

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**

*presents*



# 177<sup>th</sup> CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY

*Revival*

7:00 PM NIGHTLY  
OCTOBER 15-17, 2024

THEME: *Anchored in God's Grace,  
Empowered by God's Love"*

220 AUBURN AVE. NE, ATLANTA, GA 30303

HEBREWS 6:19-20

WATCH



LIVE

[WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG](http://WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG)

## Guest Revivalists

**Dr. Andrea Lewis, Ph.D.,**

Pastor—Holly Grove AME Church  
Peachtree City, GA

**Rev. Dr. Reginald Cleaver, Jr.,**

Pastor— Mt. Carmel AME Church  
Atlanta, GA

**Rev. Alvelyn Sanders-Swofford**

Pastor—Gaines Chapel AME Church  
Phenix City, AL

**Big Bethel**

**African Methodist Episcopal Church**

220 Auburn Avenue, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

The Reverend John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

Church: (404)-827-9707 Fax: (404) 223-3060

Web: [www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org)

Email: [Jesus.saves@bigbethelame.org](mailto:Jesus.saves@bigbethelame.org)

[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org)



**Rev. Andrea Lewis, Ph.D.**

**Rev. Andrea Dais Lewis, Ph.D.** is a gifted leader who blends her ordained ministry, academic excellence, and commitment to empowering others through her favorite Bible verse, Luke 1:45 NRSV, "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

A daughter of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Andrea was ordained an Itinerant Elder in May 2022. She currently serves as Pastor of Holly Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in Peachtree City, where she brings spiritual guidance and compassion to her congregation. Additionally, her commitment to empowering women shines through her founding of Virtuous Pearl, a women's ministry.

A summa cum laude graduate of Spelman College, Dr. Andrea earned a Master of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Divinity from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Georgia State University.

Dr. Andrea's professional journey has spanned various roles, including elementary school teacher, public and private school administrator, and college department chair. Currently, as the Director of Student Success and Associate Professor of Education at Spelman College, she champions initiatives to enhance academic support services and promote student retention and completion efforts.

In addition to her academic and ministerial careers, Dr. Andrea has authored four books, including *S.H.E. Who Believed: Redefining Life Through God's Grace* and actively participates in several community organizations. Above all, Dr. Andrea considers her greatest accomplishment to be the privilege of mothering her two amazing sons.

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Praise and Worship

Bearden Scott Youth Choir

Opening Hymn

Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Invocation

Scripture

Welcome

Philippians Ministry

Selection

Bearden Scott Youth Choir

Worship Through Giving



Introduction of the Preacher

Pastor John Foster

Selection

Bearden Scott Youth Choir

The Sermon

Rev. Andrea Lewis, Ph.D.

Invitation to Discipleship

*Benediction on last night of Revival*

## **LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH**

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises  
I'm so glad you're in my life I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky

Lord, I lift your name on high.



**Rev. Dr. Reginald Cleaver Jr.,**

*Rev. Dr. Reginald Cleaver, Jr.* serves as the pastor of Mount Carmel AME Church (Atlanta). He also serves as a Clinical Staff Chaplain for the Atlanta Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. He provides spiritual care and pastoral counseling for the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program. Rev. Cleaver was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. He is an endorsed chaplain by the AME Church and a member of the Henry McNeal Turner Chaplain's Association

Rev. Cleaver currently serves on the Whole Health Steering Committee at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. He presented on Mind, Body, and Spirit Self-care Practices for the Payne Theological Seminary's Ministers Retreat. Rev. Cleaver most recently presented on Preaching and Chaplaincy: Wider Fields of Service at The Power of a Thinking Church Scholars and Practitioners Conference for the AME Church.

Rev. Cleaver is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. He attended the Candler School of Theology of Emory University, where he earned his Master of Divinity with a concentration in Church and Community Leadership. Rev. Cleaver earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Vanderbilt Divinity School. He also completed the Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health and Chaplaincy Integration program.

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Praise and Worship

Bearden Scott Youth Choir

Opening Hymn

Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Invocation

Scripture

Welcome

Philippians Ministry

Selection

Johnson Schofield Male Choir

Worship Through Giving



Introduction of the Preacher

Pastor John Foster

Selection

Johnson Schofield Male Choir

The Sermon

Rev. Andrea Lewis, Ph.D.

Invitation to Discipleship

*Benediction on last night of Revival*

## **LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH**

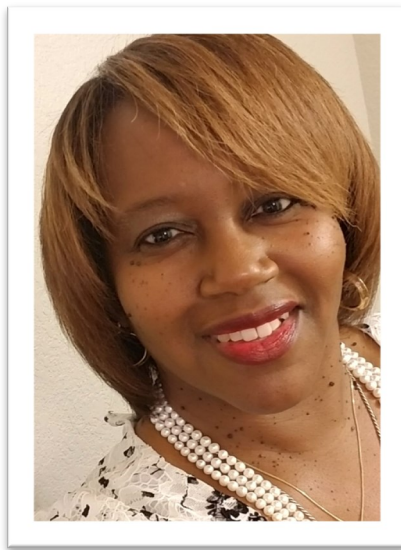
Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises  
I'm so glad you're in my life I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky

Lord, I lift your name on high.



**Rev. Alvelyn Sanders-Swofford**

*Reverend Alvelyn Sanders-Swofford*, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, has worked extensively in media/film, the arts, ministry, and politics. She and her husband, Reverend Raymond Swafford, serve as Co-Pastors of Gaines Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Phenix City, Alabama in the Ninth Episcopal District of the AME Church. She is the author of *Lord, Have Mercy: 5 Go-To Prayers When You Need To Pray, But Don't Know What To Say*. Sanders-Swofford is a graduate of Northwestern University (B.S., Radio-TV-Film), Clark Atlanta University (M.A., African American Studies), and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University (Master of Theological Studies; Master of Divinity), with additional study in London, England at the City of London Polytechnic while at Northwestern. Sanders-Swofford received a 2022 President Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement and Volunteer Service Award for her work in the media – telling the story of the “foot soldiers” of the Atlanta Student Movement in her award-winning film documentary, “Foot Soldiers: Class of 1964,” which has been broadcast on PBS stations – gratefully. She served as a longtime reporter for WABE 90.1 FM, Atlanta’s NPR station, and her work has been published in *Essence* magazine, *Black Issues Book Review*, *Northwestern (University)* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Sanders-Swofford was licensed to preach in the AME Church in 2004, ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in 2007, and an Itinerant Elder in 2009, both in the Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference in the Sixth Episcopal District by the late Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux, Sr. at her “home church,” Big Bethel AME Church on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. At Big Bethel, Sanders-Swofford journeyed by God’s grace from the pew to the pulpit. During her time at Big Bethel, as a Steward and later as an Assistant Minister, she was blessed to serve under the following pastors: Bishop James L. Davis, the Reverend Dr. Mark Thompson, the now newly elected Bishop Gregory V. Eason, Sr., and the present pastor, the Reverend Dr. John Foster – providing leadership for numerous ministries at the local church and Presiding Elder district levels. She is the daughter of Dr. Georgianne Thomas, Trustee Emeritus at Big Bethel AME Church, and a noted scholar, filmmaker, and Civil Rights activist.

In addition to Gaines Chapel, since 2014, Sanders-Swofford has served as a pastor at the following churches: New Magnolia AME Church, Bessemer, AL; Greater St. Paul AME Church, Florence, AL; and St. James AME Church – Avondale in Birmingham, AL. As a pastor, she focuses on the spiritual growth of the congregation and the community at-large by emphasizing the gift of prayer, preaching on the promises of God, and encouraging God’s people to live their best God-ordained life through Jesus Christ. Additionally, she believes the Church should be a leader in community outreach and civic engagement – using her skills in and passion for both areas as she serves. Finally, she’s been blessed to share her background as a communications professional with the churches she’s served. Sanders-Swofford serves as the Dean of the Board of Examiners of the Ninth Episcopal District. She counts it an honor and privilege to assist new ministers on their journey.

Sanders-Swofford has had the distinction of serving on the administrative staff of the Ninth Episcopal District, under the leadership of Bishop James L. Davis, Bishop Harry L. Seawright, and now Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr. Also, she had the privilege of serving, by invitation, on the staff of Bishop Jeffrey B. Cooper, the immediate past General Secretary/Chief Information Officer of the AME Church, for AME connectional meetings from 2016 – 2024.

Reverend Alvelyn Sanders-Swofford is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is grateful for her family, village, mentors, and the kindness of friends and strangers. She is grateful for God’s love, grace, and mercy, and she prays to lead a life and ministry pleasing to God. She has the privilege of raising Nalaya, her “bonus” granddaughter, with her husband, Raymond.

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Praise and Worship

Bearden Scott Youth Choir

Opening Hymn

Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Invocation

Scripture

Welcome

Philippians Ministry

Selection

Next Shift Praise Team

Worship Through Giving



Introduction of the Preacher

Pastor John Foster

Selection

Next Shift Praise Team

The Sermon

Rev. Andrea Lewis, Ph.D.

Invitation to Discipleship

*Benediction*

**\*VISITORS MAY REGISTER THEIR ATTENDANCE  
ONLINE ON THE BIG BETHEL GUEST  
REGISTRATION FORM.  
THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING  
WITH US AND FEEL FREE TO COME AGAIN!!!!**



**BIG BETHEL  
AME CHURCH**



**177<sup>TH</sup>  
CHURCH  
ANNIVERSARY  
REVIVAL**

***"ANCHORED IN GOD'S GRACE,  
EMPOWERED BY GOD'S LOVE"***

**HEBREWS 6:19-20**

**GUEST PREACHER:**

**BISHOP  
CAROLYN TYLER  
GUIDRY**

**122<sup>ND</sup>  
ELECTED AND CONSECRATED**



**REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR  
220 AUBURN AVENUE, NE, ATLANTA, GA 30303  
PHONE NUMBER (404) 827-9707 FAX NUMBER (404) 223-3060  
WEBSITE: WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG  
EMAIL: JESUS.SAVES@BIGBETHELAME.ORG**