

The Victorious Vessel

Honoring

**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**



FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER



Grace, peace, and mercy to you from God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Ghost, our Comforter, Teacher and Guide. March 2021 brings us to a significant milestone place of ministry and to an interesting juncture of time in the history of MSBC. This month marks the sixteenth year of our Pastor/Church relationship and partnership! In this period of pandemic-produced problems, Pastor/church relationships have faced and continue to face substantial challenges and sizeable changes. Given these facts, we can give God thanks that our present position remains positive, full of potential, and stretches forward poised for productivity.

As I reflect upon these years, know that, on behalf of the Griffin Family, we love you with a Godly love, and we love you as brothers and sisters in the family of God! This past year brought strong challenges to us in every aspect of our stewardship, fellowship, & worship! With God's help, your prayers, our cooperating with one another, and the aid of the Holy Spirit, we

have been able to continue to weather this pandemic-induced whirlwind. As the song goes:

I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow, there's been times I didn't know right from wrong. But in every situation, God gave me blessed consolation, that my trials come to only make me strong. Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God (Andraé Crouch).

Let us remember these lyrics, as we continue to make our way through the coming months.

I also want to thank you for responding to the survey. Your input greatly helps us. You will see in this edition of the *IV* your collective responses. Our Task Force continues to gather information that will help us move forward with plans on how we will proceed back to in-person worship services and meetings. That time does not seem likely any time soon. I repeat my encouragement for all of us to be vaccinated against the coronavirus COVID-19.

The Season of Lent began on an earlier date this year, Wednesday, February 17th. As we begin to focus our faithful attention on the forty days that lead to Jesus Christ's crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection, we also must seek to earnestly improve our spiritual selves during this Lenten Season. During this Season of Lent, we renew our joy, rekindle our faith, and rejuvenate our service to the Lord by manifesting our lessons learned by the C.L.O.S.E.R. acronym we have been studying.

My pastoral focus remains on replicating Jesus' ministry model of making, teaching, training, and developing maturing disciples who go beyond having membership to being living examples of discipleship.

C.L.O.S.E.R. refers to **C**-communicate; **L**-learn; **O**-obey/obedience; **S**-store; **E**-evangelize; **R**-renew daily (Gallaty, R., 2015, p. 80). I am convinced that this easy-to-remember word helps us in our trek toward becoming more effective witnesses and stronger disciples for the Lord.

Please note that the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) has its Nehemiah Assembly on March 22, and more details will be forthcoming. Registration for the Nehemiah Assembly is mandatory, and we want MSBC represented well. So, please register when CAJM opens registration.

In consultation with the Deacons, Trustees, and Pastor's Aid Ministries respectively, we have agreed to delay celebration of our sixteen years together until May 2021. This postponement allows the celebrations of Pastor's graduation and the sixteenth year of Pastoral service to be combined. We covet your cooperation and understanding.

Let us continue in prayer for all of the families devastated by the pandemic and through their sorrows. Let us remain actively engaged in our community by keeping our voter registrations active and participating in EVERY election. Pray on and serve on!

#MSBC155
#WARMMEStchurchinCharleston

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZES SIS. DAWN F. MCPHERSON



“If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain...” Sis. Dawn F. McPherson works daily with these lyrics in her heart and mind. For 10 years, she has been employed with the Charleston County School District working with the Early Learning Program as a Family Service Specialist and now a Family Advocate. The Early Learning Program (Pre-Kindergarten Child Development) is a federally funded program designed to develop skills necessary for success in Kindergarten. The comprehensive curriculum is primarily focused on language and literacy, numeracy, social and emotional development.

As Family Advocate, Sis Dawn works closely with families who would be at risk of economic and social stressors resulting from loss of employment or housing. She provides resources to not just help with stability of the children in the school setting but also the children in the home as well as the parents.

Morris Street Baptist Church’s very own Sis. Dawn F. McPherson was recently recognized by Charleston County School District’s Executive Director of Early Childhood School Readiness Programs and the Director of Head Start/Early Head Start for her hard work and dedication in welcoming and encouraging parents to take part in the Policy Council.

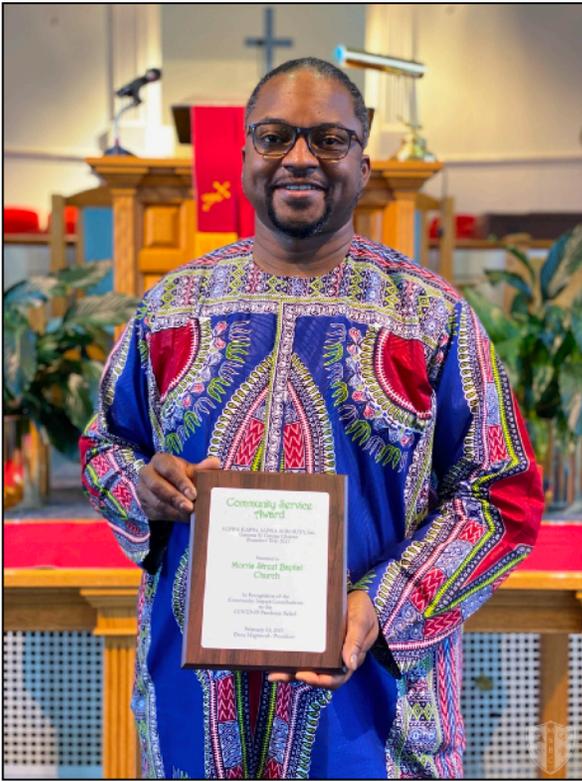
Congratulations on a JOB WELL DONE, Sis. Dawn!! We are so very proud of you! Sis. Dawn F. McPherson is the proud wife of Bro. Ricardo McPherson.

Going Red for Heart Health Month



Sons & Daughters of Zion Sunday School Class with Superintendent & Sis Fields observe Valentine's Day and Heart Health Month studying God's Word, sharing love, staying safe while working to keep the heart healthy.

Red masks designer: Sis Angela Orr ❤️



Community Service Award

Morris Street Baptist Church was presented the "Community Service Award" for our community impact on COVID-19 pandemic relief.

A very special thank you to the ladies of the Gamma Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., who presented the award during their Founder's Day Celebration on Feb. 13th.

March Birthdays

Lalakesheica Wittrell	2	Alethia Smalls	16
Arlene Robinson	3	Aleshia Seabrook	16
Dea. Theodore Hartwell	3	Reanna Holmes	20
Kathleen V. Stewart	3	Mary Williams	21
Cheryl L. Myers	5	Dorothy Pompey	22
Prince Williams	8	DeAngelo McCoy	23
Vondalin Robinson	8	Joyce Dembele	23
NaShanda Suitt	8	Amanda Washington	23
Vanessa Rivers	8	Alita O. Thompson	25
Betty Alston	9	Bertheria Gaston	26
Alonzo Campbell	9	Sandra Simmons	26
Sharvette Slaughter	10	Karen Richardson	26
Gabreilla Dungee	10	Leroy Burnell	30
Robert Anderson	10	Samone Grant	30
Bruce Morgan, Jr.	10	George Counts	31
Katrina Rollerson	15	Brandon Johnson	31

RALLY! | MARCH 1, 2021 7:00PM



NEHEMIAH ACTION! | MARCH 22, 2021 7:00PM



The CAJM Rally will take place on March 1st. Please reach out to an MSBC CAJM Team Leader if you would like to attend the event. The Nehemiah Action will take place on March 22nd. Like the Rally, you can attend the Nehemiah Action virtually or from the safety of your car at a drive-in event. Location TBD.

CAJM Education Committee Update

Maybe you saw the [article in the *Post and Courier*](#) written by CAJM Education Steering Committee Co-Chairs Dr. Elise Davis-McFarland of Morris Street Baptist Church and Ms. Cynthia Mann of KKBE. In the article, our Co-Chairs express excitement over the new School Board's apparent commitment to school discipline reforms. However, the School Board and other district leadership still have a long way to go if they want to fully embrace Restorative Practices.

So, what's next for our education committee? January 22, several Education Committee members joined representatives from CCSD to begin planning a stakeholder meeting to further progress on a district-wide implementation of Restorative Practices. Rev. Henry McClendon from the [International Institute for Restorative Practices \(IIRP\)](#) facilitated the conversation. During the conversation, CCSD said that they are in the process of holding listening sessions (with a restorative structure) for both students and parents.

In the meeting, we also started planning for a Restorative Practices stakeholder meeting with IIRP to increase understanding and buy-in for implementing Restorative Practices across CCSD and in the community.

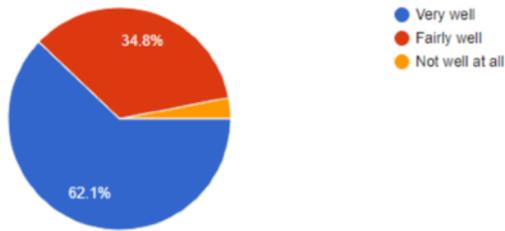
MSBC COVID-19 Re-Entry Task Force Report

The Morris Street Baptist COVID-19 Re-Entry Task Force was created to assess and determine the protection and safety requirements for reopening the church for in-person worship. As part of the Task Force's work a survey was developed to assess member well-being and involvement in religious activities during the pandemic. The survey was completed by 67 members. Respondents were also able to express their preferences regarding the reopening of the sanctuary and start of in-person worship. Task Force will be sharing the survey results with you in this and next month's Victorious Vessel. We welcome any questions or comments you may have about the survey information.

Task Force Members are Rev. Leonard O. Griffin, Deacons Russell Richardson and Ivan Fields, Trustees Nathaniel Scurry and Jerome Clemons, Dr. Shavette Slaughter, Atty. George Counts, Gretchen Morgan, Elise Davis-McFarland, Brenda McPherson, Garcia Williams and Brendan McPherson.

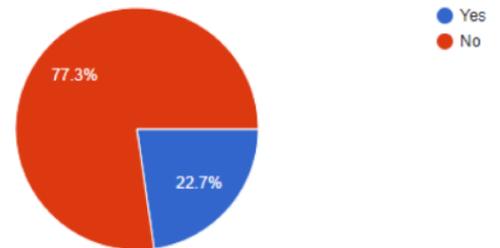
1. How are you fairing during the pandemic?

66 responses



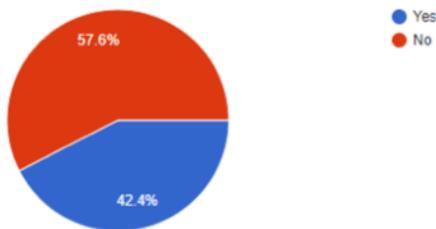
2. Has your income decreased as a result of the pandemic?

66 responses



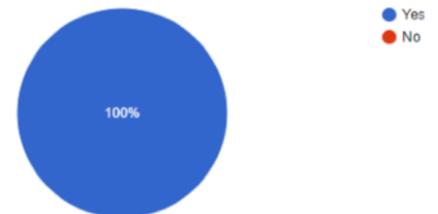
3. Have you lost family members or friends as a result of the pandemic?

66 responses



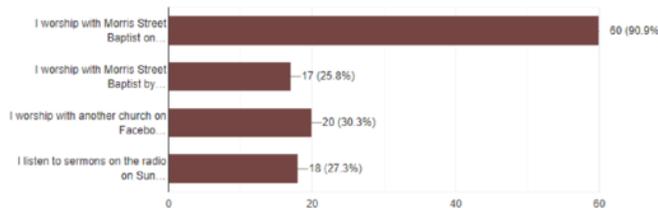
4. Have you continued your religious worship during the pandemic?

65 responses



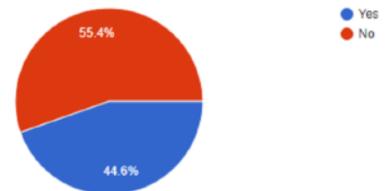
How do you worship? (Select all that apply)

66 responses



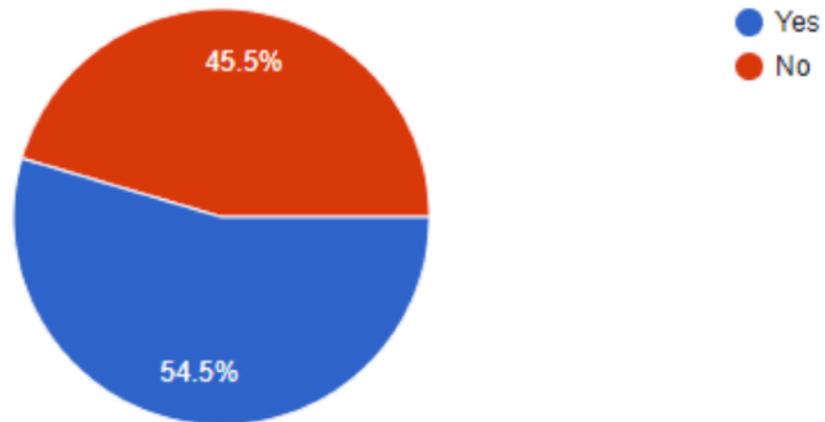
6. Have you been attending MSBC Bible study on Wednesdays on Facebook?

65 responses



7. Are you attending Sunday School by phone or ZOOM?

66 responses



Survey results indicate most MSBC members are doing well during the pandemic, but 42% of those who responded said they have lost a family member or friend during the pandemic. All of the respondents have continued religious worship over the last year, with the overwhelming majority indicating they are worshipping with MSBC on Facebook. Some attend the worship service via phone, and some are also worshipping with another church via Facebook or radio. Only 45% of the members who responded to the survey are attending the church's bible study via Facebook, while 46% have continued to join Sunday School, and 59% said they have attended a members' funeral via MSBC's Facebook video feed.

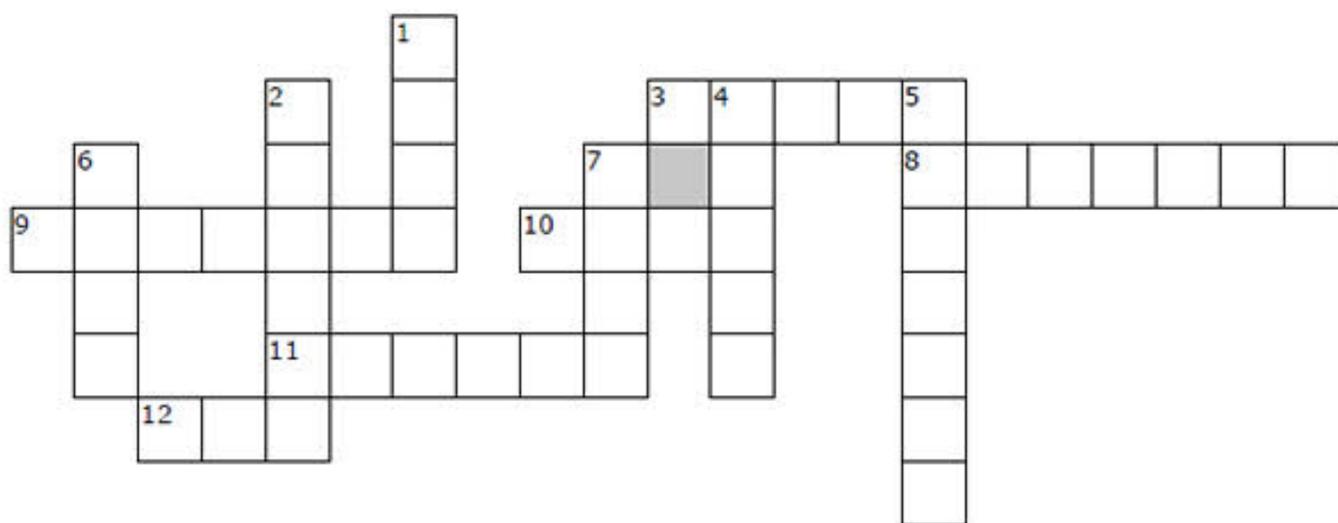
Overall MSBC members seem to be doing well and have continued to worship and stay connected to MSBC via Facebook and other outlets during the pandemic.

In the April issue of Victorious Vessel, survey responses on reopening the church for member worship will be shared.

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Luke 19:38 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. The Son of God
8. A word used for praise and adoration which means "save us"
9. A small town
10. A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year
11. To stretch out over a large area
12. To secure with a piece of rope

DOWN

1. What a person is called
2. To express admiration or approval of something or someone
4. To go into a place
5. Said something in a loud voice; called out; yelled
6. A male ruler of a country
7. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

VILLAGE
COLT
TIE

JESUS
SPREAD
ROAD

SHOUTED
PRAISE
HOSANNA

ENTER
NAME
KING



Honoring

SPRING FORWARD!
Daylight's Savings time begins on
March 14th.

Palm Sunday - March 28th

Palm Sunday is a commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, coming in peace and riding on a donkey. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem coincided with the Jewish festival of Passover. He was met by crowds of followers and supporters who lined the road into the city and waved branches cut from palm trees. They laid palm fronds on the road and even laid down cloaks for Jesus to ride over. This entry into Jerusalem fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies promising that God's Messiah would enter the holy city and go to the temple.



Have a recent event, achievement, or announcement you'd like to share?

Submissions for the Victorious Vessel are **due by the 15th** of each month.
Contact Sis. Emily L. Smith or Sis. Wendrah M. McCoy.



**MORRIS STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH**

"The WARMEST Church in Charleston"

"Welcoming Adoring Respectful Mission Minded Church"

25 Morris Street Charleston, SC 29403 | Rev. Leonard O Griffin, Pastor |
P: 843.723.0408 | F: 843.723.0988 | www.morrisstreetbaptist.org

