



153rd Annual **CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

AN OBSERVANCE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 AT 10:30AM
714 SAVANNAH STREET, MOBILE, AL 36603

THE REVEREND BRANDON L. THORNTON, PASTOR
THE REVEREND CHARLES A. LEWIS, PRESIDING ELDER, THE MOBILE DISTRICT
BISHOP JULIUS H. McALLISTER, JR., PRESIDING PRELATE, 9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

THE REVEREND DR. OLIVIA MARTIN, ITINERATE ELDER, MINISTERIAL STAFF
THE REVEREND IRMATINE CHASTANG, ITINERATE ELDER, MINISTERIAL STAFF
THE REVEREND PAMELA GREENE-IRBY, ITINERATE DEACON, MINISTERIAL STAFF

WWW.BETHELAMECHURCHMOBILE.COM
BETHELAMEMOBILE9@GMAIL.COM | (251) 206-0013

The Order of Worship

The PreludeHoly, Holy, Holy..... The Musicians
The Doxology “Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessing flow: Praise Him all creatures here below: Praise Him
above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Call to Worship Pastor Brandon Thornton

MINISTER: This is none other than the house of God.

PEOPLE: **The hour cometh and now is , when the true worshipers shall worship in
spirit and in truth.**

MINISTER: For the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

PEOPLE: **Let us worship Him in deed, in spirit, and in truth. Amen**

The Morning Hymn.....The Voices of Praise and Congregation

**The Hymn of Praise..... *AME Hymnal No.572.....Choir & Congregation*
*“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”***

Verse: 1

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory! glory! Hallelujah! Glory! glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

Verse: 2

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have build-ed Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

Verse: 3

He has sound-ed forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Verse: 4

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free!
While God is marching on.

The Morning Invocation Rev. Pamela G. Irby

The Choral ResponseThe Voices of Praise Choir & Congregation

“Thank You, Lord” – No. 531 AAHH

Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord, thank you, Lord,
Been so good, been so good, been so good,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

The Scripture Read ResponsivelyRev. Pamela G. Irby
Church Anniversary - (Hymn No 754)

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountains of His holiness.

People: **Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, in Mount Zion, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge.**

Leader: We have thought of Your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of Your temple.

People: **According to Your Name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth: Your right hand is full of righteousness.**

Leader: Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of Your judgements.

People: **Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.**

Leader: Mark you well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that you may tell it to the generation following,

People: **For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even unto death.**

Leader: The mighty God, even the Lord, has spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof.

People: **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shined. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people.**

Leader: Gather My Saints together to Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.

People: **And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself.**

Leader: Hear, O My people, and I will speak: O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, even your God.

People: I will not reprove you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings which have been continually before Me.

Leader: I will take no bullock out of your house, nor he goats out of your folds; for every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

People: I know all the birds of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. If I were hungry I would tell you; for the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof.

Leader: Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High: and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me.

People: Whoso offers praise glorifies Me; and to him that orders his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God.

The Prelude to the Decalogue *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* Hymn No. 69

From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise; Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

The DecalogueRev. Dr. Olivia Martin

LEADER: Let us express our commitment to keep God's law.

PEOPLE: God of our salvation, only You are God. We will make no idols. We will not invoke with malice Your name, O God. We will remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. We will honor our father and our mother. We will not commit murder. We will not commit adultery. We will not steal. We will not be a false witness. We will not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor.

SING: *NEARER MY GOD TO THEE!*

LEADER: Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.

PEOPLE: Jesus also challenged us with a sacred commandment which is like the first: We shall love our neighbor as our self! On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. (*THE ANVIL*, 2018)

The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Selection.....Voices of Praise Choir

The Acknowledgement of Visitors, Welcome and Announcements..... Sis. Emma Prince

Reflections on the History of Bethel Church.....Bro. Vernell Drayton

The Chancel Call.....Rev. Dr. Olivia Martin

The Giver's Affirmation

This is my seed. It shall meet all my needs.
I give it today, because I obey—my God and His command.

My tithe is out of Love and obedience . My offering is my sacrifice.
My return shall be magnified, because I've learned to give right.
I'm the head and not the tail, a lender and not a borrower, on top and not beneath.

Because I give, I am blessed— in the city and in the field.
I'm blessed because I give my God my best.
Today and every day, I am blessed!

The Bringing of the Tithes and Offering

SelectionThe Voices of Praise Choir

The Preached WordPastor Thornton

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Affirmation of Faith

I believe in GOD the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. The third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of GOD the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

The BenedictionPastor Thornton

The Postlude The Musicians

People being Healed

Sis. Ann Coleman
Sis. Latasha Hall
Bro. Claude Hollings, III
Sis. Lillie Johnson

Sis. Anita Lewis
Sis. Deborah Mack
Bro. David McCall
Bro. Ulysses McNeail

Sis. Carolyn Oliver
Sis. Nicole Rucker
Sis. Geneva Williams
Sis. Viola Wills

Prayer List

Rev. Brandon L. Thornton and First Lady Shandra Thornton

Sis. Ardelia Andrews
Sis. Amelia Cade Bacon
Sis. Mary Bennett
Bro. Ronnie Blackmon
Sis. Emmer Bryant
Rev. Irmatine Chastang
Sis. Annie G. Cockrell
Bro. Chris & Sis. Lenor Drexler
Sis. Vernet Giles

Sis. Rosa Gordon
Sis. Julia James
Rev. Donna James' Mother
Sis. Faydene Morris
Bro. Tamyrick Nunn
Sis. Jackie Erskine-Porter
Sis. Aquilla Rush
Bro. John Rush
Sis. Tataneshia Rush

Sis. Diane Smith
Bro. Eddie Smith
Sis. Omega Taylor
Sis. Katherine Parker-Williams
Bro. Charles Wills, Jr
Sis. Donna Wills
Bro. Ronald Witherspoon
Sis. Vanessa Young-Dickerson

Bereavement

Please keep the following families in prayer:

Dunn/Greene/Giddens Families
Sis. Shirley Jones Family

Sis. Margaret Dale Clark Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Memorial Board continues accepting names for inclusion in this year's Memorial Day Program, which will be held on Sunday, November 16th.

- If you wish to have your loved one's name included in the program, the cost is \$10.00 per name.
- To have a name placed in the church windows, the cost is \$200.00 per name.

WE HAVE AN OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13, 6:30 PM!

Presiding Elder's Planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 6:00pm at Emmanuel AME Church.

66th Session of the Ninth Episcopal District Lay Organization Annual Meeting will be held on November 14–15, 2025 at Troy University – Lamar Higgins Ballroom 253 Trojan Center, Troy, Alabama 36082
Join Lay members from across the Ninth Episcopal District for this year's Annual Meeting — a time of fellowship, learning, and leadership development.

Weekly Activities

- **Sunday Church School** – 9:00 AM
- **Bible Study** – Will resume in December
- **Communion for Sick & Shut-In** – Wednesday after 1st Sunday.

Call the church office to schedule:
251-206-0013

Church Office Hours

- Tuesday–Friday | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Contact: 251-206-0013

Key Contacts

- **Facility Needs** – Sis. Dorothy Crittenden | 251-391-2810
- **Announcements** – Sis. Emma Prince | 251-554-6259
- **Admin Office** – | 251-206-0013
- **Pastor** – Rev. Brandon L. Thornton | 334-614-9217

Bethel's College Students

Pray for their Success

Kennedy Black,
Alivia Cannon,
Chelsea Cooper,
Khelsea Cooper,
Sarah Fair

Kellen Fairley,
Marlon Fairley
Ethan Oliver
Jazzlyn Gaillard
Kierra Giles,

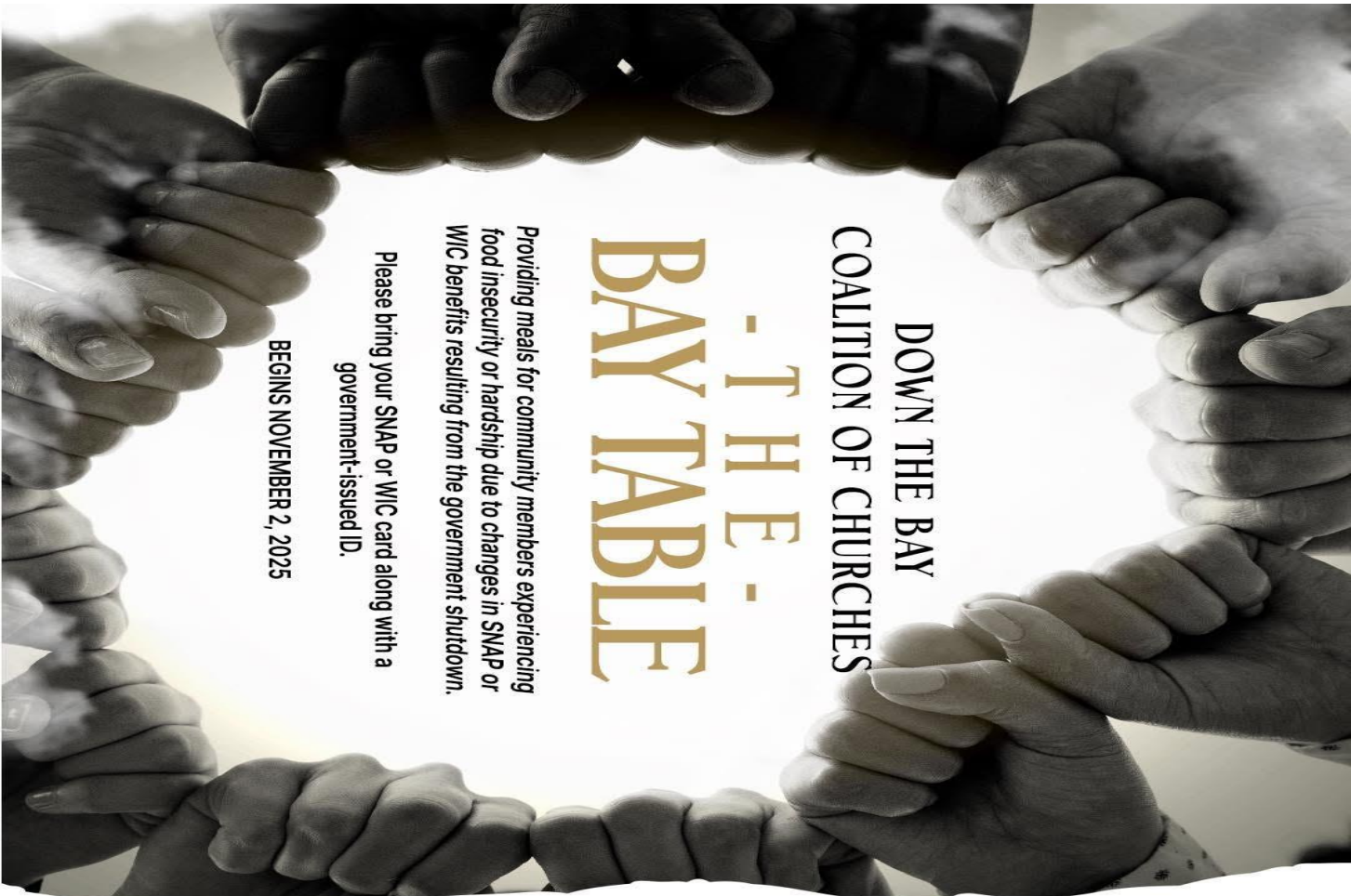
Samiah Morris,
Jalen Prince-Woodland,
Winston Salter,
Wynstonee Salter

BETHEL HIGHLIGHTS

Happy Birthday for this week November Birthdays

Oliver, Sis. Fritz	November 10
Warmack, Sis. Tillie	November 10
Bennett, Sis. Mary	November 11
Black, Sis. Cynthia	November 11
Hollings, III, Bro. Claude	November 12
Stallworth, Sis. Dorothy	November 12
Williams, Sis. Kierre	November 13
Cooper, Sis. Angela	November 13
Carleton, Sis. Sharon	November 14
Stallworth, Sis Leah	November 15





**DOWN THE BAY
COALITION OF CHURCHES**

**- THE -
BAY TABLE**

Providing meals for community members experiencing food insecurity or hardship due to changes in SNAP or WIC benefits resulting from the government shutdown.

Please bring your SNAP or WIC card along with a government-issued ID.

BEGINS NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Sunday - Mt. Sinai Baptist Church Mobile
860 S Warren St. Mobile, AL 36603
Rev. Aarif G. Bradley, Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Monday - Bethel AME Church
714 Savannah St. Mobile, AL 36603
Rev. Brandon Thornton, Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tuesday - Christ Temple Apostolic Church
801 Virginia St. Mobile, AL 36603
Bishop Antonio Jackson, Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday - St. Joseph Baptist Church
661 S Broad St. Mobile, AL 36603
Rev. Leon Bell, Jr., Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thursday - Bethel AME Church
714 Savannah St. Mobile, AL 36603
Rev. Brandon Thornton, Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Friday - St. Peter Baptist Church
650 S Bayou St. Mobile, AL 36603
Rev. Cleveland McFarland, Jr., Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday - Prince of Peace Catholic Church
454 Charleston St. Mobile, AL 36603
Rev. Victor P. Ingalls, Pastor
Meal Times: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

We Will Serve on MONDAY AND THURSDAY!

5:00pm-7:30PM

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2025

The Ninth Episcopal District

PLANNING MEETING 2025



THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 20

6
PM



Reverend Carolyn
CAVERNESS
Mother Bethel AME Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 21

6
PM



Bishop Samuel L.
GREEN SR.
First Episcopal District
African Methodist
Episcopal Church

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 22

11:30
AM



Bishop Adam J.
RICHARDSON
Retired Bishop
African Methodist
Episcopal Church

RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY

Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

201 Tallapoosa Street • Montgomery, AL 36104

Reservations can be made by calling 1-888-236-2427 and using the group code AMC

Host Church: Saint Paul AME Church

706 E Patton Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36111

Reverend Dr. Agnes Lover, pastor



Scan the QR Code
to book your reservation by:
OCTOBER 20TH

EPISCOPAL LEADERS

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr. & Supervisor Deana Y. McAllister



From the Pastor's Pen

"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?" — James 2:15–17 (NRSV)

Greetings, my Sisters and Brothers,

Today we pause to give thanks to God for the faithfulness of this great church. Though we are not holding a full all-out celebration, we still have every reason to rejoice!

Today marks the 153rd Church Anniversary of Bethel A.M.E. Church—Mobile, founded in **1872** as a beacon of hope and service in the *Down the Bay* community. For more than a century and a half, Bethel has stood as a witness to God's sustaining grace — preaching the Gospel, shaping lives, and serving generations. We thank God for every pastor, steward, trustee, missionary, choir member, and faithful disciple who has carried the torch of faith through the years. Their labor laid the foundation upon which we now stand.

As we observe this milestone, I'm asking every member who can to join me in sowing a **Church Anniversary Offering of \$153.00** — a dollar for every year of ministry. Your gift not only honors our past but helps secure our future.

And to those who continue to support the **Van Payoff Initiative**, I thank you! Because of your faithfulness, we are now **approximately \$10,000 closer to our goal** of paying it off before Christmas. Together, we believe that with God's help, *little becomes much when placed in His hands*.

Gratitude for Service: The Down the Bay Table

As we celebrate, I also want to take this moment to **commend Sister Amelia Bacon and our Culinary Committee**, along with every volunteer who has faithfully served during our **SNAP Challenge Feeding Effort**.

Because of your heart for ministry, **159 of our neighbors** were fed last week! You didn't just cook — you cared. You didn't just serve food — you served *hope*. You showed that Bethel is not just a church *in* the community, but a church *for* the community.

As Sister Bacon wrote in her note to the team:

"The love, fellowship, and spirit that existed was truly a blessing, and God-made. As we move into the second week of the SNAP initiative, let us remember that we are serving others — and this is what Christians do!"

Your giving keeps the Down the Bay Table open and our witness strong.

Expanding Our Reach — Supporting Jamaica

Finally, as we serve locally, we are also mindful of our brothers and sisters in the **16th Episcopal District (Jamaica)** who have been devastated by **Hurricane Melissa**. Over the next two Sundays — **November 23rd and 30th** — we are asking each member to give a **special offering** toward disaster relief and rebuilding efforts.

All checks should be made payable to **Bethel A.M.E. Church**, with *"Food Support or 16th District Disaster Relief — Hurricane Melissa"* written in the memo line. These funds will help provide food, shelter, and essential supplies to families in crisis, allowing the Church to continue being a beacon of hope abroad.

Stewardship & Giving

Continued on the next page.....

Our giving is an act of worship — expressing our gratitude for God’s faithfulness and fueling the mission of the Church.

The Tithe — The Act of Obedience. *“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...” — Malachi 3:10*

Your tithe supports the **daily operations and maintenance** of the church — including utilities, insurance, staff support, worship supplies, and ministry administration.

The Offering — The Act of Sacrifice. Your offering empowers **outreach, ministry programming, and improvements** that go beyond our general operations. Offerings help us expand ministry impact, fund special projects, and strengthen church growth efforts.

The Benevolence — The Act of Compassion. Benevolence giving provides **direct assistance to individuals and families in need**, both within our congregation and throughout the community — helping with food, clothing, emergencies, and crisis care. Each expression of generosity allows Bethel to continue being a **church that serves, uplifts, and transforms lives**.

Beloved, this is a sacred season for Bethel. We are **celebrating 153 years of legacy**, working to **pay off our van**, repairing the building (*sanctuary ceiling project is next*), **feeding our neighbors**, and **serving across the Connection** — all at once. That’s a lot of ministry, but we serve a God who can do a lot with a willing heart.

Let us continue to be faithful in our giving, steadfast in our service, and united in our witness. As we pour out, we trust that God will pour back into us — supplying every need according to His riches in glory. Thank you for being a generous, serving, and growing church. Truly, **Bethel A.M.E. Church is Called to Serve**.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church – Mobile

SERMON APPLICATION

HEARING GOD'S WORD IN THE SERMON

Since we forget 90% of what we hear, it has been suggested that note-taking will double the percentage of what we may receive during the hearing of God's Word.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SERMON

SERMON SCRIPTURE: _____

SERMON TITLE: _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: _____

THE OUTLINE OF THE MAIN POINTS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?