

ing to cope.

Not all bad, the kids move in with Granny Mason, creating a joyful romp with the humorous senior.

The play was set in contemporary times and we were introduced to the family a few months after the husband Charles lost his job, putting a crimp in his family's lifestyle.

Granny, made plump with a pillow, was superbly played by Nelldra Allen. From her initial entrance to the final scene, Nelldra set the tone and tempo of this entertaining endeavor.

She had enthusiastic support from fellow cast mates. Deidra Watson put the D back into Diva as her conflicted daughter-in-law; DiArron Morrison delivered the goods with a solid performance as the bullied teenage grandson. Both the son and granddaughter, played by Perry Molden and Jada Dean, rounded out the cast with lively performances. Then there was that sexy sassy family friend played by Barbara McKeown, the Barbara we never knew!

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can encourage you in weak periods.

Gary Williams is an inspiration to Hillcrest members as leader of the Club Med ministry and also a participant and advocate for the Peachtree Road Race, in which some 20 Hillcrest members participate.

Other active fitness ministries include golf, headed by Harrell Thomas, the tennis program, headed by Jay Fuller.

These outdoor activities will be swinging into action soon so



The Friersons, Rob and Dena, along with Jasmine, RJ and Adam.

Rob and Dena Frierson were blessed to grow up in the church, and they are determined that their three children will be blessed likewise.

"I grew up in one of those small churches where everybody knew everybody," said Rob, 48, who is from a rural community called Mount Pleasant, south of Nashville. "My brothers and I were right in the middle—sometimes I would lead songs, one of them might read the scripture and the other would do communion."

For Ron it was a powerful, formative experience. He grew up to be an active deacon in a Cincinnati church. THREE of his brothers are gospel preachers.

Dena's experience was much the same.

The daughter of an elder in Cincinnati, she also has a brother who is a minister in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Against that backdrop we can

last year when they decided to move from their small community church in Roswell to Hillcrest.

"We wanted to give the children a broader and fuller experience," said Dena, a homemaker, who keeps a watchful eye on sons RJ, 11, and Adam, 10, and daughter Jasmine, 8.

They are not hard to spot. In the early service they would be the family of five, sitting together, on the front row, right side.

The Friersons, are tight, yet open, self-confident and full of chatter.

"We have tried to raise them with several things in mind," said Rob. "They know, first and foremost, God is watching all the time and always with them. Whatever they do, the question is, how would God feel about this?"

Says Dena, "We try to make them secure at home and free to express themselves, and talk openly about their feelings, free to question."



Hill Come to Pass"

Eskridge

of Hillcrest's annual Black History Month commemoration.

The musical revue dealt with a myriad of challenges for the mythical Masons, keeping the family in turmoil days on end.

It was a take on our troubled times, a family head named change," he said, "you have to adopt a life style that can reduce weight, increase fitness and maintain the fitness you desire."

"The quickest way to put on the brakes and lose weight noticeably in two weeks, is to curtail sweets, specifically sugar," he said.

"Try to limit yourself to six teaspoons of sugar a day," Brother Williams said, noting that one can of soda has NINE teaspoons of sugar.

Another tip—adopt an ever-

super heroes like Superman, Spiderman, Batman and Wonder Woman. Then there is YOU—Super Christian! What are your super powers? What is your kryptonite?

My super Christian powers would be: The power to cause Christians to be happy doing the Lord's work. I would use this power to foster a more harmonious church. The power to inject Christians with true agape love, which means loving people in spite of our differences. The power to cause TRUE commitment as God designed it. My kryptonite would be unrepentant sins because they weaken and destroy you spiritually and physically.

If you were a salad, what would your dressing be? Why?

If I were a salad, my dressing would be raspberry vinaigrette. It has just the right amount of sweetness and tartness which are traits useful in being a Christian.

Describe yourself in three words.

The three words I would use to describe myself would be *behind-the-scene*

You are a reporter for the Genesis Gazette. On which incident recorded in the Book of Genesis would you report? Why? What would your headline be?

My headline would be "Busted and broken, but built to last." I

to the list in Matthew 5: 3-10. How do you complete it: Blessed are the.... Why?

The ninth beatitude would be "Blessed are they that recognize their true condition, for they shall achieve salvation in God." Our true condition is that we are lost without God. This beatitude would increase our urgency in reaching those outside the arc of safety.

Which Biblical character do you admire most? Why?

The Bible character that I admire most is Deborah (Judges 4-5). She was a wise leader. She was the fourth and only female judge of Israel. Deborah had special abilities as a mediator, adviser, and counselor. When called on to lead, she was able to plan, direct, and delegate. She was able to see the big picture.

You have just received an email from your minister. What does the subject line say?

The subject line that says: A message from your minister.

Which Biblical character do you think would have been the best comedian? Why?

I think Methuselah would make a good comedian because after living 969 years, I am sure he could find humor in just about everything.

Which Biblical character are you most like?



DiAaron Morrison participated in several Black History Month activities writing contest and performing in the play.

Hillcrest Black History Celebration: J

by Ernest Holsendolph

Hillcrest's Fifth Annual Black History Month commemoration culminated in a joyous and inspiring festival of music, orations, writing and achievement on the last Sunday of February.

The spectacle spanned the generations. Little tykes like Jarius White and Monty Baker were wide-eyed receiving awards and performing exuberantly in stage presentations in honor of civil rights leaders.

And what a treat and inspiration to hear the haunting song, "Who Killed Poor Martin," written by our own Ann Hunt Smith, who stood and directed the Hillcrest Singers in their performance.

And later our Hillcrest Singers out did themselves, bringing the audience to their feet with a rousing rendition of "Oh Mary," a spiritual made famous nearly a hundred years ago by the fabled Fisk

Hillcrest update the spiritual, with its swaying, deep-felt and quick-paced treatment of the classic. And Sarah Robinson, using her rich Mahalia Jackson register, inspired us with a brooding meditation on another classic, "Soon I Will Be Done." It was a musical feast.

And then were our young adults in action. Like Kayla Dean's oration, "Would the Real Dream Keepers Please Stand!" And Kiana Jordan's reading of Langston Hughes's poem, "As I Grew Older..." a poem of being forgotten...

*I am black.
I lie down in the shadow.
No longer the light of my dream before me,
Above me.
Only the thick wall.
Only the shadow.
My hands!*

learned to see the likely results of their decisions, thus, they are in a position to provide us wise counsel.

I urge all Hillcrest ministry leaders to keep our seasoned saints in mind when they are looking for a few good men and a few good women to perform various tasks.

Our seniors, after all, follow in the footsteps of some very familiar Biblical characters like Abraham and Sarah who were past 90 when Isaac was born and Moses and Aaron who were past 80 when they were called to lead Israel from Egypt.

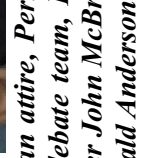
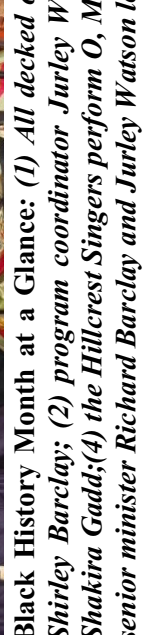
Hillcrest seasoned saints are energetic and knowledgeable, and they have much to offer. Let's make sure we are tapping into the awesome treasure chest that they represent.

manded to honor the elderly: Leviticus 19:32: "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD."

The Hillcrest Church really steps up in obeying this spiritual mandate, and while the annual seasoned saints banquet is a special manifestation of our bent in this area; we focus on it 24/7/365.

Another reason that we should honor senior citizens is because of their wisdom, which they have gained through years of experience and because of the incredible talents and skills they possess; these skills have been honed by years and years of practice.

Our seasoned saints have had lots of time to see the effects of good and evil and have



Black History Month at a Glance: (1) All decked out in African attire, Per Shirley Barclay; (2) program coordinator Jurley Watson; (3) debate team, 1 Shakira Gadd;(4) the Hillcrest Singers perform O, Mary; (5) elder John McBr senior minister Richard Barclay and Jurley Watson look on; Gerald Anderson

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Ealy and DiArron Morrison.

The Academic Bowl, a panel question-and-answer contest, was won by a team of DiArron Morrison, Amber Jones, and Noah White, with a runner-up team of Nyessa Dixon, Antoria Miller, and Kayla Smith.

Best at spelling among levels K through first grade was Bria Smith Lewis, first, followed by Sydney Baskfield and Matthew Alberdie. Second and third grade: Breanna McNary, followed by Sierra Swan and Anbria Paul-Hill. Among fourth and fifth graders, best speller was Elizabeth Lewis, followed by Gerald Anderson and Tamira Anderson.

then answered questions, winners were as follows: kindergarten through second grade team of Arianna Holmes, Jayden Gadd and MJ Blackmore placed first and second was the team of Geanna Anderson, Sydney Baskfield and Bria Smith.

Third through fifth grade—top team was Breanna McNary, Jalen Chambliss, Anbria Paul-Hill and Cristina Norris. Runner-up, team of Gerald Anderson, Monty Baker, Tamira Anderson and Elizabeth Spencer.

Jurley Watson, who managed this latest black history festival, put it in perspective:

"We have a rich past. But we keepers of the memories have a duty to remind the world of them."



ns Chamber Award



Members of the Hillcrest Club Med
Fitness Challenge
by Ernest H

Everybody has heard it—buy the Magic Butt Belt and in weeks you'll be looking like J-Lo! Use a Gut-Buster and in two weeks you'll be in a size 6!

Well, it just isn't that easy, says Gary Williams, coach of the Hillcrest club med ministry.

But with time, patience and work, nearly everybody can get fit—not necessarily looking like a football linebacker or passing for J-Lo, but fit like one expert defines fitness: "moving more efficiently from head to toe, and having the strength and energy to maintain a high quality of physi-

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eous Christian life or we may toss the brick to "bust up stuff." It may be used to bust up a marriage, or to bust up young lives.

Remembering their morals, the family members each came to terms with their problems and taught us all the importance of coping, waiting for the Lord, and remembering what's important.

The play concluded with Charles Mason getting a new and better job, his wife Cindy reaffirming her love and commitment to him as wife and partner. Jason and Jenny solve their problems. And best of all, long-suffering Granny was happy that her family was back on the right track.

Whether we laughed, shook our heads, shouted amens, or clapped during this fine production, the lesson to take away is that Christians can't let anything turn their focus away from God.

We may be tossed by the wind and currents, but God keeps us anchored and steadfast.



...ience with her portrayal of a sassy, Pass."

issues. And sadly losing their way spiritually and losing focus.

Consequently, the whole family suffered, and the family paid with troubles upon troubles.

A clever parable about the brick, a simple brick, brought home a strong message. "We are all given a brick," one player said. "Our destinies are determined by what we do with our brick."