

BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH



**BLACK
HERITAGE
MONTH**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

BISHOP MICHAEL L. MITCHELL, PRESIDING PRELATE, 6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
MRS. CORDELIA MITCHELL, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR, 6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
REVEREND KIMBERLY MCMICHAEL, PRESIDING ELDER, NORTH ATLANTA DISTRICT
REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR
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WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH • ATLANTA

Heritage Sunday 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025



WORSHIP LEADER ♥ REV. JESSICA BUFORD

THE ORGAN PRELUDE.....BRO. KELVIN THOMPSON

THE DOXOLOGY.....A.M.E. HYMN No. 647

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP REV, JESSICA BUFORD

Minister: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! (Psalm 122:1-2)

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Psalm 84:10)

Minister: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God; I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:9)

People: They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13)

Minister: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells. (Psalm 26:8)

People: But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! I will sing of loyalty and of justice, to you, O Lord, I will sing. (Psalm 98:1,4)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE.....WADE IN THE WATER—SPIRITUAL.....SIS. ROSE SCHOFIELD

THE INVOCATIONBRO. OLIVER HUDSON

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC.....BIG BETHEL MASS CHOIR

THE RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE.....Jeremiah 17:5-10.....Bro. Everett Jolly

Minister: ⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

People: ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Minister: ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

People: ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Minister: ⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it?

All: ¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE.....(IN THE TUNE OF COME O MY SOUL) AME HYMN #72

*From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE.....SIS. KAWANZA SMITH

And Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

THE GLORIA PATRI.....AME HYMN #627

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

THE HERITAGE LITANY.....BRO. FLOYD BAXTER

Leader: O God, you have heard the anguished cries of our ancestors. Their sounds echo and penetrate time to remind us of our fore parents who were brutally captured and forcibly enslaved, as they left the peaceful womb of their African homeland.

People: “**Stony the road we trod.**”

Leader: O God, you have seen the millions of dark bodies buried beneath the tumultuous waves of the deep. Bodies of African men and women who held the seeds of greatness. You have seen women's dreams for a united family vanish as they were sold at auction blocks. You have seen the legacy of the African American family decimated and demeaned by those who have attempted to control our destiny.

People: “**Bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.**”

Leader: O God, you have ignited the sparks within us into a blazing demand for freedom, equality and justice. This quest cost Harriet Tubman sleepless nights, as she led her people to freedom; it was an equality that Rosa Parks and civil rights activists fought for and gave their lives for; it was a justice that Martin Luther King, Jr. for, as thousands stood with him at the Lincoln Memorial.

People: “**Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighted?**”

Leader: O God, you have seen our tears. You have been pained by the evil of human hearts. Yet, you loved humanity enough that you sent your only son to identify with the outcast, marginalized and rejected. As the cries of Jesus pierced your heart, so have the cries of your people – cries from different cultures and in different languages.

People: “**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears.**”

Leader: O God, you answered us during our exodus from Africa. You wiped every teardrop during our exile in captivity. Our fore parents dared to dream that one day, on these shores, we would become politicians, preachers, educators, doctors, writers, scientists, artists, and so much more.

People: “**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.**”

Leader: Our ancestors' hard work, their courage, their convictions, and their belief in you paved the way for our emancipation and education. But it is clear, you have liberated us. You have set us free. “Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last!”

ALL: “**Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand. True to our God and true to our native land.**”

THE WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL.....THE PHILIPPIN MINISTRY

THE BLACK HISTORY MOMENTBIG BETHEL HISTORY & HERITAGE MINISTRY

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER.....PASTOR JOHN FOSTER

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC.....BIG BETHEL MASS CHOIR

THE SERMON.....THE RT. REV. DR. ADAM J. RICHARDSON, JR.
 115TH ELECTED AND CONSECRATED BISHOP
 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, (RETIRED)

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP READING

Nehemiah 12:47

All (of God's people) contributed the daily portions for the singers, gatekeepers...Levites (ministers).



THE WORSHIP IN GIVING: TITHES & OFFERING

THE REMARKS

PASTOR JOHN FOSTER

THE DOXOLOGY

THE BENEDICTION

HISTORY & HERITAGE MINISTRY MEMBERS

Racquel Battle
 Betty Cox
 Eunice Davis
 Carol Dove
 Jackie Herring

Deborah Hutchison
 Pamela Hurst
 Richard Marion
 Nannette McGee
 Carla Morrison

Gloria Pritchett
 Ernest Tate
 M. Paulyne Morgan White
 Kenneth Willhoite



Big Bethel A.M.E Children & Youth Sunday School: We Put Families First

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025 Events Calendar

Date	Event	Time/Place
February 2	In Person Children & Youth Sunday School	11:30 Big Bethel Fellowship Hall
February 4,6,11,13	Zoom Black History Skit Rehearsals	6-8 pm
February 15&22	Black History Skit Rehearsals	2:00 pm Big Bethel Sanctuary
February 23	Black History Skit	10:00 a.m. Big Bethel Sunday Service
March 2	Sweet Auburn Scavenger Hunt	11:30 a.m.-1:00 Auburn Avenue
April 6	In Person C&Y Sunday School/Easter Program Rehearsal	11:30 Big Bethel Fellowship Hall
April 20	Easter/Black History Program	11:30 Big Bethel Fellowship Hall



BISHOP ADAM J. RICHARDSON, JR. (RETIRED) 115TH ELECTED AND CONSECRATED BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. was elected and consecrated the 115th Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1996 at Louisville, Kentucky. He was assigned to the 14th Episcopal District which includes six countries in West Africa. In the 2000 – 2004 quadrennial, he served as chair of the Lay Commission and as a member of the World Methodist Council. He has chaired the Health Commission and twice as chair of the Commission on Seminaries, Universities, Colleges and Schools. In 2002, Bishop Richardson served as President of the Council of Bishops and the Presiding Bishop of the 19th Episcopal District

with headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa. Beginning in 2004, he served as the presiding bishop of the Second Episcopal District which includes North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. For eight years, the Second District saw phenomenal growth in membership, educational support, missions-related ministries, and ministry to men, health, prisons, the advancement of women in ministry, and a commitment to social and political action. Bishop and Mrs. Richardson took great pride in the District's embrace of ministries to youths and young adults. At the 2012 General Conference, Bishop Richardson was elected president of the General Board and was assigned to the Electrifying, Empowering Eleventh Episcopal District which includes Florida and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Prior to his election as a Bishop, he was senior minister of the Bethel A. M. E. Church, Tallahassee, Florida. For eighteen years his leadership and teaching skills produced a major ministry of growth in membership, new and expanded facilities, outreach to the poor and dispossessed, with an active presence in the community. Bishop Richardson began his educational pursuit in the public schools of Tampa, Florida. He received the B.A. degree from the Florida A&M University (where he was noted as the head drum major of the famed Marching '100' Band). He received the Master of Divinity degree from the Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta and the Doctor of Sacred Theology degree at the ITC through the Atlanta Theological Association.

His ministry has included teaching at the Interdenominational Theological Center and Morris Brown College in Atlanta, and an adjunct instructor at his alma mater, Florida A&M University. He has received recognition from the City of Tallahassee, the State of Florida and the many places he has taken his message of hope and encouragement. In 1994, he was cited by Tallahassee Magazine as one of the most influential people of that city in the past fifteen years. Bishop Richardson has contributed articles or chapters in several books, including: "The Great High Priest" in the African American Devotional Bible, 1997 (Congress of National Black Churches); "Courage to Face the Battles of Life" in Ain't That Good News, 1984 (the Rev. Gregory G. M. Ingram, ed.); "An Introduction to the New Testament" and "Pastoral Care" in The Pastor's Manual of the AME Church, 1976 and 2000 (Dr. George L. Champion, ed.); and has written several instructional manuals for discipleship training and spiritual formation for churches he has served and for use on the lecture circuit, which include Take Me To The Water: A Manual For Christian Baptism, 1996; African Methodism 101, 1996; Traditional and Charismatic Styles of Ministry, 1996; The Wedding Manual, 1994; The Funeral Manual, 1995; and Headlines to Homilies: Sermons on Political, Commercial and Other Popular Annoyances, 2000. His most recent publication is "Let the Church say Amen: Liturgy, Litany and Homily," published in 2012. His travels outside of the United States have taken him to 30 countries, commonwealths and nation states. He and his wife of 47 years, Dr. Connie Speights, are the proud parents of two adult children, Monique (an attorney), and Trey (a certified radiographer and recipient of two Master's degrees in music theory and classical saxophone).



PLEASANT HILL VICTORY AME CHURCH
 Rev. Dr. Lola Russell, Pastor
 4585 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA 30349



ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

DINNER WILL BE SERVED!!

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

GUEST PREACHER:

Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor
 Big Bethel AME Church

COME JOIN US!!



****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!!**



VISITOR REGISTRATION



*Let us remember our
 sick and shut-in with our
 prayers and calls.*



Sis. Patricia Coles (404) 254-4806

Rev. Betty Miley (770) 323-6841

Sis. Brenda Queen (404) 274-0705

Sis. Lillian Taylor (404) 284-6414

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
February 16, 2025	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

TO OUR BIG BETHEL FAMILY!!

We are deeply grateful for the many prayers, calls, visits and acts of concern during our bereavement. Your love and friendship have warmed our hearts and made us so very grateful to be a part of the Big Bethel fellowship.

Love and blessings to each of you!

*The Cummings/Mix Family
 Paschell, Martinique, Olympia, Naja-Paschell*

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You



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

Hybrid/Virtual WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASSES

EVERY
1ST, 2ND, &
3RD SUNDAY
8:45AM

The "Discipleship - New Members" Ministry Team invites the entire Big Bethel congregation to join us for the occasion to explore the New Members Orientation and to study "Discipleship".

BIG BETHEL MEMBERS
USE THIS OPPORTUNITY!



ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE: www.bigbethelame.org
o Go to the "Resources" tab, scroll down to "Member Services"
o Scroll down and click on the "Discipleship-NewMemberClass" button.
o Then expect an email with the Class Manual, Class Schedule and instructions to sign into the Zoom Class.



LET'S TALK ABOUT FAITH, CHURCH AND US!

STAY CONNECTED
DOWNLOAD THE BIG BETHEL APP
TODAY!!



BBAMEC App



MISSING OUT
ON BIG BETHEL
NEWS & EVENT
INFO?

Perhaps
your contact
information
needs
updating!!

An update can be provided using the
member update form available online at

www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services

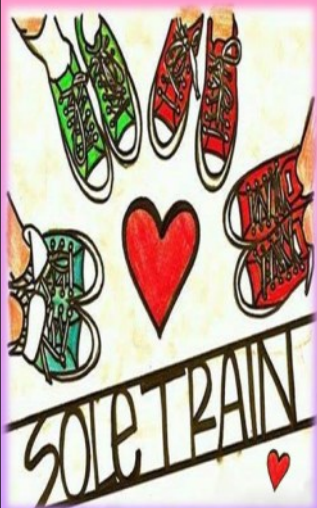
Click on the "Member Contact Update Form" button

Be in the know!!

**All members
are asked to
please update
your contact
information.**



SCAN ME



EMILY'S HAVEN SHOE DRIVE
SOLES 2 SOULS
NEW or GENTLY WORN

FLATS
SNEAKERS
COMFORT KICKS
CLOGS

NO HEELS PLEASE!!

Please donate!!
Help to heel a wounded sole!

Thrive

JOIN US!

Next Shift

2PM

EVERY SUNDAY!

INSTAGRAM: @BIGBETHELTHRIVES
FACEBOOK: THRIVE COLLEGE AND YOUNG
ADULT MINISTRY

Thrive



Weekly 10AM Sunday Worship

www.bigbethelame.org WATCH LIVE
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgvaKMrYvM9uae7K5w6g

BBAMEC VIRTUAL Blessings

Weekly 2PM Sunday Thrive Next Shift Worship

www.bigbethelame.org WATCH LIVE
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgvaKMrYvM9uae7K5w6g
Thrive - Every other Tuesday @ 7pm -
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87238857567
For details contact Rev Jess 770-940-0293



Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Study

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87171726645?pwd=anFGaTlwZlIsaEtlL3ROdlBNQVpFQT09

NEW



Women's Bible Study



Prayer Call 6AM Mon-Sat

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

Wednesday Noon & 6 PM Bible Study

Rev. Monica Jones, PhD.
SAME AS Adult Sunday
School ZOOM LINK

Wednesday 7PM Discipleship Bible Study

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

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?

Youth Church 2nd Sundays 10:00AM

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

Seasoned Saints - Thursdays @ 12pm

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82655698611
Dial in #: 1 929 205 8099 -
Meeting ID: 826 5569 8611
Contact Rev Jess 770-940-0293

NEW



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ZOOM

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=NzI0RG1qNmVYY0R5RFY2VzV6ZG1MZz09

Youth Sunday School 8:30AM

Email Everett Jolly
joll@comcast.net

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