

THIRD STREET BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

August 2023

NEWSLETTER

A Church That Goes Beyond Its Walls to Impact The World!

Greetings Third Street Bethel Family and Friends!

Welcome to August our Third Street Family and Friends!

We greet this month marking both the bitter-sweet end of Summer and the transition into the beautiful beginnings of Fall. Through all, may God grant a bounty of never-ending joy, peace, love, healing and good health to you and your loved ones and to this world. Relax and release and let God lead you through each day with His blessings and protection.

“Let me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found.” Ps. 119:35 (NLT) “Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk [today], for I give myself to you.” Ps. 143:8 (NLT)

God Bless and Keep You this month and always,

The Greeters Ministry, Third Street Bethel AME Church

Celebrate August Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Birthday Celebrants: May showers of blessings from God fall upon you as you celebrate this very special day of your birth. Happy Birthday!

Anniversary Celebrants: May God bless your marriage with love, joy, and companionship for all the years of your life. Happy Anniversary!

Birthday Greetings!

Happy Birthday to our First Lady Sonja (August 8th) Pastor Reuben (August 21st)



Sunday School Convention!

The Annual Sunday School Convention was held on June 30-July 1st. The host Pastor was Rev. Dr. Amy C. Hodge of Mt. Zion Roanoke. Sister Denise Bennett is the Portsmouth-Richmond-Roanoke District Church School Superintendent.

The theme this year is: “Believe—Don’t Give Up The Fight!” 1st Corinthians 15:58.



Sunday School Convention Contd.



Welcome Home Rev. Andrea Price!

On Sunday, July 2, 2023, Third Street Bethel AMEC was delighted to have Rev. Andrea Price as our guest Preacher! Rev. Price, her husband, Rev. Dr. Elvin Price, their children, Henry and Heidi, are members of Third Street. Dr. Elvin and Rev. Andrea were reassigned in May 2023 by Bishop James L. Davis at the Annual Conference to Pastor at Beulah Farmville AMEC for this Conference Year.

Rev. Andrea delivered a very inspiring message. She was accompanied by her son, Henry. It was a pleasure seeing them again! We wish the Price Family bountiful blessings!



PASTOR'S CORNER!

Stay Woke!



"Stay Woke!" is a phrase that was born in the African American Community as a reminder of our need to be aware or vigilant of what is going on around us. Staying Woke is also about knowledge or being enlightened by the truth. In light of the current racial and political divisions, it behooves us all to "stay woke."

If "stay woke!" is about being aware, alert, vigilant or knowledgeable, then what drives the likes of Ron DeSantis and Donald Trump to spin the phrase as something detrimental to white people? Governor DeSantis signed a bill in April 2022 that was designed to protect Floridians from what he called "discrimination and woke indoctrination."

He has masterfully taken the word "woke" and spun it as some sinister agenda of the left wings to indoctrinate or discriminate against white kids. He labelled being woke as a left-wing agenda to rewrite the history of slavery and racism in this country. In other words, according to DeSantis and Trump's Republican Party, the truth about slavery and racism is not the truth that the white supremacist wants told.

The white supremacist's attempt to stop the "stay woke" movement is really not about protecting their kids. It is about denying their children the truth that would enlighten them to the shameful racist past of this country. No! It is about preventing their white children from wanting to repent for their ancestors' evil deeds of racism and preventing a new onslaught of white kids that are willing to take to the streets and cry against white supremacist policies.

When the white supremacist saw all of those young enlightened white kids that were protesting the death of George Floyd, it scared the heck out of them! They became more determined to suppress the truth from their children by banning the teaching of about racism, slavery, or African American history from schools.

DeSantis is against the "Stay Woke Movement" because it calls for the truth, which enlightens Americans and causes people to become aware of the evil ways of the devil. In 1 Thessalonians 5:6, Paul called for the Thessalonians to become spiritual aware or awoke of the coming of Jesus and stop entertaining those who falsely claim to know when Jesus would return. Paul urged the Thessalonians to wake up and stop listening to the false predictions. He said in 1Thessalonians 5:6, "Therefore let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober." In essence, Paul was saying "stay woke."

Why do you think that the enemy tries to discredit the importance of being "woke?" The devil's task has always been about keeping his victims in the dark, for people of darkness do not walk by the truth, for they will follow a lie. People that are "woke" are alert to the enemy's destructive games. People that are "woke" are vigilant and alert to the truth and aware of what is actually happening.

Contrary to the darkness that Governor DeSantis and the likes of Trump espouse, be aware and vigilant. "Stay Woke" and know the truth about what is going on around you.

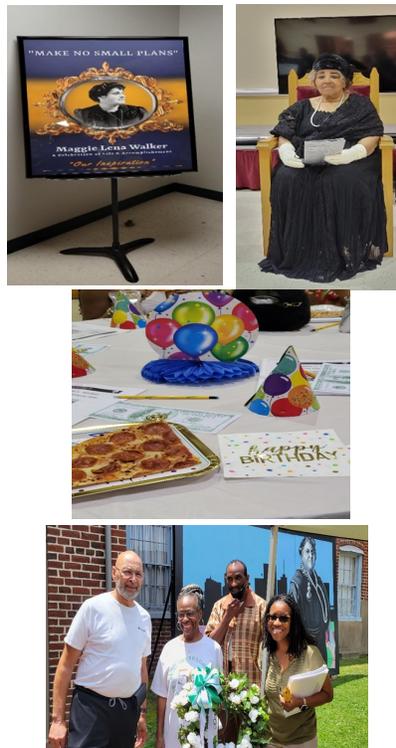
Excerpts from the sermon "Stay Woke."
Preached July 23, 2023
Third Street Bethel AME Church
Rev. Reuben J. Boyd Jr.

2nd Episcopal District Summer Summit Steward and Trustee Board Training Workshop

Gwen Davis, Eunice Wallace, Terri Harrison, Carolyn Campbell, Roy Haliburton and Brian Spearman attended the 2nd Episcopal District Summer Summit Steward and Trustee Board Training Workshop on July 11, 2023 at the Hampton Convention Center. The session was conducted by Bishop Errenous E. McCloud Jr.



Celebrating Maggie L. Walker's 159th Birthday!



Richmond Free Press

Home News Opinion Faith Entertainment Sports Black Experience

Maggie Walker's 159th birthday comes to life

Debra Timms | 7/20/2023, 6 p.m.



Community members celebrated the 159th birthday of Maggie L. Walker last weekend in Jackson Ward at 19½ E. Leigh St. Janine Boyd and Kimora Boyd were among those who placed white silk roses on a wreath to commemorate Mrs. Walker's legacy. Photo by Sandra Sellars

Richmond community members enjoyed a glimpse into the past during celebrations for Maggie L. Walker's 159th Birthday at Third Street Bethel AME Church and her national historic site in Jackson Ward on July 15. The day involved a wreath ceremony, arts and crafts, the chance to tour the Maggie Walker House, a film about her life and a re-enactment of Ms. Walker's historic 1901 speech by the Rev. Veronica Carter.

The church worked with the National Park Service, the City of Richmond and the Black History Museum to plan events over three days. Julia Turner, one of the co-chairs involved in organizing Saturday's festivities, said a highlight of this year's celebrations was the emphasis placed on involving youths with craft activities that engaged them in the celebration.

Giving: Our website: <http://www.thirdstreetbethel.breezechms.com/give/online> , - By Mail, - Text "Give" to 804-413-6464

Celebrating Maggie L. Walker's 159th Birthday Contd!

(Article from the Richmond Free Press—7/20/22)



Activities included a re-enactment by the Rev. Veronica Carter of Maggie L. Walker at Third Street Bethel AME Church.

"For some, this was the first time they had an opportunity to tour Maggie Walker House," Ms. Turner said in an email. "I was quite amazed in showing the film how many people, although they'd heard of her, did not know her story."

Mrs. Walker was born in Richmond in 1864. She was an entrepreneur and a civic leader who went on to become the first Black woman to establish and serve as president of a bank in

the United States.

Her 1901 speech to the Independent Order of St. Luke was the start of making her dream of a Black bank, the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, a reality. Not only was this moment captured by Rev. Carter's re-enactment, the penny banks that were decorated during the arts and crafts portion of the program recreated an initiative of Mrs. Walker to encourage deposits by children and teach them about savings and the importance of thrift.

The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank opened its doors in 1903. In the 1930s it merged with two other banks to form Consolidated Bank and Trust Company and Mrs. Walker served as the combined banks board chair until her death from diabetic panerene in 1934 at the age of 70.

Save the Date and Support Climate Change!

Come join members of the Social Action Commission on Sunday afternoon, September 10, 2023 immediately after church service. We plan to walk to Broad Street and ride a GRTC Bus to Willow Lawn for a nice lunch and ride back! There is No Cost to ride the bus! Let's show our support to encourage Climate Change. Mother Nature is sending out a warning all over the world! A Change has got to come!



Congratulations!



To Ayanna and Aniya Jones on a winning season! Their team Tri-City Reign won the 18U Division Championship in the MJBL Tri-City Classic.

Supporting Climate Change!

On a Sunday afternoon, Rita Willis and Julie Warlick, members of the Social Action Commission, took a GRTC Bus from Broad Street to Willow Lawn. Taking Transit Transportation decreases the use of automobiles emissions, which are detrimental to our environment.

Rita and Julie said that they had an enjoyable lunch and fun time riding the bus!



Bea's Boutique

Bea's Boutique is thriving with the help of absolutely everyone at Third Street Bethel.. We have served 755 people in the City of Richmond since we re-opened our doors in February of 2023. We have been blessed with donations from far and wide. St. Paul's Episcopal Church has continued to bless us with endless sox (which we desperately need). Rev. Boyd has found a company to donate men's and women's pants and shirts...It's just wonderful! We are truly blessed.

In addition, we offer tooth brushes, tooth paste, razors, combs, deodorant, wash cloths towels, soap and men's and women's underwear, sox and toilet paper. On occasion, we have men's suits, blankets and back packs.

We're still receiving aid from Spring Creek Baptist Church every week and we have several new people on board to help the operation run smooth, Sheila Williams, Vanessa Blunt, Shirdine Harris and the Pastor's granddaughter, Khalia Boyd.

Bea's Boutique Contd.

Bea's Boutique has also aided a few women with the Step Program. We continue to serve where ever needed. All summer clothing donations and toiletries are welcome!!! Praise Jesus!!!

Brenda Jones



AUGUST 2023 HEALTH AWARENESS

TSBAMEC Health Commission

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heattips.html>

Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness

Stay Cool



Stay Hydrated



Stay Informed



Other August 2023 Health Observances

⇒ August is **Immunization Awareness Month**

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of routine vaccination for people of all ages.

(www.wellable.com)

(www.cdc.gov)

⇒ August is **Summer Sun Safety Month**

Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. Most of this exposure comes from the sun, but some can come from man-made sources, such as indoor tanning beds and sun lamps. People who get a lot of exposure to UV rays are at greater risk for skin cancer.

There are some simple steps you can take to limit your exposure to UV rays. Simply **staying in the shade** is one of the best ways to limit your UV exposure. If you are going to be in the sun, remember to do the following:

- Put on a shirt.
- Rub on sunscreen.
- Put on a hat.

Put on sunglasses to protect the eyes and skin around them. (www.wellable.com) (www.cancer.org)

THE STEWARD'S CORNER

The Legend of the Two Wolves

The legend of the two wolves, often attributed to Native American folklore, can be connected to certain biblical scriptures that address the battle between good and evil, the choices we make, and the nature of our inner selves.

The legend of the two wolves tells the story of a Cherokee elder who is teaching his grandson about life. He describes a constant battle that takes place within each person between two wolves. One wolf represents evil, characterized by anger, envy, greed, arrogance, and other negative qualities. The other wolf represents good, embodying love, kindness, compassion, humility, and other positive virtues. The grandson asks which wolf will win the battle, to which the elder replies, "The one you feed."

This legend reflects the biblical teachings about the battle between good and evil and the choices we make. In the Bible, the apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians (Galatians 5:16-17 (NIRV)): "So I say, live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your desires controlled by sin want you to do. The desires controlled by sin do not want what the Spirit delights in. And the Spirit does not want what the desires controlled by sin delight in. The two are at war with each other. That is why you are not supposed to do whatever you want."

This passage emphasizes the inner struggle between our fleshly desires, which can be likened to the wolf representing evil, and the promptings of the Holy Spirit, which can be associated with the wolf representing good. It suggests that our choices and actions determine which wolf we feed and allow to prevail in our lives.

The legend of the two wolves and the biblical scriptures conveys a similar message about the battle between good and evil within us. They emphasize the importance of making conscious choices that align with virtuous values and the prompting of the Spirit, rather than indulging in negative traits and actions. Both narratives encourage individuals to nurture the qualities that promote love, kindness, and compassion, which ultimately lead to a more fulfilling and virtuous life.

Dennis Yerby

CONGREGATION CORNER

Quick Question?

What is your favorite summer dessert?

Leon Jones

"Peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream."

Johnathan Bennett

"Strawberry shortcake."

Keisha Perry

"Key lime or lemon cream pie and old school homemade ice cream."

Joe Ann Nock

"My favorite dessert is ice cream and chocolate or some other flavor can be mixed with it. Chocolate cake with chocolate icing or vanilla cake with malt (light) chocolate icing in between the layers."

A'Lelia Yerby

"Funnel cake as well as cheesecake with cherry topping."

Mother Trucinda "Trudy" Barnes

"Sweet potato pie and banana pudding."

Angela Moss

"Strawberry shortcake."

Zelda Johnson

"Sweet seeded or unseeded watermelon."



THIRD ST BETHEL AMEC WMS/YPD

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

August 6-27, 2023

Drop off boxes will be located within the church
for more information call (804)643-8157

Items needed:

Bookbags, paper, pencils , glue sticks, folders,
crayons, binders, scissors, marker, tissue,
composition books , ink pens, rulers

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US



Sunday Worship

(Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.)

In Person - Wearing a mask is optional.

Virtual Worship - On YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGoO>

[yQWR_zdd_t2y-iOE3ZO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQWR_zdd_t2y-iOE3ZO)

Or Audio Only: Dial 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 677583157

PW: 946932

Prayer Call

Every Wednesday Morning

7:00 a.m.

Prayer Call:

(716-427-1108) PC 956420

Bible Study

Bible Study has RECESSED for the Summer and will resume September 6th.

Virtual Sunday School

Held every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Beginners - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84428940911?pwd=MG5oN2hUSWpvVmF4NDRzYjFtQitDdz09>

Passcode: 292835

Intermediate - <https://thryv.zoom.us/j/93036530009?pwd=WjBNWEpaY3VwQmFnY0dNNTVQNS9RZz09>

Passcode: 541221

Senior - <https://thryv.zoom.us/j/92284893479?pwd=MTQ2N2hHelZSczBRS1VKU0RCNUtHUT09>

Passcode: 633837

OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN

3 John 1:2 - "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Mother Trudie

Ms. Thelma McLendon

Ms. Joan Christian

Ms. Peggy Battle



Mr. Joseph Hall

Ms. Dorothy Grooms

Ms. Rosa Alston

Ms. Carolyn Turner