

## LENT at 'THE PARK'



## EASTER at 'THE PARK'



## Faith fortified three black doctors as they broke racial barriers

Hamilton Park's Robert Prince, Claude Williams and Larry Lundy started careers when discrimination was rampant. It didn't stop them.

Every Thursday at [Hamilton Park UMC](#), three doctors nearing age 90 join other seniors around a conference table for Bible study. On this day, leader Joe Nash guides them in a lesson appropriately titled "Peter's Healing Ministry."

"What can you do to help people heal emotionally, spiritually and physically?" he asks.

Dr. Robert Prince, Sr., recalls talking with patients facing a grim prognosis.

"My scalpel could not cure them," he said. "I have sat down in my office and talked at length about having the faith to heal. I would give them the courage to get well."

Yes, he lost some patients, but he found that faith was often strong medicine.

It is faith that he and his dear friends, Dr. Claude Williams and Dr. Larry Lundy, both 89, drew on as they broke racial barriers in the 1960s. Dr. Prince was part of the first partnership of black obstetricians/gynecologists in Dallas. Dr. Williams was the only African-American orthodontist practicing between Atlanta and Los Angeles. Dr. Lundy was the first black podiatrist in Dallas.

"My career is based mostly on indignation," Dr. Prince said. His sister needed treatment for asthma when they were children, but no specialists would see her because of race. Their physician, Dr. L.G. Pinkston, found a doctor in Fort Worth, and the children and their mother made the trip from Dallas.

When they arrived for their appointment, "the nurse at the front desk looked like she was having a panic attack," he said. The three were hustled into a sweltering storage room to wait until all the white patients had been seen.

That stoked his determination: "I wanted to become a doctor and provide medical care for all people."

Indignation also led him to specialize in OB/GYN. He saw how African-American women were treated and chafed that they could only get appointments on Thursdays — "that was the maid's day off."

Dr. Williams said that as he encountered obstacles, God opened doors. He had a thriving dental practice in Marshall when he saw that his daughter needed orthodontia. But no orthodontist would take a black patient. So he returned to school, "led by faith to pursue a specialty" so he could treat his child and others like her. (His daughter is Judge Staci Williams of the 101st Civil District Court in Dallas.)

"My greatest contribution was opening up dental education to blacks in Texas," he said. When the federal government tied integration to getting research funds, Baylor College of Dentistry accepted black students but hadn't prepared the faculty and staff for the transition, he said. Black students "were ostracized and treated harshly," and black patients faced disrespect, he said.

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Dr. Lundy saw God working in the people who helped him along the way to become a podiatrist in high demand.



Left to right: Dr. Robert Prince, Dr. Larry Lundy, Dr. Claude Williams

THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH ALLIANCE CHAPTER PRESENTS

# PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGIATE CHOIR

BENEFIT CONCERT **Saturday MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>** 7:00pm

HAMILTON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
11881 Schroeder Rd | Dallas, TX 75243

For more information contact: [philander@hpumc.org](mailto:philander@hpumc.org)

**FORWARD** philander.edu

'Hamilton Park's black doctors' continued...

"I didn't know where I was going; I didn't have any money to get started," he said. But even when he was waiting tables, "I'd meet people there and they'd say, 'I can do this for you.'"

In time, he became a podiatrist in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recruited to North Dallas. But he saw the need in South Dallas and even made house calls, especially for the elderly.

"Most of them were kind of shocked when I said I'd come to them because they had such a hard time getting to me," he said.

To him, alleviating the suffering was more important than the money.

Ultimately, Dr. Williams said, the doctors' careers show that "God opens doors you never knew existed."

## Children and Youth Ministry News

Our Confirmands had a great time at Bridgeport Confirmation Connection. We made lots of new friends as we learned more about being Methodists, our Sacraments, Theology and growing in our faith.



**Saturday**  
**MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 pm

HAMILTON PARK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**GRADUATION!**

Seniors!!

Calling all seniors of HPUMC. Please contact the Higher Education Ministry if you are a graduating high school or graduating college senior.

Thank you!

**Dallas Emmaus Community** Experience *The WALK*

2018 Dallas Emmaus Calendar

**Men's Weekends**  
March 3-4      September 27-30

**Women's Weekends**  
June 14-17      November 1-4

For more information contact  
Rev. Archie Browne or Dee Dee Spivey

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
Education / Greek Affiliation Sunday

This Sunday we are wearing our school and/or Greek paraphernalia to close out an amazing Black History month at 'THE PARK'.

MEMBER OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> WAVE BRIGADE

FOUNDERS DAY 100 YEARS 02.18.2018

**Join us!**