



**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**  
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

**WORSHIP & ARTS  
MINISTRY**  
presents

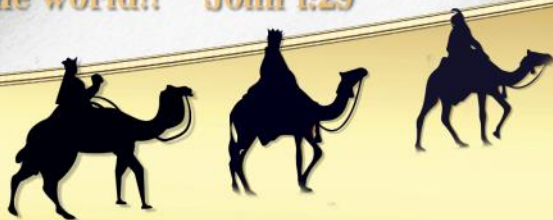
# *A Universal Christmas*

**A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 | 4:00PM**

**Nathaniel Fisher Jr., Minister of Music**  
**Bro. Philip V. Skerrett, Jr., Senior Pipe Organist**  
**Rev. Jessica Buford, Thrive Ministry Director, Narrator 1**  
**Rev. Dr. Lairalaine Morgan White, Associate Minister, Narrator 2**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sins of the world!! John 1:29



**A COME ON HOME FOR CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

## Come On Home For Christmas

### NOV. 24 & DEC. 1 THE GIVING TREE

Please select a gift request card from the tree for a child in foster care. We ask that gifts be brought to the church on Sunday, Dec. 1st. Or Dec. 8th.

Contact: JoAnn Brazil, 404-291-0267,  
or Jacqueline Michael 404-909-5351

### NOV. 24 & DEC. 1 POINSETTIAS FOR LOVED ONES

Our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated with poinsettias purchased by you for \$10.00, in memory/ honor of a loved ones.

Contact: Shelley Webster, Shelley@shelleywebster.com

### DECEMBER 8 COHFC ANNUAL CONCERT 4:00 PM.

Come, be inspired by glorious musical renditions from the music and arts ministry and bring a guest with you. A fellowship reception will be held following the concert.

### DECEMBER 15 GIFTS OF WARMTH

Let us remember our unoused brothers and sisters during winter season with gifts of socks, knit hats, gloves, jackets and other items of clothing. Please place your gifts in designated boxes in the sanctuary.

Contact: Gwen Langley, 404-643-3640

### DECEMBER 15 SICK AND SHUT IN, CAREGIVERS RECOGNITION

Please come to the back of the sanctuary and select the name of one of our wonderful members to contact i.e., call or send a card during the Advent season.

Contact: Gloria Gaston, gloriagaston@gmail.com

### COHFC LOVE OFFERING

This special offering will be used to give a contribution on behalf of big bethel to organizations that serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters. There are several ways to make a donation: offering envelope, online at give, and cash app



## *Greetings from our Minister of Music*

Welcome to another new and exciting **Come On Home For Christmas** musical event presented by the **Worship and Arts Department of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**. In the past, this program has been spirit-inspired, motivational and uplifting and we promise to bring you our very best again.

Our success is a direct result of love, support and encouragement from you, our guests and the Big Bethel AME Church family. Thus far the Worship and Arts Department and I have worked diligently to glorify the Lord through prayer, praise, sacrificing our time and efforts while living out the Word of God to the best of our ability.

In exhibition of a true spirit of excellence, we strive for obedience to the leadership of the sacred institution (**The Word**).

Thank God for all of you for sharing this occasion with us today!

*Nathaniel Fisher, Jr*

*Bro. Nathaniel Fisher, Jr., Minister of Worship & Arts  
Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church*

# A UNIVERSAL *Christmas*

Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

## Program

### Narrators

**Rev. Jessica Buford /Rev. Dr. Lairalaine Morgan White**

- Holiday Prelude.....Philip V. Skerrett, Jr.
- Holiday Processional.....**"Praise Ye The Lord Of Host"**.....Arr. Camille Saint Saens  
Big Bethel Concert Choir
- Prayer.....Rev. Monica C. Jones, Ph.D.
- Scripture.....Rev. Monica C. Jones, Ph.D.
- Welcome and Occasion .....Dr. Dorothy Young
- "Joy To The World"** .....Arr. Traditional  
**Big Bethel Handbell Choir**  
Brenda G. Lyles-Director
- Christmas Greeting .....Rev. Rosa Barron,  
Pastor, Greater Allen Temple, Jackson MS
- Christmas Hymn.....**"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"** .....Big Bethel Concert Choir  
Arr. Nathaniel Fisher, Jr./ Phillip Skerrett
- "O Come O Come Emmanuel"**.....Adaptation- Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.  
featuring **The Big Bethel Posse (Band)**
- "O Come Let Us Adore Him"**.....Adaptation-Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.  
Karon Stephens—Soloist
- "The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy / Mary Had A Baby"**.....Arr. Mack Wilberg/  
Adaptation-Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.
- "Silent Night/Jesus What A Wonder You Are"**.....Arr. Traditional/Juanita Bynum  
Danita Hines—Soloist

## Program (Continued)

- “Joy To The World ”** .....Arr. Traditional  
Rev. Joyce Young., Director
- “Take Me To The King”** .....Arr. Tamala Mann  
Journey Linnee White  
Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.
- “Silver & Gold”** .....Arr. Kirk Franklin  
Kwanza-Sol Dance Ministry
- “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas”** .....Arr. Donald Lawrence  
Signs of Praise Mime Ministry
- “Silent Night”** .....Arr. Kirk Franklin  
Bearden-Scott Youth Choir
- “Go Tell It On the Mountain”** .....Arr. Traditional  
Nathaniel Fisher Jr., Director  
Clarissa Robinson—Soloist
- “Jehovah Is Your Name”** .....*Ntokozi Mbanbo*
- Offering and Remarks.....Dr. Jacqueline Michael  
Maurice Eckstein  
Pastor John Foster

This concert is dedicated in loving memory of Bro. Alexander Walke Jr.—Sax & Flute\* Learn more on page 11.

**May this Christmas Season be filled with the  
joy of Jesus for you and your family.**



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**  
**Worship and Arts Ministry**  
*Nathaniel Fisher- Minister of Worship & Arts*  
*Monique Griffiths~ Assistant Minister of Worship & Arts*  
*Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor*



# Acknowledgements & Special Thanks!

## COME ON HOME FOR CHRISTMAS MINISTRY

Dr. Jacqueline Michael—Ministry Leader

### DECORATIONS


Sis. Shelley Webster, Sis. Racquel Battle & Bro. Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.

### PROGRAM HOUSEKEEPING

### PROGRAM PREPARATION

Big Bethel Administrative Office

Special Thanks to the Big Bethel Officers On Duty



Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.	Minister of Worship & Arts
Monique Griffiths	Assistant Minister of Worship & Arts
Phillip Skerrett, Jr.	Senior Pipe Organist
Kelvin Thompson	Pipe Organist
Jeremy Johnson	Organist/Keyboardist
Geoff Morgan	Percussionist
Terence Bridges	Bass Guitarist
Racquel Battle	Bearden-Scott Youth Choir Director
Nicole Chapman	Bearden-Scott Youth Choir Director
Tamika Kelley	Big Bethel Chorale Director
Monique Griffiths	Johnson-Schofield Male Choir Director
Tamika Kelly	Babcock-Young Voices of Unity Director
Cornelius Pettway	Big Bethel Praise Team Director
Rosalyn Bussey-Johnson	Kwanza-Sol Dance Ministry Director
Jory Young	Signs of Praise Mime Ministry Director
Rose Schofield	Hands for Christ Signing Ministry Director
Wesley Jackson Jr	Big Bethel Orchestra Director
Brenda G. Lyles	Big Bethel Handbell Choir Director
Rev. Joyce Young	Jazz Vespers Ministry Leader
Phyllislorena Smiley	AV Ministry Director
Brandon Collins	Sound Technician
Cornelius Pettway	Lighting & Sound Technician
Ja'Keilla Rouse	Social Media & Video Technician
Martinique Mix	Social Media & Graphics Specialist

# *Big Bethel A.M.E. Church*

## *Worship & Arts Council Members*

Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.

Monique Griffiths

Jeremy Johnson

Racquel Battle

Nicole Chapman

Tamika Kelly

Shelley Webster

Monique Griffiths

Richard Marion

Tamika Kelly

Cornelius Pettway

Stephanie Moore

Rosalyn Bussey-Johnson

Jory Young

Rose Schofield

Wesley Jackson Jr.

Phyllislorena Smiley

Martinique Mix

Rev. Joyce Young

Minister of Worship & Arts

Assistant Minister of Worship & Arts

Organist/Keyboardist

Bearden-Scott Youth Choir Director

Bearden-Scott Youth Choir Director

Big Bethel Chorale Director

Big Bethel Chorale President

Johnson-Schofield Male Choir Director

Johnson-Schofield Male Choir President

Babcock-Young Voices of Unity Director

Babcock-Young Voices of Unity President

Big Bethel Praise Ensemble Director

Big Bethel Praise Ensemble Business Manager

Kwanza-Sol Dance Ministry Director

Signs of Praise Mime Ministry Director

Hands for Christ Signing Ministry Director

Big Bethel Orchestra Director

AV Ministry Director

Social Media & Graphics Specialist

Jazz Vespers Ministry Leader



**BIG BETHEL A.M.E.**  
**COME ON HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**  
**POINSETTIA DEDICATION**  
 •IN MEMORY OF OR +IN HONOR OF

PURCHASED BY	•IN MEMORY OF	
Racquel Battle	<i>Mr. James D. Battle</i>	
Lauren Rajah (Blanchard)	<i>Kathryn Payne &amp; Stanley James</i>	
Tanyika Black	<i>Mrs. Mary Townsend</i>	<i>Mrs. Priscilla Poole (Mom)</i>
Michael L. Brown	<i>Jessie Brown (Mother)</i>	
Rev. Jessica Buford	<i>Mr. Charles Williams</i>	
Keith Burnett	<i>James &amp; Helen McDaniel, Lucille Sanders, Ida Williams &amp; Ceopal Porter, John &amp; Ethel Hannah</i>	<i>John "Joey" Hannah Joe Tate, Verlean Delaney, George &amp; Mildred King, Thederis Williams</i>
Geraldine Patterson Burton	<i>Mr. J.C. Burton</i>	
Eunice Davis	<i>William "Bill" Davis</i>	
Pastor John & Mrs. Mary Ann Foster	<i>Mrs. Jessie M. Mackey, Mr. John C. Foster</i>	<i>Mr. Bryant Mackey, Ms. Rosalie Jackson, Ronald Boykin</i>
Mary E. Fordham	<i>Kapri Fordham-Tyson-Granddaughter</i>	
The Francis Family	<i>Alvin C. Francis, Sr. (Father), Ivolene Francis, (Mother), Abney E. Bowne (Grandmother),</i>	<i>Marguerite Fassitt (Grandmother) Wilfred Fassitt (Grandfather)</i>
Franklin-Stinson Families	<i>Hal A. Franklin, II, MD</i>	
Ms. Willia R. George	<i>Dr. Charles R. George</i>	
Ruth Sisk Harris	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph Sisk</i>	
Bettieanne Hart	<i>Kennedy C. Childers, Jr.</i>	<i>K.C. &amp; Eunice Childers</i>
Brenda Tanks Hewitt	<i>Mr. Samuel T. Tanks, Sr.</i>	
Danita & Bernard Hines & Daphne & Richard Stowe	<i>Mr. Dwight A. Burgess</i>	
Oliver Hudson	<i>Lula M. Hudson, George &amp; Dorothy Graham</i>	<i>Gwendolyn M. Hudson</i>
Fred Hughey Jr.	<i>Rev. Fred M., Sr. &amp; Mrs. Evelyn Frozine Hughey</i>	
Alfreda Lowery Jackson	<i>Thedford &amp; Claudia Lowery</i>	
Wesley & Mary Jackson	<i>Eduwin Joseph Jackson</i>	
Karen Fordham Jordan	<i>Kapri Fordham-Tyson-Daughter</i>	
Rosalyn B. Johnson	<i>Mrs. Olean W. Bussey, Reuben T. Bussey, Jr.</i>	<i>Dr. Malcolm L. Johnson, Rev. R. T. Bussey, Sr.</i>
Sheila Johnson	<i>Amos Johnson</i>	<i>Adrian Johnson</i>
Rose M. Jones, Yolanda, Jacquelyn, Tawana, Nia & Nala	<i>Henry L. Jones</i>	
Gwen Langley	<i>Rev. Willie L. &amp; Mrs. Jacquelyn Langley</i>	
Richard Marion	<i>Bro. James &amp; Sis. Faye Marion</i>	



# BIG BETHEL A.M.E.

## COME ON HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

### POINSETTIA DEDICATION (CONTINUED)

•IN MEMORY OF OR +IN HONOR OF

PURCHASED BY	•IN MEMORY OF	
Charles W. Moore	<i>Mary D. Moore</i>	
Alicia Oden	<i>William T &amp; Mary Y. Greene</i>	
Annette & Bill Petty	<i>Eva, Annie, &amp; Mary Gaither</i>	<i>Lucinda &amp; Deloris Petty</i>
Stanley & Sharon Pritchett	<i>Early &amp; Nelle Pritchett</i>	
Joseph L. Purter	<i>Corey Kelly &amp; Jerry L. Kitchen</i>	
Rev. Charmain Purvis	<i>Ms. Nancy Barrington</i>	
Rev. Charmain Purvis & Eppes Family	<i>Mr. Rodney Purvis</i>	<i>Ms. Althea Evans</i>
Tallulah Ragsdale	<i>Gregory Ragsdale</i>	
Charles M. & Rose Schofield	<i>Mr. Willie &amp; Mrs. Mattie Schofield</i>	
Samuel Stephens, LaDonna Edwards & Paul Jones	<i>Pearline Jones, Nancy Barrington</i>	<i>Evelyn Knowlton</i>
Phyllislorena Smiley	<i>Alexander L. Walke, Jr. (Love of My Life),</i>	<i>Rev. Gertie L. Smiley (Mom)</i>
Jennifer Smith	<i>Harold Sr. &amp; Mary Greene-Maternal Grandparents</i>	<i>John JJ &amp; Florence Smith-Paternal Grandparents</i>
Cheryl P. Taylor	<i>Robert &amp; Anne Phillips</i>	
Vera Thomas	<i>Arthur &amp; Florence Powell (Parents),</i>	<i>Keith &amp; Orson Powell (Brothers)</i>
Del Walker	<i>Rose Walker &amp; Aunt Candy</i>	
Rev. Norris Walters	<i>Norleta J. Walters</i>	
Lisa Johnson Whigham	<i>Richard &amp; Frances Johnson</i>	<i>Marian Whigham</i>
Ms. Donna Williams	<i>Drs. McDonald &amp; Jamye Williams</i>	
Supervisor Dorothy Young	<i>Bishop McKinley Young</i>	
Joyce C. Young	<i>Bro. Horace Ford</i>	



PURCHASED BY	IN HONOR OF
Tim Crim	<i>In Honor of the Crim Family</i>
Gordon Freeman	<i>Willene Freeman</i>
Daphne & Richard Stowe	<i>Delores Burgess</i>
Danita & Bernard Hines	
Rev. Joyce C. Young	<i>Jory &amp; Stacey Young</i>



# Big Bethel AME Church

## Concert Choir 2024

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	The Big Bethel POSSE
Sharla Askin	Cynthia Crane	Pierre Brookins	Jeremy Johnson— Lead musician
Leigh Haynes	Rev. Joyce Young	Mike Brown	Terrence Bridges—Bass
Danita Hines	Jennifer Grant	Maurice Eckstein	Geoff Morgan—Drummer
Barbara Johnson	Jacqueline Jones	Tawana Jones	
Rosalyn Johnson	Ariel Nash	Brenda G. Lyles	
Clarissa Robinson	Catherine Wainwright	Tallulah Ragsdale	
Donna Williams	Joi Whiting	Ernest Tate	

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
**MINISTRY**  
 presents

*We Three Kings*

*A*  
*Sunday School*  
*Christmas Program*

**AT 11:30 AM**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**

**Fellowship Hall**  
**220 Auburn Ave. NE**  
**Atlanta, GA 30303**

Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Monica C. Jones, Ph.D., Christian Education Director  
 Bro. Everett Jolly, Sunday School Superintendent  
[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org)

*This concert is  
dedicated in loving  
memory of  
Alexander Lloyd Walke, Jr.  
- Sax and Flutes -*

An amazingly creative and talented saxophonist and flute player Alex held true to his astrological sign of Libra. The symmetry and balance of his performances were simply awesome. He had an unusual ability to play in such a way that would not overshadow fellow musicians yet he stood way above the crowd when improvising and playing solo.

He studied Music and Media at Norfolk State University. He has performed with national artists Tom Browne, Bob Baldwin, Roy Ayers, Levi Little (of BlackStreet fame), Stax Recording artists N'Dambi and The Soul Children, Gerald Veasley, Melba Moore, Jean Carne, Bobby Lyle, artist/arranger/producer Norman Connors and His Starship Orchestra and more recently Grammy Winner and Stax legend William Bell, and George Clinton and the P-Funk Allstars.

His awesome saxophones and flutes can be heard on the soap opera theme for "Another Life", CBN cartoon themes "Flying House" and "Super Book", Levi Little's "Star Ship" CD, Contemporary Christian Group-Isaac's "City of Dreams" CD, Total Package Band's "T's Groove" CD, Randy Skinner's "Skin Tones In Pursuit" and his newest release, William Bell's new album release "One Day Closer To Home" as well as his own CDs "Part of Me", "Merry Christmas 2007" and "Merry Christmas Re-loaded" (a re-issue of 2007)

He performed with local artists Total Package Band, Rod Kelley, Randy Skinner, City Heat Band, A Sharp Affair, The K.T. Collaborative and many others. He performed for various freelance events through his divinely inspired side hustle SAX-O-GRAMS Additionally, he was the resident saxophonist for Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta, GA. He left us to go make music with the angels and although we will greatly miss this kind-hearted soul and musical gem, his musical legacy will live on in our hearts.





# ROBERT L. MASON JR.

## *Candlelight Memorial*

On one of the longest and coldest nights of the year, we come together in love and compassion to celebrate the lives of those we have lost from experiencing homelessness in DeKalb and Fulton Counties.

December 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.  
424 Decatur Street SE, Atlanta, GA 30312  
Parking on site

Refreshments and gifts of warmth will be distributed at the conclusion of the program.

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**  
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor



**THRIVE MINISTRY**  
Rev. Jessica Buford, Thrive Young Adult & College Ministry Director

# MILLENNIAL

## WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

*A Thrive Takeover!*

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 29TH

10:00AM



GUEST PREACHER  
MIN. Carmen Reid  
from Ray Of Hope Church

220 Auburn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303  
Ph: 404-827-9707  
www.bigbethelame.org

WATCH LIVE LIVE

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**  
ON THE AVE

# 2025 WATCH NIGHT WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2024

10:00 PM

Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor  
220 Auburn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303  
Ph: 404-827-9707

WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG | @bigbethelamechurch

WATCH LIVE LIVE