



# THE *Mount Calvary* MESSENGER

SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU, LARGE ENOUGH TO GROW YOU!

FEBRUARY

2024

## CELEBRATING Black History Month



WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE MESSENGER...

- ◆ From Our Pastor's Pen
- ◆ Order of Worship
- ◆ Church-Wide Announcements
- ◆ Lenten Message
- ◆ AME Church Founders Day History



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## *From The Pastor's Pen...*



Greetings Family!

I hope this letter finds you well and warm. February holds some wonderful celebrations and observances for African Americans.

If you are looking for a good excuse to focus on something other than the winter weather, let me remind you this is Black History Month, it is also the Founder's Day Celebration for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as members and friends across the globe pay homage to our illustrious founder Bishop Richard Allen and in this month, and the 2024 Lenten Season will begin on February 14.

As AME's, we have a heritage to be proud of and our contributions to the history of these United States are numerous. When Richard Allen and others walked out of St. George's that Sunday morning, we became the first African Americans to lead a non-violent protest. When Allen and others purchased the old blacksmith shop in Philadelphia, we became the first African Americans to own real estate in America. We also were the first African American to publish a newspaper in America. Through the Free African Society, Allen passed on to us notable values such as liberation, justice, self-determination, education, and economic empowerment.

February is also Black History Month. A time of reflecting, rejoicing and recommitment. We reflect on what it means to be an African American, as we stand on the shoulders of those who sacrificed much to pave the way for a better tomorrow. We rejoice in the contributions, integrity, leadership and determination of the activists and organizers in their fight for racial equality. We recommit ourselves afresh and anew to go into the world and show that we are equal, have the same rights, can achieve at the same level, and make lives different.

While this month gives us an opportunity to celebrate, we must return to the words found in the Negro National Anthem last stanza, "God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way, Thou who hast by Thy Might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path we pray!"

*(Continued on page 3)*

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*From The Pastor 's Pen...* (Continue from page 2 )

Finally, in this month, we will celebrate Valentine's Day, which focuses on romantic love to the season of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, which focuses on returning to the embrace of God's love through repentance and sacrifice. Both of these days are on February 14. We will begin the Lenten journey, 40 days toward Easter Sunday Morning, reflecting, repenting, and renewing our spiritual walk.

Let the celebration begin!!!!

Be Encouraged and Stay in His Grip!

Pastor Bob

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ORDER of *Worship*

Call to Worship

Invocation

Scripture

Selection

Welcome

Tithes, Missionary, and General Offering

**This is my Tithe:** *I acknowledge that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. I can only reap what I have sown. I cannot out give God no matter how I try, and as I act in obedience to the word of God, I bless my church, myself and my family. This is the promise of God. Malachi 3:10*

Corporate Prayer

Preached Word of God

Invitation to Accept Christ

Benediction

***"You've come to Worship, now leave to Serve!"***

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## February Memory Scripture and Theme

“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”  
Luke 9:23 (NLT)

**Theme:** Oh Lord, make this Lenten Season Different from the other ones.  
Let me find You again.” ~ Henri Nouwen

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### Please join us in our weekly **POWER CELLS!**

- **The Jewel Cromwell Johnson Prayer Line**  
- **Morning Prayer:** Monday-Friday at 6am  
Phone Conference Call Line: 725-735-9012. **NO Passcode:**
  - **Church School** - Sundays at 9:00 am (in person).
  - **Intercessory Prayer** - Tuesdays 6pm on the Prayer Line
  - **Church-wide Bible Study** - Wednesdays at 7pm (*In Person; Face Book Live*).
  - Join us every **Thursday** for **Thursday Treats** for the Thirsty—[Zooming](#) in His Word at 7pm.  
Meeting ID: 879 5461 0400  
Passcode: 12345
  - **YPD FAB Fourth Fridays** at 7pm in the **FLC**.
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### **NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

**Saturday Feb. 10**

**9 - 10:30 AM, "The AME Church & Stewardship"  
Bro. Carlton Epps**

**11 AM - 12:30 PM, "How to study the Bible",  
Min. Sherie Johnson**

**Saturday, February 24**

**9 - 10:45 AM, "Spiritual Formation & The Sacraments",  
Rev. Thomasine Adams**

**11 AM - 12:30 PM, "Salvation",  
Rev. Patricia Joyner**

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**Classes will be held in the Library on  
the 2nd floor of the Family Life  
Center, by pre-registration only. (In  
person only.)**

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## Church-Wide Announcements

- ◆ This month is **Black History Month**. Visit <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/> for Black History events throughout the month of February.
- ◆ On **Monday, February 5th**, our **Church Conference** for the year will be held at **7 pm** in the **FLC Great Room**.
- ◆ The **2nd Episcopal District AME Church & James L. Davis and Arelis B. Davis, Servant Leaders** invite you to attend the **2024 Mid-Winter Gathering: Founders Day & Mid-Winter Convocation**. The gathering will be held from **Thursday, February 8th - Saturday, February 10th** at the **Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons** (3121 West Gate City Boulevard, Greensboro, NC 27407). This year's theme is "**The Real Church: Still Daring to Believe - I am the Difference**; I can do all things through Him who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13 (NIV).
- ◆ On **Sunday, February 11th**, we will celebrate **2024 Founders Day Worship Service, Red Dress Sunday** (*Don't forget to wear Red*), **Souper Bowl Sunday** (*Give a sacrificial gift to YPD*).
- ◆ On **Tuesday, February 13th**, our **4th Quarterly Conference** for the year will be held at **7 pm** in person.
- ◆ On **Wednesday, February 14th** we will have **Valentines Love Day & Ash Wednesday Service** at **7 pm**.
- ◆ On **Wednesday, February 21st** we will have our 2nd monthly **Wednesday Revival Service** at **7 pm**.
- ◆ On **Friday, February 23rd**, the **Youth Ministry** will host a **Movie Night** at **7 pm** in the FLC. Email the Youth Department for more information [mtcalvaryame@gmail.com](mailto:mtcalvaryame@gmail.com).
- ◆ On **Sunday, February 25th**, we will celebrate **2024 Heritage Day**. Please wear African attire or Black History Month 365 T-shirt.
- ◆ The **2023 Giving Statements** will be available this month. To obtain your giving statement, please click on Member Login and then click on Member Contact Update & Giving Statement Request on our website or click on the following link to complete and submit the form: <https://mcamecproposal.wufoo.com/forms/mk5flb9b0di8m34/>.

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## LENTEN MESSAGE...

### Lenten Season

February 14 – March 28 2024

40 days before Easter not including Sundays.

**Theme:** “O Lord make this Lenten Season different from the other ones. Let me find **YOU** again.” Henri Nouwen



### Guiding Scripture: Luke 9:23 NLT

The Lenten Season is a journey toward the cross alongside Jesus. The season begins with Ash Wednesday which derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes and making them in the shape of a cross on the parishioners' foreheads. Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

The Lenten Season invites us to an inward journey to fast pray and reflect on our life by entering into the reality of Jesus' journey toward death. Lent culminates with Holy Week the most sacred week in the history of Christianity as Jesus rides into Jerusalem celebrates the last supper with the disciples and commemorates his crucifixion and burial.

The themes of the Lenten Season are: ***meditation prayer fasting study passion self-examination silence contemplation sacrifice reflection patience discipline obedience and benevolence.***

“As we enter into Lent envision how you want to live into this season yourself and with your household in these areas of your life: spirit body mind ministry relationships home work and school. Remember to go back to examine and reflect on the previous Lenten Season.” Jenn Giles Kemper

As you make this Lenten Season different from the other ones you must live into part of the story. You must see the story unfolding in a new way of **“Being”** as you live daily to **“Become”** more disciplined to **“Be”** more like Christ as you take up your **“Cross to Follow Him”**. In making this a reality you must consider your life values other practices

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## LENTEN MESSAGE...

and priorities that you have created as a way of life. As you prepare for this Lenten Season begin a self-examination to create a *New Rule of Life* that mirrors your desire to be a follower of Christ.



“Then he said to the crowd “If any of you wants to be my follower you must give up your own way take up your cross daily and follow me.”  
Luke 9:23 NLT

Rev. Thomasine Adams  
Prayer and Spiritual Formation

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Birthday greetings to all those celebrating a birthday in the month of **February**, from Sis. Joyce Hunter ([hunter.joyce914@gmail.com](mailto:hunter.joyce914@gmail.com)), your Congregational Care Unit Leaders.

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## Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church Mission and Vision

We are a Christ-Centered church that believes in the full gospel message. We believe in building and equipping disciples and we are committed to reaching our city, state, and world with the Gospel. We want to connect with people and grow an authentic relationship with Jesus. We are a word-based, soul-winning, love-centered church that hopes- *“The Distance Was Worth The Difference!”*



## CELEBRATING FOUNDERS DAY...

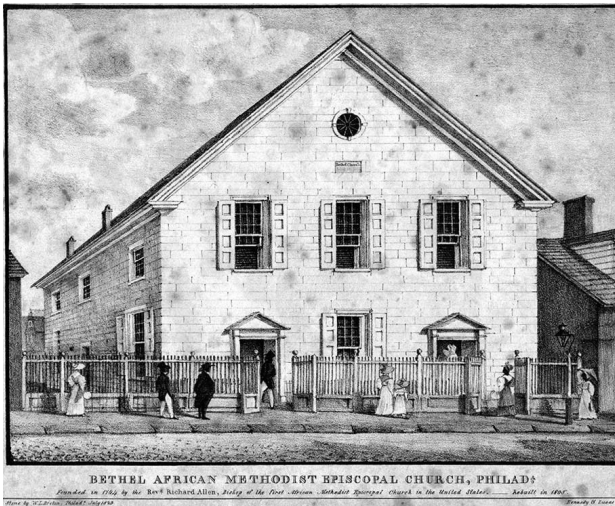


Each year, the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) celebrates Founders Day, the day that the AME connectional church was established. The church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. When officials at St. George's MEC pulled blacks off their knees while praying, FAS members discovered just

how far American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination against African Americans. Hence, these members of St. George's made plans to transform their mutual aid society into an African congregation. Although most wanted to affiliate with the Protestant Episcopal Church, Allen led a small group who resolved to remain Methodists.

In 1794 Bethel AME, located in Pennsylvania, was dedicated with Allen as pastor. To establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists, Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists in other middle Atlantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy, Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME.

Today, the AMEC has membership in twenty Episcopal Districts in 39 countries on five continents. The work of the Church is administered by twenty-one active bishops, and nine General Officers who manage the departments of the Church.







This month we celebrate Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month, in the United States. It began as a way to remember

important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

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## Black History Facts: Notable Firsts...

- **Bishop Richard Allen** established the first AME Church (Mother Bethel) in Philadelphia, PA in 1787. It is the first independent black denomination in the US. Bishop Allen also became the first elected Bishop of the AME church.
- **Bessie Coleman** became the first African American female pilot and the first to have an international aviation license in 1921.
- **Nat King Cole** was the first African American to host a network television program. In 1956 *The Nat King Cole Show* aired on NBC.
- **Jackie Robinson** was the first African American to win the Major League Baseball's Most Valuable Player award in 1949 and the first African American player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1962.
- **Sir Sydney Poitier** is the first African American winner of the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1963 for his role as Homer Smith in *Lilies of the Field*.
- **Thurgood Marshall** was the first African American US Supreme Court Justice (1967).
- **Shirley Chisholm** was the first African American woman elected to the US Congress in 1968 and also became the first African American candidate to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1972.
- **Oprah Winfrey** is the first African American woman to host a television show (1986) and the first African American woman to become a billionaire.
- **Mae Carol Jemison** was the first African American female astronaut in 1992.
- **Gwen Ifill** became the first African American woman to host a prominent political talk show on national television when she became moderator and managing editor of PBS's Washington Week and senior political correspondence for the PBS Hour (1999).
- **Gen. Colin Powell** is the first African American to become US Secretary of State (2001-2004).
- **Condoleezza Rice** is the first woman to be the National Security Advisor in the George W. Bush administration (2001-2009) and the first African American woman to be U.S. Secretary of State.
- **Barack Hussein Obama** is the first African American to hold the office of President of the United States. He was the 44<sup>th</sup> President (2008-2016). Michelle Obama was the first African American First Lady.
- **Kamala D. Harris** is the first female and African/Asian American to serve as vice president of the United States (2020).

# MOUNT CALVARY A.M.E. CHURCH YEAR END REVIEW

## 2023

Ministry continued at Mt. Calvary as we engaged in in-person & virtual Sunday Worship Services, Sunday School, weekly Bible Study, Youth Church, church celebrations, annual days, auxiliary meetings and events, church and quarterly conferences, Harvest Meals, and food pantry distributions. A few highlights of the year includes:

- Thirty One new members, including several families, joined our church this year, eleven members completed New Members' classes and was read into full membership, and three (3) infants, two (2) children, and two (2) adults were baptized. Sadly, four of our beloved members went home to be with the Lord.
- We continued to receive weekly letters from our Pastor Bob this year encouraging us to stay in God's grip.
- We celebrated our Pastor Bob's 6th Anniversary on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Our theme for this wonderful milestone for our pastor was "Connecting the Body of Christ to God and Each Other through Loving Liberating Pastoral Leadership." The scripture reference was taken from Hebrews 10:25 (NLT). Our very own Rev. Johnny Palmer was the guest preacher for the hour.
- The **Steward Board** supported the church this year by leading the congregation in celebrating several special occasions including welcoming Pastor Bob and the first family back after Annual Conference, celebrating Pastor Bob's 6<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary at Mt. Calvary, and co-hosting with the Trustees our annual Churchwide Fellowship, 134th Church Anniversary, as well as the 26th Sanctuary Anniversary and 11th Family Life Center Anniversary, hosting the Baltimore District Conference of the 2nd Episcopal District. The Board also continue to lead the Mortgage Liquidation Campaign.
- The **Trustee Board and Steward Board** worked together to develop and execute the 347 Eudowood Lane Land Purchase Campaign.
- The **Beads of Wisdom Ministry** celebrated Beads Annual Day which featured the Beads Choir. The day also included a Memorial Service to remember and honor deceased members. The day culminating with the ministry presenting a check in the amount of \$14,769 to Pastor Bob and the Church to cover a monthly Mortgage Payment. The Beads also hosted a No Senior Eat Alone Day in Baltimore County. Sixty Seniors attended and enjoyed fun, food and fellowship. They also hosted 80 participates at an Informative Session on Funeral Planning (Rev. Johnnie Palmer, Lincoln Heritage), Medicare and Medicaid benefits (Sis. Jijuwania Turner), and Overview on Wills (Sis. Vivian Fenton).
- The **Christian Education Ministry** provided our monthly scripture and theme; organized and let the 6am Prayer Line; Adult and Children Sunday School and New Members classes.
- The **Congregational Care Unit** hosted an All Members Meet and Greet and an All Members Christmas Celebration. The Unit also engaged in their annual

# MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH YEAR END REVIEW

## 2023

Christmas Outreach of purchased and donated blanket throw to several Mt. Calvary seniors and 50 participants who attended the Harvest Meals for the Hungry Ministry 2023 Christmas Dinner in December. met monthly via Zoom, provided monthly and quarterly reports, contacted members, sent cards to bereaved families, produced the monthly Messenger,

- In 2023 the Crafty Hands Ministry continued to use our hand skills to bless the community. Crochet Kleenex box covers, shoulder wraps, walker/wheelchair bags, blankets and clay trinket trays & covered ink pens were given to a local church ministry. The current crafts being utilized are knitting, crochet, polymer clay work and macrame/kumihimo. The ongoing goal of the ministry is to bless the community by using our hands. Crafty Hands will be adding new crafts in the upcoming months.
- The **Digital Arts Ministry** filmed, produced, and streamed weekly Sunday morning Worship Services, Bible Study, and church events on Facebook and YouTube. In addition, produced all ads, managed the church's social media pages and website, designed graphics for ministries, and sent out email blasts messages.
- The **Emma Jane Gardner Missionary Society** has so much to be thankful. The ministry receive food donations from the Maryland Food Bank and donations from members, friends and the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). They also collected can goods to prepared Thanksgiving baskets to families in need.
- The **Harvest Meals for the Hungry Ministry & Culinary Ministries** touched lives of seniors and homeless individuals in Towson by serving 919 hot meals in 2023. The ministry hosted Thanksgiving dinner on November 14<sup>th</sup> and Christmas dinner on the December 19<sup>th</sup>. To God be all the Glory!
- The **Health and Wellness Ministry** held two (2) successful Blood Drives in partnership with the American Red Cross this year. The ministry also held Surviving the Wilderness Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon in October. The proceeds of the luncheon helped to raise awareness for breast cancer and celebrate cancer survivors. In addition, the ministry held a Coat Drive in support of the homeless.
- The **Men's Ministry** Saturday Soup Kitchen served 270 hot meals to disadvantages families in Baltimore County and Baltimore City.
- The **Prayer and Spiritual Formation Ministry** held a Walking through Grief and Loss and Connecting in the Care Encounter workshop this year. The ministry also produced the 2023 Meditation and Prayer Lenten Guide.
- The **Young People's Department** participated in several connectional church events; participated in Vacation Bible School; 2023 Graduation Celebration, the Back-2-School Backpack Give-Away, led Fab Fridays, the Fall Festival Trunk or Treat, and a Christmas Family Pajama Party.

## February Prayer List

Pastor Bob & Rev. Angie Cox  
Bro. Andrew Adam's  
Bro. Bruce Ashe  
Mother Virgie Brandt  
April Cannon & Family  
Mother Cleo Cole  
Bro. Carlton Epps  
Sis. Keena Harvin  
Mother Grace Hicks



Rev. Merriel Lucas  
Sis. Nadine Marsh  
Tuesday Tibbs & Family  
Sis. Sylvia Twiggs  
Ministerial Staff  
Ministries/Leaders  
Steward & Trustee Boards

## Opportunities to Give...

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,  
that there may be food in my house. Test me  
in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if  
I will not throw open the floodgates of  
heaven and pour out so much blessing that  
there will not be room enough to store it.  
Malachi 3:10

**5 Ways to Give**

**Mount Calvary  
AME Church**



**ONLINE** [www.mtcalvaryame.org](http://www.mtcalvaryame.org)  
click the give tab.

**PHONE** 410-296-9474

**MAIL-IN** Mail your gift:  
Mount Calvary AME Church  
PO Box 20416 | Towson, MD 21286

**IN-PERSON**  
Drop off your gift at the church office: Mt. Calvary AME Church  
349 Eudowood Lane | Towson, MD 21286

**SMART DEVICE**  
Cash App Smcamec



**Mount Calvary AME Church**  
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Towson, MD 21286  
410-296-9474 (phone) 410-296-8710 (fax)  
[adminasst@mtcalvaryame.org](mailto:adminasst@mtcalvaryame.org) [www.mtcalvaryame.org](http://www.mtcalvaryame.org)  
Rev. Bobby B. Cox, Jr., Pastor  
Rev. Angie Crawford-Cox, First Lady

Items for the Messenger must be submitted by the 2nd Friday of each month. Leaders, please add the following address to your email contacts to receive a reminder: [mtcalvaryamemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:mtcalvaryamemessenger@gmail.com).