

Strengthen the Black Church  
Black History Month Framework

*By Doris Bluitt*

1. Messages from speakers, preachers, etc. – Once a week (Beginning of the week indicating the importance of Black History or recounting an experience, etc.) Does not have to be Black Preachers/Speakers.
2. Each week feature a category or categories of Black History Facts – Unusual Facts  
Examples below:

- a. Science and Medicine: Groundbreaking Breakthroughs
  - i. Kizzmekia Corbett (Helped the Covid 19 Vaccine)
  - ii. Thomas L. Jennings (Invented Dry Cleaning)
- b. Writers: Published and Prizewinning
  - i. Briton Hammon (1<sup>st</sup> Black writer of Prose)
  - ii. George Washington Williams (1<sup>st</sup> author of history of blacks in America)
- c. Religion: Reaching New Spiritual Levels
  - i. Jarena Lee (1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to preach in the AME Church)
  - ii. Anne Sweitzer (Aunt Annie) – (founding member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist society in the colonies)
- d. Journalism: Firsts
  - i. Martin Robinson Delaney (Publisher of the 1<sup>st</sup> Black Newspaper west of the Alleghenies)
  - ii. Carlotta Bass (1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to own and publish a newspaper in the US)
- e. Education: Overcoming Racial Bias
  - i. Alain Leroy Locke (1<sup>st</sup> Black Rhodes Scholar)
  - ii. Marian Wright Edelman (1<sup>st</sup> Black woman elected to the Yale University Corporation and founder of the Children’s Defense Fund)
- f. Business: New Enterprises & Corporate Advancements
  - i. Frederick Douglass Patterson (1<sup>st</sup> Black man to manufacture cars)
  - ii. Joseph L. Searles III (1<sup>st</sup> Black member of the New York Stock Exchange)

- g. Arts and Entertainment: Achievements
    - i. Frank (Francis) Johnson (1<sup>st</sup> Black American musician to publish sheet music)
    - ii. Selma Hortense Burke (1<sup>st</sup> Black sculptor to design a United States coin)
  - h. Sports: Awards and Achievements
    - i. Wendell Oliver Scott (1<sup>st</sup> and only Black driver to win a NASCAR Winston Cup race)
    - ii. Renee Powel (1<sup>st</sup> Black woman on the LPGA tour)
  - i. Civil Rights
    - i. Charles Hamilton Houston (1<sup>st</sup> full time paid special counsel for the NAACP)
    - ii. Maria Stewart (1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to speak publicly on women's rights)
  - j. Government and Politics: Firsts and Achievements
    - i. Sammie Chess, Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> Black Judge in North Carolina)
    - ii. Carolyn Robertson Payton (1<sup>st</sup> woman and black to head the Peace Corps)
3. Use a different technique for introducing persons. Use "Who Am I" format –
- a. Name of the Black Person
- With 4 facts – One true and the other 3 false
- Persons guess which is correct
- Winner at the end of the month gets his/her name published