

1863

ethel Champaign, IL



Rooted in Faith... Honoring the Legacy

Psalm 78:2-7





FAMILY

PROUDLY CELEBRATES



YEARS

OF PRAISING AND WORSHIPPING OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,

JUSUS CHRIST

1863 - 2023



To the Members, Family, and Friends of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church-Champaign,

1863 was a dark time and difficult time. Our nation was embroiled in a bloody civil war that would determine the physical fate of millions of Black people held who were held unjustly by the system of chattel slavery. A Union victory and the end of such an evil institution was not guaranteed and no parts of this country escaped the horrors and the uncertainty of that brutal conflict.

Yet, amid this darkness, a small group of men and women would use the light of African Methodism to lay the foundation for a place that would serve not only as a hush harbor for those fleeing to the North from the Confederate South, but also those who had already found a home in a small space of land in Central Illinois. That place was Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest Black Church in Champaign County.

Beloved Bethel Family, for 160 years our church has stood at the epicenter of Champaign County in general and the Black Community specifically. Before there was the University of Illinois, before there was the NAACP, before there were Black Greek Letter Fraternities and Sororities, before there were any other Black churches or community organizations there was Bethel. These roots, our roots, run deep. From the visionary group that organized the church to the dedicated members who raised the money to purchase the original property to Albert Lee to Emma Bridgewater to Cecil D. Nelson to Hester Suggs to Paul Lawrence Pepe to Anna Scott Walls to 4 of the Ellis Drive 6, these roots, our roots run deep. It was through the hard work of the aforementioned men and women that our church could thrive and survive though the Civil War, Reconstruction, Post Reconstruction, 2 World Wars, the Korean War, the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements, the Vietnam War, the Post-Civil Rights era of Reagan, Bush I and Bush II, the war on terror, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Era of Trump. **These roots, our roots run deep**.

As we celebrate our 160th year, we have embraced the theme **Rooted in Faith...Honoring the Legacy**" based on *Psalm* 78:2-7 because we do not simply stand of the legacies and strength of those who now occupy the great cloud of witnesses, but we also uphold their legacy by continuing to show up in the world in a manner that honors God and edifies the community. From our robust youth and teenager ministries to the ways in which current members participate in civil engagement, we have just as many reasons to be proud of who we are now as who were then. Beloved family, not only did we survive 2 years of a global pandemic, civil unrest, and government maleficence, but we emerged stronger, wiser, and closer to God. Truly, in a world that seeks to suffocate us and hinder our growth, Bethel has become the place where people can breathe and grow.

As the 60th person sent by God to Pastor this great congregation, please allow me to offer my sincerest congratulations and blessings on achieving this amazing milestone. Let us continue together to be rooted in faith, honoring the legacy and being a vital part of not only Champaign County but the world!

To God be the Glory

K-T- (. Tr-

Rev. Terrance L. Thomas

African Methodist Episcopal Church Illinois Conference North District

Rev. Tyson J. Parks, Presiding Elder

1609 Glenview Avenue ~ Danville, Illinois 61832 Cell: 217-369-3920 ~ Fax: 217-442-8772 Email: eldert.parks/@comeast.net

Website: ilnorthdistrict.org

March 29, 2023

The Notable Nece

To Pastor Terrance L. Thomas and the Bethel Church Family -

The first lady and I congratulate you for 160 years of service as the oldest Black church in the Champaign County area. You are the recipients of a legacy of faith, trust and obedience of those elergy and lay persons who have gone before you. Looking back, we see the many miracles that God has bestowed on Bethel and how He has kept you to this present hour. I know that God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and His wonders, He will continually perform as we continue to trust Him. To God be the glory for His undying favor.

Your rich history bares testimony of God's favor upon your journey from past to the present. Remember what our Lord and Savior Jesus said, ... "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

We pray that God's Light will shine brightly upon you as you grow and advance in service to His People. Thanks be to God for your undying faith.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Tyson J. Parks North District Presiding Elder

Pearly M. Parks

Mrs. Pearly M. Parks North District First Lady

TJP/PMP:ifs



St. Paul-Des Moines Ward Chapel-Peoria St. Peter-Decatur Bethel-Champaign Wayman-Bloomington Alien Chapel-Danville Bethel-Davenport Bethel-Des Moines Gaines Chapel-East Moline Allen Chapel-Galesburg Bethel-Quincy St. John-Burlington New Journey-Moline Bethel-Jowa City Bethel-Jacksonville St. James-Monmouth



Fourth Episcopal District of the AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BISHOP JOHN FRANKLIN WHITE, PRESIDING PRELATE

Conferences: Canadian • Chicago • Illinois • India • Indiana • Michigan

Bongratulations!

Blessings to The Rev. Terrance L. Thomas and the members of

Bethel AME Church in Champaign, IL

Congratulations as you celebrate your 160th Year Church Anniversary. May you continue to be blessed by your faithfulness throughout the generations as you work to build God's Kingdom. We pray that God's Light will shine brightly upon you as you grow and advance in service to His People.

Bishop John and Supervisor Penny

Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White Episcopal Supervisor

Bishop John Franklin White Presiding Prelate, Fourth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church



Bishop Richard Allen House - 4448 South Michigan Avenue - Chicago, Illinois 60653 Phone: (773) 955-9825 - Fax: (773) 955-9840 - AME4th.org



Office of the Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin

400 S Vine St • Urbana IL 61801 • (217) 384-2457 • dwmarlin@urbanaillinois.us

Greetings from the Mayor April 5, 2023

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and all of those celebrating the 160th Anniversary Celebration. Congratulations on reaching this exciting milestone.

Since its origin in 1863, Bethel has been a warm and accepting home to many across the Urbana-Champaign community; a church where everybody is somebody. This is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on and be proud of the many accomplishments that Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has made, and look forward to continued blessings.

Again, congratulations, and please accept my best wishes for a memorable time of celebration and fellowship, and thank you for the unwavering commitment to the spiritual growth of the greater Urbana and Champaign community.

Sincerely,

Siane morge marlin

Diane Wolfe Marlin Mayor



urbanaillinois.us



THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ACKNOWLEDGES

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

IN RECOGNITION OF CELEBRATING ITS 160TH ANNIVERSARY. 1863 - 2023.

AND EXTENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL THE CONGREGATION ON THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

OFFERED BY: SENATOR PAUL FARACI

Sunday Morning Worship Speaker Rev. Dr. Micheal Smith



Rev. Dr. Micheal A. Smith, JD, D. Min., BCC is the Bishop Anderson House Chaplain serving the trauma, burn and critical care units of John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. Rev. Smith has earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Howard University in Washington, DC.; a Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio; and a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. He is an ordained Itinerate Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and has served in parish ministry in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. His professional and community memberships include the Association of Professional Chaplains and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is currently studying Spanish to better provide spiritual care and support to the significant Spanish speaking community that utilizes the community hospital he serves. He is guided by 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.





Master of Ceremony Matthew White

Matthew White is a Morning & Midday Anchor at WCIA 3 News. He is an Indiana native who graduated from Indiana State University in 2017. Before graduating, he got his first job in news at WTHI-TV in Terre Haute, Indiana. During his time there, he served as an evening newscast editor. Matthew's first News anchor job came in Bowling

Green, Kentucky at WNKY in 2019. In the year he was there, he served as the Morning and Midday Anchor. Matthew would also report stories for the Midday show each day. In 2020, Matthew accepted a Morning and Midday Anchor position at KCAU in Sioux City, Iowa. While in Iowa, he covered the Iowa caucus and even volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club. Matthew also took on a "little" through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Siouxland organization.

As far as passions go, Matthew loves to volunteer, watch movies, listen to music and travel. He also has a cat named Reese, who was named after his favorite candy Reese's Cups. You can catch him alongside Karina Rubio on The Morning Show every weekday morning.

Comedian Chris Hightower

Chris Hightower @funnychigh is a Danville native that is very active in his community. He loves C-U Comedy and started his own showcase in his hometown of Danville — Funny First Friday, featuring comedians who have performed nationally and internationally. Providing Danville with a fun, fast-paced urban comedy shows in a classy upscale environment, Hightower has been involved with some great rooms bringing that fun to local venues.



Chris has done fundraiser shows that require "clean" material and he is able to do it terrifically switching gears to appeal to several types of audiences.



DJ Dante Scott

Dante Scott (DJ Slim) @thereal_dislim is a Champaign native and radio personality for WEFT 90.1. He is one of many local DJ's that contributes his time to the Hip Hop Express. Hip Hop Xpress brings programming such as spoken word, RC cars, and boombox design to youth in historically excluded areas. Scott says, "If you want to see change in the community, you've got to get out and start doing stuff."



Reunion Choir

Bethel has always been blessed musically and has been fortunate in the quality of its choirs. Joining us this weekend is our present choir members along with choir members who have returned to help us celebrate special occasion.

Banks, Deborah

Blank, Deborah

Chatman, Jimmie

Gay, Benita Rollins

Harmon, Elaine

Hudson, Clarence

Hursey, Paul Jr

Hursey, Shirley

Ingram, Darnell

Jeanette Donaldson

Kinney, Curtis

Lomax, Leon C,

Lomax-Cobb, Kimberly

Lomax-Kinney, Anita

Mason, Barbara Suggs

Maze, Vuanita Battle

Meares, Dr. Henry

Peacock, Calvin

Phillips, Melva

Purdie, Benjamin

Sappington, Nafisah Freeman

Stiggers, Nonita

Stratton, Dennis

Townsend, Marsha K

Turner, Kenneth

Walker-Freeman, Shirley

Washington, Earl

Washington, Traniece

Winrow, Ramona Suggs

PRESENT CHOIR MEMBERS

Carter, Elaine

Hayes, James H., Jr.

Henderson Lovia

Hendrix, John

Hines, Kevin

Lomax, Debrae

Lotts, Donte

Marshall, Shirley

Pope, Katherine

Renfro, William V.

Roberts, Patricia

Turner-Winston, Ronnie

Polly Washington

Acknowledgements

The Bethel AME Church Family would like to thank each of you for helping us celebrate our 160th Church Anniversary. A "Special Thank You" to:

Rev. Terrance L. Thomas

2023 Anniversary Steering Committee (The BAMEC Steward Board)

Rev. Elexis Wilson

The BAMEC Culinary Staff

The BAMEC Trustee Board

The BAMEC YPD

The BAMEC Music Ministry

Debrae Lomax ~ Gala Venue Coordinator & Decorations

Benita Rollins Gay ~ Corsages & Boutonnieres

The CityView Banquet Staff

Ronnie Turner-Winston ~ Anniversary T-shirt Designs

Deborah Banks & Polly Washington ~ Reunion Choir Coordinators

Dr. Barbara Suggs Mason & Angela Rivers ~ Historical Trail Presentation

Washington Investments ~ Anniversary Book

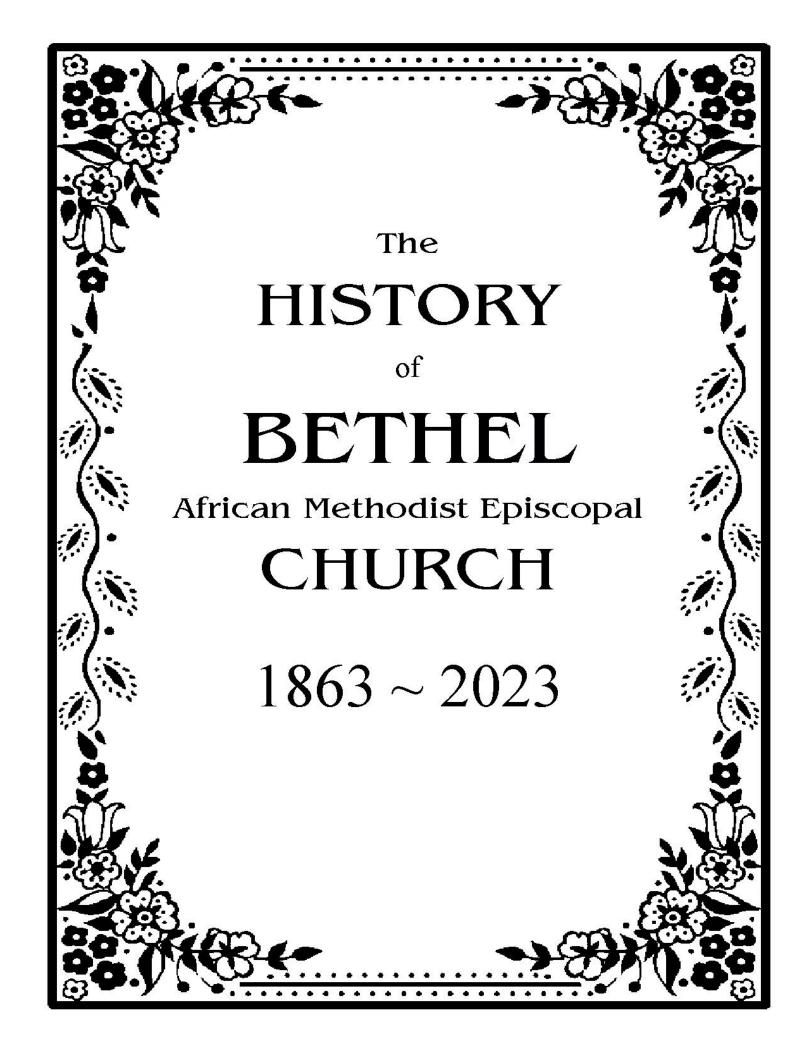


RICHARD ALLEN 1760 - 1831

Before going into the History of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, it is only fitting that we mention the person who made it all possible. Richard Allen, the founder and first Bishop of the AME Church who was an extraordinary organizer and minister.

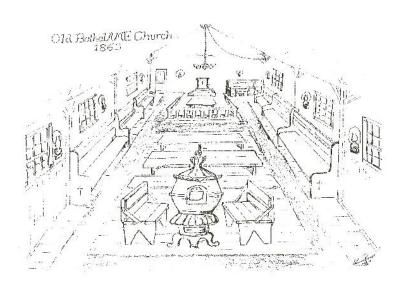
On Sunday in November 1787, Richard Allen and several of his friends, rebelled against the increasing restrictions of segregation that were

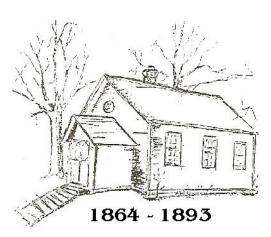
imposed upon their rights to worship in St. George's, one of Philadelphia's leading Methodist Churches. Richard Allen led an exodus of blacks from the church and set about organizing a new denomination - "The African Methodist Episcopal Church." In less than two years, Richard Allen and his group had constructed a new church called "Bethel". In 1816, Richard Allen was the prime mover in calling together sixteen independent black Methodist congregations from different states and organizing them into one group. Richard was elected the first Bishop of this new denomination.

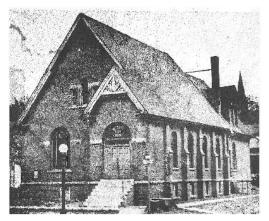


Bethel AME Church

Worship Centers from 1863-2023











1959 - 2017



2017 - present





HISTORY

Since neither Bethel Church records nor Quarterly Conference minutes before 1800 are available, the time of Bethel's founding has been determined from the history of Champaign County which shows that the church was organized in 1863. The Quarterly Conference Journal of 1891 stated that the Church was 28 years old. Using this date, the time of origin would be 1863.

In 1864, a small group of people, who had been holding prayer meetings and other religious meetings in their homes, got together and raised funds in the amount of \$600 and erected a small frame building on the property of Mr. Jake Taylor at 405 E. Park Avenue.13 years later, in 1877, the property at the southeast corner of Fourth and Park Streets was purchased and the frame building at 405 E. Park Avenue was moved to 401 E. Park Avenue, making both building and ground the property of Bethel A. M. E. Church.

Bethel has a history which includes activity in the community as well as in the church. During the early part of the century when segregation was a fact of life, Bethel maintained a park for the neighborhood children on Ellis Street equipped with volleyball, croquet and tennis. The church also maintained a Reading Center located in the 100 block of East University Avenue in Champaign. The church also established a library, had a church orchestra, and served as a meeting place for Black students attending the University of Illinois.

The church has had many active groups which include the Steward Board, the Trustee Board, the Stewardess Board, the Sunday School, the Lay Organization, the Helping Hand Club, the Fleur de Lis Club, the Luana Riley Women's Missionary Society, the Usher Board, the Willing Workers Club, the Men's Club, Men's Bible Study, Biblical Arts Players, Benevolent Committee, the YPD, Adult/Youth/Young Adult Choirs, Women's Ministry, Temple Shapers, Fitness Club, Calendar Club, S.O.L.D.I.E.R.S. (Step Team), Imani Liturgical Dancers, Stewardship & Finance Committee, Allen Christian Fellowship, and Scholarship Committee.

We can look back and be proud of our Bethel Family and the progress made. It is important to remember that we, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, are a growing church and that our history will never be complete. We continue to move onward and upward, in the spirit of Sankofa, so that the future generations will be proud of us, following in our footsteps and fully enjoy the blessings and glory of God.

Bethel's History con't



Rev. Derrick

Rev. Knight

Rev. J. H. W. Jackson

Bethel A. M. E. Church Ministers



Rev. Rinehart

1863 - 2023

1863-1892 - First Church

Rev. A. Burleigh

Rev. George T. Shaw

*2005						
Rev. J. W. Jackson	Rev. William J. Davis	Rev. Henry Depugh	Rev. Campbell			
Rev. Richard Holley	Rev. Charles Holmes	Rev. E. P. Moore	Rev. Harry Lackey			
1892-1959 – Second Church						
Rev. Harry Lackey	Rev. Levi P. Cristy	Rev. J. A. Sherman	Rev. T. H. Stoner			
Rev. Peyton M. Lewis	Rev. George Christbrugh	Rev. Edward King	Rev. M. C. Wright			
Rev. Jesse E. Woods	Rev. Andrew T. Jackson	Rev. George W. Jones	Rev. T. S. Henderson			
Rev. F. T. Harvey	Rev. George W. Jones	Rev. J. W. Wiley	Rev. John W. Wright			
Rev. Peter Cooper	Rev. John H. Smith	Rev. Charles E. Brooks	Rev. Elsie Taborn			
Rev. Benjamin Arnett	Rev. Henry W. Jameson	Rev. C. O. Mitchell	Rev. Andrew R. Parks			
Rev. Henry Simons	Rev. E. G. Jackson	Rev. Isaac S. Stone	Rev. C. M. Curry			

1959-2017 - Third Church

Rev. C. M. Curry (1959-1961)	Rev. Clarence E. Carr (1974-1977)	Rev. Steven A. Jackson (1990-1994)
Rev. Blaine Ramsey (1961-1967)	Rev. A. C. Wright (1977-1983)	Rev. John Nettles, Jr. (1994-1995)
Rev. W. R. Stewart (1967-1970)	Rev. John Q. Owens (1983-1984)	Rev. Charles B. Jackson (1995-2002)
Rev. William N. Guy (1970-1971)	Rev. Alfred E. Johnson (1984-1988)	Rev. Gregory Wilson (2002-2004)
Rev. H. H. Walker (1971-1974)	Rev. H. H. Walker(1988-1990)	Rev. Roosevelt Lindsey, Jr. (2004-2007)
		Rev. Larry D. Lewis (2007-2019)

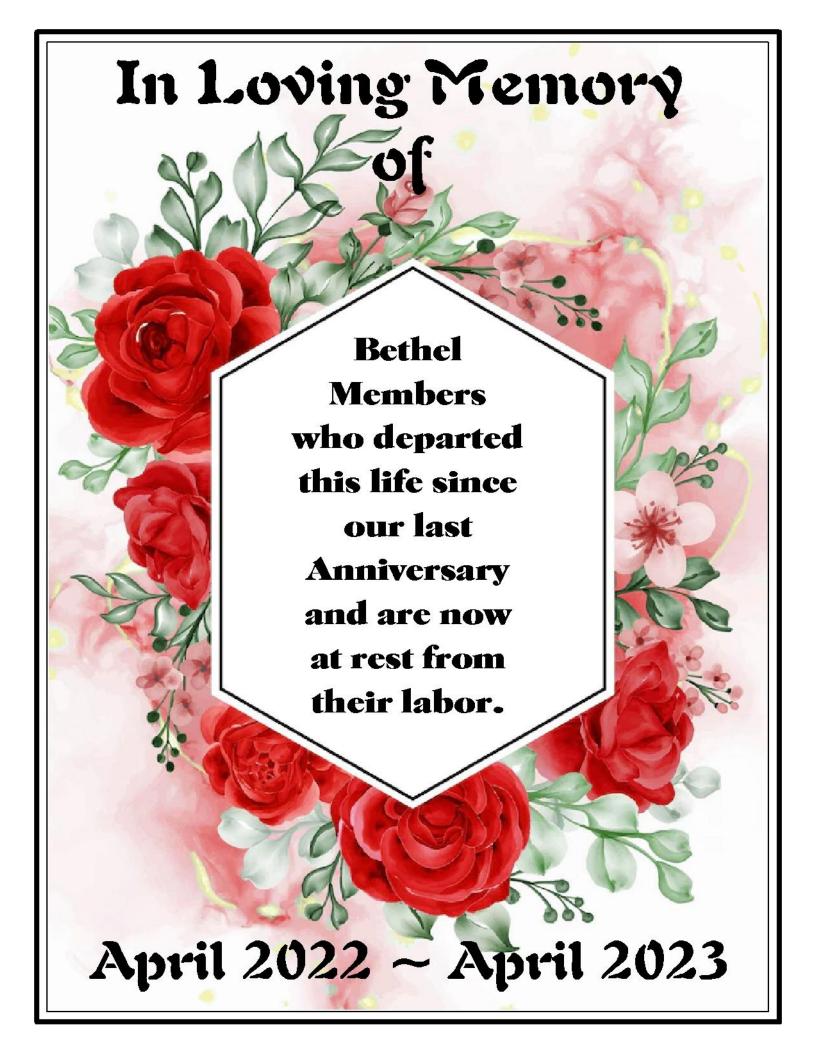
2017-Present - Fourth Church

Rev. Larry D. Lewis (2007-2019) Rev. Terrance L. Thomas (2019-present)

Rev. R. H. Hackley

Ministerial Staff

Rev. O. G. Munroe (1984-2008)	Deacon Charles Butts (1999-2001)	Rev. Eugene Barnes (2001 - 2002)
Rev. Brenda Wilson (2002-2005)	Rev. Robin Barrow (2003-2005)	Rev. Felix Ahkimie (2015-2019)
Bro Prince Robertson (2015-2020)	Rev. Obje Madison (2016-present)	





James McGavock 7/13/1931 - 6/1/2022 age 90



Estelle Merrifield 7/4/1926 - 7/31/2022 age 96



Charles McMullen 4/15/1954 - 8/24/2022 age 68



Lillian Nichols 10/31/1927 - 12/19/2022 age 95



Florence Ransom 8/20/1929 - 1/5/2023 age 93

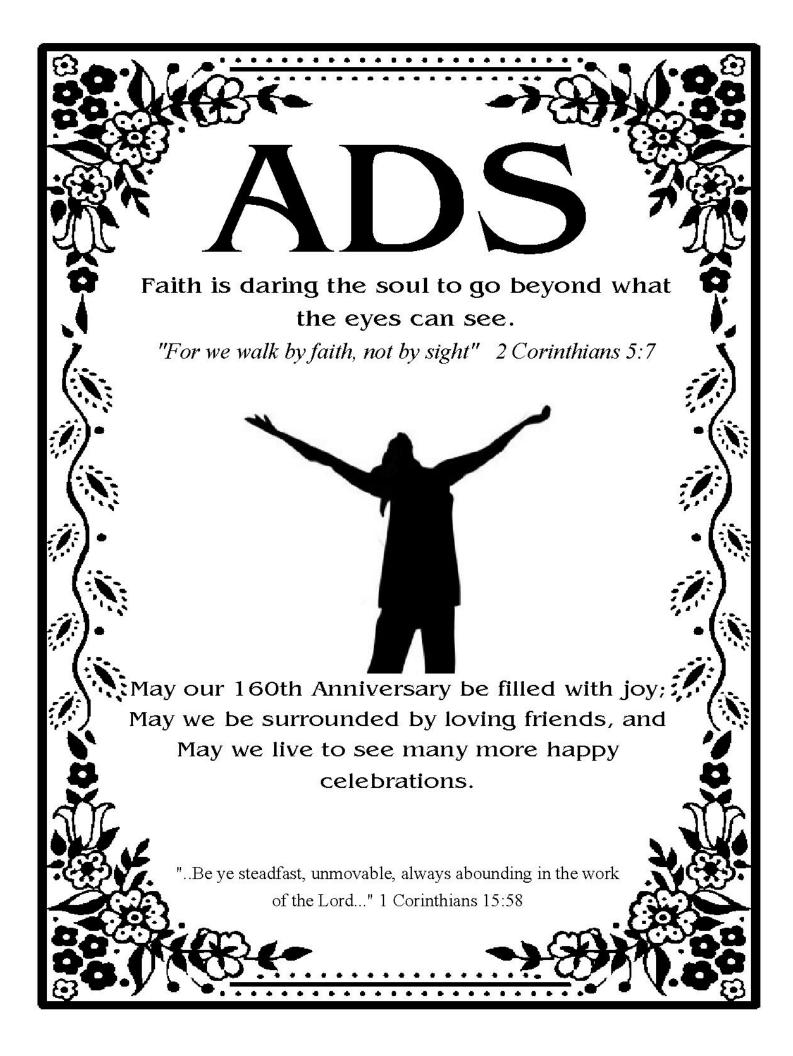


Dawson Banks III 8/3/1954 - 2/27/2023 age 68



Ludwig Warner 2/24/1930 - 3/11/2023 age 93

Memories are timeless treasures of the heart





TO OUR







has blessed us to be in Christian Service to our Church and Community for

160 AMAZING YEARS
WE GIVE HIM ALL THE GLORY!!

We have chosen as our 2023 Anniversary Theme, **Rooted in Faith...**

Honoring the Legacy

to remind us that if we continue to let GOD order our steps, we can do all things through HIM.

May HE continue to be with us surrounding us with His love, wisdom and guidance.

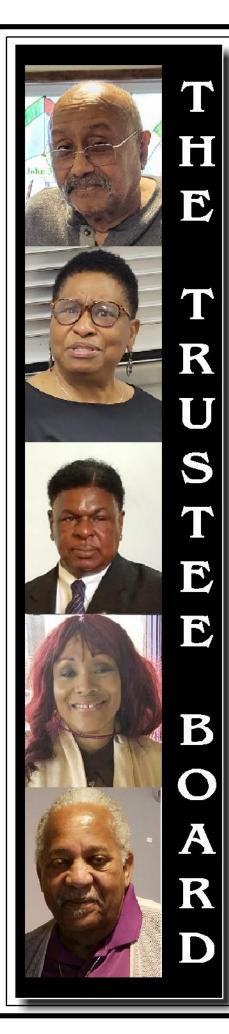


Polly Washington - Steward Pro Tem

Maria Shaw Stephanie Posey

Joycelynn Phillips Jacqueline McCall

Debrae Lomax Benita Gay



BLESSINGS & BEST WISHES



CHURCH FAMILY

As We Celebrate



Of Serving

GOD

And Our

COMMUNITY

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverb 3:5-6



Leon N. Lomax - Vice-Chair

Elaine Carter John Hendrix

Ronnie Turner-Winston Charles Phillips

BRO & SISTER AMMONS CELEBRATES BETHEL AME CHURCH'S 160TH ANNIVERSARY.



"I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
things we have heard and known, things our **ancestors** have told us.

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the **next generation**..."



CONGRATULATIONS



The House of God, 160 years

"As for me and my house we will Serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

The Lomax, Brown, Hathaway, Kinney, Wilson, Steele, Cobb Families The Champaign County Section of
The National Council of
Negro Women, Incorporated

Congratulates Bethel AME Church On Its 160 Year Anniversary!



NCNW Section IL002 P.O. Box 963, Champaign, IL 61824-0963 ncnwchampaign@gmail.com

2022-2024 Officers: President, Cynthia Biggers;
1st Vice President, Murial Jones; 2nd Vice President, Brenda Owens;
Asst. Secretary Barbara Gillespie; Treasurer, Kathy Caston; Financial Secretary, Daphne Heath;

*** Monthly Meetings: 2nd Saturdays, September-June, 3pm., Bethel AME Church ***

CONGRATULATIONS





From the Sunday School

Debrae Lomax Katherine Pope Mary Haywood Benson Nafisah Freeman Donte Lotts Stephanie Posey Leon N. Lomax



"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 KJV







and thankful as we celebrate 160 years of rich Musical History



Estelle C. Merrifield Congratulations



Bethel AME Champaign

160th Anniversary



In Coving Memory of Mom

A Grandmother

A Sister

An Aunt

Member of Bethel's Historian Team

"I will Bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

Leom N. and Debrae A. Lomax



CONGRATULATIONS

BETHEL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating
160 Years
of
Service

CONGRATULATIONS

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Celebrating

160 Years of Service

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA UNIT

BOARD MEMBERS 2022

DONNA CREMENS, VINNIE EWING, BETH CHATO, SANDRA CARR,

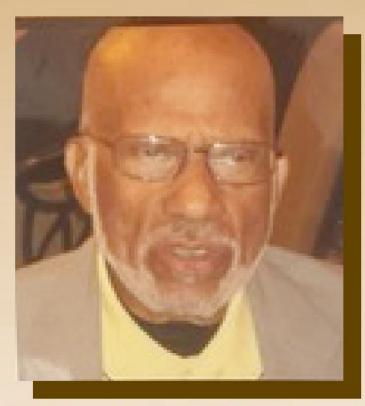
KATHY LOCKETT, BARBARA WUEBBLES, MARY BENSON, REV. DEBORAH OWEN,

REV. JACQUI MINOR, SUSAN RYAN, BERNIE CHAMBERLAIN



April 30, 2023

C O N G R



BETHEL AME CHAMPAIGN

160th Anniversary

In Living Tribute to Dad, Grandfather, Friend

David R. Phillips

Bethel Treasurer, 15 years

Isaiah 40:31: "but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Leon N and Debrae A Lomax

We thank God for giving us another year in ministry and for His continued provisions.

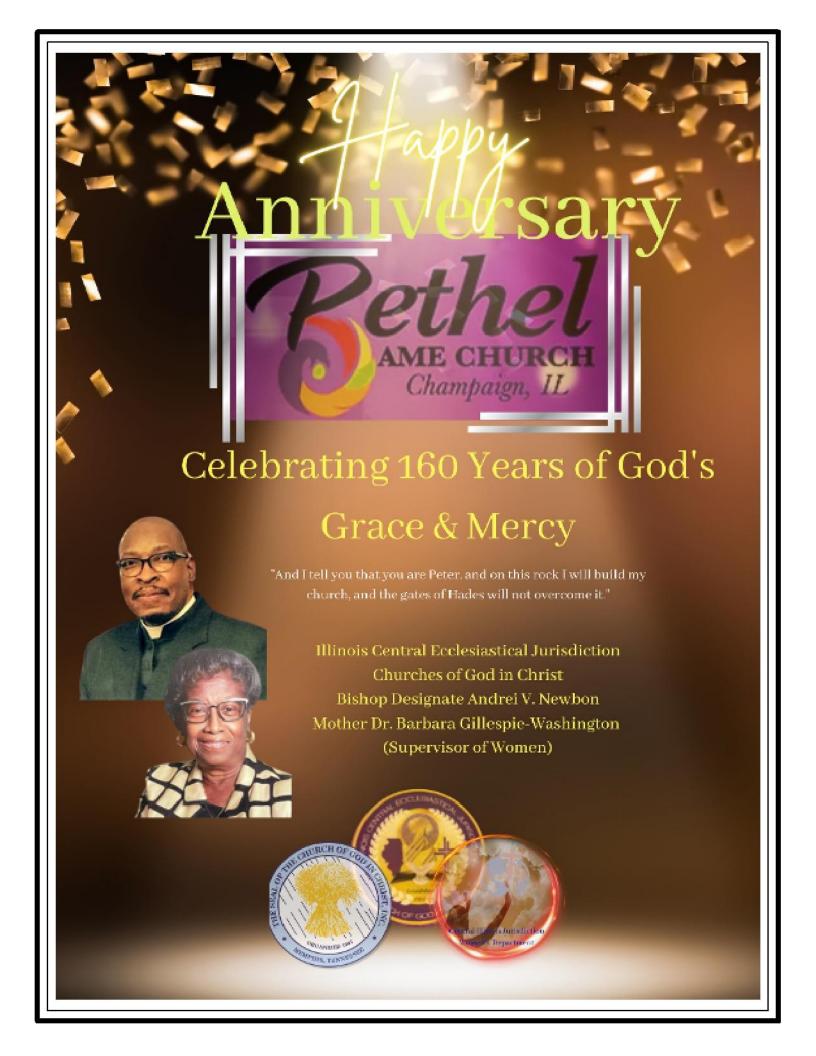
Bethel AME Culinary Ministry







A CHEARS ANNIVERSARY



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

My Husband EUGENE L. WASHINGTON



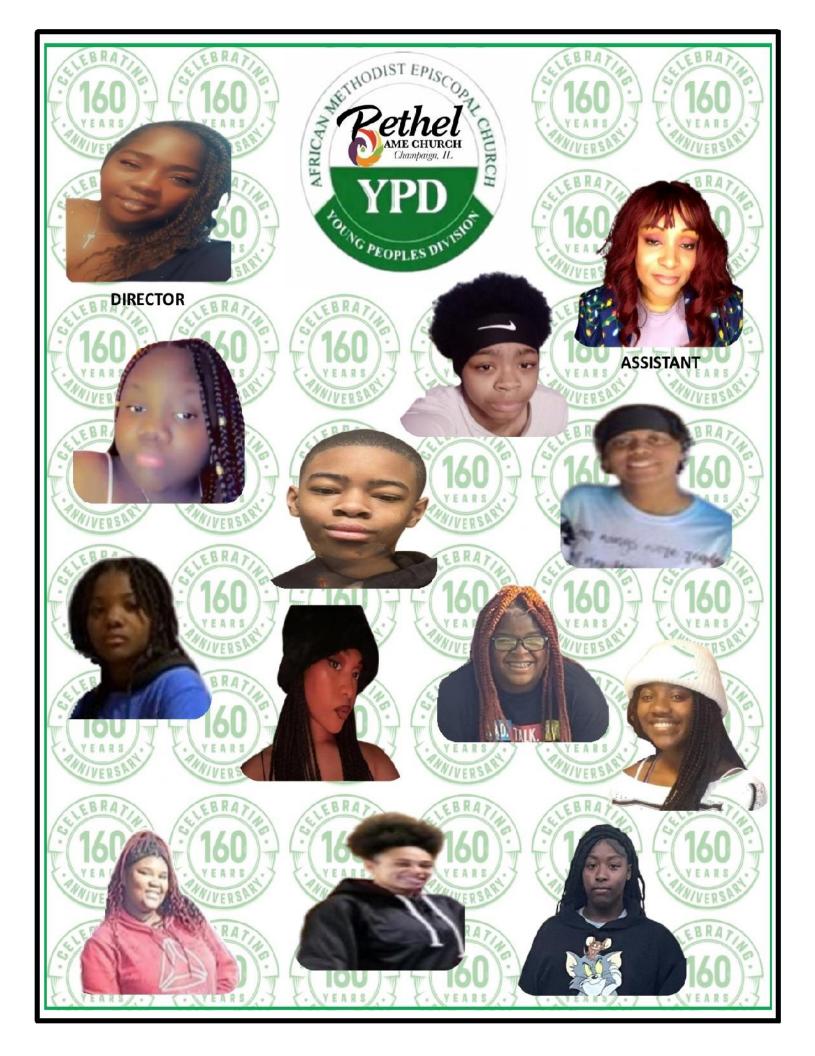
GOD's blessings to my Bethel Family as we celebrate

160 years of ministry

in the Champaign-Urbana Community

"...Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Polly Washington





Bethel's Organized Lay

Congratulates

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Champaign IL for

160 Years of Service

President

Mary Haywood-Benson Rev. Terrance Thomas **Pastor**

Congratulations

BETHEL AME CHURCH CHAMPAIGN. ILLINOIS



Metro Area Professional Organization

'One Ready to Serve the People in Need"

The Hungry The Homeless The Unclothed

We are ready to give

Love, Hope, and Help

to Those in Distress. We are for Humanity

Co-Founders

Rev. Dr. John Q. Owens, Emeritus A.M.E.C. Dr. Dorothy Owens

IN LOVING V emoly



Mrs. Claudette Arrington



Tracey Williams

The Arringtons wishes the Bethel AME Church Family 160 more years

Peace and Blessings
Love
Andre Arrington



Leek and Sons Funeral Home J. Carlyle Leek, Founder

Timothy L. Leek Sr. icensed Funeral Director/Own

Licensed Funeral Director/Owner
304 E. Williams Street Danville, IL 61832
(217) 442-2667

Roy Cummings II

Licensed Funeral Director 1215 W. Bradley Ave Urbana, IL (217) 337-5335 (LEEK)

www.leekandsonsfuneralhome.com

Congratulations Champaign, IL

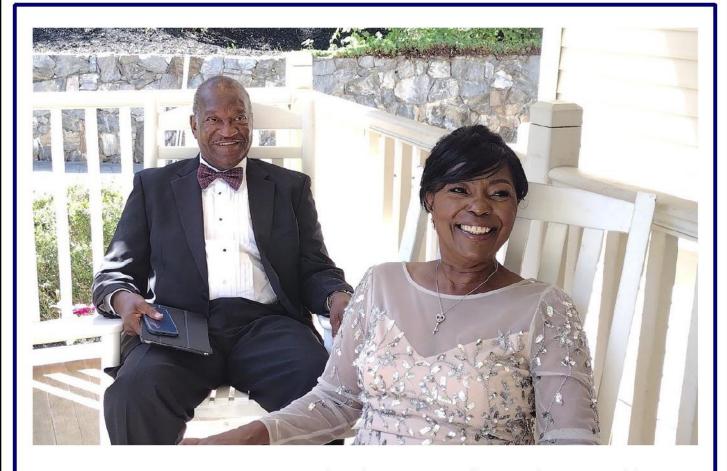
on your 160th Church Anniversary





GOD'S BLESSINGS BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH ON YOUR 160 YEARS' ANNIVERSARY

Shahidah Sanchez & Family



To our former Bethel AME Church Family CONGRATULATIONS

on your celebrating the

160th Anniversary

of this great church. We thank God for allowing you to faithfully serve HIM in the Champaign-Urbana Community for the past 160 years May this celebration be a testament to what a **Great God** can do with faithful people who will allow themselves to be greatly used by **HIM**.

WHAT A BLESSING! TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!

Rev. Larry & Delores Lewis
Richmond, TX

Congratulations

TO THE MEMBERS OF BETHEL AME CHURCH

for being faithful servants of our LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

Your obedience to Him has allowed you to be here at this time celebrating 160 years in His service.



Susie Wheeler, son Dennis and daughter Kianna
Grandchildren ~ Denise, Josiah, Saniya, Joshua, Zachariah, and Isaiah
Los Angeles, CA



CONGRATULATIONS BETHEL AME CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY

Rooted in Faith....
Honoring the Legacy

Freddye Mae Wheeler & Son Adrian Chicago, IL

CONGRATULATIONS

On Your 160th Church Anniversary

IN LOVING MEMORY

Son Terry Marshall



Husband



John Stanley Marshall



Mother Ruth S. Gray







Uncle Kenneth O. Stratton

Although you couldn't be with us, we know you're watching from heaven.

You will be with us in our hearts and minds on this very

special occasion and always.

Shirley Marshall

CONGRATULATIONS

BETHEL on 160 Years of Service!

Memory &

Cecil and Carrie Nelson

Allen Rivers, Jr.

Donna K. Butts

Estelle Merrifield

Eugene and Hester Suggs

Eunice Rivers

You left a path for us to follow.

May your Spirit continue to Guide.

With the Lord who goes before us.

In Him we will abide.

Ella Washington-Grandmother

Ella Washington-Grandmother
Eugene S. Washington-Father
Ellis Washington-Uncle
Eugene L. Washington-Brother

Congratulations on 160 Years!

-Elaine Harmon

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST AT

BETHEL AME

FOR 160 YEARS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY AND SERVICE.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU

AND MAKE YOU A BLESSING.



'Do Justice. Love Mercy. Walk humbly with God.' Micah 6:8





Elawrence and Angela Davis Waldorf, MD

HAPPY 160TH ANNIVERSARY Rethel

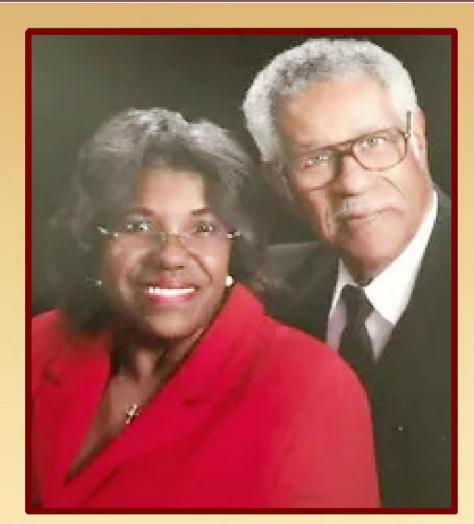
Champaign, IL



May God continue to smile on you for many more years to come!

Geno & Cynthia Lewis, Chicago, IL

C O N G R A A T 0 N S



160 years of God's Blessings!!!

Rev. Dr. John Q. & Dorothy Owens

former Pasor and First Lady of Bethel AME Church - Champaign, IL 1983-1984

God's Blessings Bethel on Our 160th Church Anniversary

May the light of God, lead us.

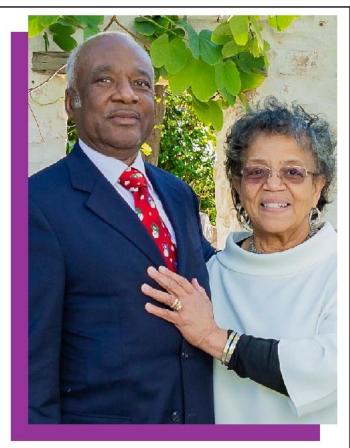
May the love of God, enfold us.

May the power of God,

provide strength for us.



Love is a journey guided by the grace of God. May God's grace and mercy comtinue to surround us.



Dennis & Jackie Matthews

Our Hearts are filled with Joy



as we congratulate



on its 160TH ANNIVERSARY

The Sanders Family ~ Frank, Pru, Brooke, & Grant Mesa, Arizona

Rethel AME CHURCH Champaign, IL

Usher Board Ministry

Proudly Celebrates our 160th Church Anniversary

DOORKEEPER

IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THAN

TO DWELL IN THE TENTS OF WICKEDNESS

(Psalm 84:10)



Julia Gibson



Brenda Voner President



Charles M. Winfrey



Jacqueline Matthews



Jacqueline McCall

THE STEWARDESS BOARD



Mae Donaldson



Nina Hewitt



Janet Lunn



Eunice Rivers



To Our



Family

We thank and praise **GOD** for the blessings **He** has bestowed upon us for 160 years.

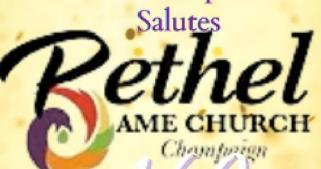
We rest in **His Word** that **He** will continue to bless us
as we continue to **SERVE HIM**.

"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." [Psalm 65:11]

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.



Liberty Temple Global Ministries Women's Department



-wister gary



Dr. Barbara Gillespie-Washington Women's Department President

Towing Solliemory



Ellis Washington Uncle



Eva Taylor Washington Mother



Eugene S.
Washington
Father



Ella Washington Grandmother



Eugene L. Washington Brother



Congratulations Bethel AME Church on celebrating 160 years.

May your spiritual & community service continue for years to come.

The Washington Family

Congratulations

on 160 years in ministry

Loving Memory



Hefred E.

ohnson

former Pasor of Bethel AME Church Champaign, Illinois ~ 1984-1988

Joyce Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

160TH ANNIVERSARY



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." (Probverbs 3:5-6)

Benita Rollins-Gay
Jonte Rollins
Jasmine Gay
Javarius Gay

O N G R A T U L A O N

BETHEL

on your

160th Anniversary

May GOD bless you with many more





Carol Johnson

Blessings



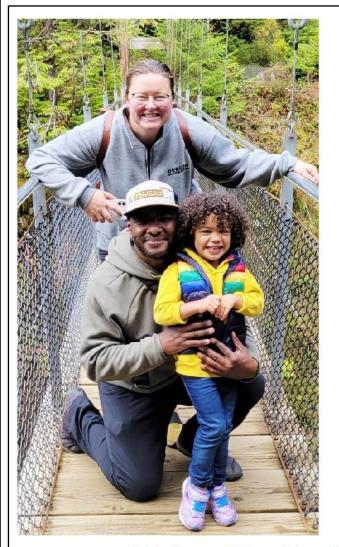


Serving God's People and the Community

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

L.C. & Elaine Owens





GOD'S Continual Blessings To



Giving thanks for my Bethel Family as we celebrate



"In all things, give thanks to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!" Ephesians 5:20

Dr. Dennis D., Suzanne, & Millie Matthews
Beaverton, Oregon

CONGRATULATIONS BETHEL AME CHURCH ON YOUR MANY YEARS OF LONGEVITY



OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OF

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

508 EAST PARK STREET, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

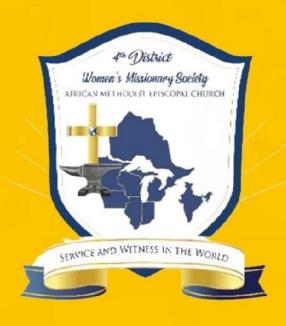
MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS

CONTINUE TO OVERFLOW



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

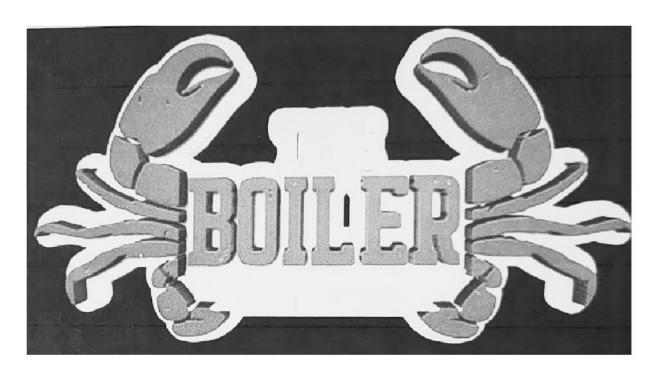
LOUANA RTLEY
WOMEN'S
MISSTONARY
SOCIETY



We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.

CONGRATULATIONS BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

160TH



The Boiler Seafood And Crab Boil Atlanta

2425 Piedmont Road NE Atlanta, GA 30324 (404) 254-1428

https://www.theboileratlanta.com OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK MONDAY-THURSDAY 2PM-12AM FRIDAY-SATURDAY 12PM-1AM SUNDAY 12PM-12AM

Javarius Gay, CEO

Congratulations on your 160 years of service to God and to the community.

You have been a harbor of safety and hope through the era of legal segregation and remain a beacon of courage and faithfulness that calls us all to do better.



Following Christ

Nurturing Community
Seeking a Just Peace



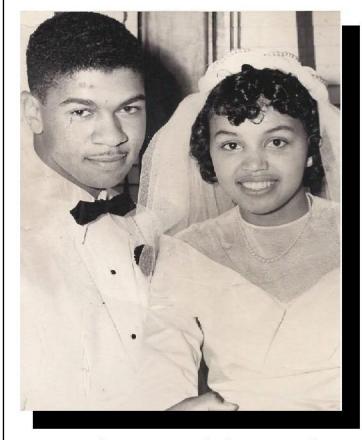
Happy 160th Anniversary

BETHEL

Dr. & Mrs Preston L. Willams, Jr.







Congratulations
Rev. Terrance L. Thomas
and
The Officers and Members of

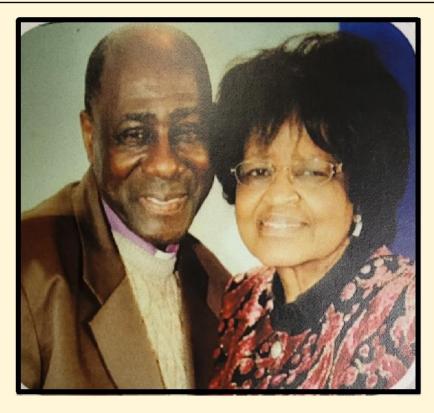
On your 160th Anniversary

Bethel A.M.E. Church

On Eving
Coving
Memory
of our parents

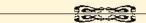
Raymond Eugene and Hester Barbara Suggs

Dr. Barbara Suggs Mason



Congratulations Bethel AMIE Church

As you celebrate your 160th Anniversary, reflecting back on all that GOD has brought you through, while moving forward rooted in faith.



"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

St. John 3:16-17 (KJV)



Dr. Bishop King James & Rev. Dr. Evelyn Burnett Underwood

God's Blessings As we Celebrate



Bethel AME 160 years of Service





Alma Faye Mother



William Q. Father





Lisa Faye Sister Renee Wife



William V. Renfro

Wishes to Wishes to you on 160 years as a faithful congregation!

Rooted in faith honoring the legacy... Psalm 78:2-7



Disciples of Christ Community
Church
Champaign



for shining the light and bringing hope for 160 Years.

Your Neighbors, Kenwood and Lori Sullivan



We celebrate and honor the 160th Anniversary of Bethel A.M.E. Church!

We praise God for providing this church the spiritual foundation for the entire Pope family since it's very beginning.

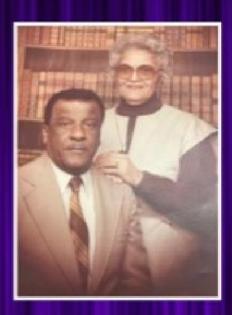
We thank God for our Grandma and Grandpa for demonstrating service to God, to the church, and to the larger community.

With Much Love,

Ruth Marie Pope Angela Pope Paula S. Pope

In Loving Memory of

Our grandparents
George L. and Bernice R. Pope,
and our father
Anthony E. Pope.





the Anthony E. Pope Family

T H E

W

ILLING WORKER

S

L

U

B

Congratulations Bethel on 160 years



As I look back over the 160 years, there were always groups that looked to see how they could help with the upkeep of the church. The Willing Workers Club was one of those groups. Although the Club does not exist today, I want to pay tribute to those women (both living and deceased) who so diligently and willingly served by giving of their time, talents, and finances.

Thank you so much!

Dr. Dennis D. Matthews

THE FAMILY OF

CECIL AND ALICE POPE

CONGRATULATES

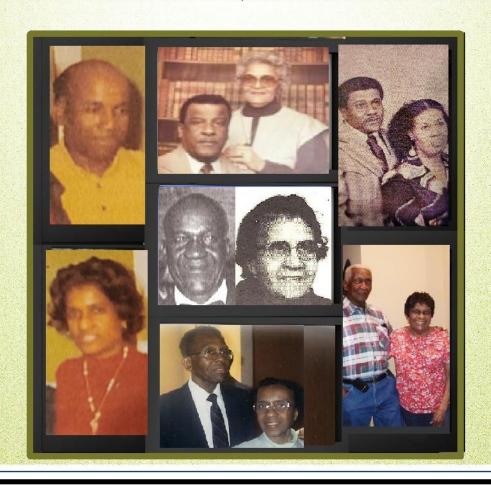


ON 160 YEARS OF MINISTRY.



WE DO SO IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF

GEORGE & BERNICE POPE, CECIL ALLEN POPE
CARRIE & NATHANIEL BANKS, SARAH POTTER
LAWRENCE PAUL & GLADYS POPE, AND LEON & ESTHER SCROGGINS



CONGRATULATIONS



ON CELEBRATING 160 YEARS OF MINISTRY



872 ROSEDALE TERRACE CRETE, ILLINOIS

Heidi Marshall

IN Tribute TO



Eugene L. Washington



Willie T. Summerville

CONGRATULATIONS BETHEL AME on 160 years of ministry

Two icons

who saw more talent and abilities in young people than they saw in themselves.

In the words of
Maya Angelou,
"People will forget what
you said,
People will forget what
you did,
But people will never
forget how you made
them feel."

Dr. Henry & Dr.Paula Meares and Shannon McCain Families

WARD CHAPEL AME CHURCH congratulates

Bethel AME Church Champaign, IL on their 160th Church Anniversary!

Ward Chapel AME Church 511 N. Richard Allen Dr. Peoria, IL 61605 (309) 676-1348 wardchapelame@yahoo.com







Rev. Adrian L. Johnson,
Pastor

CONGRATULATIONS

BETHEL AME CHURCH

for

160 YEARS OF MINISTRY



701 Devonshire Dr., Ste. B11 Champaign IL 61820-7328 (217) 351-7580; (217) 351-7706

In Loving Memory of



William Q. Renfro



Alma Faye Renfro



Fern Forney



Congratulations to

Bethel A. M. E. Church

on your

Legacy of 160 years of Service

to the

Champaign County Community.

"Families are like branches on a tree, we grow in differenct directions yet our roots remain as pme."



The Earnest-Broyles-Nelson-Anderson-Scott-Chavous Family (EbNAsC)



CONGRATULATES REV. TERRANCE THOMAS AND BETHEL AME CHURCH

ON 160 YEARS
OF JOYFUL WORSHIP
AND SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

"Behold how good and how pleasant It Is for brothers and sisters to dwell together In peace"- Psalm 133

CONGRATULATIONS



on your

160th

Church Anniversary

We thank you for your service
to this community and
for the many lives you have touched
down through the years.
May God's grace and mercy
continue to surround you as you look
ahead to ministering
to future generations

The Alvin Griggs Family

Congratulations to the Bethel AME Church family in Champaign IL for 160 years of stellar service to God and the Kingdom!

From
Rev. Dr. Carol W Echols
and the Officers of
Visions AME Church –
Houston

c/o 16411 Mahogany Drive Missouri City, TX 77489











Thomas Pelmore

President

Mini Landscaping Co. Inc.

Go With The Best

P.O. Box 6898 Champaign, IL 61826 Phone: (217) 359-4442

Congratulations BETHEL AME CHURCH on your 160th Church Anniversary

Congratulations



May GOD get the glory!



We are blessed to be along this Pilgrim journey!



Curtis & Anita Lomax
Kinney



May God continue to smile on us as we celebrate 160 years in His service.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Elaine Carter

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

GOD'S BLESSINGS

To our

BETHEL

Family as we celebrate our 160th Church Anniversary

LeeRoy & Jacqueline McCall



continued blessings

BETHE1

on our 160th Church Anniversary

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14



Willeta Carletta

Carlos, Jr.

Mae Donaldson & Family





CONGRATULATIONS

BETHEC

ON 160 YEARS OF MINISTRY



In Loving Memory of my

DAD, MOM & BROTHER,

DAVID, HALESTINE & DARREL SESSION

KENDAL SESSION



as we celebrate our 160th Church Anniversary



Deep in our hearts a memory is kept of their great goodness and love that we shall never forget.

In Loving Memory of our parents and son

Obie L. Phillips Sr. Sadie L. Phillips William E. Jones III

Arva M. Jones Charles Leon Phillips, Jr. M.D.

Charles L. Sr. and Joycelynn M. Phillips



Rev. Terrance L. Thomas and Bethel A.M.E. Church

on your

160th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

From

Smith Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. C. Dennis Williams, Senior Pastor Mrs. Yvette Williams, First Lady Ramona Suggs Winrow, Steward Pro-Tem







from

The Wright Family

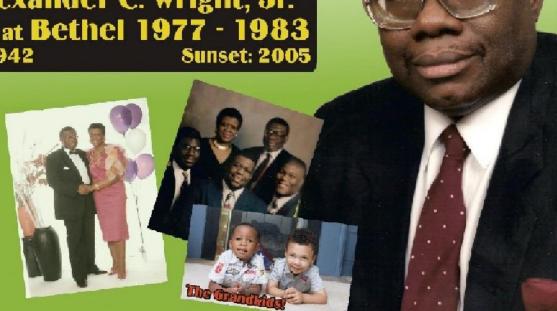
Its been 40 years since we left. We cherish the memories and we still love our church family in Champaign. We are so glad we could be apart of a glorious legacy that started long before us and continues today.



Rev. Alexander C. Wright, Jr. Pastor at Bethel 1977 - 1983 Sunrise: 1942

Father Musband Grandfather Son Brother Cousin Uncle Friend

Pastor



Congratulations

To the

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Family

Champaign, Illinois

Rev. Terrance L Thomas, Pastor

on your

160th Anniversary

Serving God's People and the World from Generation to Generation!

You are now and have always been my inspiration!

You are loved from deep in the heart of Texas!

On behalf of the William Winrow, Jr. Family

Members of

Smith Chapel AME Church,

Dallas, Texas

Ramona Suggs-Winrow,

Steward Pro-Tem

Vice-Chair Finance

Choir Director

Trustee-Paul Quinn College

State Farm Insurance Agency Owner 36 years

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Matthew 16:18

Matthew 16:18 NIV

CONGRATULATIONS 160 YEARS OF SERVICE

Church Women United, Inc.

NORTHWEST AREA

Moline/East Moline Freeport Morrison Rock Island/Milan Sterling/Rock Fall

NORTHEAST AREA

Elain/S. Elain Greater Chicago Area LaGrange/Western Springs Northwest Cook County Waukegan

EAST AREA

Champaign/Urbana Joliet Minonk Sandwich/Somanuak

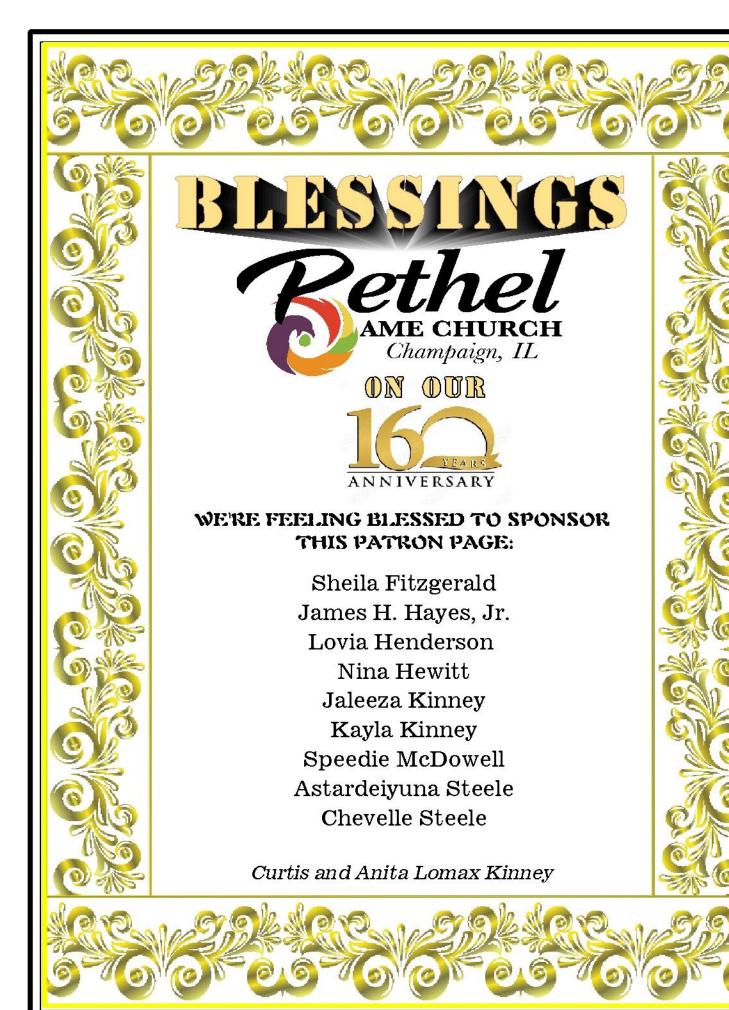
WEST AREA

Colchester Galesburg Jacksonville Monmouth Pekin Peoria Pittsfield Quincy Springfield

SOUTH AREA

Bellevile Carbondale Lebanon Centralia Edwardsville Greater Alton Pinkneyville Southwest Quad City Shipman





The Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign congratulates Bethel AME Church on 160 years of service to our community!





An intentionally inclusive community where ALL are welcomed!

Services live streamed Sunday at 10:15 AM at

www.uucuc.org/livestream-at-uucuc

309 W Green Street Urbana IL 217-384-8862 uucuc.org

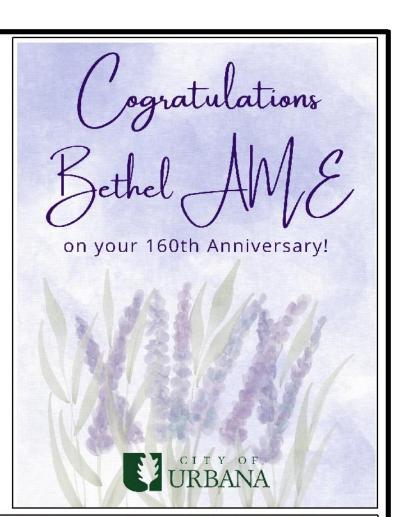




For being a light in the
Community for
160 years.
Your influence is needed
now more than ever.



Edward & Eloise Gibson Victorville, CA



Copper Creek Church congratulates Bethel AME on 160 years of ministry! We thank God for the impact you continue to have in our community in the name of Jesus. We pray for God's deep blessings on you as you begin the NEXT 160 years!



Congratulations Bethel AME-Champaign on your 160th Church Anniversary

Create an affordable price, just for you.





Joe Stovall

Agent 1401 North Prospect, Suite 8 Champaign, IL 61820-2552

Bus: 217-356-8300 Fax: 217-351-4255 joe@joestoval.com I can help you bundle your home & auto to create an affordable price, just for you. Call, click or stop by for a quote today.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Inderwrity Company, State Farm Fire and Country Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, II.

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.



On behalf of the late Rev. Blaine & Mattie Ramsey Jr. and Della-Marie Ramsey-Schaffer, Wesley Edward and I, Blaine III, join you in celebrating the 160th Anniversary of Bethel AME Church. Our home from 1963 to 1968. May God continue to bless this church and family and continue to flourish in ministry in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Blaine Ramsey III and Wesley Edward Ramsey



Ms. Fineez Muhammad, Administrator



Bella's Home Health And Caregiving Services is an agency located in Champaign, IL. The agency was founded, owned and operated by two minority women. The agency was established in August 2020 with the goal to keep families happy, healthy and at home.

Our business offers caregiving services, home health, nursing care, after surgery care, bathing, and much more. We look forward to satisfying our consumers in the Urbana, Savoy, and Mahomet area with our professional services. Stop by Bella's Home Health And Caregiving Services to see if our services are right for you.

We're located at 509 S. Country Fair Dr., Suite A Champaign, IL 61821. Our office hours are 9am-5pm Monday-Friday



Ms. Tanya L. Hubbard, RN BC Director of Clinical Services



Mrs. Sandra Kinney, RN, BSN Director of Quality Assurance

bellashomehealth.com

217-903-3594

Congratulations
Bethel AME-Champaign
on your 160th Church Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS Bethel A.M.E. Church and Pastor Terrance L. Thomas

on your

160th Anniversary Celebration



Pastor & Lady Rickey E. Parks

Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

1310 N. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Reaching the Masses with the Message of the Master

BUILDING



Building Community Life Center would like to congratulate





of continuous service and dedication to
God and the people of God.
We pray that you continue in your mission
for another 160 years!



WWW.DUPAGEAMEC.ORG (630) 969-9800



BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYS 7:15 CST

CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Terrance L. Thomas

Bethel AMEC - Champaign

on your service to the Church and the Lord for 160 years!

May God continue to bless the works & the witness of your hands!

REVEREND CONTRAS HOUSTON DICKENS SENIOR PASTOR

4300 YACKLEY AVE, LISLE, IL 60532



