10 days.

**Get vaccinated! Vaccines remain the best protection against the delta variant.**

**It's never been easier to get vaccinated in NYC:**

See [nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](https://nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) for locations near you OR call **877-VAX-4NYC**

**In home vaccinations are available for ALL New Yorkers 12 and older:**  
Go to [nyc.gov/homevaccine](https://nyc.gov/homevaccine) to sign up or call **877-VAX-4NYC**

# HELP WANTED



If you are interested in serving in the Media Ministry, please email us with your name and contact information at [vpumcmedia@gmail.com](mailto:vpumcmedia@gmail.com)



## Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

The Worship Committee is searching for people to serve on the Altar Guild. This position involves getting the sanctuary ready for worship. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, changing the paraments for the liturgical seasons, checking the candles, and putting the flowers out. If you think you might be interested or need further information, please call the church office at 718-434-3741. This is a behind-the-scenes way in which you can help contribute to our worship service.

# SPOTLIGHT ON EVANGELISM

As a member of the evangelism ministry of your church, you have various responsibilities. Each task serves to deepen the congregation's commitment to its mission.

1. Promote evangelism as a core value of each ministry of the church
2. Envision what God's will for the congregation's evangelism ministry is and set goals that are consistent with that vision.
3. Develop a plan for an overall evangelism strategy and system that reaches out to people, welcomes them into the congregation, relates them to God, and equips and empowers them for ministry.
4. Serve as a team leader for those assigned to work with you: guiding the work of the team, help them to work from a biblical and theological foundation, creating a space in which Christian faith formation happens.
5. Work with the pastor, team, and other church leaders in assessing the congregation's goals and measures pertaining to evangelism and attendance trends, as well as the way in which new people are received into the congregation and empowered for ministry.

Evangelism is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit. The team is built starting with prayer. Team members should pray for one another and for the development of a common

vision for the congregation's evangelistic ministry.

It is important to familiarize yourself with biblical models of evangelism and faith sharing.

Most of us are quite proficient in the art of compartmentalization, and our religious life is one of the compartments. We talk about God at church. We serve God at church. We might read our Bibles or pray at home, but we may not think about living out our faith in all of the other arenas where we invest time and energy. Yes, church is where we learn and are reminded of who we are and how we fit into God's larger story; where we practice articulating our individual faith stories, and where others help us to discern our gifts and calling in God's kingdom. But that cannot be where our practice of faith stops.

Our denominational mission statement is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". We invite people into a lifetime of growing in love of God and neighbor, so that they may join in God's world-transforming work. This work of transformation happens only when people know who they are, who God is, and how to live in loving relationships.


If you feel God is calling you to join the Evangelism Ministry team, please contact the church office with your name and contact information.

## Vanderveer Park Celebrates 121 Years in Ministry


### October is Anniversary Month

As we prepare to celebrate 121 years of ministry in the community, we are grateful that we have been able to persevere during the pandemic. It is only through your continual support that we are able to maintain ministry to those in the community. There are many ways to support the church with your Anniversary offering of \$121; \$1 dollar for every year we have been in ministry.


### Ways To Give




PHONE  
TEXT "VPUMCGIVE"  
TO 77977



GO TO  
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MAIL TO  
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