

The Victorious Vessel



A Commemorative Edition

Vol. 24 ,Q1: January - March 2024

In Loving Memory of



Sis. Emily L. Smith *Newsletter Ministry, Vice Chairperson*

When I was asked to resurrect the *Victorious Vessel* in October 2015, I was apprehensive until Sis. Emily excitedly volunteered to take the task on with me — and we've been a dynamic duo ever since.

Sis. Emily has been by my side ensuring that the process from collection to production ran smoothly every month, quite literally making sure that every “t” was crossed and every “i” was dotted. I'm sure many of you can recall her reminding you that **“the 15th is coming up!”**

That was her. Very prompt. Very organized. It made my job of putting the newsletter together that much easier. She will be missed more than words can express, but I am forever grateful to her for her unwavering dedication and service to this ministry, amongst many others.

This edition of the *Victorious Vessel* will forever hold a special place in my heart, as I can rest assured knowing that we remained a dynamic duo through and through — completing this edition together, just days before her transition.

Well done, good and faithful servant!

With love,

Sis. Wendrah M. McCoy
Newsletter Ministry, Chairperson

Greetings from Pastor Taylor

It was Sunday, June 12, 2022. I was invited to share with the Morris Street Baptist Church. The country was making its way through the Covid19 pandemic. A small group of singers, maybe ten had gathered.



My wife, the gathered group of ten singers including a musician, and I shared songs, prayers, and proclamation. My wife and I continued to come through 2022 and into 2023. As the church transitioned from limited attendance to having more people attend, my wife and I began to meet more members. The night was July 27, 2023. I received a call inviting me to become the eighth pastor of the Historic Morris Street Baptist Church. Gladly, the invitation was accepted.

September 1st was the official start date. Having the privilege to serve Morris Street from September 1st until now has been my honor. During the interview process with the committee and a subsequent interview with congregants, I was asked, “What is your plan?” My plan has been and continues to be to get to know the people of Morris Street. Calling and talking with each of you has been a pleasure. Taking the opportunity to visit our senior members has been both rewarding and insightful. I am honored to serve as your pastor.

As we entered 2024, the work of Morris Street must be the work of Morris Street. Often as the children of God we pray for God to do what God has called us to do. There is work for everybody. Morris Street, the need is for the members of Morris Street to participate in worship. For Morris Street to grow, the need is for every member within Morris Street to grow. Sunday School, Bible Study and Sunday morning are designed to ensure the members of Morris Street grow. Let me write emphatically Morris Street Baptist Church needs you. The Church needs your talents and gifts, the church needs your prayers and participation, and the Church needs your resources. The Church needs you.

Morris Street needs you to be an advocate for Morris Street. We have family and friends. There are people new to this community. Morris Street Baptist Church needs the members of Morris Street to advocate for Morris Street. Every Church of the New Testament had issues. Every Church in Charleston has issues. Here is a definition of the church, the church is a “perfect institution made up of imperfect people for the purposes of perfecting people.” Morris Street is not perfect but she is a good church. Morris Street members need to advocate for Morris Street.

Thank you, Morris Street for allowing my wife and I to serve. It is honor to serve in a place with the history and the tradition of Morris Street. Looking forward to continuing the journey.

INSTALLATION OF OUR 8TH PASTOR

The Reverend Dr. Caroles S. Taylor was installed as the 8th Pastor of Morris Street Baptist Church on Sunday, October 15, 2023. [Click here to view the service.](#)



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Deacon In Training Elise Davis McFarland on receiving ASHA Honors.



FOOD BANK MINISTRY

Live 5 News featured our Food Bank Ministry's Thanksgiving distribution.

[Click here to view the story.](#)

Truly we are grateful to our MSBC Food Bank Ministry, volunteers, and donors for all that they do to serve our community each month. A special thanks to Hendrix Lexus and State Farm Agent John Acker for donating turkeys for our Thanksgiving distribution.



SENIOR MISSIONARY FOOD DRIVE

Our Senior Missionaries delivered items collected during their One80 Place food drive during the holiday season. Thank you for your generosity in donating toward this effort of helping One80 Place replenish their food pantry.



CCMBA ANNUAL SESSION



Congratulations to Sis. Carolyn W. McCoy on a job well done serving as President of the Charleston County Missionary Baptist Association Women's Auxiliary (2017 - 2023). She delivered her final President's address during this year's CCMBA Annual Session and was recognized for her dedicated service.



MSBC members attended the CCMBA Centennial Banquet.

MSBC FALL FESTIVAL

Rain or shine, MSBC's gonna have a good time! We moved our Fall Festival festivities indoors and enjoyed lots of fun, fellowship and laughter.



CENTRAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 116TH ANNIVERSARY

MSBC members traveled with Pastor Taylor to Central Missionary Baptist Church in Summerville, SC, where he served as the guest preacher for their **116th Church Anniversary**.



FIRST AID & CPR CLASS

MSBC Health Ministry members attended a first aid class and CPR on December 2nd. Members learned how to identify allergic reactions, high & low sugar reactions, how to attend wounds, and how to assist individuals who are choking. During the CPR session, each member was taught how to correctly perform chest compressions on infants, youth, and adults. They were also taught how to use the defibrillator machine for chest compressions. If any member would like to learn these first aid skills, let Mrs. Miller know, and another class of six can be scheduled.



DONOR SABBATH SUNDAY

Donor Sabbath Sunday was hosted in partnership with the Charleston, SC Chapter of the Links, Incorporated on November 12th. The Links, Inc. established this Sunday to increase awareness of health disparities in organ, eye, and tissue transplantation in the African American Community.



HONORING 40+ YEARS OF SERVICE

Sis. Miriam Gadsden was recognized for her unwavering dedication as our Church Administrator over the last 40+ years. She has more than earned her retirement and we thank her tremendously for the love, support and proud service she has provided over the years!



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

The MSBC Carolers visited with some of our senior members, serenading them with Christmas carols. They were also presented with a photo keepsake gift.



THINK PINK

Sis. Traci Grant served as a guest speaker, providing education and heartfelt testimony for Breast Cancer Awareness Month with members of Charleston (SC) Links Inc. and Greater St. Luke AME.



MSBC Goes Pink

Our annual Pink Sunday in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month was observed on the 4th Sunday



FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

We are grateful to all who worshipped with us for our annual Family and Friends Day Celebration on October 8th. Congratulations to the Pompey Family for having the most family members in attendance! A special thank you to our guest preacher for the occasion, the Reverend Charlie Murray, Jr. of First Baptist Church James Island, our Family and Friends Day Committee, and our amazing Culinary Ministry.



January Birthdays

Benjamin Hanna, Jr. - 2
Wayne Robinson - 2
Zaria Stewart - 4
Eunice Waddy - 8
Barbara Calvary - 8
Briana Hudson - 8
Tyler Singletary - 8
Michael Bryant - 8
Isaac Singleton - 9
Noah O. McCoy - 9

Marion Hamilton - 10
Sophronia Feaster - 11
Jasmine Ladson - 12
Marcus Grant - 13
Lillie R. Williams - 13
Debbie McCoy - 14
Stephan Slaughter - 14
Monica Bland - 15
Regina Gamble - 17
Dolores Diggs - 20

Renee Richardson - 20
Marvetta Holmes - 24
Darlene Mitchell - 24
Faye Singleton - 25
Sonja Jackson - 27
Shana Middleton - 30
Vernon Holmes - 30

February Birthdays

Tyasia Pompey - 1
Latonya Brown - 1
Wendell I. McCoy - 2
Phillip Chamberlain - 4
Miriam Coaxum - 5
Vonnie Ephriam - 6
Tonia Wiggins - 7
Carolyn Hudson - 8

Carl Gibbs, Sr. - 9
Shelia Ali - 10
Anthony Gilliard - 11
Zuberi Jackson - 12
Albertha C. Lee - 14
Carolyn S. Anderson - 15
Rhonda J. Deleston - 21
Kendra Smith - 22

Shirley Ward - 23
Izetta M. Williams - 25
Ernest Brown - 27
Sherese Coleman - 28
Synovia White - 28
Dera B. Riley - 28

March Birthdays

Lalakesheica Wittrell - 2
Kathleen V. Stewart - 3
Cheryl L. Myers - 5
Prince Williams - 8
Vondalin Robinson - 8
NaShanda Suitt - 8
Vanessa Rivers - 8
Betty Alston - 9
Alonzo Campbell - 9

Sharvette Slaughter - 10
Gabreilla Dungee - 10
Robert Anderson - 10
Bruce Morgan, Jr. - 10
Katrina Rollerson - 15
Alethia Smalls - 16
Aleshia Seabrook - 16
Reanna Holmes - 20
Mary Williams - 21
Dorothy Pompey - 22

Joyce Dembele - 23
Amanda Washington - 23
Alita O. Thompson - 25
Bertheria Gaston - 26
Sandra Simmons - 26
Karen Richardson - 26
Leroy Burnell - 30
Samone Grant - 30
George Counts - 31
Brandon Johnson - 31

November Spotlight
on a
Sensational Senior Servant of Morris Street Baptist Church
By Deacon Al Sumter



Brother Irving S. Robinson

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

-1 Corinthians 15:58

Dedicated. Committed. Humble. Three words that encapsulate the excellence in Brother Robinson's steadfast and unmovable commitment to serving the Lord.

Brother Robinson (affectionately called Brother Irv) fondly remembers coming to Morris Street Baptist as a young child in his mother's arms. His mother's godly example and sacrifice became the catalyst for him to embark upon a lifetime of Christian service.

Upon graduating from South Carolina State College with a degree in Social Studies in 1959, his goal was to pursue a career as an educator in the public schools. However, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in the same year where he sacrificially served our country for five years.

As a serviceman headquartered at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, he met his lovely wife the late Juanita Bennerman Robinson and the two were married in 1962. The Robinsons traveled the world extensively. After being stationed in Germany (where their son Erich was born), Brother Robinson and his family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (where their son Micah was born) and served as the Vice President of Estates and Trusts with the First Pennsylvania Bank. Upon returning to Charleston, South Carolina, Brother Robinson served as Personnel Director at Davol/C. R. Bard Company in Moncks Corner, South Carolina until his retirement in 1999.

As a dedicated member of Morris Street Baptist Church, Brother Robinson graced us with his anointed gift of song as a skillful tenor and cheerfully served as the Director of the Hour of Power Choir, a member of the Senior Choir, a member of the Mass Choir, and formulated the Crusaders, a gospel quartet, which consisted of the late Deacon Isaac Godfrey, the late James P. Diggs, and the late Raymond Robinson, who was Brother Robinson's brother. The Crusaders shared the gospel of Jesus Christ through many songs at Morris Street Baptist Church on special occasions and around the low country as they were the guests at numerous churches in the Charleston area.

Brother Robinson's desire to become a teacher became a reality when he accepted the call to share the gospel based on his exceptional biblical knowledge and application of God's word. He served as a dedicated instructor at weekly Bible studies for decades under the leadership of the late Pastor A. R. Blake. Many of us recall Brother Robinson's commitment to sharing the love and word of God as our beloved Sunday School Teacher of Adult Class #4.

Additionally, Brother Robinson served as Chairman of the Trustee's Ministry for 25 years.

Brother Robinson is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He and his wife have been the successful owners of a catering business for over 31 years.

As a fun fact, did you know that this octogenarian has a penchant for crossword puzzles?

He and his late wife have two sons: Deacon Erich Robinson of Charleston, SC and Micah Robinson, a daughter-in-law, Erika, and two handsome and smart grandsons, Harrison Irvin (15) and Austin Ellis (11) of Lilburn, Georgia.

Highlight –Sensational Senior Member of Morris Street Baptist Church

By Deacon Al Sumter



Sister Geneva B. Robinson

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
Colossians 3:16

Sister Geneva B. Robinson hails from the close-knit community of Elko, SC in Barnwell County. She received her bachelor's degree from South Carolina State College in 1956 with a major in Physical Education and a minor in Biology. Sister Robinson earned a master's degree in Biology from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Sister Robinson taught physical education and Biology for six years in Spartanburg County School District and also served as a Coach for the girls' volleyball, basketball and softball teams. In addition, she taught the same subjects in the Charleston County School District for 22 years where she retired from serving the students at Burke High School in downtown Charleston, SC.

In 1967 Sister Robinson joined Morris Street Baptist Church by letter from the Saint Peters Baptist Church of Elko, SC. Eager to share her love of Christ and genuine interest in helping children, Sister Robinson began a meaningful Christian fellowship by becoming a dedicated member of Sunday School, the Hour of Power Choir and eventually the Senior Choir. She served in the Missionary Society and accepted a leadership role as president for 6 years. Under Sister Robinson's leadership, she spearheaded the outreach efforts of the Missionaries in securing and distributing countless Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets annually over the years, in addition to helping church members and other community persons in need. As the consummate educator, Sister Robinson subsequently became a Sunday School Teacher of Adult Class #7. She continued to share her love of children and adults of all ages and expertise as an educator by accepting the position of Director of the Vacation Bible School for numerous years.

If you ask Sister Robinson if she has a favorite scripture, she will say Psalms 27, which begins as

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? **And concludes with** ¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Sister Robinson, an elegant octogenarian, enjoys bowling with the Shriner's league, sewing in general and gardening and tending to her tomatoes, peppers and banana trees. She and her late husband Robert have been married for 53 years and are pet parents to a dog (Faith) who is affectionately known as king of the house.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, January 14th at 10:00am

100+ PIPS Service

Monday, January 15th

MLK Day

Newsletter submissions are due by:

- **March 15th** *(to be published in April's edition)*
- **June 15th** *(to be published in July's edition)*
- **September 15th** *(to be published in October's edition)*
- **December 15th** *(to be published in January's edition)*



**MORRIS STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH**

25 Morris Street Charleston, SC 29403

P: 843.723.0408 | F: 843.723.0988 | www.morrisstreetbaptist.org

