

Greater Bethel AME Church



THE BETHEL BUZZ

Volume II

October 2021

Issue 10



PASTOR'S CORNER

Thom Rainer is a researcher and writer whose books we are studying (The Post Quarantine Church, Becoming a Welcoming Church, and We Want You Here). He has extensively researched trends and patterns of church growth as well as decline. Rainer has compiled a list of **“12 Things Church Changed During COVID that they are Keeping Post Covid.”** For the October newsletter I would like to share the list and highlight where we are and how we plan to progress,

1. Digital giving. Clearly, this response was number one. Churches either moved to digital giving for the first time, or they emphasized digital giving more than ever. This pattern will continue for the foreseeable future.

a. Here we have seen a major increase in digital giving. In 2019 prior to the pandemic, we received 87.67% of our contributions through cash and check and 12.3% digitally. This year we have received 52.1% of our contributions digitally and 47.9% through cash and check.

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**OCTOBER IS
ENERGY AWARENESS
MONTH**

2. No passing of the offering plates. For obvious hygienic reasons, many churches stopped passing the offering plates during worship services as churches began to regather. Most of those churches have decided not to resume the practice.

a. This is new to us, and I am still nervous about not doing this traditional worship practice, but I trust God!

3. Offering boxes. The offering box became the alternative for giving when the church met in person. The box was typically placed in one or more visible locations as people entered and exited the services. It looks like the boxes are here to stay.

a. Upon entering and exiting the sanctuary you may deposit your offerings into the offering box. This cuts down on hand-to-hand contact. As in the #2 this is new, and I believe that all of you will maintain your standard in excellence in giving.

4. The final demise of the meet and greet. This practice was declining prior to the pandemic. With a few exceptions, it looks like it's going away permanently. No more handshakes and hugs during the worship services. I am not grieving the loss.

a. One of the challenges of the post-Pandemic church is maintaining the sense of community and sharing of love.

5. Streaming of worship services. While a few churches decided not to resume either live streaming or recorded streaming of services, most have decided to keep it. Obviously, the number of viewers in most churches has declined since its pandemic peak. Still, the churches as a whole see its ongoing value.

a. This has proven to be very beneficial to us. We have expanded our presence and we are truly an international church. We have made great investments in our audio-visual equipment. We have been able to continue worship and will continue to do so.

6. The final demise of Sunday evening services. This practice had declined significantly before the pandemic. With a few exceptions, the Sunday evening service begun in the agrarian era has disappeared completely.

a. We are trying to keep our worship to one hour and limit the number of "extra" in-person services. We are going the creative and think outside of the traditional box in worship planning.

7. Less cluttered calendars. Many churches found that they were more effective with fewer meetings, ministries, and programs. A number of leaders have expressed surprise that they are doing more with less. The cluttered church calendar has become a simple calendar.

a. Zoom has worked wonders for us. We are more organized and streamlined with meetings and church conferences. We will continue to make best use of the platforms.

8. Digital prayer gatherings. One of the most positive developments of the church during the pandemic was digital prayer gatherings. A number of church leaders told us that they had more people participate than ever before. They have decided to keep it.

a. Our intercessory prayer ministry has grown and is growing. We can now meet from our collective homes (houses of prayer) from wherever we may be.

9. Digital Bible studies and discipleship. Although groups such as community groups, life groups, or Sunday school classes have largely resumed in-person meetings, many churches still have online groups going. These groups are typically short-term studies designed for deeper discipleship.

a. Our Bible study and other learning and small group activities will continue digitally until further notice.

10. Greater involvement in social media. Many churches discovered great ways to communicate via social media. In fact, some congregations had no social media presence before the pandemic. For many churches, their social media engagement is greater than ever.

a. As one who has been on social media and a proponent of social media, I am happy that we are doing so much through social media and reaching so many that we would not have reached otherwise. God can use anything that He may get the glory.

11. More intentional hygienic efforts. When churches began to regather, they offered a number of hand sanitizer stations and took many other hygienic measures. This change will likely be a permanent reality for many congregations.

a. Hand washing is so critical and imperative at any time particularly during this pandemic. We have through our reopening taskforce really homed in on handwashing and have a clean and sanitary worship facility.

12. Personnel for media and digital presence. While many of these part-time, volunteer, or full-time staff were hired to set up and maintain streaming services, churches are seeing the value of these positions well beyond streaming services. Consequently, they are keeping the personnel beyond the pandemic.

a. We have sought additional volunteers for the media ministry and contracted with a professional web and media designer. We have made investments in areas that before the pandemic we would not have. To God Be the Glory for all that He is doing. Let us continue to look to God for guidance and direction.

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

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)
Wednesdays	12 noon	Bible Study (Prayer Call) Via Zoom
Saturdays	6:00pm	Church School Via 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 the 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 Sis. Vernessa Bowles for Zoom info)
YPD Meeting	11am	4 th Saturday
Church Anniversary	10am	Oct. 3 rd
Rededication CFC	3pm	Oct. 3 rd
Fall Clean-up Day	8am - 2pm	Oct. 9 th
Lay Day	10am	Oct. 10 th
Survivors Celebration	10am	Oct. 31 st

KNOW YOUR CHURCH



Can you name the current officers of the Western NC Conference Lay Organization?

All positions will be open next year.
Consider running for an office.
Elections will be held in April, but you
must submit your letter of intent as
soon as possible but no later than
March.



Battle of the Bands – October 31st at 5:00pm Bojangles Coliseum - Doors Open 4:00pm

- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (SCSU)
- BENEDICT COLLEGE (BC)
- FORT VALLEY STATE (FVSU)
- WINSTON SALEM STATE (WSSU)
- NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL (NCCU)

Click on link below for more information:

https://www.facebook.com/events/518200806139613/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%22mechanism%22%3A%22discovery_top_tab%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark%22%7D%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



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

Dazha Albritton-Hunter
Leah Bryant
Kayla Byrd
Felicia Davis Carr
Deon Days, Sr.
Eddie III Duncan-Burrell
Dennis Easley
Nicole Ellerby
Kishia Givens
Linda Kay Givens
Viola Graham
Dalton Green
Tara Harbison
Nataya Hill
Aniece Hills
Ursula Holtzclaw

Alicia Ijames
Lee-Arthur Jenkins
Brendalyn Jones
Jean Kanipes
Christopher Liggins
Reuben Lopez
Mary Alford Poles
Ethel Ramey
Karin Singletary
Ezekiel Singleton
Alicia Smith
Brigette Somerville
Cynthia J Vaughn
Gregori Williams
Tracey Williams

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
Sis. Bobbi Hague
Sis. Tara Harbison
Sis. Alice Harris
Rev. Brendalyn Jones
Sis. Hattie Littlejohn
Sis. Gloria McNeill
Family of Bro. John Mobley
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

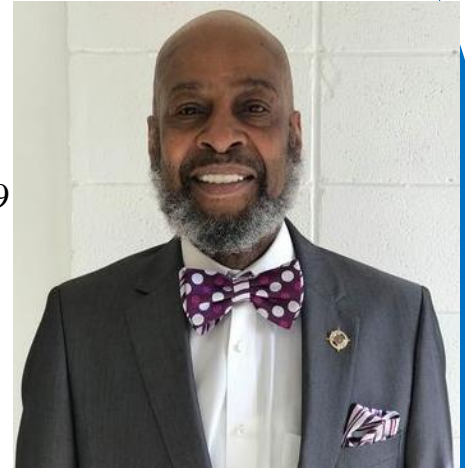
Church School Conference Call Number: 704-709-3552

One tap mobile:

+13126266799, 5232282150#

GREATER BETHEL'S LIVING LEGENDS

BRO. DWIGHT PATTERSON



- Member of Greater Bethel AME Church since infancy
- Born June 15, 1951 to the late Norman & Rebecca Patterson
- Graduated from West Charlotte Senior High School - Class of 1969
- Graduated from North Carolina Central University - Class of 1973
- Bachelor's degree in Sociology
- Master's degree in counseling – North Carolina Central University
- Over 30 years of service to the State of North Carolina
- Counselor at Durham Technical Community College – While employed there, he was associated with St. Joseph AME Church for 9 years
- Counselor at Central Piedmont Community College - Named Associate Dean of Harris Campus
- Currently a Regional Precinct Coordinator for the Mecklenburg Board of Elections Office, serving nine (9) precincts
- Has served as a member of the Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church for over 45 years.
- Served as President of the local Lay Organization of Greater Bethel AME Church
- Served as Lay President of the Western North Carolina Conference of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church
- Served as Lay President of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church
- Serves on the Greater Bethel Male Chorus, Steward Board, Class Leader, a member of the Lay Organization, Sons of Allen and the Young At Heart Ministry.

THE EQUIPPERS ON THE MOVE!

“LITTLE LIBRARY”

Please come and enjoy the wonders of books. Our “Little Library”, located in front of the Church, offers a variety of books where you can come and get a book from our “Little Library”. We encourage you to bring a book and get a book. This “Little Library” is offered free thru The Greater Bethel AME Church’s Equippers Organization. Enjoy the many ways you can travel to new locations thru books. You can also explore new wonders and enjoy stories thru books.

“READING IS FUNDAMENTAL”

These books are offered to the Greater Bethel Family and the Charlotte Community. Come and share the wonders of books!



There will be NO Equippers meeting for the month of October.



Missionary Moment

The month of October lands us in the beauty of the fall season. Fall reminds me of comfy blankets, warm apple cider, falling leaves and pumpkins everywhere! We are in the last quarter of this year, and this is a wonderful time to reflect on how much we have triumphed through this year. Also, hold fast to goals that have not yet been mastered - there is still time!

I challenge each of you to use the remainder of this month (and this year) to make an intentional effort to make a **GREAT** difference in every space you enter. This could be in your home, at your place of employment, in the community, at church, and amongst friends. Remember, we are the light of God and our presence should show His love.

The Haynes-Schofield Women's Missionary Society (WMS) continues to be about our Father's business! As the children transitioned back to in-person learning at school, we partnered with the Equippers to distribute backpacks and school supplies. We attended several trainings on the Area and Conference levels which have prepared us to be the best missionary servant leaders that we can be. The theme for the Conference President's Retreat was: **"Empowered to make a Great Difference."**

The month of October is recognized, among other things, as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Since 1989, October has been a time set aside to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for victims. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.



October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women, except for skin cancers. The average risk of a woman in the United States developing breast cancer sometime in her life is about 13%. This means there is a 1 in 8 chance she will develop breast cancer. This also means there is a 7 in 8 chance she will never have the disease.

We salute ALL of the breast cancer survivors and encourage all women to get a mammogram performed every year!

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!

Please consider donating to our Conference missionary fundraiser - Dorcas.

The Dorcas Extravaganza, affectionately known as the Dorcas is the major fundraiser of the Second Episcopal District (SED) Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This queen's contest was named the Dorcas Extravaganza, after Dorcas.

Who is Dorcas? Acts 9:36-43 speaks to the character of Dorcas (the Greek translation for Tabitha) was a believer in Joppa. "She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor." (v36) Dorcas was a disciple known for her practical works of mercy. Dorcas' joy was to serve Jesus by serving the poor.

Any donations are appreciated. Patrons of \$10 or more will be recognized!

Thanksgiving Sharing Outreach

We will begin to collect non-perishable items to fill Thanksgiving baskets soon. Our goal is to distribute 30 baskets to families in need. Each basket will contain a turkey, items to prepare side items and dessert, and a gift card. Please look for boxes marked "Thanksgiving" to drop off your donations.

Remember: Pray like it all depends on God and work like it all depends on you!

Submitted by Dr. Vernessa Bowles, President

Haynes-Schofield Women's Missionary Society

*Greater Bethel's
DORCAS Princess
Is
Ms. Khaylen Johnson*

My name is Khaylen Johnson, and I attend Invest Collegiate Transform School. As a member of Greater Bethel, I participate in the following activities:

- YPD - Recording Secretary (2019-2020)*
 - Jr. Church*
 - The Youth Choir*
 - Jr. Usher Board*
 - The Greater Bethel Praise Dance Team*

*Vera L. Holt Area - YPD
-Recording Secretary*

*Invest Collegiate Transform
School Band*

Who is DORCAS?

In the Bible DORCAS was a Lady in Joppa that loved helping people by making beautiful garments for them. When she died, everyone was very sad. As a contest participant, please contribute to the DORCAS CONTEST to help me help many families in Africa and other places around the world to overcome their hardships.

Make Checks Payable to Greater Bethel Church - (Earmarked DORCAS)



“Thank You”

2021-2022 Church Officers

Class Leaders

1 Tomani Cheeseman
2 Petrina Jordan
3 Dr. LaShenna Gaines
4 Jean Kanipes
5 Lillie Boyd
6 Jackie Heard
7 Dwight Patterson

8 Robin Green
9 Loleita Page
10 Angie Pugh
11 Phillip Rice
12 Harold Gaines
13 Dr. Vernessa Bowles
14 Carolyn Simmons – Virtual Members

Stewards

Joyce Barnette
Melvina Bethea
Patricia Bryant
Harold Gaines
Howard Gaston
Phyllis Gray-Wonson
Neal Green

Petrina Jordan
Derrick Myrick – Vice Chair
Boneita Page
Dwight Patterson
Phillip Rice
Gerrold Walker

Church School

Rev. Dr. Abdue Knox – Chief Superintendent
Boneita Page – Church School Supt.
Phyllis Gray-Wonson- Asst. School Supt.
Charmayne Morrison – 1st Sunday Teacher

Wanda Diggs – 2nd Sunday Teacher
Dr. Vernessa Bowles – 3rd Sunday Teacher
Lavenia Williams – 4th Sunday Teacher
Boneita Page – 5th Sunday Teacher

Health Commission

Joyce Barnette – Chairperson
Melvina Bethea – RN Retired
Howard Gaston
Dr. Vernessa Bowles – PhD

Brenda Slade
Alicia Banks Ijames – RN
Shanell Keah – NP
Christina Odom – RN, BSN

Public Relations Commission

Petrina Jordan – Co-Chair
Harold Gaines – Co-Chair
Paulette Bryant
Rory Chandler

Whitney Johnson
Howard Gaston
Wanda Diggs

Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Dr. Abdue Knox – Chair
Harold Gaines – Vice Chair
Melvina Bethea – Treasurer
Jackie Green – Secretary
Tamara Blackett

Trel Footman
George Fitts
Derrick Myrick
Petrina Jordan
Matthew Holland – At Large

Mission & Welfare

Jackie Green – Chair

Social Action Commission

Neal Green - Chair

MUSIC CLASSICS

The Music Classics was held on Saturday, September 18th and was a huge success. Mrs. Doris Jones wants to thank her committee and everyone who participated in any way. Here are some pictures from the gala event.



Please go to YouTube at this link to see the program.

[\(86\) Greater Bethel Music Classics - Saturday, September 18, 2021 - YouTube](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

- Oct. 1 [International Day of Older Persons](#)
- Oct. 5 [World Teachers' Day](#)
- Oct. 10 [World Mental Health Day](#)
- Oct. 25 [World Pasta Day](#)
- Oct. 28 [National Chocolate Day](#)

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

<https://nationaltoday.com/october-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)

Requirement to obtain a federal Real ID has been postponed until 2023.

Answers to Last Month's Know Your Church

The Four (4) Horsemen of the AME Church are:

Bishop Richard Allen

Bishop William Paul Quinn

Bishop Daniel Payne

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner

GENERATIONAL WEALTH TO PASS DOWN TO YOUR CHILDREN

***A business**

***Stocks**

***CD/Liquid cash**

***Home/Income
Property**

***Land**

***Art work**

@startblackbusiness



CLOSING THE WEALTH GAP SUMMIT 2021!!

Presented By: Truist Bank • Hosted By: Pride Magazine
No cost to attend - Breakfast & Door Prizes

Johnson C. Smith University-New Science Building
100 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216

Sat, Oct 2, 2021, 8:30 AM EDT


[CLICK "HERE" TO REGISTER](#)

MeckMIN's Monthly Food for Thought

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RELIGION

Sa'idah Sudan of the Baitul Hemayah Shelter



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 12 PM

You must register to attend these free sessions.

Invitation: Food for Thought with Sa'idah Sudan @ Thu Oct 21, 2021 12pm - 1pm (EDT)
<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



**FREE Over the Counter Medicine Giveaway DRIVE -THRU EVENT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021**

LOCATION

McCrorey YMCA

3801 Beatties Ford Road

TIME

9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Free OTC medicine items include: cold, cough, flu medicine, pain relief, vitamins, and children's medicine, etc.

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged. Register at: www.medassist.org/mobile

No ID required.

Must be 18 years or older. Event is open to EVERYONE!

This event is rain or shine.

No income or residency requirements to receive OTCs.

For more information, click on this link:

[NC MedAssist – Dispensing Hope](http://www.medassist.org/mobile)