



# HERITAGE SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

BISHOP REGINALD T. JACKSON, PRESIDING PRELATE, 6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
MRS. CHRISTY DAVIS JACKSON, ESQ EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR, 6TH DISTRICT  
REVEREND LARRY W. HUDSON, PRESIDING ELDER, NORTH ATLANTA DISTRICT  
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](http://WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG)  
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# WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH • ATLANTA

## Heritage Sunday 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024



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

Minister: 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."**

Minister: 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."**

Minister: 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?"**

Minister: 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."**

Minister: 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."**

Minister: 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 HYMN OF PRAISE.....A.M.E. HYMN # 571 - LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

1. Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and Heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun Of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet Come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered; Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE (CONTINUED).....A.M.E. HYMN # 571 - LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee. 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, True to our native land.

**The INVOCATION**

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

**THE RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE.....Mark 1:9-15**

**Minister:** <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

**People:** <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

**Minister:** <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**People:** <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

**Minister:** <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

**People:** <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

**ALL:** <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

**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**

**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 WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL.....THE PHILIPPIAN MINISTRY**

**THE BLACK HISTORY MOMENT BIG BETHEL HISTORY & HERITAGE MINISTRY**

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION.....SIGNS OF PRAISE MIME MINISTRY**

**THE PASTOR'S WORDS**

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER**

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

**THE SERMON.....REV. ALAN WICKER**

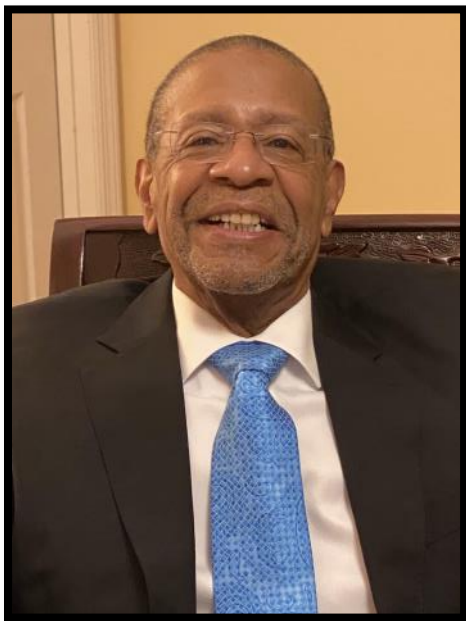
RETIRED PRESIDING ELDER OF THE MACON EAST DISTRICT IN THE MACON GEORGIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**THE WORSHIP IN GIVING: TITHES & OFFERING**

**THE BENEDICTION**





## *Rev. Alan Hale Wicker*

Alan Hale Wicker was born to the parentage of Jessie Leon Wicker and Thelma Elizabeth Bianca Hale (Wicker). His elementary and secondary education took place in the Orleans Parish Schools, New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from Grambling State University, (B.S. in Instrumental Music Education, 1974). He acknowledged his call to preach, at age 12 and later was licensed to Preach in 1974 at Saint James AMEC, New Orleans. His Parish Ministry began in Sun,

Louisiana (1974) and continued in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia, until 2001 where he was elevated to the office of Presiding Elder from Wesley Chapel AMEC.

He has been the pastor of Zion Chapel, Sun, LA., Union Chapel, Kentwood, LA., Saint Matthew, Greenville, MS., The Hogansville Circuit, (Hogansville and LaGrange, Georgia), Flipper Chapel, Milledgeville, GA., Saint Luke, Macon, GA., Greater Allen Chapel, Macon GA., Gray Chapel, Macon, Georgia, and Wesley Chapel, Milledgeville, GA.

His Ministry as Presiding Elder began on the defunct Southern District in the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference and continued on the obsolete Macon District, the Macon Georgia Annual Conference, and now he supplies as the Retired Presiding Elder of the Macon East District in the Macon Georgia Annual Conference. He is a M.Div. graduate of Turner Theological Seminary (1981) at the Interdenominational Theological Center. He completed 1 Basic Quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education at Georgia Retardation Center in Atlanta, GA., 4 quarters of Advanced Clinical Pastoral Education at Georgia Mental Health Institute in Atlanta Georgia. Subsequently he worked as a Clinical Chaplain at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia for 10 years from 1982 to 1992. He completed 6 quarters of Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia. He is also a graduate of Mercer University in Macon Georgia with a M.S. degree in Marriage and Family Studies.

He is the husband of the Reverend Gloria J. Wicker, Ed.D. and together they have four adult children and 8 grandchildren (6 biological and 2 step). His favorite scripture is *"But Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto thee"* (Matthew 6:33). He is a retired presiding elder (June 2022) after 48 years of ministry.

In November of 2021 he was elected as a Trustee for Georgia Military College. His world view is: I am activating God's presence in my life when I love someone. His Life Lesson Learned (LLL) Sometimes GOD has nothing to do with the church, and sometimes the church has nothing to do with GOD! Motto: Do Right In God's Sight. Slogan: Results Not Excuses!

**NOW AVAILABLE!!**

*nothing but*  
**Grace**



Get yours online @  
[www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services](http://www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services)  
or in the sanctuary vestibules.

**\*\*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!!**



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

- Sis. Patricia Coles (404) 254-4806
- Rev. Betty Miley (770) 323-6841
- Sis. Elizabeth Parks (Liz) (404) 691-4590
- Sis. Brenda Queen (404) 274-0705
- Sis. Lillian Taylor (404) 284-6414

**WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

| TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY | First reading                   | Psalm   | Second reading                  | Gospel                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 18, 2024      | <a href="#">Exodus 24:12-18</a> | <a href="#">Psalm 2</a> or <a href="#">Psalm 99</a> | <a href="#">2 Peter 1:16-21</a> | <a href="#">Matthew 17:1-9</a> |



**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!**



NEW MEMBERS

**ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.bigbethelame.org](http://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.



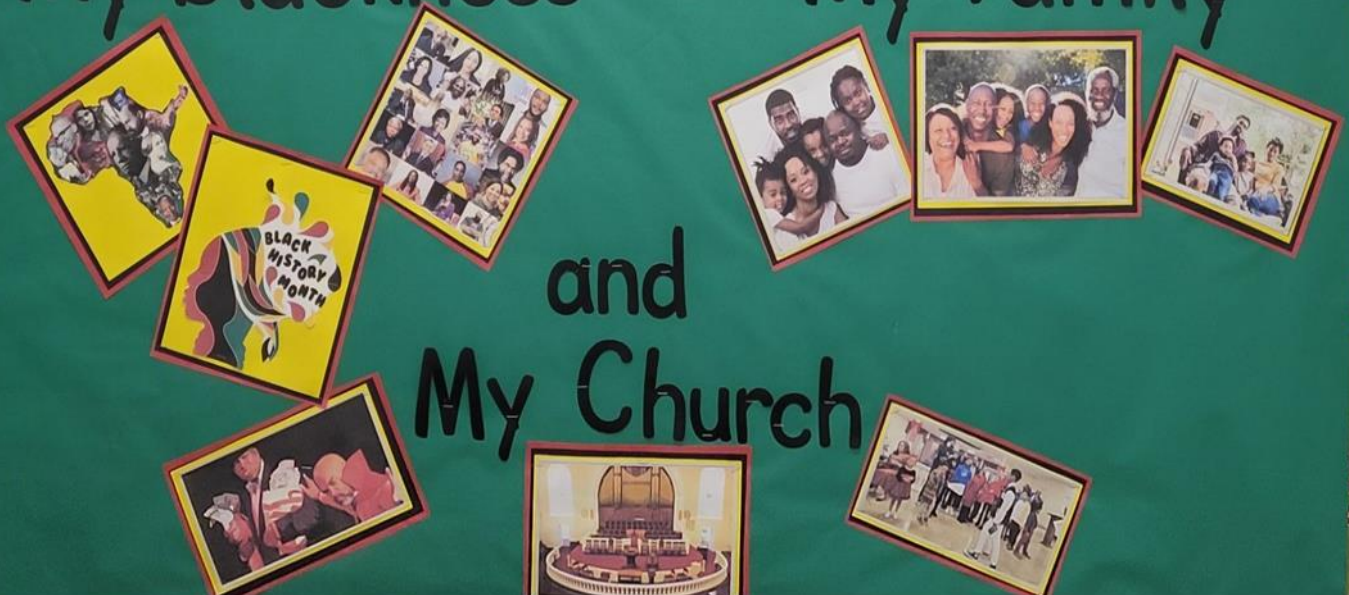
**LET'S TALK ABOUT FAITH, CHURCH AND US!**

# Big Bethel A.M.E. Sunday School Black History Contest

BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
Connecting....

My Blackness

My Family



**Contest Theme:**

**Connecting My Blackness, My Family, and My Church**

For entry form contact Mr. Jolly, at [Joll@comcast.net](mailto:Joll@comcast.net)

Entries Must Be Submitted By: March 10, 2024

Thrive



THRIVE presents...

# Relationship Goals!

**EXERCISING YOUR FAITH THROUGH SINGLENESS, DATING, AND MARRIAGE...**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024  
11:30AM OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER  
10:00AM SERVICE**

**\*Open Discussion with special guests\***

Rev. John Foster, Ph. D., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jessica Buford, Thrive Director

@BIGBETHELTHRIVES



Rev. John Foster, Ph.D.,  
Senior Pastor

## SMALL GROUP FOR BIG BETHEL SENIORS!

A bi-weekly check-in to share stories, talk, and pray for the concerns on our hearts.

**Next Session: Feb 22, 2024.  
Join Us @ 12 Noon**

Dial in #: 1 929 205 6099  
Meeting ID: 826 5569 8611  
Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82655698611>



# Thrive BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**JOIN US FOR SERVICE ALL MONTH AS WE PAY HOMAGE TO OUR CULTURE THROUGH FASHION!**

**FEB 4TH**

## AFRICAN ATTIRE

*Blend tradition and elegance while sporting your beautiful African prints.*

**FEB 11TH**

## HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

*Represent your Alma Mater or favorite HBCU!*

**FEB 18TH**

## BLACK HISTORY INSPIRED ATTIRE

*Rock a Black-owned business or black history inspired brand!*

**FEB 25TH**

## GREEK LIFE

*Are you a part of The Divine Nine? Represent your organization!*

@BIGBETHELTHRIVES



# The Transportation Ministry is in need of volunteer drivers!!



If you or anyone you know are interested in receiving a ride to and from church, please scan the QR code to register or



call the Church Office  
at 404-827-9707



**MISSING OUT  
ON BIG BETHEL  
NEWS & EVENT  
INFO?**

Perhaps  
your contact  
information  
needs  
updating!!

*Be in the know!!*

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

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

[www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services](http://www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services)



SCAN ME

Click on the "Member Contact Update Form" button



# REQUEST FOR HOLY COMMUNION



*Home Visit*

*Remember...*  
HIS BODY. HIS BLOOD.

Every 1st Sunday of the Month

If you would like a minister to visit on a monthly basis to administer communion, Please scan the QR code to access the request form.



Communion Home Visit Request

## STAY CONNECTED DOWNLOAD THE BIG BETHEL APP TODAY!!

### Download

< Search



**My Church  
by Pushpay**

Connect anytime, anywhere

OPEN



from the App store or Google Play



Download on the  
App Store



GET IT ON  
Google Play

Enter keyword "Bigbethelame(space)app" or church name "Big Bethel" and connect





**NORTH  
ATLANTA  
DISTRICT**

# 7 STATIONS OF THE CROSS



**STATION 1:** Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)  
**FEB 18 ~ Big Bethel (Atlanta)**

### **BAPTISM SERVICE**

220 Auburn Ave., N.E. Atlanta, GA 30303  
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor  
**Dr. Lewis Kola-PROCLAIMER**



**STATION 2:** Pilate Condemns Jesus to Death (Matthew 27:24-26)

**FEB 25 – Marietta Chapel**

Rigby Street., NW, Marietta, GA 30060  
Rev. Mark Harkness-Pastor  
**Rev. Joshua Stampley-Gardner-PROCLAIMER**



**STATION 3:** Jesus Accepts the Cross (Matthew 27:27-31)

**MAR 3 – Mt. Carmel (Atlanta)**

1141 Henry Thomas Dr., Atlanta, GA 30315  
Rev. Reginald Cleaver, Jr.-Pastor  
**Rev. Bernard Sutton-PROCLAIMER**



**STATION 4:** Simon Helps Jesus Carry the Cross (Mark 15:21)

**MAR 10 – St. Luke (Cartersville)**

130 Jones St. Cartersville, GA 30120  
Rev. Sharon Adair-Harden-Pastor  
**Rev. John Woods-PROCLAIMER**



**STATION 5:** Jesus Speaks to the Woman (Luke 23:27-31)

**MAR 17-GreaterSmith Chapel (Atlanta)**

186 Mayson Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307  
Rev. Eric Fladger-Pastor  
**Rev. Renata Williams-PROCLAIMER**



**STATION 6:** Jesus is Stripped of His Garments (John 19:23-24)

**MAR 24 –Allen Temple (Woodstock)**

232 Arnold Mill Rd., Woodstock GA 30188  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Cousin, Senior Pastor  
**To Be Determined – PROCLAIMER**



**STATION 7:** Jesus is Nailed to the Cross (Mark 15:23-32)

**APR 2 – Wilkes Chapel**

2293 Perry Blvd., NW, Atlanta, GA 31318  
Rev. Eddie Henley – Pastor  
**Rev. C. O. Adams-PROCLAIMER**

**SUNDAYS @ 4PM February 18th – March 28th**



## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

**6:00 PM Monday February 19, 2024**  
**Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Conference via Zoom**  
**Meeting ID: 814 5694 7461 Passcode:**  
**788962. One tap mobile+16468769923,**  
**,81456947461#, ,,,\*788962#. Please come**  
**out and participate in the business of the**  
**church.**

**Click on Me  
to go to  
the Zoom Link**



YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED  
IN CELEBRATION OF

The Jackson Journey:

# Celebrating 8 years of A More Excellent Way

Saturday

**FEB  
24  
2024**  
1:00 pm

**Bishop Reginald T. Jackson**

*Presiding Prelate, Sixth Episcopal District*

**Mrs. Christy Davis Jackson, Esq.**

*Episcopal Supervisor*

**& The Jackson Family**

*Location: Macon Centreplex, 200 Coliseum Dr., Macon, GA 31217*

# BBAMEC VIRTUAL Blessings



## Weekly 10AM Sunday Worship

[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org) WATCH LIVE  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUugvakMrYvMPuae7rk9w6g>

## Weekly 2PM Sunday Thrive Next Shift Worship

[www.bigbethelame.org](http://www.bigbethelame.org) WATCH LIVE  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUugvakMrYvMPuae7rk9w6g>



**NEW**

## Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87171726645?pwd=anFGaTlwZ1lsaEtlL3ROdIBNQVpFGOT09>



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: <sup>19</sup> See, I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

## Youth Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 10:00AM

Zoom Meeting ID:  
775-4987-0483  
Password: YEr10W

## Big Bethel Saturday School 12:30 -2:00PM

Now meeting in person!

**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  
[jolly@comcast.net](mailto:jolly@comcast.net)

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