

*The
Victorious Vessel*



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MIRIAM GADSDEN PLACE DEDICATION

We are overjoyed to share that the Charleston Housing Authority has renamed the St. Margaret Street housing complex in recognition of Sis. Miriam Gadsden for her dedication to the community over the past 50+ years. Pastor Taylor joined Sis. Gadsden and her family for a beautiful dedication ceremony marking this special moment.

In MSBC's history, Sis. Gadsden faithfully served as a Trustee, as well as our Church Administrator for over 40 years—pouring love, excellence, and unwavering commitment into our community.

We are truly blessed to have this precious jewel in our midst. Please join us in celebrating her remarkable legacy and the impact she continues to make.

Thank you, Sis. Miriam Gadsden, for all you have given to our church and our community



CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER ALLEN JOHNSON (AJ)

Brother Allen Johnson was recently recognized by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) as a recipient of the President's Values in Action Award for Collaboration for his outstanding service as Clinic Manager of the Residency Orthodontic Program at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. Selected by the President of the University, this prestigious award honors MUSC employees who exemplify the institution's core values through their work and service. The Collaboration award specifically recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional teamwork, partnership, and a commitment to working with others to improve patient care, education, and community impact.

Brother Johnson's nomination included support from the Dean and other senior leaders within the College of Dental Medicine, as well as testimonials from patients. It was noted that his presence is welcomed by faculty, staff, residents, and patients alike because of his kind demeanor, extensive knowledge of clinic operations, and the strong relationships he builds with those he encounters. He has also served as a mentor to dental assistants and orthodontic residents in the clinic and has played an instrumental role in helping them develop their skills. One senior leader shared the following: *"He juggles working with nine residents as well as our faculty and has become an integral part of orthodontics at our college. His flawless communication skills and congenial personality endear him to everyone he encounters."*

As part of this recognition, an engraved brick bearing Brother Johnson's name will be installed in the Charleston Medical District Greenway at MUSC.

Brother Johnson also retired from the MUSC College of Dental Medicine on March 5 after 28 years of dedicated service and was honored by his colleagues in recognition of his many contributions. We give thanks for his faithful commitment to education and patient care and celebrate the lasting impact he has made through his work. We congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition and a remarkable career of service.



MLK DAY PARADE

Participating in this year's MLK Day parade filled us with joy, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose. May the spirit of Dr. King continue to guide our steps, soften our hearts, and inspire us to live out the love, courage, and unity he embodied. [Click here to watch a video recap](#)



CONGRATULATIONS

Reverend Winston Mazyck, Sr. was installed as the 4th pastor of Greater Bethel Baptist Church on Saturday, February 28, 2026. MSBC proudly served as the host church for this special occasion.

[View ceremony here](#)



JOINT WATCH NIGHT: 6 CHURCHES, 1 PRAISE

Pastor Taylor (Morris Street Baptist Church), Rev. Larry W. Whaley (St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church), Rev. Dr. Herbert Beard (Jerusalem Baptist Church), Rev. James Hagwood (Calvary Baptist Church), Rev. Timothy Grant (Memorial Missionary Baptist Church), and Rev. Melonard Bennett (Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church) brought their congregations together to ring in 2026 at Jerusalem Baptist, host church for the occasion. During the Joint Watch Night service, donations were collected to assist Sanders Clyde Elementary School and North Charleston High School. These donations were presented to the schools in February.



BENEDICT COLLEGE DAY

Thank you to all Benedict College alumni who joined us in worship as we celebrated our annual Benedict College Day Observance. Your presence made the day all the more special, and we loved fellowshiping with you!



MSBC GOES RED

MSBC proudly went red on the 3rd Sunday in February for American Heart Health Month, standing together to raise awareness and support healthier hearts in our community.



HERITAGE SUNDAY

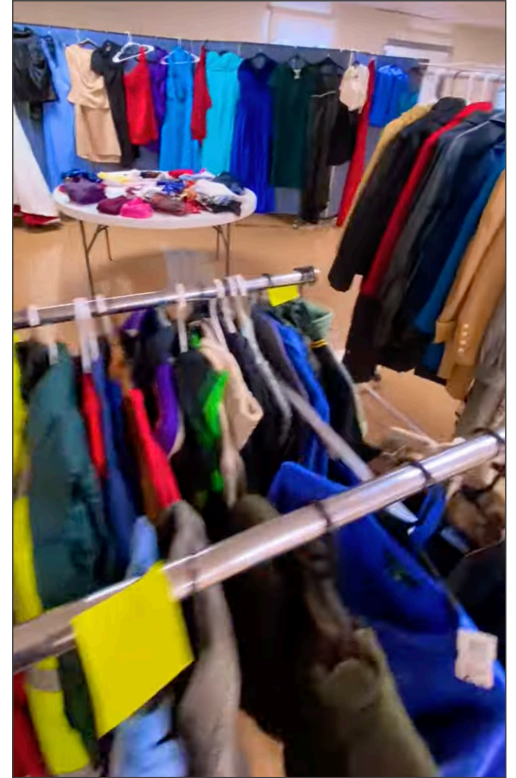
We commemorated 100 years of Black History Month during our annual Heritage Sunday service, which celebrated culture, resilience, and joy.



COAT & SWEATER DRIVE

A huge THANK YOU to our incredible members and Charleston community for showing up in such a beautiful way for our Food Bank Ministry's Coat & Sweater Drive held in January. Because of you, more families will feel warmth and love this season; your generosity, compassion, and willingness to care for others truly made an impact.

[Click here to view video](#)



UPCOMING FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION DATES

April 18, 2026

May 16, 2026

June 20, 2026

10:00 am - 12 noon

on the lower level of the church

25 Morris Street, Charleston, SC 29403

Sensational Senior Citizen of Morris Street Baptist Church

By Deacon Al Sumter



Sister Ethel Garrett Reed

Sister Ethel Reed has been a faithful and dedicated member of Morris Street Baptist Church for over 70 years. She was an active member of the Education Committee, Sunday School Department (Teacher of the Youth Class), and served as Co-Director of the Drama Department for many years. She has also been a recipient of many church awards for her sustained service to the church.

She is formerly from McClellanville (Maus Swamp Community) of Charleston County, SC. Sister Reed received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, SC in 1949 and her Masters Degree from the same in 1970.

Sister Reed was a great Educator at Bonds Wilson High School and North Charleston High School in the early 1950 until she retired in 1987. She taught English and was the Chairperson of the Drama Department at school. She was also awarded "Teacher of the Year" in 1982 for her numerous contributions to education.

Mayor Reggie Burgess of North Charleston, SC, commented at a recent event to honor Mrs. Reed, "that his success was dependent upon the early teachings, care and concern she shared with her students." Many other community leaders shared the same sentiments!

Sister Reed was married to the late Mr. Henry Reed and they were the proud parents of a daughter-Sharon Reed who is also a retired Educator as her mother. The favorite scripture of Sister Reed is Psalm 27:1-14. Her favorite song is "Center of My Joy." Sister Reed reads the Bible and newspaper daily and is also an avid fan of word puzzles.

Sensational Senior Citizen of Morris Street Baptist Church

By Deacon Al Sumter



Deacon Collis Alfred Holloway

Deacon Collis Holloway hails from Marion County in SC and is the first born of the late Mr. and Mrs. Marion and Lucille Holloway. There are two younger sisters – Sharon and Cynthia, and two younger brothers -Eric and Warren.

In 1957 Deacon Holloway and his sister Cynthia were sent to live with relatives in Montgomery County Maryland for the educational opportunity, not available in South Carolina.

Throughout the years, they were active members and participants in the Methodist Church, which was pastored by their uncle Rev. Thomas H. Brooks. Upon graduating from high school, he entered North Carolina A&T State University, in Greensboro, NC as a freshman in the fall of 1964 . February 13, 1967, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and by June 1968, he was serving a tour of duty in the Republic of South Vietnam. In the fall of 1970 he returned to A&T State University to complete requirements for graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education. After receiving his degree, he returned to active duty as a Marine Corps Aviator and Helicopter Pilot. He left active duty for the final time and transferred to the Reserves in August 1977. During his service as a Marine, Deacon Holloway earned the rank of Colonel.

Warren Wheeler was the only African-American man he knew who operated his own airlines. He worked with him for just over one year and eventually he was hired by United Airlines in December 1989 where he remained for his working career.

On February 13, 1993, Cassandra Joyce Gantt and Collis Holloway were married in a ceremony held at Morris Street Baptist Church, in Charleston South Carolina by the Rev. Dr. A. R. Blake, Pastor. In February 1994 Bro. Collis Holloway was baptized into membership at the First Baptist Church of Steelton, Pennsylvania by the Reverend Dr. Braxton Cooley Sr.

In June 1996, they adopted their daughter Anna Page. That worked out so well that in October 1999 they also adopted their son Collis Augustus. By this time, they had been relocated to Charleston, South Carolina from Pennsylvania and practicing their faith as members of the Morris Street Baptist Church since 1997. Brother Holloway continued working with the United Airlines and the Marine Corps Reserve until retirement in December 2006. In February 2008, under the leadership of Rev. Leonard O. Griffin, the membership ordained Brother Collis Holloway as a Deacon.

Since becoming a member of Morris Street Baptist Church, Deacon Holloway has served as a member of the Budget Committee, the Anniversary Committee, the Pastoral Search Committee, the Sunday School Department, former Chairperson of the Brotherhood Committee, and former Secretary of the Deacons' Ministry. In addition, he also served as Chairman of the Tape and CD Ministry.

His military career and employer afforded him the opportunity to travel extensively in the United States and abroad. On the morning October 23, 2014, God call his beloved wife Chrysandra home.

Deacon Holloway enjoys working in the church and no task is too big or too small for him. He received the 2010 Father of the Year Award and was the 2025 recipient of the Distinguished Morris Street Baptist Church Award for his sustained service to the church.

As an ex-marine he continues his physical exercises and has participated in several of the annual Cooper River Bridge runs.

His favorite scripture is: Genesis 1:24 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female he created them."

Althea Hills Holmes Foundation

\$2,000 grant for school year 2026 - 2027



Apply
now

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Must be a member in good standing at Morris Street Baptist Church, or a graduate of Burke High School or from Early College High School.**
- **Must be a fulltime student at a South Carolina college or university for the school year 2026 – 2027.**
- **Must be eligible for financial aid.**

Deadline:

The application must be received by May 1, 2026

To Obtain an application:

- **Email your request to: Altheahillsholmes@yahoo.com**
- **Or pick up a printed application in the church foyer.**
- **Or at the school's guidance counselor's office.**

Celebrating 161 Years

MORRIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - Sunday, May 17, 2026

“Where do we go from here: inheritors of a Legacy, Creating a Future”

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.’” Exodus 14:10-15 (ESV)



Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Reverend Calbert R. Brantley, Pastor
St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church
North Charleston, SC



Thursday, May 14, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Reverend Larry Whaley
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Charleston, SC



Friday, May 15, 2026 - 7:00 PM

****Awards & Recognition Banquet****

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Wendell G. Gilliard
South Carolina House of Representatives District 111
Donation \$25.00 - must be reserved in advance



Sunday, May 17, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Culminating Service
Reverend Dr. Caroles S. Taylor, Host Pastor

Morris Street Baptist Church

25 Morris Street, Charleston, SC 29403

website: www.morrisstreetbaptist.org

Phone: 843-723-0408



April Birthdays

Genita Hanna - 1
Ryine A. Bartley - 3
Pheobie Williams - 20

Wendrah McCoy - 20
Natalie G. Johnson - 22
Semaj M. Fielding - 27

Mary Seabrook - 30
Barbara G. Stanard - 30

May Birthdays

Dorita F. Green - 1
Allen Johnson - 4
Amanda Sumter - 5
Rosie L. Bland - 5
Tyric Becoate - 5
Ethel Reed - 7

Edreca Gray - 8
Cheryl Grant - 8
Miriam Gadsden - 11
Darlene Scott-Scurry - 14
Inger Pompey - 20
Traci Grant - 22

Marcus Grant - 22
Amber S. McCoy - 23
Laverne Harrison - 24
Kierra Green - 28
Louise Gadsden - 30

June Birthdays

Margie G. Heyward - 1
Samuel Gilchrist - 2
Cynthia M. McHoney - 2
Anna P. Holloway - 4
Irene Dawson - 5
Mary A. Faber - 8

Margie Hamilton - 9
Aundria G. Douglas - 10
Dawn F. McPherson - 11
Felicia Gaston - 13
Brendan McPherson - 14
Marie Thompson - 17

Shawnicqua Hanna - 20
Irving S. Robinson - 21
Nathronia Carr - 21
Charles Montgomery - 26
Lottie Wright - 27

Newsletter submissions are due by:

- **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)*
- **March 15th** *(to be published in April's edition)*



**MORRIS STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH**

25 Morris Street Charleston, SC 29403

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