

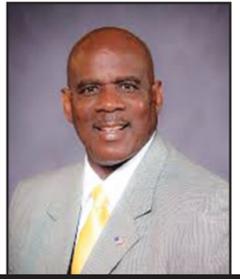
The Orlando Times

B SECTION

"Coming Behind Enemy Lines"

Part 1
Dr. Robert M. Spooney,

Mt. Zion Institutional
Missionary Baptist
Church, Orlando



Spiritual Living B3

Future Seems Uncertain For Trump's Acting Attorney General

BY ERIC TUCKER and JONATHAN LEMIRE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Matthew Whitaker's future at the helm of the Justice Department appears uncertain as President Donald Trump denies even knowing the man he's just named acting attorney general.

The Senate's top Republican is predicting a permanent replacement could be named soon for Whitaker, who's now overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

The comments Friday from Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., came as Whitaker's past business ties and remarks on Mueller's probe and other topics drew scrutiny from Democrats and ethics groups.

"I don't know Matt Whitaker," Trump told reporters at the White House before leaving on a trip to France. That contradicted Trump's remarks on Fox News last month, when he called Whitaker "a great guy" and said, "I mean, I know Matt Whitaker."

McConnell, separately, said, "I think this will be a very interim AG." And Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she was concerned by some of Whitaker's past comments and called for legislation that would place limits on his ability to fire Mueller. That would include specifying that only a Senate-confirmed Justice Department official, which Whitaker is not, could dismiss the special counsel.

Whitaker, a Republican Party loyalist and chief of staff to just-ousted Attorney General Jeff Sessions, was elevated Wednesday after Sessions was forced from his job by Trump.

Since Wednesday, Whitaker has faced pressure from Democrats to step aside from overseeing Mueller, based on critical comments Whitaker made about the investigation before joining the Justice Department last year.

Whitaker wrote an op-ed article saying Mueller would be straying outside his mandate if he investigated Trump family finances. Whitaker also gave a talk radio interview in which he maintained there was no evidence of collusion between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign. He also tweeted an ex-prosecutor's opinion piece that described a "Mueller lynch mob" and said it was "worth a read."

There have been reports about Whitaker's past comments questioning the power and reach of the federal judiciary, and about



President Donald Trump talks with reporters before departing for France on the South Lawn of the White House, Friday, Nov. 9, 2018, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci) (Evan Vucci)

his ties to an invention-promotion company that was accused of misleading consumers.

The Wall Street Journal on Friday published an email revealing an FBI investigation into the company, World Patent Marketing Inc. The July 10, 2017, email was from an FBI victims' specialist to someone who, the newspaper said, was an alleged victim of the company. A Justice Department spokeswoman told the Journal that Whitaker was "not aware of any fraudulent activity."

Also Friday, The Associated Press reported that Whitaker repeatedly chided Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in public statements during 2016 while he was speaking for a group that is barred by its tax-exempt status from supporting or opposing political candidates during a campaign.

Whitaker has tried to stay out of the public debate. He sent a department-wide note after his appointment in which he said, "As we move forward, I am committed to leading a fair Department with the highest ethical standards, that upholds the rule of law, and seeks justice for all Americans."

Legal scholars are debating the constitutionality of his appointment. Some lawyers say it is illegal because he has not been confirmed by the Senate.

Jeff Sessions, was elevated Wednesday after Sessions was forced from his job by Trump.

Even as Trump seems to be distancing himself from Whitaker,

two Republicans close to the president said Trump had enjoyed Whitaker's TV appearances and the two had struck a bond. Those TV appearances included one on CNN in which Whitaker suggested that the Mueller probe could be starved of resources.

Trump told associates that he felt Whitaker would be "loyal" and would not have withdrawn from the Russia probe, as Sessions had done, according to the Republicans. They were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump said Friday he had not spoken with Whitaker about Mueller's investigation, which until now has been overseen by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Later in the day, Trump tweeted that he did not personally know Whitaker, a former federal prosecutor in Iowa, but several Republican leaders in that state respected him. "I feel certain he will make an outstanding Acting Attorney General!"

Rosenstein told reporters Friday that based on his experiences with Whitaker, "I think he's a superb choice for attorney general."

Of the scrutiny Whitaker is facing, Trump said, "It's a shame that no matter who I put in they go after."

"He was very, very highly thought of, and still is highly thought of, but this only comes up because anybody that works for me, they do a number on them," Trump said.

McConnell said he expects Trump to nominate a new permanent attorney general "pretty quickly." McConnell said he expects Whitaker to be "a very interim" appointee.

"The president has said repeatedly he's not going to dismiss the Mueller investigation," McConnell told reporters at Kentucky's Capitol. "He's said repeatedly it's going to be allowed to finish. That also happens to be my view."

Trump has not said whom he will nominate to permanently replace Sessions.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is said to be a candidate, along with Labor Secretary Alex Acosta and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, among others.

Trump told reporters he has not discussed the post with Christie, who he said was "a friend of mine" and "a good man."

Associated Press writer Bruce Schreiner contributed to this report from Frankfort, Kentucky.

Students, Staff And Guests Dedicate New Pine Hills Elementary



BY LAUREN ROTH

PINE HILLS — Two years ago, Pine Hills Elementary was a school on an outdated 1955 campus with classroom doors that opened to the outside.

This year, 710 students are in brand-new classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, flat panel TVs in each classroom, a single, secured entrance and ample outdoor play spaces. "What a journey it has been!" said Principal Fredrick Brooks at the school dedication ceremony held November 7.

The new, two-story Pine Hills Elementary campus, a \$21.6M project designed by BRPH and built by Pirtle Construction, opened



to students in August. The dedication Wednesday included a featured performance by the Pine Hills Elementary School Chorus, which sang "Welcome Back" and "Roar" in matching navy blue monogrammed blazers. Students also contributed to a time capsule, which will be put on display until 2038. It includes a current student and staff list, menus from favorite restaurants, current toys, descriptions of school today, and a current school picture, among other items.

School Board Member Kathleen "Kat" Gordon led the students in call-and-response using the school motto, "setting the example by being the example."

"Watch out, future!" said the proud students. The students also promised to Superintendent Barbara Jenkins that they would take care of their school, be kind to the adults in their lives and stay in school.

School Board Chairman Bill Sublette thanked the taxpayers for their investment and encouraged teachers to welcome the participation of parents. "Nothing great will happen within this school without your help and involvement," he said.

The guests present at the event included former teachers and principals as well as local officials and their representatives.

Bishop Ivy Hopkins First Woman Elected President General To Lead Church Of The Living God's 140 Churches



President General Ivy Hopkins and former President General Bishop Theodore Brown



Newly elected Executive Administrator Bertha B. Jones, President General Ivy Hopkins and Executive Administrator Nelson Lewis

ORLANDO - Pastor Ivy Anne Hopkins, who gave her life to the Lord Jesus Christ at 8 years old and was called to the ministry at 16 years old, will lead the Church of the Living God (CLG) after being elected president general by its Board of Bishops at the Christian organization's 89th General Assembly October 24th, 2018 in Orlando, Florida.

A member of the CLG "all my life", Hopkins, Senior Pastor of Grace Temple CLG in Steelton Pennsylvania for 54 years, replaces Chief Apostle Bishop Theodore Brown, who served as President General from 2010 to the present.

In her first message, President General Hopkins, who was ordained at 25 years old, focused on the general assembly's theme: "The Mantle of Changing Seasons" which can be found in the Old Testament's Books of Ecclesiastes and 2 Kings. "This is also the year of 'Changing the Mantle', stated 78 years old President General Hopkins. "Let's be prayerful, seeking for God's Will to be done for the next leader of the House of God, which is the Church of the Living God, the

Pillar and Ground of the Truth."

The newly elected Executive Board of Bishops include President General Ivy A. Hopkins, Vice President General Bishop James Sherman and Executive Administrators Bishops Nelson Lewis and Bertha Jones.

The new leadership team will serve until 2026 and their ideas for moving forward include improving foreign missions, leadership training, and evangelism. "We are a Bible believing church," said President General Hopkins, the first woman to lead the CLG in 88 years. "Preserving the gospel and winning souls are major."

To increase God's kingdom, Vice President General James Sherman plans to entice people through showing love.

The CLG has churches in Africa and Trinidad and Executive Administrator Nelson Lewis wants to train and develop leaders abroad and enhance the quality of life for people aboard and at home in the states.

Executive Administrator Bertha B. Jones lists personal development, leadership training and discipleship as

very important goals for the 115 years old CLG, which was started by Mother Mary Magdalena Lewis Tate, who in went home to glory in 1930

Concerned about the present divide in the country and the present administration's policies, President General Hopkins said, "We should be knowledgeable to what's going on and be involved to an extent. Our churches will participate in GOTV campaigns and provide transportation for voters with the Souls to the Polls programs."

Stacey Abrams, a Black woman, may become the first Black woman Governor in the country and Executive Administrator Bishop Bertha B. Jones is very involved in her city council in Swainsboro, Georgia and plans to keep her CLG congregations updated on the significant issues that will affect them.

In addition to personal development, discipleship and prison ministry, active community work, serving the poor and downtrodden, Elder Shelia Smalley, Pastor of Macedonia CLG in Leesburg, Florida and a CLG's former Director of Christian Education,

said a holistic ministry will be created to deal with the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, professional, and financial aspect of individuals.

Deacon George Ward from Emanuel CLG in Daytona Beach, Florida, praises the new leadership of President General Hopkins, who he "believes will 'unify the church and bring it back to its roots and heritage.'"

"I see our new President implementing a strong educational component of training and development for national and local church leaders and laity, taking our missions and evangelism ministries to another level," emphasized Deacon Ward, a former leader in the CLG organization who will be returning to assist in implementing the new leadership's policies. "I look forward to working with the team"

"I thought the 89th General Assembly was a great spiritual program and that Bishop Brown passed the mantle willingly to our first female president in 88 years. I look forward to great leadership", Usher President Reland Bentley stated.