

## APPOINTED AND ANOINTED; STEP INTO GOD'S TIMING!



### Meet Our Guest Speaker



We are excited to welcome **Lauren Bond** as our “2026 Retreat” Guest Speaker. An ordained Deacon at Hope Christian Church (Beltsville, MD), she has a heart for ministry, especially for helping young people discover their identity in Christ, apply God’s Word to their daily lives, and pursue their divine purpose. She credits her own spiritual growth to the godly women who have poured into her with wisdom, counsel, and guidance. In turn, she is intentional about pouring into the lives of young women, standing firmly on the charge in Titus 2:3-5; to teach, encourage, and guide with reverence and love.

Beyond ministry, Lauren is a respected leader in the field of early childhood education. With over 25 years of experience, she has become a trusted resource in professional development for teachers and administrators, working to elevate the quality of education for children everywhere. She truly leans into her calling as a teacher and finds deep joy in speaking, encouraging, and inspiring others to open their hearts, receive God’s love, and walk in the fullness of His grace.

We are excited to welcome Lauren as our Guest Speaker, who will share a timely and spirit-led message prepared for such a time as this. If you have not registered, there is still time to do so. **“Final payments are due by February 6, 2026.”** A sneak preview of the retreat schedule is attached. We look forward to sharing this special time with you on this journey. Come expectantly. Come ready. You were made for such a time as this!

### REGISTER NOW:

Scan the QR code on the above flyer.  
Or visit our website at [DOHM-2026-Womens-Retreat](http://DOHM-2026-Womens-Retreat).

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**Daughters of Hope Ministry  
2026 Women's Retreat  
"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"**

**SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, March 5 (You Are Chosen)**

- 4:00 pm: Check In/Registration
- 6:00 pm: Dinner
- 8:00 pm: Opening Session: "Esther's Call: A Divine Set-up"

**Friday, March 6 (Walking in Courage)**

- 7:30 am: Morning Devotion: "Purpose In His Timing" (Water Aerobics)
- 8:00 am: Breakfast
- 9:40 am: Workshop: "Overcoming Fear"
- 10:45 am: Circle Time: "Where Is God Calling Me?"
- 11:45 am: Activity: "Letter to My Future Self"
- 12:30 pm: Lunch / Free Time (*lunch is on your own*)
- 6:00 pm: Dinner / Evening Session: "Pajama Jam"

**Saturday, March 7 (Commissioned with Purpose)**

- 7:30 am: Morning Devotion: "Strength For The Assignment"
- 8:00 am: Breakfast
- 10:00 am: Morning Session: "Commissioned for Such a Time as This"
- 11:00 am: Hotel Check Out
- 11:30 am: Closing Session: "I Will Stand For . . . ."
- 12:00 pm: Farewell



**Hotel Madison's Shenandoah Valley Conference Center  
710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

## New Year, New Hope: Embracing God's Promises

As we embark upon this new year, let us let go of the past. Instead, look forward to the future with hope. Whatever challenges may arise, remember that God will carry us through. He never promised that the road would be easy, but He did promise to always be with us.

As you step into the new year, reflect on God's promises and let them renew your mind and heart:

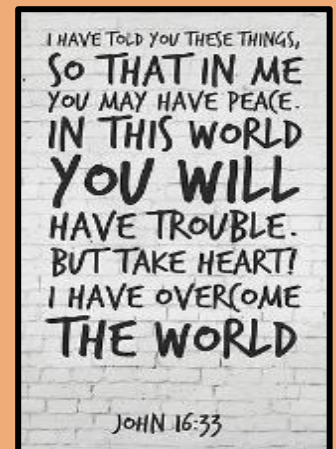
- God will sustain you. Psalm 55:22
- God's peace will guard your heart. Philippians 4:7
- God will delight over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17
- God will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. Psalms 32:8
- God is your refuge and strength, your help in time of need. Psalms 46:1
- In all things, you are more than a conqueror because God loves you. Romans 8:37
- God will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6
- God's perfect love casts out all your fear. 1 John 4:18
- Nothing can separate you from God's love. Romans 8:38-39
- God's not done with you. God's not done with you. God's not done with you. Philippians 1:6

Which of these promises speaks most to your heart as you begin this year? Consider placing these scriptures where you will see them daily. Read them each morning and night. Meditate on them, memorize them, and let these truths encourage you and guide your thoughts throughout the year.

God's promises are for you—let them fill you with hope and strength as you move forward.

Linda Gary  
DOHM, President

*God*  
ALWAYS  
KEEPS HIS *Promises*



## This Is Your Esther Moment

### *Stepping into Courage, Calling, and Purpose—For Such a Time as This*



As we step into a new year, many women feel the familiar pull between what God is **calling** us to do and what **fear** is telling us to avoid. New seasons bring new opportunities—but they also bring uncertainty. The question is not whether fear will show up, but whether courage will rise when it does.

In the Book of Esther, we find a woman who stood at the intersection of fear and faith. When Queen Esther learned of the danger facing her people, she faced a life-altering decision. Approaching the king uninvited could cost her life. Yet her cousin Mordecai spoke words that still echo today:

*“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”*  
— **Esther 4:14**

Esther didn't suddenly become fearless; she became **faith-filled**. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is choosing obedience despite it.

Many of us can relate to one or more of the following:

- The woman who is afraid to start over after a loss.
- The mother who is praying for the strength to lead her family differently.
- The sister sensing God's nudge to step into ministry, leadership, or healing, but hesitating because the risk feels too great.

One woman shared, *“I realized I wasn't waiting on God—I was hiding behind fear.”* Like Esther, when she chose prayer, fasting, and obedience, clarity followed.



### **New Year, Bold Action**

This year, courage may look like:

- Saying **yes** to God when comfort says no.
- Letting go of old mindsets and habits that no longer serve your purpose.
- Standing up, speaking out, or stepping forward—even with trembling hands.

Remember, Esther's courage didn't just change her life; it saved generations. Let this be your reminder: **YOU ARE POSITIONED ON PURPOSE**. God has already gone before you. The same God who strengthened Esther is strengthening you *“For such a time as this.”*

Tomiko Hankerson  
DOHM, Vice President & Administrator

*This is your season. Walk boldly.*



## Excellence vs Perfection

Excellence talks to quality and purity, while perfection seeks to be flawless. We need to serve the Lord with a level of excellence and not try to be perfect in our actions. Perfection relies on your own understanding and your own measure of what is acceptable. The scripture about the speck in your neighbor's eye is like a log in your own eye; this says your vision is not going to be exact. In fact, you are not aware of the blockage. You cannot declare perfection or imperfection with poor vision. Working or serving with excellence elevates your conscience to what God sees. Your diligence and integrity to walk before Him with clean hands and a pure heart bring forth a spirit that God will acknowledge, not compared to a measure that finds fault. No one is perfect, but our Lord Jesus Christ; we, on the other hand, are all unique, being transformed into His image.

We will falter, fail, and make mistakes. This truth reminds me of the example that life is like a forest; seeing your goal, you cannot run straight to it. There will be fallen trees, rocks, dips in the ground, and debris. You will need to take your time, use your knowledge, and be aware of potential problems while staying true to the goal. It is with this intention, perseverance, and faithfulness that can produce an excellent spirit.

Looking for perfection you want acknowledged by man, instead of the consistent effort of presenting yourself before the Lord, can lead you to depression when not recognized or told you missed the mark. When you reach for the presence of God, it is His love that reciprocates. He always accepts you and loves you no matter what. You can do your best, and He accepts it. Let us serve in a spirit of excellence that seeks to please God, and it will carry us beyond man's expectations and allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us. For we cannot do anything truly praiseworthy and lasting within ourselves, we are limited in our intellect, strength, and imagination. God goes far beyond our finiteness. We are to care about the work we do, but what about the attitude that governs our steps? I pray you trust God with your abilities and stop seeking perfection in all things, but do your best for God and allow Him to fill in the rest.

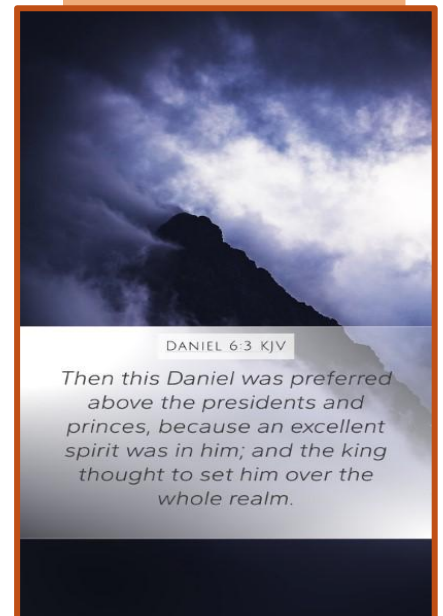
### Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV)

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

### Galatians 1:10 (Berean Standard Bible)

"Am I now seeking the approval of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Constance Lowe  
DOHM, Technical Advisor



## Love For Such a Time as This

February is often called the “month of love.” However, as Christians, love is more than a fleeting feeling; it is a calling. In a world filled with division, loneliness, and uncertainty, God reminds us that His love is the answer for “such a time as this.”

When Queen Esther faced her defining moment, it was not her beauty or position that made the difference; it was her courage to love her people enough to risk everything (Esther 4:14). Her story reminds us that God places each of us in specific moments, families, and communities to reflect His heart, where love will be our greatest assignment.

1 Corinthians 13:4 tells us that love is patient and kind, not self-seeking, not easily angered. This kind of love is not limited to Valentine's Day gestures or words; it is love in action, a love that forgives, serves, prays, and endures. It is the love that steps into broken spaces with compassion and courage.

Let us look beyond romantic love and embrace something deeper, and be intentional about reflecting God's love, which gives our lives purpose and direction. Love in action is often the very thing God uses to move hearts and change lives. You are not here by accident. You are chosen, loved, and placed by God's design, right where you are, for a purpose that He has chosen you only to fulfill. As you move through this season, carry this truth in your heart: You are here for “such a time as this.”

### Reflection

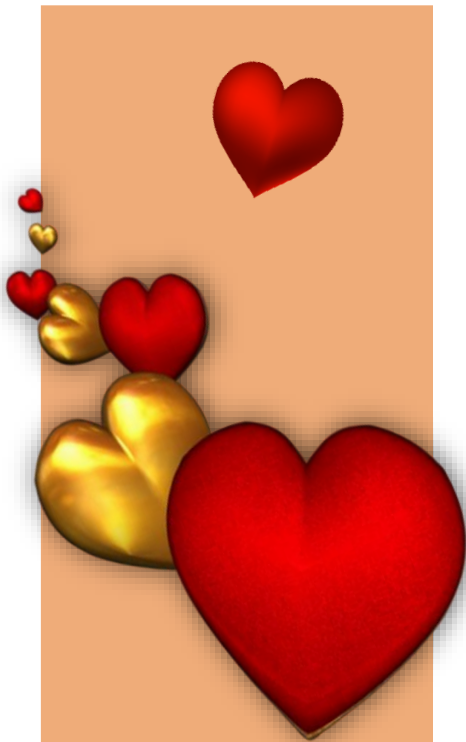
Take some time to pray and ask: “Lord, who in my life needs to experience Your love through me right now?” Write down one way you can intentionally show love, whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or a simple prayer, and let it be done as an act of obedience and worship.

### Prayer

Dear Father God, thank You for loving us with an everlasting love. Help us reflect that love to others in our words, actions, and attitudes. Open our eyes to see opportunities to serve and encourage those around us. May Your perfect love shine through us for “such a time as this.” In Jesus' name, Amen.

Linda M. Price-Smith  
DOHM, Newsletter Editor

God  
is  
Love  
1 John  
4:16



## A Heart Transplant

Man looks at the outside appearance, but God looks at the heart. Jesus said that "from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean." He also said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Human beings have a material component and an immaterial component. The body (outer man) is the material part. The immaterial part of man includes the mind, thoughts, attitudes, motives, and desires, and is referred to as the "inner man" or the "heart". The following description is from [ligonier.org](http://ligonier.org):

*Put simply, the heart in Scripture conveys the totality of our inner self. We are governed from this one point of unity. From it "flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23). It is the control center—the source of every thought, the seat of every passion, and the arbiter of every decision. All of it is generated from and governed by this one point of undivided unity. That is why everything vital to the Christian life—your speech, repentance, faith, service, obedience, worship, walk, and love—must be done with "all your heart." The heart is the helm of the ship. It takes a bearing and then sets the course of your life. As goes the heart, so goes the person.*

We are born spiritually dead. The natural man is rebellious, stubborn, and has a heart that is as hard as stone. He is destined to spend eternity in hell because of his sins. But God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but receive everlasting life. A believer's sin debt was paid through Jesus' sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection, and God has given us the following promise:

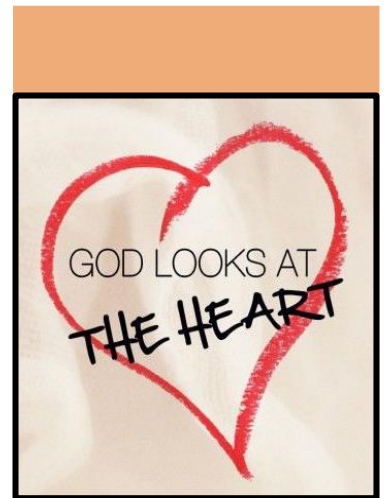
*"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." Ezekiel 36:26-27*

Because of Jesus, our relationship with God can be restored. At our spiritual birth, we become new creations in Christ with a new heart, and the Holy Spirit comes to live within us and guide us. Instead of rebelling against God and His word, we desire to obey Him and are repentant when we sin. When we confess our sin and repent, God promises to forgive us and cleanse us. Now that's LOVE!

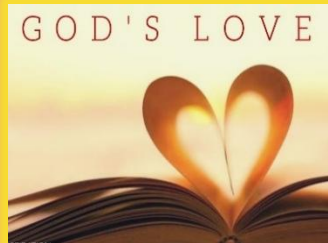
Corvette Cole  
DOHM, Prayer & Care Coordinator

Ephesians 4:24

...put on the  
new self,  
created to be  
like God in  
true  
*Righteousness  
&  
Holiness*



## Valentine's Day: The True Meaning of Love—The Love of God



Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14, is widely known for expressions of romance such as flowers, cards, and gifts. However, beyond these traditions lies a deeper message about connection and commitment. In today's fast-paced and often disconnected world, Valentine's Day serves as an urgent reminder of God's love.

Today's life leaves little room for intentional connection. Schedules are full, attention is divided, and relationships can easily be taken for granted. Valentine's Day calls people to stop, reflect, and express love now rather than later. It reminds us that love should not be delayed, because relationships require care, presence, and effort.

This mirrors a spiritual truth: God's love is active and present, not distant or passive. Just as Valentine's Day urges people to reach out to one another, God's ongoing initiative is to welcome people into a relationship marked by love and unity.

### Why Valentine's Day Is Important

Valentine's Day is important because love is essential to human well-being. Healthy relationships provide emotional strength, purpose, and a sense of belonging. This day encourages people to nurture romantic relationships, strengthen family bonds, value friendships, and practice compassion toward others. Valentine's Day also echoes God's command to "love one another." This love is not limited to romantic partners; it includes loving neighbors, forgiving enemies, and caring for those in need. When people choose patience over anger, understanding over judgment, and generosity over selfishness, they reflect the heart of God.

### Love as a Reflection of God

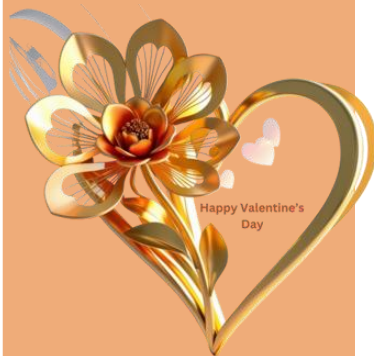
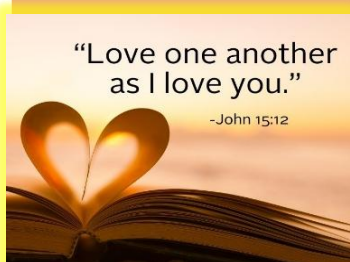
Valentine's Day offers an opportunity to express love in ways that mirror God's character—through service, honesty, loyalty, and grace. It is also a reminder of the greatest example of love: God giving Himself for the sake of others. This kind of love calls people to go beyond convenience and comfort, choosing relationships even when they require effort and sacrifice.

### Conclusion

Valentine's Day is not only a celebration of romance; it is a powerful reminder of God's love. When viewed through the lens of faith, it reflects the very nature of God—who is love, who values relationships, and who calls people to love one another sincerely. By embracing this message, Valentine's Day becomes more than a holiday; it becomes a call to live out love daily, in ways that honor both human relationships and the heart of God.

Gretchen Huntley  
DOHM, Treasurer

*Faith*  
*Hope*  
and the Greatest  
of these is  
*Love*





## Tomiko Hankerson

Vice President and Administrator  
Daughters of Hope Ministry

*“Empowering women to discover their worth and walk boldly in their God-given purpose.”*



**A Heart for Women and a Gift for Leadership** – We are honored to shine the Spotlight on Tomiko Hankerson who has been a member of DOHM for over 26 years. For several years, she served as Secretary, and now, for the past three years, she has faithfully served as the DOHM Vice President and Administrator, bringing purpose, passion, and a heart for women’s empowerment to everything she does. Known for her warm spirit, steadfast faith, and exceptional leadership, her passion is clear; she desires for women to truly understand the God-given worth that allows Him to shape them into confident leaders in a world that often feels lost.

**A Leader with Excellence and Grace** – Tomiko is also a recent graduate of the Denver Seminary, Lay Ministry Program. Participating in this program reflects her deep commitment to spiritual growth and a desire to be equipped for an even greater impact in ministry. Her journey through theological training demonstrates her dedication to both learning and leading with integrity, wisdom, and faith. She also serves as a Core Team Lead for the Women’s Focus Studies Ministry at First Baptist Church of Glenarden, International. In addition to her heart for ministry, Tomiko is also recognized for her strong administrative and organizational skills, which she uses not only in her professional role but also in powerful ways within the DOHM. Whether coordinating events, managing details, or bringing structure to busy moments, she serves with excellence and grace. Her steady leadership behind the scenes helps the ministry flourish and creates an environment where women feel supported and encouraged. We celebrate Tomiko for faithfully using her gifts to strengthen both her workplace and the kingdom.

**Celebrating Her Impact** – The DOHM family celebrates Tomiko for her unwavering commitment, faith-driven leadership, and genuine love for helping women see themselves as God sees them: strong, capable, and chosen for such a time as this. Her favorite scripture is:

- Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Raised in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Tomiko has been married to Richard Hankerson for 28 years. They have been blessed with one son (one daughter-in-law), one daughter, and six grandchildren. She is currently employed as an Administrative Manager at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, International, and has worked there since 2008. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, dining out, cooking, traveling, and deepening her study of God’s Word as she continues on her ministerial journey.

As the DOHM Vice President and Administrator, Tomiko continues to shine as a beacon of faith, strength, and purpose. Her journey reminds us that true leadership begins with a heart surrendered to God and a willingness to serve others with grace. We are blessed to have her as a guiding light, encouraging women everywhere to rise, lead, and believe that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them. Her commitment and passion inspire us all. We look forward to all that God will continue to do through her and the DOHM.



This month is all about love, and what a perfect time to remember Esther 4:14 – “Who knows if perhaps you were made for such a time as this?” Just as Esther was placed in her moment of purpose to save the people she loved, we, too, are called to shine God’s love right where we are. As we look forward to the DOHM 2026 Women’s Retreat next month, may our hearts be open to God’s timing and ready to embrace all that He has planned for such a time as this.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- DOHM 2026 Women’s Retreat, “For Such A Time As This” - March 5-7, 2026, Harrisonburg, VA. Register now at [www.daughtersofhope.org](http://www.daughtersofhope.org). **Final payments are due by February 6, 2026.**
- Entrepreneur Event, “Bring Up the Treasure That Is Within You” (Date To Be Determined)
- Open Forum – (Title and Date To Be Determined)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

The DOHM stand together offering support and strength through prayer. We believe in the power of collective prayer to uplift and comfort one another. If you have an individual-specific request that you would like us to pray over, please submit it on our website at [www.daughtersofhope.org](http://www.daughtersofhope.org) or by email at [daughtersohope@aol.com](mailto:daughtersohope@aol.com). Whether it is a personal struggle or a loved one in need, your prayer requests are welcomed and valued. Rest assured that your requests will be held in confidence and treated with respect.

The DOHM is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax-deductible contributions are welcome to support us in **Helping Oppressed People Everywhere**, to build up the spirit, soul, and body. Thanks to those who continue to donate; your generosity is very much appreciated. Donations can be made via PayPal, credit card, or check (mailed to the Daughters of Hope Ministry, P.O. Box 583, Glenn Dale, MD 20769). Year-end tax statements will be provided

### DONATE

### CONTACT US

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Twitter: @dohmG62



**Mission:** To equip women to overcome life challenges and find God’s purpose and fulfillment through prayer, teaching, and mentoring relationships.

**Vision:** Daughters of Hope Ministry is called to lead women towards spiritual, emotional and physical wholeness through the application of biblical principles to their lives.

#### Scripture:

- Zechariah 2:10 – “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming, and I will dwell in your midst”, says the Lord.”
- Galatians 6:2 – “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

