The Victorious Vessel



Vol. 26, Q4: October - December 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Congratulations!……3

Men's Day Weekend…… ……..4-5

"Man, Let's Talk" Men's Day Breakfast……4

Men's Day Worship Service……5

Women's Day Weekend……6-7

Rooted and Rising Women's Day Brunch……6

Women's Day Worship Service……7

Senior Missionaries Donation…..……8

Usher's Anniversary……9

Memorial Baptist Church 140th Church Anniversary…..…10

Family and Friends Day……11

Vacation Bible School……12-13

Senior Spotlights……14-15

Announcements……16-18

Pastor's Anniversary……16

October Observances……17

Upcoming Food Bank distribution dates……17

CAJM Updates……18

Birthdays……19

ALTHEA HILLS HOLMES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Sis. Alaina Johnson for being the inaugural winner of the Althea Hills Holmes Foundation scholarship. We are so proud of you and pray for your continued success!





“MAN, LET’S TALK” MEN’S DAY BREAKFAST

In kicking off our Men’s Day Weekend, we brought back "Man, Let's Talk: A Conversation Among Brothers." Dr. Douglas Gleaton of Simple Medicine Family Medicine Practice, returned as our guest speaker, guiding us through powerful conversations about strengthening our health spiritually, physically, and mentally. We shared real talk, real connection, and a great breakfast together. Thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend unforgettable!



MEN'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We wrapped up our Men's Day Weekend with a powerful culminating service that truly fed the soul. Our Men's Day Choir set the tone, blessing us with rich, heartfelt worship through song and The Honorable Wendell G. Gilliard of the South Carolina House of Representatives - District 111, brought a strong, right-on-time word that challenged and encouraged us all. **Watch service here**

(Photos by Bro. Leroy Burnell & the MSBC Social Media Team)























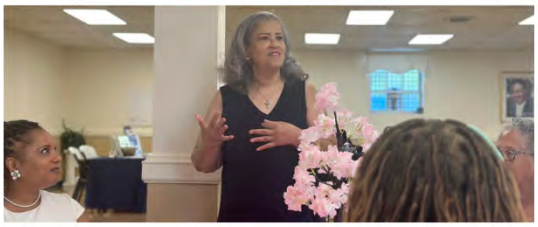




ROOTED AND RISING WOMEN'S DAY BRUNCH

What a joyful and spirit-filled time we had at our Rooted and Rising Women's Day Brunch! We came together in sisterhood, laughed, connected, and poured into one another: mind, body, and spirit. It was a beautiful reminder of how powerful women can be when we gather with purpose and love. A heartfelt thank you to the incredible team from MUSC for volunteering their time and expertise during our health fair segment. Your care and dedication made a meaningful impact on everyone who attended. And a very special thank you to our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Vanessa Smallsbryant, who delivered an inspiring, interactive, and uplifting session that left us encouraged and empowered. **Watch recap video here**

























WOMEN'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We wrapped up our wonderful Women's Day weekend with a heartfelt, multi-generational tribute that filled the room with love, honor, and celebration. We gave flowers to the young women and girls in our congregation—lifting them up, speaking life over them, and reminding them of the power and purpose God has placed within them. We also honored the life and legacy of the late Sis. Frances Mazyck, whose impact continues to inspire us. The Rev. Patricia Crawford then closed out our culminating service with a powerful, spirit-stirring word from the Lord that left us encouraged, strengthened, and united. What a weekend to remember! **Watch her message here**











SENIOR MISSIONARIES DONATION

The MSBC Senior Missionaries donated $450 to the Sanders Clyde Elementary School for uniforms for students who need uniforms but do not have them. Photos by Bro. Leroy Burnell



L-R; Missionary K. Vanessa Stewart, Missionary President Missionary LaVerne Harrison, Missionary Deacon Elise Divis-McFarland, Mr. Jamal President – Parent Liaison. Missionary Nathronia Carr, Dr Keilya Pringle- School Vice Principal





USHER'S ANNIVERSARY

What a wonderful celebration we had during our Ushers Anniversary! On September 14th, we took time to honor and celebrate our dedicated usher ministry, and what a blessing it was! From their warm smiles to their faithful service, our ushers help make everyone who walks through our doors feel welcomed and loved.To our ushers, thank you for your commitment, servant hearts, and unwavering dedication to serving our church family and, most importantly, the Lord.
Your impact does not go unnoticed. **Watch the celebration here**



















MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 140TH ANNIVERSARY

We fellowshipped with Memorial Missionary Baptist Church on August 13, 2026 for night two of their 140th Church Anniversary celebration, as Pastor Taylor delivered the message for the occasion. **Click here to watch**









REMEMBERING THE EMANUEL 9

Pastor Taylor participated in a community-wide Bible Study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in remembrance of the 11th anniversary of the Emanuel 9 tragedy. He is pictured with The Rev. R. Marshall Blalock, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charleston (left), and The Rev. Dr. Eric S. C. Manning (right), pastor of Mother Emanuel AME.





FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

What an AMAZING Family & Friends Day we had on September 13th. From inspiring worship to delicious brunch and plenty of laughter, our church family came together for a day filled with love, connection, and celebration. Congratulations to Sis. Gloria Duncan & family for having the largest family turnout and taking home this year's Family & Friends Day recognition! A special thank you to Reverend Debra L. Salley-Stevens for being our guest speaker and sharing an encouraging message that blessed everyone in attendance. Since Family & Friends Day coincided with Grandparents Day, our youth helped honor our treasured grandparents by presenting them with special gifts. **Watch the service here**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Summer vacation may be over, but we're still "hooked" on the incredible week of Vacation Bible School we had June 29th - July 3rd. We studied God's Word, created awesome crafts, and shared together in fellowship. **Click here to view a recap**















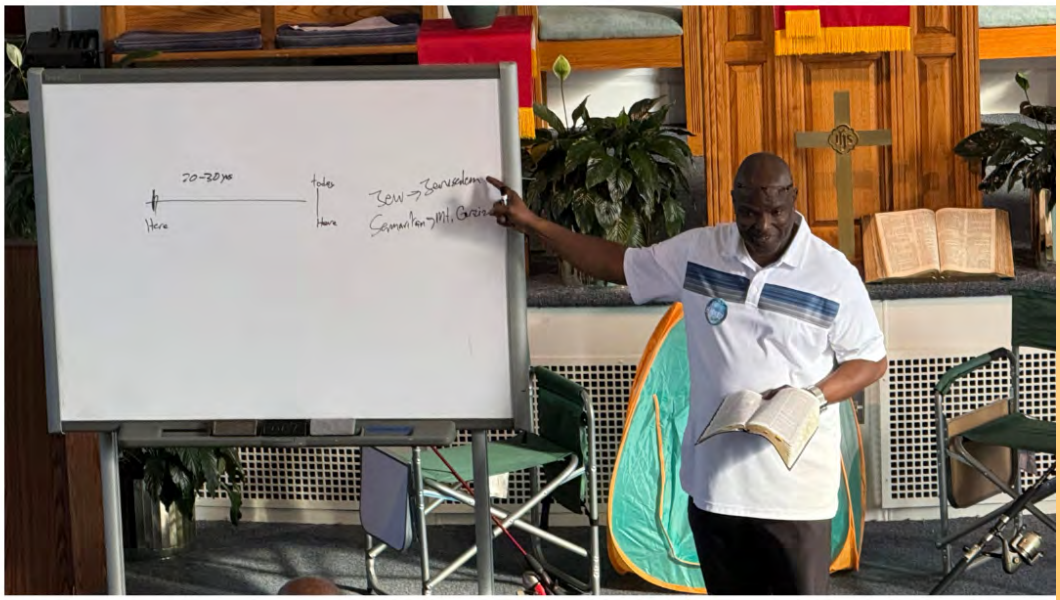











20-30yrs
Here
Here









Sensational Senior Citizen of Morris Street Baptist Church

By Deacon Al Sumter



Dr. Elise Davis-McFarland

Deacon Elise Davis-McFarland has been an active member of Morris Street Baptist Church since 1980. To her credit, she takes great pride in seeing that the work of the church in which she is involved is completed properly.

She is originally from Fayetteville, North Carolina and has been involved in the following activities of MSBC: The Social Butterflies Club, Budget and Finance Committee, Adult Choir, Deacons' Ministry, Education Committee, Faith Seekers and Sunday School Class (Teacher), Food Bank Ministry, Pastor's Aid Ministry, Revival Committee, and the Senior Missionaries. In the past, she has coordinated the monthly Children's Church and the Church Membership Committee. Additionally, she was also a member of the Marriage Ministry.

Sister Davis-McFarland received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Therapy and Audiology from the University of North Carolina, in Greensboro, a master's degree from the University of Virginia in Communication Disorders, and from the University of Pittsburg in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

She has had active involvement with the following community agencies: Member South Carolina Health and Human Services Finance Commission (1st Congressional District),
Board of Directors -Trident United Way, and the YWCA Greater Charleston, Advisory Committee- Junior League of Charleston, Board Member- Children's Museum of the Low country, Board Member & Education Committee Chair at Drayton Hall, Board of Directors SC Aquarium, Board Member-Our Lady of Mercy Outreach, Member, Community Advisory Committee, SC Education Television (ETV), and Member & Chair, Restorative Practices Committee- Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM).

Sister Davis-McFarland is married to Attorney Arthur McFarland and they are the proud parents of Kira Jehan and William Joseph McFarland. They are equally proud of their Grandchildren-William Joseph McFarland, Jr., Laura Elise McFarland, and Liam Jace McFarland.

Her hobbies are traveling and reading mystery novels. Her favorite scriptures are Philippians 4:8-9, Kings 20:1-6, and Psalm 27:1.

Sensational Senior Citizen of Morris Street Baptist Church
By Deacon Al Sumter



Aundria Gantt Douglas

Sister Aundria G. Douglas is the daughter of the late Deacon Emeritus Christopher C. and Deaconess Wilhelmenia Gantt. She has been a member of Morris Street Baptist since 1955 when she was baptized as a youth.

She graduated from Burke High School with honors and attended Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Sister Douglas was employed with the Charleston County Department of Social Services as a caseworker, and the Franklin C. Fetter Health Center as a social worker after college. She earned her Master of Social Work (MSW)degree from the University of South Carolina and was employed at MUSC Children's Hospital as the first black social worker in the Department of Social Work. In addition, she also served as Acting Director for a period of time and retired after 24 years at MUSC in 2002.

Her early years and high school years at Morris Street were active with many of the youth activities of the church which included Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Junior Missionary, and the Youth Choir. Since that time, she has served in the following ministries and committees: Sunday School Teacher of Intermediate Boys, Nursery Committee,
Benedict College Day Committee as Chairperson and Member, Budget and Finance Committee, Trustee Ministry, Social Butterflies (mentoring program for elementary school girls), Dunbar Committee (Oversight of Dunbar Apartments) and the Pastoral Search Committee.

Since earning her academic degrees, Sister Douglas has also earned her certification as a Licensed Medical Social Worker (LMSW) and worked as a social worker until her retirement from MUSC. She was also a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) through retirement.

She maintains active involvement with the Burke High School Alumni Association as well as the Talledega College Alumni Association.

Sister Douglas was a recipient of a Membership Award from Morris Street in 1997 and is known for her welcoming and friendly manner toward others. She is widowed with two adult children – a son and daughter. She enjoys reading as a hobby. Her favorite scripture is Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 "A Time for Everything."



Third Pastoral Anniversary

October 18, 2026

3:00PM

MSBC

Morris Street Baptist Church

25 Morris Street

Charleston, SC 29403

Honoring

The Reverend Dr. Caroles Taylor

&

Sister Charliss Taylor

Guest Preacher

Dr. Vincent Golden

Pastor of Legacy Baptist Church

Columbus, Ohio





OCTOBER IS

Pastor Appreciation Month

MORRIS COLLEGE DAY OBSERVANCE

October 11, 2026
10:00am
25 Morris Street
Charleston, SC 29403

UPCOMING FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION DATES

October 17, 2026

November 21, 2026

December 19, 2026

10:00 am - 12 noon

on the lower level of the church

25 Morris Street, Charleston, SC 29403

About the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM)
The Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) is a coalition of 40 local churches working together to empower community members. Through research, education, and public action, CAJM addresses the root causes of poverty and injustice while advocating for real solutions.

Our History and Impact
Morris Street Baptist Church (MSBC) has been a CAJM member since 2012. Over the years, we have collaborated on several major initiatives, including:

- Expanding 4-year-old kindergarten programs to serve an additional 3,000 children.
- Conducting racial audits of the North Charleston and Charleston police departments to reduce unnecessary traffic stops targeting people of color.
- Establishing a trust fund to support affordable housing.
- Reducing suspension and expulsion rates among Black and Brown students in Charleston schools.

Current Focus: Food Security
CAJM is currently tackling food insecurity by advocating for a dedicated facilitator to coordinate a community-wide Food Council. This council would bring together government agencies, charities, farmers, and other stakeholders to strengthen and align existing efforts.

Current Focus: School Governance
Another pressing issue is governance within the Charleston County School District. CAJM is calling for greater transparency from the school board, increased community engagement, and stricter adherence to board policies and procedures. Residents in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 are encouraged to vote on November 3 for candidates who prioritize student learning and open decision-making.

Current Focus: Environmental Justice
CAJM is also committed to environmental justice. We urge the City of Charleston to uphold Mayor Cogswell's promise to preserve and revitalize Gadsden Creek in the Gadsden Green community. Protecting tidal salt marsh creeks is essential to preventing flooding and safeguarding the homes of Gadsden Green residents in downtown Charleston.

October Birthdays

Myra T. McGill - 3
Caroles Taylor - 6
JaRon McPherson - 8
Sharon D. Reed - 8
Edith F. Iracks - 10
Alphonso L. Sumter - 11
Jerome B. Williams - 12
Jane Doris Smith - 12
LaGea Johnson - 16
Elise D. McFarland - 18
Gus Holloway - 21
Tina Poore - 27
Russell Richardson - 28
Daryl Evans - 30

November Birthdays

Gloria G. Lambright - 3
Lanesha Alston-Magwood - 5
Darlene W. Green - 6
Joyce F. Jennings - 8
Garcia Williams - 14
Winston Mazyck - 15
Carzenia Brown - 17
Hailie S. Grant - 23
Monique Hamilton - 23
Latisha L. Rivers - 26
Gloria Duncan - 28

December Birthdays

Carol Richardson - 4
Gretchen Morgan - 5
Lillian Washington - 5
Ruth E. Middleton - 5
Burt W. Simmons - 5
Thuane B. Fielding - 7
Collis A. Holloway - 12
Sydni Slaughter - 13
Deanna Douglas - 14
Vera Brown - 17
Alaina L. Johnson - 19
Mark J. Fielding, Sr. - 23
Emily Dockins - 24
Latosha Pompey-Ferguson - 29

Newsletter submissions are due by:

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



MORRIS STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH

25 Morris Street Charleston, SC 29403

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