

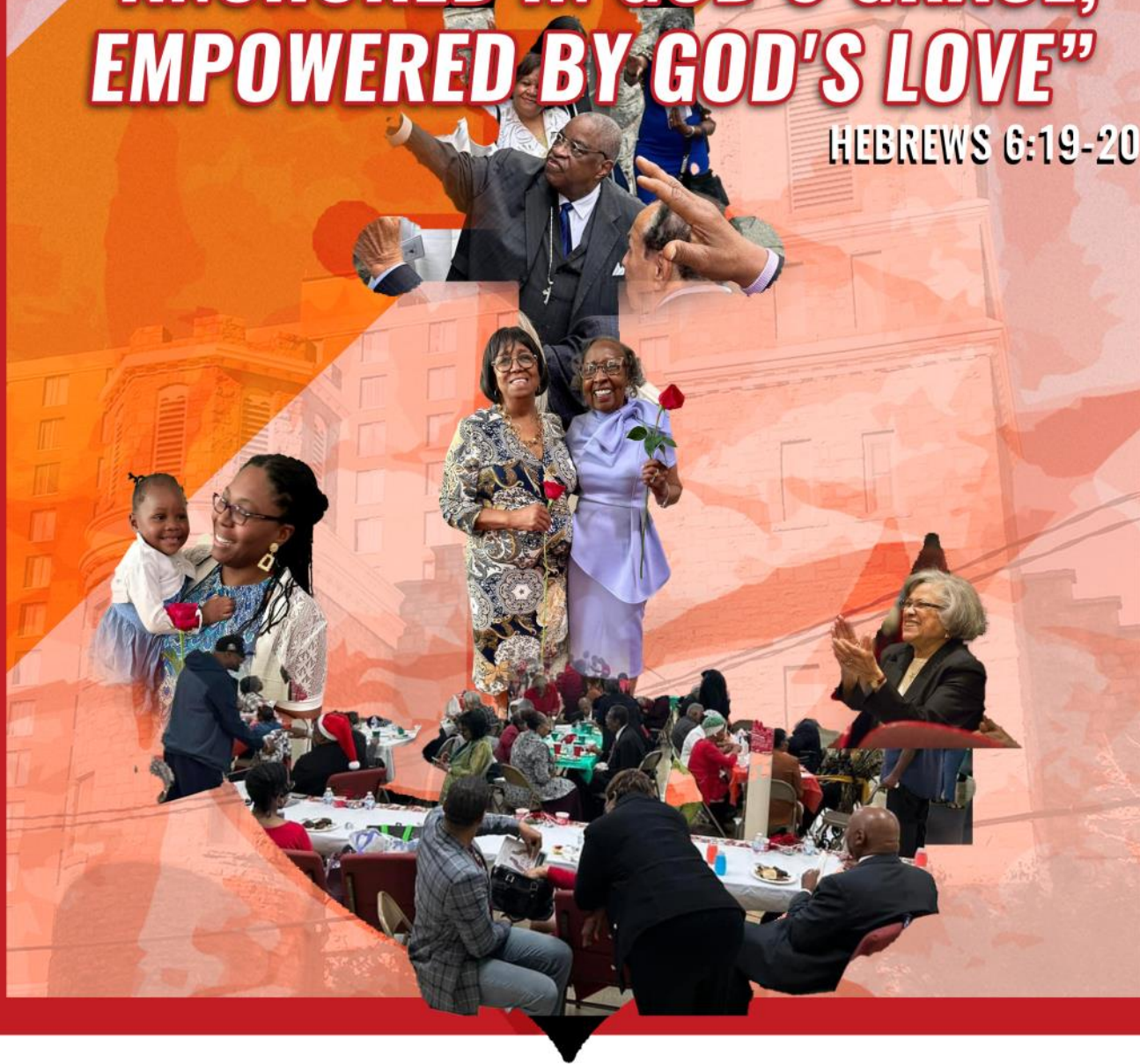
BIG BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

177TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY REVIVAL



**“ANCHORED IN GOD’S GRACE,
EMPOWERED BY GOD’S LOVE”**

HEBREWS 6:19-20



**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
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**

From Our Pastor



The Foster Family

Dear Big Bethel Family and Friends:

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!
Today, Big Bethel AME Church - Atlanta's oldest African American church congregation - celebrates One Hundred Seventy-Seven (177) years of worship, fellowship and ministry. Big Bethel has stood the test of time and yet, God still signifies Big Bethel as a Beacon of Light in downtown Atlanta which proudly proclaims that "Jesus Saves." At this time of celebration let us give thanks and honor to the glory of God for Big Bethel AME Church. We lift up this year's theme of **"Anchored and Empowered."**
We welcome Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry as our anniversary preacher and her guests to Big Bethel AME Church.

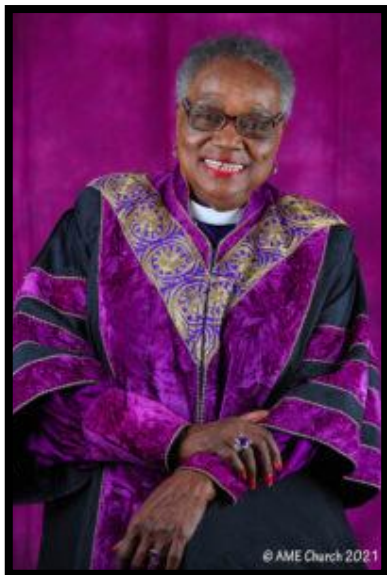
Please allow me to give God praise for our Church Anniversary Chairpersons: Dr. Stan Pritchett, Sis. Donna Williams, Sis. Raquel Battle and Sis. Ariel Nash. Let me also thank the entire Church Anniversary committee for a job well done!!! We thank God for all of the wonderful Anniversary Month activities - the Millennial Empowerment Service and Tailgate Kickoff Sunday, the Pilgrimage to Oakland Cemetery, the Fall Revival, the Beauty for Ashes IV Community Outreach & Concert, and the Children's Sabbath Weekend.

Sis. Mary Ann, Kristina (Dewey, Zoey, and Dewey IV), John Jr., Jessica, and Mother Laura Mae join me in wishing our 'Big Bethel Family' a blessed 177th Church Anniversary!!!

Sincerely,

Senior Pastor

"Anchored and Empowered!!"



BISHOP CAROLYN TYLER GUIDRY—RETIRED 122ND ELECTED & CONSECRATED BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Right Reverend Carolyn Tyler Guidry received her first pastoral appointment to First AME Church in Indio, California, in 1977. Under her leadership the congregation undertook a massive renovation of the church building and Parsonage and the establishment of a day care center. She was the founder/director of the Unity Center for Human Development, a community faith-based project funded by HUD. In 1983 she was assigned to Cain Memorial AME Church in Bakersfield, CA.

Rev. Tyler demonstrated her business acumen and led the Bakersfield congregation in purchasing adjacent property, now valued at over three million dollars. The church utilized this key property and established a day care center and began several community service programs, including a “Senior Sack Meal”.

In 1989, Rev. Carolyn Tyler was assigned to the 600-member Walker Temple AME Church in Los Angeles, CA. This gave her the distinction of being a trailblazer again as the first female appointed to a major metropolitan charge in the AME church. She was appointed the first female Presiding Elder in the 5th Episcopal District in 1994 and served in that capacity until elected and consecrated the 122nd AME Bishop in 2004. She was assigned Presiding Prelate to the 16th Episcopal District (including the Caribbean, Europe, Central America), and initiated the exploration of a congregation in Leon, France, now a vibrant congregation.

Under Bishop Tyler Guidry’s leadership, the 16th District purchased its first Episcopal Residence in Jamaica to provide a permanent home for its bishop. She started the first Annual Christian Education Conference and partnered with Payne Seminary in a Ministerial Training Program. Economic Development projects seeded through her were established in all conferences in the 16th District.

In 2008, Bishop Tyler Guidry was assigned to the Eighth Episcopal District, comprising Mississippi and Louisiana. She led the district in acquiring an Office Building and Episcopal Residence in Jackson, MS. She served two terms as the chairperson of the Social Action Commission of the AME Church and initiated the effort to have the US Postal Service designate a stamp in honor of the founder of the AME Church, Bishop Richard Allen; that stamp was released during the first quarter of 2016. She is a life-time member of the NAACP, and an Honorary member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

The Right Rev. Carolyn Tyler Guidry received her Associate of Arts degree in Business and Secretarial Science from J. P. Campbell College in Jackson, MS. She studied Economics at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS. In 1977, she graduated from Los Angeles Bible School (under the auspices of Talbot Seminary) with a four-year certificate in Religion and Bible; she is a graduate of the Fuller Theological Seminary with the Master of Arts in Theology, and was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters by Payne Theological Seminary in May 2009. She was included in the archives of the History Makers in November 2004.

She is a contributor to the fourth edition of “Those Preaching Women”, by The Rev. Dr. Ella Mitchell, published by Judson Press and released in June 2004; and has contributed to the publications of the AME Bishops, “The Anvil”. In April 2011, she was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr, International Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, Atlanta GA.

Bishop Carolyn Eugene Jackson Tyler Guidry is the mother of five sons and one daughter, thirteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

REVEREND JOHN FOSTER PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR

177th Anniversary Worship Service

Sunday, October 20, 2024 10:00 AM

"Anchored In God's Grace; Empowered by God's Love"

¹⁹We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,
²⁰where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek, Hebrews 6:19-20.

WORSHIP LEADER
Bro. Jory Young

THE PRELUDE

BRO. KELVIN THOMPSON

THE DOXOLOGY

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.

AME HYMN #647

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

BRO. JORY YOUNG

- Leader:** I was glad when they said unto to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- 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.
- Leader** For the sake of the house of the Lord Our God; I will seek your good.
- People** They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in courts of our God.
- Leader** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.
- People** For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.
- Leader** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.
- 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.

The Hymn of Praise

Bro. Jory Young

AME Hymn #62 God Of Grace And God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power; Crown Thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour,
2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; Free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days,
3. Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore; Let the search for Thy salvation Be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, Serving Thee whom we adore, Serving Thee whom we adore. Amen.

THE INVOCATION

SIS. DAPHNE STOWE

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

BIG BETHEL MASS CHOIR

Leader: ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

People: ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Leader: ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

People: ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Leader: ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

ALL: ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

(IN THE TUNE OF #258)

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. Tonretha Harris

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 unto 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. A-men. A-men.”

THE WELCOME TO BIG BETHEL

SIS. JA’KEILLA ROUSE—THE PHILIPPIAN MINISTRY

THE BIG BETHEL MINISTRY MOMENT

BIG BETHEL SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION

THE WORSHIP THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION

SIGNS OF PRAISE MIME MINISTRY

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDING ELDER

PASTOR JOHN FOSTER

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER

REV. KIMBERLY McMICHAEL
PRESIDING ELDER, NORTH ATLANTA DISTRICT

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

BIG BETHEL MASS CHOIR

THE 177TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

THE RIGHT REVEREND CAROLYN TYLER GUIDRY
122ND ELECTED & CONSECRATED BISHOP
African Methodist Episcopal Church, Retired

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

PASTOR JOHN FOSTER

THE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP READING

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

Be sure to set aside a tenth...so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING: TITHES AND OFFERINGS

BRO. MARCUS BLACK

THE CHORAL RESPONSE “ALL THINGS COME OF THEE O LORD AND OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GIVEN THEE , AMEN

THE REMARKS

PASTOR JOHN FOSTER

THE BENEDICTION

BISHOP GUIDRY



****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!!!!**



| SERVING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP EXPERIENCE | |
|--|---|
| Acolytes | Stewards |
| Choir | Big Bethel Mass Choir - Nathaniel Fisher, Jr., Director |
| Philippians | Ja'Keilla Rouse |
| Stewardesses | Rose Schofield and Alicia Oden |
| Stewards | Sam Stephens and Fred Hughey |
| Trustees | Floyd Baxter |
| Ushers | Samuel H. Giles Usher Ministry |
| AV Ministry | Brandon Collins—Audio Phyllislorena Smiley—Video |
| Finance Team | |




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



| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Sis. Patricia Coles (404) 254-4806 | Sis. Brenda Queen (404) 274-0705 |
| Rev. Betty Miley (770) 323-6841 | Sis. Miriam Redding |
| Sis. Elizabeth Parks (Liz) (404) 691-4590 | |

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

| Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost | First* reading and Psalm | Alternate* First reading and Psalm | Second reading | Gospel |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| October 20, 2024 | Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c | Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 | Hebrews 5:1-10 | Mark 10:35-45 |



BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH
177th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
DONATION PLEDGE FORM FOR 2024
PLEDGE DONATION LEVELS

Platinum.....\$1,000 Diamond.....\$500-\$999
Gold.....\$300-\$499 Silver.....\$100-\$299

BIRTHDAY GIFT \$177

Enclosed is my gift of Amount: \$*

I pledge my gift of Amount: \$* To be paid by:*

0.00 Date

Donor Name:*

First Name Last Name

Address:*

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City State/Province Zip

Email

example@example.com

Checks should be payable to: Big Bethel AME Church. Please add the 177th Church Anniversary to the comment line.

Please feel free to pay electronically through the Church Giving App, Cash App, Kiosk, Text2give, or other electronic media. Contact the church office (404-827-9707) for instructions on electronic giving.

Scan the code below and make your
**177th Church Anniversary
 Donation Pledge TODAY!!**



CA177 Pledge Form



SAVE THE DATES

BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

177th Church Anniversary

2024 EVENTS

SEP 29

Millennial TAKEOVER 10:00 AM

Tailgate Kick-off Celebration 11:30AM

Pilgrimage to Oakland Cemetery 1:00PM

177th Church Anniversary
7:00PM Nightly Revival

OCT 15-17



OCT 15th
Rev.
Andrea Lewis, Ph.D.
Holly Grove AMEC
Peachtree City, GA



OCT 16th
Rev Dr.
Reginald Cleaver, Jr.
Mt. Carmel AMEC
Atlanta, GA



OCT 17th
Rev.
Alvelyn Sanders-Swofford
Gaines Chapel AMEC
Phenix City, AL

OCT 19

Beauty for Ashes 10:00AM-4:00PM
Community Outreach



177th Church Anniversary
Worship Service

OCT 20

Guest Preacher: **Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry (Ret.) 10:00 AM**
122nd Elected & Consecrated

OCT 27

Youth Children's Sabbath
10:00 AM

Come Join Us!

220 AUBURN AVE. NE,
ATLANTA, GA 30303
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.BIGBETHELAME.ORG



Big Bethel A M E Church ~ A Brief History

Significant milestones have been etched into the fabric of Atlanta's growth and development by the leaders and members of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church during its 177-year history. Prior to Emancipation, slave masters of the Methodist Episcopal Church provided a facility for our ancestors to worship at Bethel Tabernacle Church on the corner of Courtland and Jenkins Streets (now Georgia State University). However, our founders' never lost sight of their vision to organize a church for self-expression, self-help, self-government, and worship. This dream became a reality when the members of Bethel Tabernacle united with the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1866. This year's theme, **"Anchored in God's Grace, Empowered by God's Love" Hebrews 6:19-20** as we celebrate One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Years.

At last, we are coming to grips with the importance of each generation sharing these special events with one another.

A warm handclasp between Rev. James Lynch, sent to organize the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the South, and Rev. Joseph Wood, member of Bethel Tabernacle, in Atlanta resulted in the 'Tabernacle' becoming united with the African Methodist Episcopal connection in 1866.

Rev. Jesse Peck became a member of the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons while living in Boston, he became convinced of the organizations' merits. Later, while pastoring at Big Bethel A M E Church (Atlanta), established the first chapter of Free and Accepted Masons in Georgia, which became Saint James Lodge # 4, on March 5, 1871.

Morris Brown College was established in 1881, when Big Bethel A M E Church (Atlanta) hosted the North Georgia Annual Conference.

The first National Convention of the National Association for The Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was held at Big Bethel A M E Church (Atlanta) in 1920.

One of Atlanta's historic landmarks is Big Bethel's "Lighted Cross" bearing the message 'Jesus Saves', the sign was installed in 1922. This blue neon-lighted sign on the church's steeple is still shining as a symbol of "Hope for the World".

A Black Community Activist, Mr. Jesse O. Thomas, was able to convince the Atlanta City Council and the County Commission to each give \$5,000 for rebuilding Bethel church, after it was severely damaged by fire in 1923. The reason for supporting this request was due to Bethel's capacity to hold mass meetings of a non-denominational nature in the 1920's.

The National Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was held at Bethel A M E Church (Atlanta) in 1929. The Big Bethel A M E Church's "Heaven Bound Choir" was featured at the premiere of the film "Gone With The Wind", gaining an international reputation since 1930. The morality play "Heaven Bound" was authored and produced at Big Bethel A M E Church and has been performed for 92 successive years since that time.

In 1953, Rev. Harold I. Bearden made arrangements with the first Black Radio Station in Atlanta, WERD, to broadcast directly from the church, the Sunday morning "Worship Service" as an inspirational gospel feast for the "sick and shut in".

In 1967 there was a legal change in the name of the church. The name was changed from Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle to Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The October 25, 1943, issue of "The Christian Recorder" commended Big Bethel Church for raising \$65,000 to clear the church indebtedness made in 1924. This article recognized the leadership of Rev. D. T. Babcock. Rev. Babcock's tenure of 14 years at the helm of Big Bethel Church has not been exceeded to this date.

The last segregated graduation ceremony for Grady Hospital Nurses of Color was held on August 16, 1965, in Big Bethel's Sanctuary.

During the administration of Rev. Ruben T. Bussey, the church celebrated significant anniversaries and recognition of official founding as 1847. One of the highpoints of his administration was the erection of Bethel Towers (a Resident Housing Facility,) erected in 1968. On August 11, 2013, the mortgage for this \$3,514,700 building was burned.

Big Bethel's "Great Moller Organ" was installed in 1924 with sixteen ranks, three manuals and a pedal organ. In 1987, the organ was completely restored and expanded under the pastorate of Rev. McKinley Young, when the instrument was raised to thirty-two ranks. Additionally, during the Young years (1980-1992), a major renovation of the church was completed, including upgrading, upholstery of the church furniture and carpeting added throughout the sanctuary.

Rev. James L. Davis (now Bishop James L. Davis) was appointed as pastor of Big Bethel A M E Church in 1992 until his election as Bishop in 2004. The establishment of new and innovative ministries including served as a catalyst for revitalizing "Sweet Auburn" and other communities. Some of its positive outgrowth includes: the Trinity-Bethel Partnership, Big Bethel Senior Village, acquiring the Parking Lot and Renaissance Walk.

Under his leadership, he initiated the changing of the landscape of Auburn Avenue through renovation of church (\$1.3 million dollars), property acquisition and development with support of (Trustees, Stewards, Floyd Baxter, Stanley Pritchett chair pro tempore respectively, Stewardship and Finance, and Church conferences). Projects were initiated to include interior and exterior renovation of the church (including installation of elevator and upgrades to the kitchen), and the purchase of surrounding and auxiliary property around the Big Bethel Church to extensively increase the campus for future development.

Subsequently, additional improvements included: the development of new Administrative Offices, established the Big Bethel Credit Union, established the church Endowment Fund, property purchases for the development of the now completed Renaissance Walk, the Big Bethel Senior Village, the computer room at Bethel Towers, the Parking Lot, the Bethel-Trinity Partnership, the Youth Retreat Station, and the Amphitheater. Special Services and New Ministries established were "Come On Home For Christmas" (Dr. Jackie Michael), the Palm Sunday Parade and the Palm Sunday Concert, the Richard Allen Outreach Recitals (events for financial support), the Philippians, the Signing ministry (Dr. Monica Jones), the Kwanza Sol dance ministry, the Signs of Praise mime ministry, the Joseph Lane (male) and Horizon of Hope (youth) Usher Boards, revitalization of the Bell Choir, the Johnson-Schofield male chorus, inception of the Praise Team (a small choral group singing selections as a prelude to the worship service), Fishers of Men Bible Study, MOBB (Men of Big Bethel), annual Golf Tournament to raise money for scholarships (Michael Brown-Dr. Price Michael).

Wings of Faith travel ministry (included trips to South Africa and Zimbabwe), 5th Sundays designated as "All Music Worship International Sunday" (flags), the Sandwich and Food Pantry ministries, the Tape Ministry, the 2000 Millennium Service (New Year's Eve relighting of the "Jesus Saves" sign), the Voter Registration initiative, the Habitat for Humanity ministry building houses (partnered with the Cathedral of St. Philip and other churches), Exchanging Pulpits with The Cathedral of St. Philip (with the Very Reverend, Dean Sam Candler), Annual Big Bethel/Wheat Street Thanksgiving Service, the Nehemiah Project, PROCEED (Prayerfully Reclaiming Our Community Emphasizing Economic Development) Community Outreach project, Juvenile Justice Arc of Safety (which included worship at the detention center), The Family Visitation Center hosted in fellowship hall, reuniting children in foster care with their parents (Reverend Bessie Robinson Donaldson), and the Big Bethel Towers Board preparing for "expiration" of its original syndication. All these ministries were instrumental in Bishop Davis' successful campaign for Bishop 2004.

Rev. Mark Thompson: 2004-2005 Highlights: Seed and Proceed, History and Heritage Ministry, Computer Lab Restoration from the Canadian Group, the Babcock -Young Voices of Unity choir, inception of the Praise Team (a small choral group singing selections as a prelude to the worship service), the Bearden-Scott Youth Choir (Reverend Maurice

Wright) and the Katrina Relief project. Presiding Elder David Rhone, Jr. served as interim Pastor (several months in 2005). Additionally, the "Big Bethel Saturday Academy" was established during the Thompson, Rhone year

Reverend Gregory V. Eason, 2005-2013 Highlights: During the administration of Rev. Dr. Gregory V. Eason, Sr. in addition to his mantra of "Radical Hospitality", FOCUS (Faithfully Obeying Christ with Unwavering Stewardship) was launched to raise funds for the church to retire the debt incurred from the parking lot repurchase.

Radical Hospitality, the Youth Church, and the Youth Ministry Advisory Council (Reverend Nate Robinson), completion of Renaissance Walk, the Crown Ministry, the Ministry Fair, the Original Mortgage Burning Ceremony for Bethel Towers 2012, the Appointment of Steward Pro Tem, Dr. Stanley Pritchett as President of Morris Brown College, serving 12 years from 2006-2018.

The "Save The Parking Lot" financial campaign, the addition of the contemporary "Heaven Bound" performance set on the day following the traditional performance, the Worship and Arts Ministry (an umbrella for all choirs and the dance and mime ministries), the Praise Team serving as a featured choir for the entire worship service and often as part of the Pastor's travel team for worship services, the Signs of Praise mime ministry, the Hands For Christ signing ministry, continuation of the "Heaven Bound" morality play, and the establishment of "A Taste of Big Bethel" (organized by MOBB), the Recitals for the Youth Talent Development of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (Mrs. Azira Hill). A special conference with Congressman John Lewis with the Officials of the church and the History and Heritage ministry pursuing compensation for damage and partial destruction of the original church on Jenkins Street during the Civil War (never satisfied through several "court of claims" attempts in our history).

In May 2013, Rev. John Foster, Ph.D, was appointed as pastor of Big Bethel AME Church. In addition to continuing the excellent programs and projects that were in progress, he launched a "New Video Ministry", the "Big Screens" becoming a reality, and the church services being streamed LIVE on the Web weekly. The latest initiative that the church has embarked upon is The Vision for Big Bethel 2020 now updated to The Seven Pillars of the Vision for Big Bethel 2027 to be the preeminent religious presence on the Auburn/Edgewood corridor in Atlanta, GA.

The ownership of Bethel Towers being officially under the banner of the Bethel Towers Board and church again along with the First Phase of total renovation of Bethel Towers (\$32 million dollars). The development of Phase 2 Parking Deck and Family Life Center, Phase 3 of Market Rate Housing taking space in the parking Lot and Phase 4 encompassing the church property on Auburn Avenue.

With the advent of COVID -19, under the Foster leadership team the church has continued church operations with live streaming of the Worship services, including special events and funerals. Free COVID-19 testing, and vaccines have been administered on-site since March of 2021.

Big Bethel AME Church ~ A Brief History (cont.)

Other innovative ministries and services include: the Social Action ministry, the Monday -Saturday 6a.m. prayer line, the modernization and technology of various giving platforms, the Thrive Young Adult ministry "Next Shift" afternoon worship services which have celebrated five years of existence, the Big Bethel Chorale and the Remnants of Praise ensembles, revitalization of Emily's Haven, Candidacy for Bishop, 2020-2021, Tail Gate and Parking Lot Service, and the Caregivers Ministry. Additionally a digital marquee was installed in front of the church and Big Bethel gained income and advertising access to major billboards along I-75 near the church. On June 11, 2023, Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., celebrated his 10th year of service as pastor of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.


In 2024, for the MLK Auburn Collaborative Celebration, District Attorney Fani Willis was the invited speaker. Big Bethel was privileged to recognize three Centenarians: Bro. Charles Moore, Sis. Azira Hill and Sis. Marie Blake. Big Bethel hosted the Inaugural Atlanta Marcus Garvey Lecture with guest lecture by Jamaica's U.N.I.A.—ACL President, Steven Golding, commemorating Marcus Garvey's first lecture in Atlanta held at Big Bethel on March 25, 1917. A plaque was installed by the Georgia Historical Society at the front of the church in a ceremony marking Big Bethel's historical significance in the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. Big Bethel received a \$200,000 preservation grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Culture Heritage Action Fund. To address structural issues within the sanctuary.

In August 2024 Big Bethel bid farewell to Presiding Elder Larry Hudson, Sr., and Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and Supervisor Christy D. Jackson, Esq. and family and welcomed new leadership Presiding Elder Kimberly McMichael and Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell 134th elected and consecrated and Supervisor Cordelia D. Mitchell to the Sixth District


In the 177 years of Big Bethel's history, thirty-six ministers have served as pastor -'sainted spiritual leaders' of this flock. Three of those ministers, the Reverends Harold I. Bearden (1964), McKinley Young (1992), & James L. Davis (2004) were elected from Big Bethel's pulpit and consecrated as bishops in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In addition, four other pastors, who were spiritual leaders of Big Bethel were elected and consecrated as Bishop in the AME Church, they are the Reverends Wesley J. Gaines, Joseph S. Flipper, and Isaac N. Ross. In August 2024, Rev. Dr. Gregory V. Eason was elected and consecrated as the 148th Bishop of the AME Church.

*To God Be The Glory,
Great Things He hath Done!*

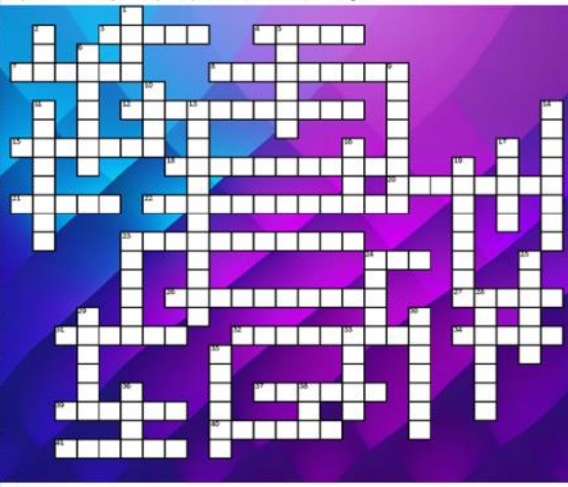




BIG BETHEL AME
177th Church Anniversary
TRIVIA CROSSWORD



Test your knowledge about Big Bethel by completing the trivia crossword puzzle below. Clues can be found on the back of this page. When you complete the puzzle, drop it in the designated box at the rear of the sanctuary. Persons who complete the puzzle correctly will be entered into a drawing for a prize!! **ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.** The winner(s) will be announced in the 4th Sunday Bulletin (October 27, 2024) Be sure to put your name and phone number on your completed puzzle and don't work on it during the sermon!!



PLEASE PRINT

Full Name _____ Phone # _____

BE SURE TO ENTER THE 177th Church Anniversary TRIVIA CROSSWORD SWEEPSTAKES!

**3 winners will be drawn for prizes of coveted
Heaven Bound tickets & \$\$ Gift cards**

Winners will be announced in the 4th Sunday bulletin.
The puzzle sheet can be found on page 7 in the 1st Sunday bulletin and a limited number of sheets will be available at the vestibule tables each Sunday. Completed puzzles must be dropped in the designated box in the vestibule. **Only one entry per person.**

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!!

HISTORICAL MOMENTS @BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH



Anti-Apartheid Leader, South African President, Nelson Mandela's historic June 1990 visit to Atlanta including Big Bethel A.M.E. Church.

One of Atlanta's historic landmarks, Big Bethel's lighted cross bearing the message "*Jesus Saves*" is a symbol of hope for the world.

Erected in 1922, it continues to illuminate Atlanta's skyline communicating Big Bethel's mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and beaming forth the message of salvation.



"The Spiritual Leaders"
Pastors of Big Bethel AME Church
1847 - 2024

REVEREND JOSEPH WOOD

REVEREND WESLEY JOHN GAINES

REVEREND FRANCIS JESSE PECK

REVEREND CHARLES L. BRADWELL

REVEREND WILLIAM D. JOHNSON

REVEREND L. H. ROBERTSON

REVEREND R. A. HALL

REVEREND RICHARD GRAHAM

REVEREND JOSEPH SIMEON FLIPPER

REVEREND LAWRENCE THOMAS

REVEREND ROBERT M. CHEEKS

REVEREND WELLINGTON G. ALEXANDER

REVEREND E. W. LEE

REVEREND C. W. NEWTON

REVEREND C. C. CARGILE

REVEREND ISAAC NELSON ROSS

REVEREND CARL M. TANNER

REVEREND F. R. SIMS

REVEREND RICHARD H. SINGLETON

REVEREND I. F. HALL

REVEREND JOEL L. BUTLER, SR.

REVEREND C. G. WYLIE

REVEREND B. G. DAWSON

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REVEREND DEWITT T. BABCOCK

REVEREND DWIGHT V. KYLE

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DR. JAMES L. DAVIS

DR. MARK W. THOMPSON

DR. GREGORY V. EASON, SR.

REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D.

"Anchored and Empowered!!"





Big Bethel AME Church 177th Anniversary Committees

CHAIRPERSONS:

Dr. Stanley J. Pritchett, Sr., Sister Donna M. Williams, Sis. Ariel Nash, & Sis. Racquel Battle

Fall Revival

Rev. John Foster
Bro. William Petty
Sis. Ariel Nash
Rev. Monica Jones
Rev. Charmain Purvis
Bro. Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.

Budget & Finance

Bro. Stan Pritchett
Bro. Floyd Baxter
Sis. Clarissa Carmichael
Sis. Geri Chandler
Bro. Tony Jones
Bro. Charles W. Moore
Bro. Alvin Francis
Bro. Joe Patterson
Bro. Tim Crim
Bro. Ed Jones

Communications

Sis. Phyllislorena Smiley
Sis. Theresa Strother (mailout)
Sis. Ja'Keilla Rouse (Social Media & Media outlet list)
Sis. Martinique Mix (Graphics)
Sis. Cynthia Crane (mailout)
Sis. Paulyne Morgan White

Anniversary Worship Service

Sis. Donna M. Williams
Rev. Joyce Young
Sis. Clarissa Carmichael
Sis. Anna Cornelius

Tailgate in the Lot

Bro. Ed Jones
Sis. Roz Thomas
Bro. Nathaniel Fisher, Jr.
Sis. Phyllislorena Smiley
Bro. Marvin Fleming

Church History

Sis. N. Nannette McGee
Bro. Ernest Tate
Bro. Richard Marion

Pilgrimage to Oakland Cemetery

Sis. Racquel Battle
Bro. Nate Fisher
Bro. Floyd Baxter
Rev. John Foster
Sis. Mary Ann Foster

Beauty from Ashes

Bro. Kelvin Thompson
Bro. Nate Fisher, Jr.
Sis. Roz Thomas
Bro. Keith Burnett
Bro. Ed Jones

Children's Sabbath

Sis. Rae Fortes
Rev. Ali Holness-Roland
Rev. Jessica Buford
Sis. Racquel Battle
Dr. Leta Woo

Millennial Empowerment Zone

Rev. Jessica Buford
Bro. Cornelius Pettway
Bro. Chris Parker
Bro. Jory Young
Bro. Morgan Johnson

*Special thanks
to every person who assisted each committee
chair with the work of their respective areas.
God Bless You!*



19TH ANNUAL



Children's Sabbath

INTERFAITH WORSHIP EXPERIENCE "UNLEASHING JOY"

PURPOSE: TO RAISE AWARENESS OF PROBLEMS FACING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TODAY IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND NATION. THIS YEAR WE ARE FOCUSING IN THOSE CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, FACING ADOPTION AND THOSE IN NEED FOR MENTORSHIP. LET US JOIN TOGETHER TO FOCUS ON THE CHILDREN!

JOIN US
OCTOBER 27TH, 2024
@ 10 AM

220 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor



LIVE www.bigbethelame.org



SATURDAY YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

**BIG BETHEL RECREATION CENTER
208 AUBURN AVENUE, ATLANTA GA**

**EVERY SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
FOR AGES: 6-16 YEARS OLD**



- Tutoring and mentoring
- Educational and enrichment activities
- NO COST to our community youth



***REGISTER NOW, LIMITED AVAILABILITY**

Scan the QR code to register.

For more information, please email
saturdayacademyraoc@gmail.com

or contact Rae Fortes at 770-896-9171

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH SERVED

Do Everyday ACTIONS
Determine YOUR
Hereafter?

You don't
want to miss

Heaven Bound

Traditional
version

FRIDAY

November 8th
7:00 PM

Contemporary
version

SATURDAY

November 9th
7:00 PM

Experiencing it might help you decide.

TICKET PRICING

General Admission \$20.00 ★ Group of 10 (or more) \$15.00

Tickets available online

www.bigbethelame.org/special_events Or
[Eventbrite.com: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/92ndheaven-bound-tickets-1027807910127?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/92ndheaven-bound-tickets-1027807910127?aff=oddtcreator) Or

Call the Church Office - **404-827-9707 ext. 109**
204 Auburn Avenue NE ~Atlanta, GA 30303



92ND HEAVEN BOUND
TICKETS