

Greater Bethel AME Church



THE BETHEL BUZZ

Volume II

December 2021

Issue 12

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Great Bethel Family

Hope! Joy! Peace! Love! Advent is the season in the Christian year when we hear and participate in the time of waiting for the birth of the Messiah. We look with hope for the second coming of Christ. We pray for the light of Christ to fill "us with joy and peace in believing." We hear the voice of God in scripture. We hear the voices of God's people around the earth as we pray together for the joy and peace of Christ's love to warm the hearts and lives of all humankind.

Each week has a different meaning and scriptures that all point to the coming of Christ.

• **The First week of Advent** – Hope – Purple Candle or the Prophecy Candle. We have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. It is with this hope that the Lord is leading to preach from the title "**What is Taking So Long?**" Luke 1:21.

Continued on page 6



Upcoming Events

Sundays	10:00am	Worship Service (Facebook Live on GB Facebook Page or Our YouTube Channel - Please Like our page and Subscribe to our YouTube Channel)
Intercessory Prayer	3pm	1 st & 3 rd Sundays - Zoom
Wednesdays	12 noon	Bible Study - Zoom
Wednesday Evening Service	-7pm	1 st Wed - Zoom
Saturdays	6:00pm	Church School - Zoom
Cancer Cares Meeting	6pm	3 rd Thursday
Class Leaders' Meeting	5:45pm	1 st Tuesday
Equippers' Club	12 noon	2 nd Saturday (Contact Coach Brenda Slade for Zoom information)
Lay Meeting	7pm	3 rd Wednesday
Marriage Ministry	7pm	3 rd Friday
Official Board Meeting	7pm	Tuesday after 1 st Sunday
Steward Board Meeting	8pm	4 th Tuesday
Stewardess Meeting	11am	Saturday before the 1 st Sunday
WMS Meeting	2pm	2 nd Saturday (Contact Dr. Vernessa Bowles for Zoom information)
YPD Meeting	11am	4 th Saturday

Dec 4	10am	Quarterly Conference
Dec 11	1-3pm	Christmas Group Event
Dec 18	10am-2pm	Christmas with Pastor
Dec 19	3pm	Christmas Cantata
Dec 31	11pm-1am	Watch Night Service

See page 19 for more information

BLACK HISTORY YEAR!

For **2022** we will be observing Black History the entire year.

Instead of **Know Your Church**, we will be spotlighting people of color who have made contributions to this country and abroad.

We will be highlighting people in the fields of entertainment, sports, politics, science as well as religion. The goal is to recognize faces that we generally do not see. Instead of the same ones, like Harriett Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we hope to introduce you to some additional Black pioneers

Each month will list the events that have possibly changed the world thanks to people of color. One person or event will be given in-depth coverage.

The editor hopes you will enjoy finding out about little-known facts regarding the great accomplishments of the people we will be showcasing each month.

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY YEAR!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Hope all of our December birthdays are filled with love and happiness on their special day.

Betty Barnette	Shae Jamison
Wanda Berry	Travis Jamison
Tamara Blackett	Doris Jones
Vernessa Bowles	Marcus Jones
Brennen Brown	Petrina Jordan
Marjorie Brown	Ontrell Joyce
Maryland Carrington	Rashida Knox
Elizabeth Carrothers	Daysha Little
Robert Chandler	Ernest Lytes
Mariah Charles	Golden Monix
Ivy Coleman	Christina Odom
Julius Colter	Terrence Palmer
Adrian Compean	Destiny Parker
Orya Crump	Kim Paschall
Edward Dandy	Angel Pointer
Monica Drayton	Kamaria Pryear
Yvonne Fullmore	Phillip Rice
Gloria Gonzales	Hailey Riddick
Keshawn Grier	Hannah Ruff
Janice Hazeley	Brooklyn Staples
Stephanie Hills	Doris Thornton
Marie Horton	Kianesha Wagner
Radijah Hudson	Cynthia Ward
Kentrell Ijames	Candrace Watkins

CONCERNS

Continued Prayers for:

Pastor Abdue Knox
Rev. Lizzie Barber
Bro. Donald Barnette
Sis. Tamara Blackett
Mother Mildred Blackwell
Sis. Lillie Boyd
Mother Marjorie Brown
Sis. Paulette Bryant
Mother Theora Byrd
Rev. Barbara Crawford
Sis. Annie Davis
Sis. Mary Dingle
Sis. Betty Evans
Rev. Harry Hager
Sis. Bobbi Hague
Sis. Tara Harbison
Sis. Alice Harris
Bro. Herbert Hazeley
Rev. Brendalyn Jones
Sis. Hattie Littlejohn
Sis. Gloria McNeill
Sis. Betty Montgomery
Sis. Dolores Moore
Bro. Bernard Parker
Bro. Dwight Patterson
Sis. Albertha Prince
Bro. Bobby Rankin
Sis. Geraldine Singleton
Sis. Jackie Stowe
Sis. Cynthia Vaughn
Sis. Mireya Williams
Bro. Wylie Williams
Sis. Paulette Wisdom



**To all who have lost loved ones &
All those affected by COVID-19**

Contact Information:

Pastor's Office: 980-949-7306

Email: pastorknox@gbame.org

Church Office: 980-949-6576

Email: office@gbame.org

Website: www.gbame.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday (10:00am - 2:00pm)

Eastern District Website: www.easternwncc2ndamec.org

2nd Episcopal District Website: www.ame2.com

Editor (to submit articles): so-b-it1@hotmail.com Please put "newsletter" in the subject line
Deadline for submissions is 5:00pm on the 22nd of the month unless otherwise noted.

The church office will be open on **Tuesdays, between 10 AM - 2 PM** to receive offerings in person. Members can also mail in their givings or give electronically using one of the methods listed below.

PayPal



Text Giving

Text **GBAMECLT** to 73256

Cash App

[\\$gbamec](#)

Realm Connect

[[Realm Login](#)]

Noonday Bible Study Call

Please join us for our Noonday Bible Study on **Wednesdays, at 12:00 PM** via Zoom videoconferencing - information listed below.

Zoom Meeting Info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5232282150?pwd=UDlvTUJQWHhxeFBaYW5wVmZ0TGltZz09>

Meeting ID: 523 228 2150

Password: 1897

Zoom Conference Call Number: (312) 626-6799

Church School Conference Call Number: 704-709-3552

One tap mobile:

+13126266799, 5232282150#

Congratulations

DORCAS (YPD) PRINCESS

SECOND PLACE WINNER

Representing the:

Vera L. Holt Area

Greater Bethel

AME Church

And The

WESTERN

NORTH

CAROLINA

CONFERENCE



You Are Our
Winner!

You Worked
Very Hard!

We Are Very
Proud Of
You!

We Love
You!

KHAYLEN ELISA JOHNSON

Mary Alyce Haynes-Smith

Assistant YPD Director

- **The Second week of Advent** – Preparation – Purple Candle or the Bethlehem Candle. God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready.” With the focus of “getting ready” the Lord is leading to preach “What Manner of Child Shall This Be?” Luke 1:66.
- **The Third Week of Advent** – Joy – Pink Candle or the Shepherds candle. And there were shepherds living out in the fields and an angel of the Lord appeared to them and told them a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. With the focus of the joy in finding Jesus the Lord is leading to preach “Joy to the World!” Luke 2:10.
- **The Fourth Week of Advent** - Love – Purple Candle or the Angel’s Candle. The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us because he loves us! The focus of love is culminated through the preaching of “My Soul magnifies the Lord” Luke 1:46.

God’s Richest Blessings upon You.

Love God - Love the People - Do The Work
Rev. Dr. Abdue L. Knox I - Pastor



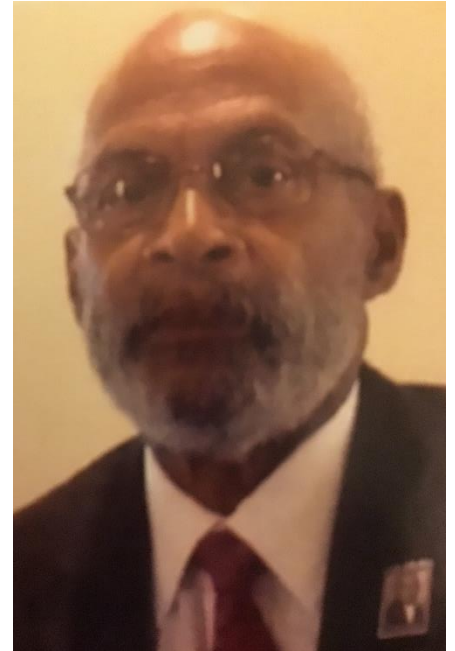
GREATER BETHEL'S LIVING LEGENDS

BRO. ROBERT ROBERTS

Mr. Robert Roberts was raised in New Jersey. He attended East Orange High School and graduated in 1957. He then attended Newark State College.

He has worked at the following places: US Census Department, Ford Motor Company, and United Parcel Service.

He married Ruth Elizabeth Boston whom he met in high school and they have two daughters and a son. Mr. Roberts is the grandfather of four grandsons and three granddaughters.



He chose a career in law enforcement. Mr. Roberts was a member of the East Orange Police Department in East Orange, New Jersey. He graduated from the Essex County Police Academy in Verona, New Jersey and he is also an FBI National Academy graduate in the 131st Session at Quantico, Virginia.

He was the Commander of a task force in the apprehension of a serial murderer. Mr. Roberts attained the rank of Captain and retired after thirty years of service.

He then became the Security Director for the East Orange Public School System.

The Roberts relocated to Chesapeake, Virginia where he joined Mt. Zion AME Church in Virginia Beach, VA. They later transferred to Greater Bethel AME Church in 2001, where he has served in various roles. Class Leader, Trustee, Trustee ProTem, Steward, Sons of Allen member, member of the Young at Heart, auxiliary member of the Equippers and a member of the GBAME Male Chorus. He also sang with the Greater Bethel Mass Choir.



On November 18th, I travelled to Brunswick, GA, to do what I do daily and throughout the day. I received an invitation, along with about one hundred other pastors, to come and simply pray for and with Wanda Cooper-Jones and Marcus Arbery, the parents of Ahmad Arbery. It is normal for pastors to pray with family during times of bereavement and legal proceedings. However, this prayer meeting and pastoral concern caused international attention. The defense attorney, Kevin Gough, made daily attempts to exclude “black pastors” from the courtroom. He made the statement, “We don’t want any more Black pastors in here,” and asked the judge to ban the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson; the judge refused the demand.

More than one thousand pastors, imams, rabbis, and faith leaders responded to Attorney Gough by showing up to pray for the family, and this pastor was one of them. While there, I was interviewed by a few media outlets as to why I would attend. My response was quite simple, this is what I am called to do. Also, in the climate of our nature I am concerned about our black and brown children. The Civil Rights movement was birthed in the black church, and we must remain loud and vigilant in the continued struggle against injustice.

Black Pastors Matter in 2021.

Black Pastors Matter in the community.

Black Pastors Matter in making a difference.

Black Pastors Matter in the fight for justice.

Black Pastors Matter - PERIOD!!

**Signed by a Black Pastor Who Matters,
Pastor Abdue L. Knox**

*****MISCELLANEOUS*****

- Dec 1 [World AIDS Day](#)
Dec 3 [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
Dec 13 [National Ice Cream Day](#)
Dec 15 [National Cupcake Day](#)

Check out this link for additional national events in the month of December.

<https://nationaltoday.com/december-holidays>

NEED YOUR HELP!

If you know of anyone who is sick, had death in the family, in the hospital, just had a baby, graduated, getting married, etc., please drop us an email so that we can acknowledge them in the newsletter.

Stay safe.

Wear Mask (for your safety and mine)

Wash Hands (20 seconds)

Wait Distance (6 feet apart)

Answer to Last Month's Know Your Church

The Connectional Lay Organization had something historical happen this year at the Biennial Conference in Florida. Can you state what it was?

On Sunday, July 11, 2021, the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church made history by electing its first-ever African President, **Mr. Matikane Abednego Makiti**. This historic event took place at the 37th Biennial Convention held in Orlando, Florida and Cape Town, South, Africa respectively (the election was held virtually in various parts of Africa and Canada). Makiti is from the 19th Episcopal District, which encompasses Orangia, Natal, M. M. Mokone Memorial, East and West Annual Conferences in the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

Do it now

I expect to pass through
this world but once.

Any good thing,
therefore, that I can do
or any kindness I can show
to any fellow human being
let me do it now.

Let me not defer nor neglect it;
for I shall not pass
this way again.

- Stephen Grellet

Stephen Grellet (October 28, 1772 – November 16, 1855) was a prominent French-American Quaker missionary.

MeckMIN's Monthly Food for Thought

The topic for this month is

[Food For Thought: Asian American Experiences in Charlotte](#)

We will have a panel discussion from representatives of various Asian countries.

There is still a lot of hatred being directed towards them due to misinformation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Come listen to their stories and ask questions.

Inquiring minds would like to know.

December 16, 2021 at 12:30pm via Zoom

You must register to attend these free sessions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87071584817?pwd=UHk0ZDZ1bEl4eGlpdWhDcy9zR01iUT09>

Mecklenburg's Metropolitan Interfaith Network

PO Box 11243, Charlotte, NC 28220

704-965-9241 (c)

www.meckmin.org

If you missed the Community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, you can watch it [here](#).

Thanks to your generosity, the Faith Community Eviction Prevention Fund has raised **\$21,677.32** so far!

YOU are making it possible for local families to catch up on their rent and stay in their homes. We are GRATEFUL.

An estimated 22,000 households across Charlotte-Mecklenburg are at risk of homelessness now that the eviction moratorium has ended.

You can still help by [making an online donation](#) or text Eviction to **91999**.

Missionary Moment

It's December 1, and if you're like me, you're already running from one thing to the next, throwing Christmas ornaments on trees as carelessly as your kids and hoping for the best. But what you really need for Christmas is rest. And the ability to focus on the reason for the season.

It isn't your family.

It isn't their gifts.

It isn't perfectly crafted Christmas cookies.

It's Christ.

Celebrate with me the excitement of the birth of our Christ! The cornerstone of our faith is the **GIFT** of salvation which was given through Christ Jesus. During the month of December, I enjoy being intentionally reflective of the entire year that is passing. What blessings did I receive in 2021? What new connections did I make? What ways did God show up for me this year?

As we approach the Christmas season, remember the real reason for our joy. It's Jesus!

As usual, the Haynes-Schofield Women's Missionary Society (WMS) continues to be about our Father's business! We have been working in the Word and in the World to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. We say **THANK YOU** to Greater Bethel for supporting us in providing 34 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need across Charlotte!

December 1 is recognized as World AIDS Day. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the HIV virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV and we understand so much more about the condition. Despite this, each year several thousand people are diagnosed with HIV and people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others. Stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with the condition.

World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.

Please Join us!

Women's Missionary Society (WMS) meets on the **2nd Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m.** Meetings are held via Zoom (WMS Meeting ID: 523 228 2150 ~ Password: 1897). You may also call in on the Conference call number (312) 626-6799

Operation Sandwiches

The WMS partners with Roof Above to provide fresh sandwiches to individuals in various programs throughout the city. We make 500 sandwiches each month and we do this on the **2nd Friday of each month at 9am.** Report to the Alternate Sanctuary at the church if you would like to help with this mission project. We would love to have you join us!



Submitted by Dr. Vernessa Bowles, President
Haynes-Schofield Women's Missionary Society

Let us not forget that...
Jesus is the Reason for the Season!



**Happy Holidays
from the Editor**

If You See Coins Piled On A Grave, This Is What It Means



You might see coins at some graves. But don't touch them if you catch sight of these items. They've been left to commemorate fallen veterans. You might notice that they're specific denominations: pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. And there's a reason for those precise coins to be left on American tombstones.

For example, it's said that **pennies** are left by those who didn't serve when they visit the graves of somebody who did. This just lets everyone know that a visitor stopped by. And a **nickel** has a more personal meaning. Yes, it tells other visitors that you underwent basic training with the person you're honoring.

Dimes show a closer relationship. They demonstrate that you both served together. Yet that's nothing compared to a **quarter**. Those show that you were

there when the person whose grave you're visiting lost their life. So, the impact on a relative if they spot a **quarter** on a tombstone must be enormous.

We can't be certain when this tradition started, but there's an answer that seems to fit: it could've been during the Vietnam War. Given how disliked that war proved to be, vets spending time at their brothers in arms' graves might've ended in trouble. So just quietly dropping a coin could have been a memorial that didn't invite any conflict.

And there was even more to it than that. The coins were viewed as a way to shout a round for those who'd died, in the hope that one day you'd enjoy that drink with one another in the hereafter.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Saturday, January 22, 2022

There will be a MedAssist Over the Counter Drive-thru at:
Devonshire Elementary School
6500 Barrington Drive (off The Plaza)
Charlotte, NC 28215
9:00am – 2:00pm

Place orders for medicines in advance to be able to select the items you want. Those who do not place an order will get a generic bag of medicines.

Go to [Events – NC MedAssist](#) and click on the right arrow to take you to the month of January. Scroll down to January 22 Mecklenburg County and click on it. Then click on the “Learn More” tab and enter the requested information.

On Friday, January 21st, from 1:00pm – 4:30pm, there will be a need for volunteers to help fill orders. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Bobbi Hague at 704-957-7583 for details.

NC MEDASSIST
4428 Taggart Creek Rd, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28208
Email: info@medassist.org
Phone: 866-331-1348
Office fax: 704-536-9865
Call the pharmacy directly
704-943-9639
Pharmacy fax: 704-536-9812
www.medassist.org



National Council of Churches USA Announces Clergy Student Loan Debt Forgiveness Webinar

How to Get Your
Student Loans
Forgiven

Sponsors:
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
National
Council of
Churches

STUDENT
LOAN
\$

Friday, December 3rd | 2PM Eastern
[Click Here to Register](#)

The National Council of Churches is co-hosting a session on Student Loan Forgiveness on Friday, December 3, 2021, at 2:00 PM ET with the United Church of Christ.

Attorney Ashley Harrington, a senior-level official from the Federal Student Aid office of the US Department of Education, will go through the process of consolidation of loans, public service loan forgiveness, and other methods to reduce and/or eliminate student loan debt for all, including religious workers and clergy.

At the Christian Unity Gathering last month, the NCCUSA sponsored a Meet-Up on Student Loan Forgiveness. It is offering this opportunity again through Zoom for greater access. [Registration is now open](#). This information is especially critical for clergy in our church. Please spread.

SPECIAL NOTICES

NO Equippers meeting this month. Happy holidays and we will see you in January. **Coach.**

- December 11th** - Christmas with the Bishop 12 noon **VIRTUAL**
- December 11th** - Christmas Group Christmas Drive Thru **1:00-3:00 pm**
- December 11th** - Usher Board Christmas Event **4:00-7:00 pm**
- December 18th** - Christmas with Pastor (Drive Thru Event)- 12-2pm
- December 18th** - Staff and Volunteer Dinner 5pm
- December 19th** - Christmas Cantata **3:00 pm**
- December 31st** - Watch Night 11pm **Virtual & (TENTATIVELY) In Person**

To **ALL** Organizations:

Please remember to submit info for the Newsletter by 5pm on the **22nd** of the month.

