FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A PREACHER FINDS HIMSELF IN THE DATING GAME AFTER LOSING HIS WIFE IN "THE SECOND FIRST LADY," A NEW NOVEL FROM AUTHOR VANESSA W. SNYDER

MITCHELLVILLE, Md. — He's a renowned pastor at the height of his career, heading a congregation of middle- to upper-class black professionals. The church is bulging and he's building a boys' school in "the 'hood." But then the unthinkable happens: His high school sweetheart and wife of 15 years dies unexpectedly, leaving him alone with the ministry and a 14-year-old son. He must go on, but doesn't know how to re-enter the dating game. Plenty of women are lining up because he's such a "good catch." Meanwhile, his son shuts down on him.

"The Second First Lady" is the story of Clairmont Jenkins, a recently-widowed 40-year-old pastor in a small Florida town. Clairmont is a progressive preacher with a sincere desire to do God's will and make a difference, but his wife's death throws a wrench in his plans. He must learn how to date again and be a single parent, while figuring out what God wants him to do for the congregation and the community.

"It's not just a romance, but also the story of a godly man who's struggling to rebuild his life, be a good father, find his purpose and reconnect with God – all at the same time," says Vanessa, an educator and former journalist. Along with her husband, Deron (an award-winning columnist), she's the co-author of "50 Ways to Put Christ in Your Marriage: And Live Happily Every Day," and "50 Ways to Put Christ Back in Christmas: And Keep the Spirit All Year Long."

The "Second First Lady" makes the perfect gift for clergy and lay members, and it's great for book club meetings and group discussions in various ministries of the church. It's the first book in a series that centers on Clairmont's family. The second installment follows the new first lady as she struggles to find her place in the congregation. In the third, the focus shifts to Clairmont's son, now entering young adulthood and dealing with life as a "preacher's kid."

Copies are $12.95 each – personally autographed upon request – and can be ordered online at www.blackdoorventures.com (add $3.50 for shipping and handling, plus $1 for each book after the first one). Additionally, Vanessa and Deron welcome speaking engagements and book-signing opportunities. They're ready, willing and able to share their experiences – good and bad – to help encourage other married couples.

12138 Central Avenue #152 * Mitchellville, MD 20721 * 239.292.5215 * secondfirstlady@blackdoorventures.com