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 (1st Black writer of Prose)
      ii. George Washington Williams (1st author of history of blacks in America)
   c. Religion: Reaching New Spiritual Levels
      i. Jarena Lee (1st Black woman to preach in the AME Church)
      ii. Anne Sweitzer (Aunt Annie) – (founding member of the 1st Methodist society in the colonies)
   d. Journalism: Firsts
      i. Martin Robinson Delaney (Publisher of the 1st Black Newspaper west of the Alleghenies)
      ii. Carlotta Bass (1st Black woman to own and publish a newspaper in the US)
   e. Education: Overcoming Racial Bias
      i. Alain Leroy Locke (1st Black Rhodes Scholar)
      ii. Marian Wright Edelman (1st Black woman elected to the Yale University Corporation and founder of the Children’s Defense Fund)
   f. Business: New Enterprises & Corporate Advancements
      i. Frederick Douglas Patterson (1st Black man to manufacture cars)
      ii. Joseph L. Searles III (1st Black member of the New York Stock Exchange)
g. Arts and Entertainment: Achievements
   i. Frank (Francis) Johnson (1st Black American musician to publish sheet music)
   ii. Selma Hortense Burke (1st Black sculptor to design a United States coin)

h. Sports: Awards and Achievements
   i. Wendell Oliver Scott (1st and only Black driver to win a NASCAR Winston Cup race)
   ii. Renee Powel (1st Black woman on the LPGA tour)

i. Civil Rights
   i. Charles Hamilton Houston (1st full time paid special counsel for the NAACP)
   ii. Maria Stewart (1st Black woman to speak publicly on women’s rights)

j. Government and Politics: Firsts and Achievements
   i. Sammie Chess, Jr. (1st Black Judge in North Carolina)
   ii. Carolyn Robertson Payton (1st 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