

## Rev. James L. Patterson

Founder, The Partnership for African American Churches

Charleston, West Virginia

Rev. James L. Patterson is convinced that communities need places of worship to provide spiritual, emotional and physical guidance. "We need to provide ministry to the whole person. We want people to have a better quality of life," he said. "It is my passion to see disparities eliminated."

In 2000, Rev. Patterson and a group of ministers founded The Partnership for African American Churches. The group raises funds and secures grants to support special projects that affect the health of the African American community.

Projects supported by The Partnership are varied, yet effective. The Partnership provides training on computers in local volunteer firehouses. This venue gives people in the community access to online programs that help them self-manage chronic diseases. The Partnership has worked with West Virginia State University to grow a community garden, a place where children in its after-school program can work and learn.

The Partnership also created and distributes a "Praisercize" video on chronic disease self-management. To go along with the video, The Partnership trains health and wellness coordinators to deliver health care messages in places of worship across the state.

"Our goal is to empower communities," Rev. Patterson said. "We train people to teach in their own places of worship. When you give people the skills they need to make a difference, it has a lasting effect."



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# TEACH

### Health Tip



#### Keep a journal.

Write down things that make you smile such as a family vacation, a meaningful friendship or special occasions.

## August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1879: Mary Eliza Mahoney graduates from New England Hospital for Women and Children, becoming the first black professional nurse in America.	2 1924: James Baldwin, author of <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> , <i>The Fire Next Time</i> and <i>Another Country</i> , born.	3 1800: Gabriel Prosser leads slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia.	4 1810: Abolitionist Robert Purvis born.	5 1962: Nelson Mandela, South African freedom fighter, imprisoned. He was not released until 1990.	6 1965: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Voting Rights Act, outlawing literacy test for voting eligibility in the South.
7 1907: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, first African American Nobel Prize winner, born.	8 2005: John H. Johnson, founder and publisher of <i>Ebony</i> and <i>Jet</i> magazines, dies.	9 1936: Jesse Owens wins fourth gold medal at Summer Olympics in Berlin.	10 1989: Gen. Colin Powell is nominated chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first African American to hold this post.	11 1872: Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller, acknowledged as first black psychiatrist, born.	12 1977: Steven Biko, leader of Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, arrested.	13 1981: Reagan administration undertakes its review of 30 federal regulations, including rules on civil rights to prevent job discrimination. <b>Om Raksha Bandhan</b>
14 1989: First National Black Theater Festival held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.	15 2007: Max Roach, first jazz musician honored with a MacArthur Fellowship, dies.	16 1922: Author Louis E. Lomax born.	17 1849: Lawyer-activist Archibald Henry Grimké, who challenged the segregationist policies of President Woodrow Wilson, born.	18 1859: Harriet Wilson's <i>Our Nig</i> is first novel published by a black writer.	19 1954: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche named undersecretary of United Nations.	20 1993: Dr. David Satcher named director of the Centers for Disease Control.
21 1904: Bandleader and composer William "Count" Basie born.	22 1880: Cartoonist George Herriman born. <b>Om Krishna Jayanti</b>	23 1926: Carter Woodson, historian, author, inaugurates Negro History Week.	24 1950: Judge Edith Sampson named first black delegate to United Nations.	25 1925: A. Phillip Randolph founds Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.	26 1946: Composer, singer and producer Valerie Simpson Ashford born.	27 1963: W.E.B. DuBois, scholar, civil rights activist and founding father of the NAACP, dies.
28 1963: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers "I Have A Dream" speech during March on Washington, D.C.	29 1920: Saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker born.	30 1983: Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr. becomes the first African American astronaut in space. <b>C Eid al Fitr Begins (sundown)</b>	31 1836: Henry Blair patents cotton planter.			