

Expression

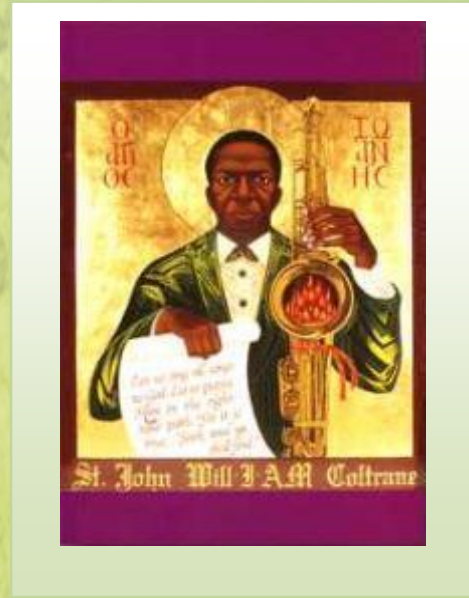
NEWSLETTER

"That's what it is"

Reverend Wanika Kristi King Stephens Is Installed as Rector and Pastor

The month of September in the year 2010 has carved for itself a most noble place in the history and evolution of the great ancient and historical African Orthodox Church Jurisdiction of the West. Pastor Wanika rose from the ranks of first child and founding member to youth-student minister in the office of deaconess to be ordained as the first woman to the office of the priesthood. She was consecrated by His Eminence the most reverend George Duncan Hinkson Archbishop, M.D.D.D., in 1984. Rev. Wanika has been dedicated to the life of the church and has used all her gifts and talents for the upliftment of the work and the glory of God. Candidate Rev. Wanika was presented as worthy for ordaining by the Archpriest Father Robert James Haven to Archbishop King who was assisted by Rev. Franzo King Jr. and Rev. Max Haqq. Supreme Mother Doctor Phyllis Prudhomme the founder of the Brighter Day Theological Seminary, where Rev. Stephens was to study, was the proud Grandmother witnessing a generational transition. The Most Rev. Mother Marina and the Sisters of Compassion Mother Brahmajyoti Bonnie Lee, Rev. Sister Gloria Fisher, Rev. Sister Makeda Neukel, Rev. Sister Dianna Bryant were in prayerful attendance. Archbishop King spoke of the benefit to Christ's Church in freeing up the opportunity for women the work of the priesthood. "This act of forward revolutionary thrust is not as some would say the empowering of a woman but rather should be seen as the power of the called and anointed women of God being given the full opportunity to empower the Church."

After examining and giving word to the work of the Pastor with obedience to God and the Bishop, vows were taken and the laying on of hands confirmed the blessing and approval the Holy Spirit. Pastor Wanika was given a Bible to empower with a higher calling to take the Gospel to four corners of the earth. Being taught by the Archpriest Pastor Wanika served her first communion. And history was made to the honor and glory of God and to delight of all in attendance.



Once you become aware of this force for unity in life, you can't ever forget it. It becomes part of everything you do. In that respect, this is an extension of 'A Love Supreme' since my conception of that force keeps changing shape. My goal in meditating on this through music, however, remains the same.

And that is to uplift people, as much as I can. To inspire them to realize more and more of their capacities for living meaningful lives. Because there certainly is meaning to life.

~ Saint John Coltrane

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATE 84TH BIRTHDAY OF SAINT JOHN COLTRANE

September 23, 2010 would have been the 84th birthday of the “Gift of God”, Saint John Coltrane. As has been the custom and the tradition of the Saint John Coltrane devotees, the word went out worldwide to the global community to observe the day that the anointed sound leaped down from the throne of heaven out of the very mind of God and incarnated in one John Will I Am Coltrane.

The High Mass began with a full house, which would soon spill out through the open doors to the chairs on the sidewalk. The joyous spirit of the gathered believers was in full anticipation of four hours of familiar but uncharted rivers of praise and thanksgiving. They had come from far and near—Israel, New York, Italy, Russia, Ohio, France, and California.

The clergy and Ministers of Sound had joined their hands in prayer in the space behind the wall of the blessed icons. The deacons prepared the censer with frankincense and myrrh. The communion vessels were in their proper place, the bread and wine was on the high altar of the most Holy of Holies. Some of the founding members were having memories of a time when this was the day called Savior’s Day. There were visions of Sri Rama Onedaruth “The Lord of Compassion, Wealth and Prosperity”, the name that was communicated by way of supreme revelation to the divine mother of the royal family Turya Coltrane from the Lord of the world.

Members of the community and the local district, including representatives from many community cultural institutions, were in attendance. Participants included Mr. Gregory Johnson from the Marcus Garvey Books, which is celebrating 50 years of community service; board member Mr. Terry Collins and Mr. Harrison, media outreach person of The People’s radio station KPOO 89.5FM; Ms Christine Harris, board member of the Jazz Heritage Center; Missionary Jualta Stewart of Las Vegas; Mr. David Hilliard Srio, officer of the Black panther party and executive of the Dr. Huey Newton Institute; Realtor and Church foundering member Mr. James Taylor; Minister Christopher Mohammad, regional representative of the nation of Islam local Mosque 2; and Dr. Bill and Martha Goring of Hamilton Memorial Church.

Minster Ernie Watts met the standard of excellence in the spirit and style of Saint John. Sister Megan Haungs and brother Toes Tiranoff and brother Tyler Knowlin stepped in high style, reminding all those in the know of tap dancing’s contribution to hip drumming. Rev Onaje counted himself worthy among the many reed men, the likes of the temple players Archbishop Franzo Wayne King, Father Robert Haven, Rev Max Haqq, and Rev. Franzo King Jr., who together with Franzo III set the tone each Sunday for a spirit-filled sound Praise. Brother Bob Marshall on drums set the beat and Rev. Wanika King Stevens and brother Clarence Stephens on bass set the heartbeat. Sister Destiny Muhammed’s harp spoke celestially. Young Cartier King’s lead voice carried the day on the 23rd Psalms. The most Rev Marina King led the Voices of Compassion in the song praise. Young Karl Nueckel’s drumming echoed a fitting end to the celebration. All this was brought to order and blissful harmony under the direction of Master Frederick Harris.

The Ordination of Pastor Wanika King Stephens



On Sunday, September 19, 2010, the St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, Jurisdiction of the West, consecrated, ordained, and installed Rev. Wanika King Stephens to the order of priest and pastor. It was perhaps the proudest moment of my twenty year membership in the church. I have always felt very strongly about the leadership of women in the church, society, and the world: it is an undeniable fact that women are our leaders from birth. Our responsibility, as His Eminence Archbishop Franzo King has said, is not to ‘empower’ women—as if women were somehow lacking in this regard—but to *recognize* the power of the women who are already ahead of us in spiritual strength, patience, compassion, and willingness to do the work for the sake of God’s kingdom. I am so happy, and I rejoice deeply that my church has now taken this bold step in elevating our beloved sister to this position of leadership in the global community. On the morning of July 18, 1967, when the first rays of the rising sun broke forth, a very young Wanika King awakened to find her dad in a pit of despair. “They killed Trane baby,” he said. Her father had been up all night after hearing the news of John Coltrane’s death, listening to the music, convinced that the sun would not rise—that the God in heaven would not allow a new day to dawn on an earth absent of that anointed sound and soul. Young Wanika knew nothing of that despair, nothing of that dark night. She did, however, know the joyful sound herself. She said, “I want to hear some Charlie Parker—that’s my man!” In that moment our church was born. In that moment a light came on—brighter and more ancient than the sun—and in that light was the good news: He lives! Just like Bird lives: Trane lives! Rev. Wanika is our priest and pastor today for the same reason she was there to switch the light on for her father that morning: God put her there. That’s what is so beautiful to me. There are so many paths to the pulpit, and to positions of leadership in the church—but what is the motivation, the inspiration, the reason for assuming this mantle?

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“Many are called,” the scripture says, “but few are chosen.”

Without a doubt, Pastor Wanika has been selected by God and recognized by the church for the purity and sincerity of her response to the call. It’s a crucial time, this ‘generational *transition*,’ as Archbishop King has put it, wherein the very survival and ultimate prosperity of the work are at stake. We needed a special dispensation of grace, we needed *selflessness*, and we needed a soul steeped in *A Love Supreme*. This is what we have in Pastor Wanika, the one who heard the call and responded: “Here I am Lord, use me.”

Let us, as members and friends of St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, rejoice heartily and continue steadfast in the work, trusting in God and having confidence in our leadership. The first and original church member, who was but a young child when her parents came into the vision of Coltrane Consciousness, is now the priest and pastor. She is a woman and a mother, experienced in compassion and care, patience and perseverance—just the qualities we need in a leader, not just for the church, but for the whole global community. Most importantly, she is a woman of grace and heavenly timing—and that is a gift of God.

~ Deacon Max Haqq

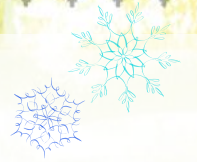


One on One Bass Lessons with Clarence Stephen



Strait Jazz - Jazz Fusion
Acoustic and Fretless Bass Sight Reading -
Audition Techniques
Email: bassontop@earthlink.net

Archbishop Franzo King, D.D.



African Orthodox Church
Jurisdiction of the West

December 14, 2010

Greetings to pastor, ministers, officers and members of the jurisdiction of the West. Praying that all is well. Thank you for all that you give to Christ's Church. You are on our heart and in our prayers. Dearly Beloved of God it is our desire to work the work of He who has sent us while it is day. And to see all things done decently and in order to the benefit and success of Christ's Church. We are also concerned that we in our efforts to move forward in the work we have inherited and He whose name by which we are benefitted, that the name His Eminence G. Duncan Hinkson, D.D., M.D. be lifted up and be proclaimed abroad with the dignity and respect that is befitting and so necessary to the success of our efforts. Therefore we do propose that some time in the month of May 2011 that there be a day set aside and proclaimed as Dr. G.D. Hinkson Day. To be celebrated with a 3 to 7 day jurisdictional synod. At such time in the being about the church work with workshops (teaching) and appropriate events. At such time we would formally install the rector Fr. Nyther and the ceremony ordaining Rev. Sr. Watts to the priesthood and perform confirmations. The need to build and secure our jurisdiction demands that Saint Augustine's and Saint John's work together in the planning and logistics to produce programs and a souvenir booklet that would serve as a fundraiser and historical document. There should be research of information concerning the work of Dr. Hinkson in church, medicine, social and community. We should contact those persons of authority and others who can give testimony and honor and witness to the work and great accomplishments of His Eminence.

As we communicated to pastor Nyther, senior warden Best, and other members that Dr. Matthews archpriest and one who has sat at the feet of his Eminence has been selected and chosen as a person anointed and qualified for the office of bishop. Dr Matthews has graciously accepted our invitation to serve and we are thankful to God. We have asked him to serve as our dean of minters in charge of education and proficiency of all ministers. The course of study is now being prepared with the intention to begin study classes in January. The cost of apostleship is not to be taken lightly if in all true intent we would hold to the standard of excellence as set by our able and worthy founding patriarch and his eminence Dr. Hinkson.

On Rev. Watt's visit to SF and St. John's without solicitation from her we have honored her work and calling and your request for the elevation to the priesthood by the laying on of hands. Our concerns if there be need for constitutional change in these matters we see them being answered and settled. Search of the constitution and canons will find no prohibition to the ordering of women to the priesthood.

In our doing so proved to be a vanguard move valid and in full authority of our office. It also echoes the words of his Eminence G. Duncan Hinkson to me "That you (Archbishop King) will ordain women."

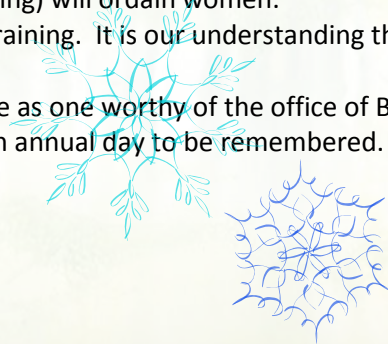
Rev. Watts until such time as indicated shall remain a priest in training. It is our understanding that she remain in the office of secretary of the vestry at this time.

Dr. Berry is also being looked to as a candidate in the near future as one worthy of the office of Bishop. We thank God for your hard work and sacrifice to make Dr. Hinkson day an annual day to be remembered.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Archbishop Franzo Wayne King, D.D.



“For unto us a child is born - Unto us a son is given.”

Dear Members, and Friends, www.coltranechurch.org/donate

All praise be to God to whom all praise is due. Dearly Beloved of God we pray God's blessings upon you in a very special way during this season of advent and at the closing of this year. May your joy be multiplied, and may you continue to remain in God's keeping power as we move into this new and coming year. Reflecting on this past year confirms for we the faithful that God is truly merciful and unerring. We thank Him for keeping us our families and community, and workers in His vineyard. The miracle of God in our presence has saved us from much strife and danger, and His love has protected us on every front.

We thank God for our Founding Patriarch His Eminence George Alexander McGuire, and for the mighty helmsmen and he whom the Lord did chose His Eminence George Duncan Hinkson to bring us the charitable hand of fellowship, and inviting us in the great African Orthodox Church. And for our Judicial Archbishop Franzo W. King, and for our Most Reverend Mother Marina and the Sisters of Compassion.

As the newly installed rector and pastor of the Saint John Coltrane A.O.C., I am overjoyed to pen this my first letter for Christmas and the New Year. I am humbled by, and embrace this effort to move forward the vision and labor of our chief and founding apostle Archbishop King. I do cherish the prayers of the saints. I thank the Lord for all of the clergy and officers, our archpriest Father Haven, and all of the deacons, our musical director Master Fred Harris, and for our Junior and Senior Wardens Hubert Nueckel and Clarence Stephens. I thank God for all members and friends who have given of their time, prayers, labor and resources to the encouragement of this great church.

It is the season of the birth of our redeeming savior that gives us cause to rejoice and to be exceedingly glad, yet we must guard that our work go not undone least we rejoice in vain for the night is far spent and many are not saved.

This of all holy days of obligations the one that calls to mind the wonderful gift of new beginnings. The babe in us is born anew, and we as infants are completely dependant upon the God of our creation, and with a pure heart we put our whole trust in Gods ability to guard us, and to nurture us into full maturity.

We pray that in this season of giving, that we first receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit to empower us to meet the challenges in the year to come. Praying for you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With love to all,
Reverend Wanika K. Stephens – Pastor
Donation link: www.coltranechurch.org/donate

All praise be to God, unto whom all praise is due. One Mind

As we enter into a new year it is always good to reflect on where we have come from and how it has shaped us into the people we are today. Growing up in the “Coltrane Church” afforded me a unique opportunity to understand the complexity of sound, specifically the sound of music. I refer to myself as born in sound. Meaning I am music incarnate. I have a connection to melody, harmony, and rhythm that transcends beyond the rock and bop to the healing of the soul. As St. John Will-I-Am Coltrane once said “I think music is an instrument. It can create the initial thought patterns that can change the thinking of the people.”

Born In Sound

By Marlee-I Mystic

Born in Sound

That's where I'm found
 If you come looking for me
 I can guarantee
 I'll be up in a tree
 With a cup a tea
 Singing a sweet melody
 And it won't be
 Just some hip-hop or rap slang
 It'll be the sound of John Coltrane
 Putting all the rest to shame
 Uplifting His name
 And putting you up on game
 Now y'all know what I'm saying
 Whose name just keeps on playing and playing
 Never leaving you hanging
 Cuz I'm born in sound
 That's where I'm found
 With the disc spinning round and round

Now y'all may not see where I'm coming from
 You may not realize this *Ascension, Transition*
 This Godly recognition
 Cuz Coltrane's not one of those lames
 He's not the same
 And when you realize this
 Whew... You'll see what you missed
 Cuz while you was running around playing that radio
 It was making you slow
 Leading you to a place of... well you know
 It wasn't taking you from *One Down To One Up*
 With *Giant Steps* into *Living Space*
 You was too busy listening to Mase
 P'Diddy and the whole Bad Boy claim

When you should of hopped on the *Blue Train*
 Or in the *Summertime* listening to *Autumn Serenade*
 Cuz with *Dahomey Dance* in *Central Park West*
 I felt *My Shining Hour*
 Filling me with that musical power
 Cuz I'm born in sound
 That's where I'm found
 With Coltrane lifting me up from the ground
 Now maybe I'm *Old Fashioned*
 Or I thought of this in a *Moments Notice*
 But let me tell you I know this
 If you look inside your *Body And Soul*
 You will see that *You Are Too Beautiful*
 Because even with *Lonnie Lament* in *Blue's Minor*
The Damned Don't Cry
 Not from One of the *Night's a Thousand Eyes*
 So when you feel like the *Blues To You*
 Hop on that *Satellite* or *26-2*
 Because it's all *Dedicated To You*
 Whether you're in *Dear Old Stockholm, Alabama, India, or Liberia*
 Just say *Dear Lord* let me reach an *Affirmation*
 Steadily in *Prayer And Meditation*
 Cuz I'm born in sound
 That's where I'm found
 With the disc spinning round and round

YOUR MUSIC WORKSHOPS

YOUR MUSIC WORKSHOPS is a new series of courses offered at the Coltrane Church by Frederick Harris, church pianist/music director. The courses (listing found at FREDBLASTINBARRIERS.COM) feature a general music listening/appreciation class, geared toward non-musicians, entitled "What's So Great About Music Anyway?! It's Not Like it Cures Cancer or Something...". The course title is from a statement made to Frederick some years ago, by the less-informed, and is a familiar one to many Americans today, in the wake of the three-plus decades of declining arts education in American public schools. The class explores the fundamental elements of music- Melody, Harmony, and Rhythm- through listening, lecture, and discourse of a wide range of music styles: from Beethoven and Stravinsky, through Marley (yes, Bob Marley), to discover that the first thing that is "so great" about music is it's kindred state, unto itself. Music does not need to separate itself; we, humans, have the need to separate things, and this course begins with revealing the kinship inherent in music, through allowing the music to "speak for itself" (elaborate on JC quote here, if desired).

In the course called Theory For Vocalists, Parts I and II, *musicianship*- not vocal performance- is the focus, as this basic music theory course is designed with the vocalist in mind. Music theory is challenging to all musicians, and for the vocalist (who doesn't "see" their instrument, as it is in their necks!) it can be, furthermore, deemed as unnecessary; as, knowing *theory*, per se, is not required to "sing", directly (or play most instruments, for that matter). However, when one aspires to be a musician, the first necessity of needing to communicate effectively, and efficiently, with other musicians arises, and this brings into play the requirement of knowing musical language to best accomplish this. For the singer, the days of relying on a pianist, producer, or the like to navigate 100 % of their musical output is not only unnecessary, but bankrupt artistically, as we move into a new century. This course is a variation on a very successful course taught by Frederick at Stanford University for over 15 years, that introduces singers not only to the basic music implements of the Staff, Clefs, Time/Key signatures, but also to real empowerment musically, through learning how to notate music; a skill that the female singer, in particular, needs a grasp of, as, invariably, non-classical music for solo voice (? This would be music from Pop, Jazz, Theatrical, Gospel, Country, and R&B genres, to name a few) is rarely in an appropriate "key" (if you don't know what that means, let alone it's significance, this course is for YOU!) for many singers, and if it's not, before you can sing with instrumentalists, the music has to be prepared, by something called Transposition. In this new age, the live-music singer MUST be able to, minimally, understand why this is important, and what this entails, and in this course, will LEARN HOW TO DO IT THEMSELVES.

The following is a testimonial of a recent international student:

*"The encounter with Mr. Frederick Harris is my lifetime treasure!
...he was BY FAR the best and most authentic teacher for me, who initiated me into authentic jazz feel... I'm sorry that I had limited time learning from him...
I hope I return to him in San Francisco to have lessons in the future.
I recommend Mr. Harris for jazz singers, especially non-English-speaking ones like me who aspires to learn AUTHENTIC jazz singing!"*

-Japanese vocal student

The workshops also offer an 6-8 week course called Learn To Play. This course, created for the piano student with no prior background, is a performance course, where beginning students start the class with a choice of 2-3 songs they like to learn to play, and over the class duration, learn to play a simple arrangement of one of them. Students get a very thorough introduction the piano/keyboard, and the satisfaction from learning to play something near and dear to them, very quickly.

All courses are hosted by the (insert church name here). Further descriptions, costs, times and other information on the courses can be found @ FREDBLASTINBARRIERS.COM, and through the Your Music Workshops link @ COLTRANECHURCH.ORG.

Frederick Harris is an internationally acclaimed pianist, teacher and music director from San Francisco. He has been at the church for nearly 20 years, and has known Franzo King Jr. since the 10th grade.

**UPLIFT/RADIO OUTREACH / KPOO 89.5 FM
WWW.KPOO.COM**

Rev. Wanika King-Stephens, host of the Uplift broadcast on KPOO-FM 89.5, presented a special segment on the show which informed the dear listeners of the upcoming collaboration of the oldest and one of the most cherished institutions in the country, Marcus Garvey Books, with the “vanguard revolutionary church” St. John Coltrane A.O.C. and the “new light” Jazz Heritage Center. Mr. Greg Johnson of the Dr. Carton Goodlet foundation and family member of Marcus Books, Archbishop King of the St John Coltrane Church and Mr. Peter Fitzsimons, director of the Jazz Heritage Center were guests on the show and in a news-breaking interview shared their unifying efforts as the only true Culture institutions on Fillmore Street in the “jazz preservation district”.

The three are working to promote awareness and support the rich and valued heritage to which this community continues to give birth.

Youth minister “Sister E” Erinne Johnson returned to Uplift in September to the benefit of the dear listeners. Sister E featured Mr. Erinne Watts for the CD of the week, and encouraged the listeners to attend the September 19th celebration of the birthday of St. John Coltrane (Mr. Erinne Watts was the guest performer) and the ordination to the office of the order of the priesthood one Sister Wanika. Every Fourth Tuesday of the month Sister E hosts the "Uplift" broadcast 12-4pm.

On December 28, 2010 Sister E will be hosting, the last "Uplift" broadcast of 2010.



**The St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church
Congratulates**

Rev. Max and Hallie Haqq on the occasion of their Marriage. Pastor Wanika officiated at the service, being assisted by Rev. Franzo King Jr. and Rev. Makeda Nueckel. It was a truly blessed event, all praise be to God. Let us join together in prayer and support for the newlyweds as they begin their new Life together. A Love Supreme!