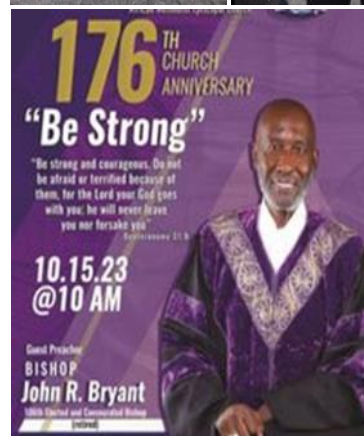




BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

**BISHOP REGINALD T. JACKSON, PRESIDING PRELATE, 6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
REVEREND LARRY W. HUDSON, SR., PRESIDING ELDER, NORTH ATLANTA DISTRICT
REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR**



Our Centenarians



BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

THE REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D. – SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Foster's 11th Annual Report

May 22, 2024

To Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Supervisor Christy Davis Jackson Esq., Presiding Elders, Clergy, Members and Friends of the 150th Session of the Atlanta-North Georgia Annual Conference:

Praise Ye the Lord!!!

It is with great pleasure that we make our 11th Annual Report as Senior Pastor of the Historic Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 220 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA. God continues to raise us to new heights as we proclaim that "JESUS SAVES."

During this past conference year, the Big Bethel Family was blessed in many areas. Please allow me to share a few highlights from our extraordinary year:

Multi-Media Community Outreach via I75/I85 Billboard and Auburn Avenue/Jesse Hill Marquee: As a result of our relationship with Outfront Advertising, Big Bethel received a public service announcement advertisement on the I75/I85 Corridor - "The Connector" – the 4th busiest interchange in the United States of America. Our billboard message is seen by over 300,000 commuters daily. In addition, Big Bethel has a state-of-the-art digital marquee installed and operational on the corner of Auburn Avenue and Jesse Hill Drive. Over 14,000 persons view our marquee daily. The combination of the billboard and marquee announces the message of "JESUS SAVES" to the downtown Atlanta Community.

Our Social Action Ministry had a banner year with our Martin Luther King, Jr. and Marcus Garvey Annual Days. Big Bethel was blessed with the speakers of District Attorney Fani Willis and the Marcus Garvey commemorative service day. We received national and international recognition for each of these days. May God continue to bless the mission of Bishop Reginald Jackson and our church in being a prophetic voice of our community.

Big Bethel's success in receiving Externally Funded Community Development Church Grants and Projects including the Church Restoration and Millennial Grants. As part of the Preserving Black Churches grants, the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund provides \$4M in funding to further protect the institutional legacy of America to 31 historic Black churches across the U.S. FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS!!! In addition, the BRIDGE Innovation Hub will convene its cohort of congregational teams to learn, develop, test, and implement new approaches to ministry alongside young adults in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Indeed, God's word teaches us "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN – THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

Let Everything that hath Breath Praise the Lord!!!

Sincerely,

Rev. John Foster, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

220 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 PH: (404) 827-9707 FAX: (404)223-3060
WEB: WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG EMAIL: JESUS.SAVES@BIGBETHELAME.ORG

SIXTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pastor's Report Form

Contact and Address Information

PART A

Name of Church Big Bethel **Name of Pastor** Rev. John Foster, Ph.D.
Address of Church 220 Auburn Avenue **Mailing Address of Pastor** 3575 Falls Trail
Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Winston, Georgia 30187
Church Telephone 404-827-9707 **Home Telephone** 912-856-1209
Cell Telephone 912-856-1209
Email Address jfooster@bigbethelame.org
Annual Conference Atlanta North Georgia **Presiding Elder District** North Atlanta
Episcopal District Sixth **Presiding Elder** Rev. Larry W. Hudson, Sr.
Presiding Bishop Reginald T. Jackson **Conference Opening Date** May 22, 2024

Demographics

Part B

1. **Conversions** 11
 Increase _____
 Decrease 4
 2. **Accessions** 21
 Increase _____
 Decrease 6
 3. **Baptisms** 13
 4. **Members Left** _____
 5. **Members on Roll** 908
 a. **Active Members** 908
 b. Adults 630
 c. Children and Youth 278
 6. **Registered Voters** 538
 7. **Marriages Performed** 2
 8. **Lay Organization** Yes x No _____
 a. **How many members?** 65
 9. **WMS Members?** 43
 10. **YPD/CDMC Members?** 29
 11. **SOA Members?** 8
 12. **RAYAC Membership** 7

Part c

Funds Raised Local Church? \$1,371,282
Increase _____
Decrease \$110,938
Indebtedness? \$1,352,583
Church Treasury Balance \$475,670
Does Church have budget? Yes
How much is local budget? \$1,295,698
Pastor's Compensation
 a. **Base Salary** \$70,200
 b. **Housing Allowance** \$43,046
 c. **Health, Auto, etc.** \$44,400
 d. **Total Package** \$157,646
Annuity and Insurance _____
 a. **Pastor** \$12,500
 b. **Presiding Elder** \$1,020
Receipt on General Budget \$23,525
Cash on General Budget \$23,525
Total Budget \$47,050
Episcopal District Budget \$36,940

SIXTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

13. Annual Conference Members 18
 a. Itinerant Elders/Deacons 16
 b. Local Elders/Deacon 6
 c. Licensed Evangelist/Missionary 0
 d. Retired Elders/Deacons 2
 e. Licentiate 3
 f. Supernumerary 2
 g. Total 29

15. Periodicals 6/\$171

16. Real Estate
 a. Newly Erected Churches 0
 b. Newly Erected Buildings 0

Part D

Does church have insurance?

Property Insurance? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Valuation \$5,000,000

Liability Insurance? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Valuation \$2,500,000

Auto Insurance? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Valuation \$1,000,000

Part E

Does the church have a mortgage or loan? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what bank or firm is mortgage with? Cadence Bank

Amount of original mortgage or loan? \$1,650,000

Balance of mortgage or loan? \$1,352,583

Amount of monthly mortgage or loan payment? \$10,500

Is mortgage or loan payment current? Yes

Have you provided copy or mortgage or loan statement from lending institution to conference

Trustees? Yes ☒ No ☐

Part F

Legal Description of property:

Address 220 Auburn Ave., NE Atlanta Fulton GA 30303
 Number Street City County Parish State Zip Code

Lots: _____ In Block _____ - of _____ a _____ County or Parish

State of _____ According to the plot thereof recorded in Plot Book _____ Page _____

By my signature below, I certify that the information listed in this report is accurate and truthful.

John Foster
 Pastor

Stanley Pritchett
 Stanley Pritchett
 Annual Conference Delegate

Date May 22, 2024

Big Bethel AME Church 2023-2024 Conference Year At-A-Glance

May 2023

Big Bethel AME Church celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Foster Family on May 7, 2023.

Men of Big Bethel (MOBB) Annual Golf Tournament - raised \$7,250 through love offerings for college scholarships.

North Atlanta District celebrated Presiding Elder Larry W. Hudson and District Consultant Barbara Hudson's 7th Anniversary with a Zoom Celebration.

Women's Emphasis Month Annual Day – Rev. Dr. Toni Belin Ingram served as guest preacher.

June 2023

BBAMEC held COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination – 298 persons tested, 84 vaccinated over the year.

Virtual Love Feast & Bible Studies were held via ZOOM

November 2023

91st Anniversary of Heaven Bound

Saturday School Youth Program - Key Performance Indicator Development

Annual Senior Day – Presiding Elder (Ret) Claude James - Guest Preacher

December 2023

"Come on Home for Christmas" Annual Concert outreach to the community.

Watch Night Service prayed "Out with the Old" and prayed "In with the New" as we welcomed 2024.

January 2024

MLK Day Auburn Collaborative Celebration. District Attorney Fani Willis was invited speaker.



July 2023

Virtual Vacation Bible School and Virtual Sunday School held via ZOOM – 95 participants.

BBAMEC held Parking Lot Praise Monthly Service – 150 Cars participated

August 2023

Women's Emphasis Month Bible Study at BBAMEC

September 2023

Annual Church Picnic/Parking Lot Service – 250 Persons Attended

Rev. Allison Henderson- Brooks
Spelman College Guest Preacher

October 2023

Annual Pilgrimage to Oakland Cemetery to honor our Founders including Rev. Joseph Woods – 1st Pastor

176th Church Anniversary – Bishop John R. Bryant – Guest Preacher

February 2024

Turner Theological Seminary Founder's Day & Hall of Fame.

Sixth Episcopal District Founder's Day in Savannah, GA

BBAMEC Church School Youth presented play on Rosa Parks entitled "I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired" during 10:00 AM Worship Service.

Big Bethel AMEC Heritage Day

March 2024

"NEXT SHIFT" Millennial Worship Service – 6th Anniversary

MBC Annual Day – Mr. Eula L. Adams '72 – Guest Preacher

Holy Week Services – Vesper, Maundy Thursday and Seven Last Words Service for the Community

Resurrection Sunday – Bishop Reginald T. Jackson preached on "Sunrise in the Garden"

April 2024

BBAMEC Putt Putt Golf Outing

Social Action Day "Hear the Candidate's Forum" Townhall meeting



Big Bethel 2027—The Vision

**"To be the Preeminent Religious Presence of the Auburn/
Edgewood Corridor in Atlanta, Georgia that proclaims
"Jesus Saves""**

VISION STATEMENT

A spirit-filled fellowship engaging in fervent worship, Bible-based teaching and preaching, and compassionate missions driven to be the miracle in downtown Atlanta.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; and to communicate to the world through preaching, teaching, evangelizing, worshipping, and stewardship, that "Jesus Saves."

VALUES STATEMENT:

We are a God centered, people-oriented Christian community operating in an environment of excellence and love. All that we do is undergirded by prayer.



Weekly 10AM Sunday Worship

www.bigbethelame.org WATCH LIVE
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgvaKtMvYmFpue7rk9w6g>

BBAMEC VIRTUAL Blessings

Weekly 2PM Sunday Thrive Next Shift Worship

www.bigbethelame.org WATCH LIVE
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgvaKtMvYmFpue7rk9w6g>

Thrive - Tuesdays @ 7pm -
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87238857567>

Contact Rev Jess 770-940-0293



Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/171726645?pwd=anFGaTlwZlIsaEtlL3ROdIBNQVpFQT09>

NEW



Wednesday Noon & 6 PM Bible Study

Rev. Monica Jones, PhD

SAME AS Adult Sunday

School ZOOMLINK

Big Bethel Village Bible Study Monday 4PM Worship Sunday 3PM

**PH: (202) 926-1123
Code: 673604#**



Isaiah 43: 19 See, I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Prayer Call 6AM Mon-Sat

PH: (605)-472-5512
Code: 772576#

Wednesday 7PM Discipleship Bible Study

PH: (605)-472-5512
Code: 772576#

Youth Church 2nd Sundays 10:00AM

**Zoom Meeting ID: 775-4987-0483
Password: YE10W**

Seasoned Saints - Thursdays @ 12pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8255598611>

Dial in at: 1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 826 5589 8611
Contact Rev Jess 770-940-0293

NEW



Adult Sunday School 8:30AM

PH: (309) 205-3325 Code: 7789893084#

ZOOM LINK:

ID: 847-251-8679 PassCode: adultclass

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8472518679?pwd=NzI0RGQlNmVYY0R5REFYVzV6ZGtMZz09>

Youth Sunday School 8:30AM

Email Everett Jolly
joll@comcast.net

Don't miss your opportunity to receive God's Blessings!

220 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E. ~ ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 PHONE: (404) 827-9707 FAX: (404) 223-3060

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WEBSITE: WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG