

THIRD STREET BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

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

Greetings Third Street Bethel Family and Friends!

The Fall Season is officially welcomed in September! School is back in full swing with students learning and educators shaping the minds of our future leaders. Let us keep our schools in prayer for safety and educational success as they go forth throughout this school year. This is also the season of God's masterful display of vibrant colors as we prepare for the colder weather. The leaves on the trees are beautifully changing colors and falling to the ground, while we enjoy the delicious apples and pumpkins that are synonymous with this time of year. As we plant seeds for next year, James 5:7-8 NIV – 7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Psalm 85:12 "The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 90:1 "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

May God's grace be pleasing and plentiful to you through this upcoming month.

The Greeter's Ministry

Celebrate September Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Birthday Celebrants: Happy birthday to you! Hoping every hour of your birthday brings you reasons to smile, and not a minute goes by without you knowing just how loved you are. Happy birthday to you!

Anniversary Celebrants: God bless your anniversary. "Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14. May this very special love always be yours to share, and may God continue to bless your lives with love and happiness. Happy Anniversary.

The 20th YPD and WMS Quadrennial Convention

Sisters Angela Moss and Rita Willis of Third St. attended the YPD and WMS Quadrennial in Orlando, Fla. from July 24 - Aug. 3, 2023. It was a grand and exhilarating experience.

The purpose of both Quadrennials was to: Elect new officers; vote on new amendments to the WMS/YPD Constitution and Bylaws; hear reports from elected officers, get updates from our int'l partners such as Mercy Ships, Bread for the World, MOM, etc.

All 20 Districts were present from around the world, to include India, Africa, the Caribbean, Bermuda, etc. Over 4,000 were in attendance, including the Bishops, Supervisors and District Presidents.

One of the highlights was a visit from the Vice President of the United States -Kamala Harris who thanked the AME Church for its steadfast work on Social Justice, the backbone of our Democratic Society.



(YPD Business Meeting)



(The host Bishop of the YPD/WMS Quadrennial)



(YPD Kick-off)



Both Angela Moss and Sister Rita Willis are Virginia Conference Branch WMS officers. Former Trainee of Third St. under the leadership of Rev. Boyd.



CLERGY & CITIZENS AGAINST RACISM PROTESTS THE RACIALLY MOTIVATED MURDERS IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The members of Clergy & Citizens Against Racism (CCAR) are sickened by the recent hate-motivated murders that took place in Jacksonville, Florida, on August 26, 2023. Once again, families have been left to mourn the loss of loved ones who were murdered by a white supremacist filled with hate. Three African Americans were murdered at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida. Jacksonville's sheriff, T.K. Waters, said the racially motivated murders were the result of "a disgusting ideology of hate." The same ideology of hate that was responsible for the killing of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; 23 people of mostly Latino descent at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas; 10 African Americans at a Tops Friendly Markets super-market in Buffalo, New York; and a young Black gay man in Brooklyn, New York.

If the above list provokes an emotional catharsis within you, it should—for it represent lives lost simply because of race, faith, sexual orientation, or gender identification. These hate-motivated murders are becoming all-too-common occurrences that leave our country numb—to the horrors of the events themselves and to the reality that the evils motivated by hate will likely manifest again.

Contrary to white supremacist calls to "Make America Great Again," America is already a great nation that is too diverse to continue tolerating the hatred that is being perpetrated against its communities that are home to people of color, Jews, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Unfortunately, the notion of confronting this hatred has not yet breached the ranks of the Republican candidates for president. Immediately after the Jacksonville murders, former Vice President Mike Pence and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis quickly offered prayers for the families of the three individuals who were murdered, yet neither man had the courage to address the subject of white supremacy or access to guns, which were most certainly at the root of this most recent tragedy and other racially motivated murders.

Even more insulting to the victims of the Jacksonville attack, Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy moved with expedience to connect the white gunman's violent attack with the crisis of mental illness in this country. Mental illness has increasingly become the escape route politicians use to sidestep having frank discussions about white supremacy and the proliferation of guns in America.

And so the question will continue to be asked: "What can we do to stem the tide of hate-motivated murders and terrorism?" We may not have all of the answers, but there is one thing CCAR cannot afford to do, and that is to sit by and do absolutely nothing!

God bless America and the families that have been torn apart by these cruel, senseless, and hate-motivated murders.

Reuben J. Boyd, Jr.
President, Clergy & Citizens Against Racism

The 20th YPD and WMS Quadrennial Convention Continued



(Night in white - the VA Conference Delegation)



(Photograph with the WMS of South Africa)



(The VA Conference attired in blue and on our way to the day's Business Session)

The Bethel Biker Boyz

Introducing the Bethel Biker Boyz. The members consist of Brian Spearman, Hunter Wallace, Kenneth Sifford, Joe Barden, Roy Halliburton, Michael Dawson, Dennis Yerby, Peter Barnes, Johnathan Bennett, and Randy Johnson. The group meets on Saturday mornings and ride a scenic route between 6 to 10 miles. Biking is a great way to maintain physical fitness and general health. If you would like to join, please reach out to any member listed above.



Welcome Back Rev. Dr. Elvin Price!

Our Pastor, First Lady and church family were honored and happy to have Rev. Dr. Elvin Price as the guest Pastor to preach a sermon during Pastor Reuben and First Lady Sonja's

10th Anniversary as Third Street Bethel's leaders and their birthday celebration!

Dr. Price rendered an inspirational message! We are proud to claim him and his family as members of the "Bethel Family."

Rev. Dr. Elvin is Pastor of Beulah Farmville AMEC. His wife, Rev. Andrea, serves as Co-Pastor. They have two children, Henry and Heidi.



THANK YOU, THIRD ST. BETHEL

First Lady Sonja and I extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for an elegant celebration! We love you, and you will forever be in our hearts.

Rev. Reuben J. Boyd, Jr.



Distinguished Recognition

The Covid-19 Pandemic was catastrophic! It created a screeching halt and literally shutdown the country, killing nearly a million people worldwide. Businesses, schools and churches were ordered closed. We were forced to wear masks, stay inside our homes and socially distance ourselves if we dared to venture outside.

However, God provided a means to get His Word out via technology, which would provide a resource to produce and broadcast a modified church worship service.

Third Street Bethel AMEC was blessed to have the technology and individuals with the talent and skills who for nearly two years on each Sunday, the Media Team, composed of Dr. Dennis Yerby, Chanda Graham, Jonathan Bennet and Joel Lomnick, fearlessly and faithfully came into the church to produce and broadcast Rev. Boyd's preaching. Therefore, it was without doubt that they be honored.



Sunday School Lessons for September 2023

God's Law Is Love – Liberating Faith Studies

Sept. 3 - **Jesus Eats With a Pharisee** – Luke 11:37- 44

Sept. 10 - **Is It Lawful to Heal on the Sabbath?** – Luke 14:1 – 6

Sept. 17 – **Jesus Gives God Glory** – John 7:14 - 24

Sept. 24 – **Jesus Extends Forgiveness** – John 8:1 - 11

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for Third Street Bethel AME Church School

Adult and children/ youth classes – In- Person (Allen Hall & Belle Hall Classrooms)

Adult Teleconference Class – Telephone number 1-(716) 427-1108 Access code 956420#

THIRD ST BETHEL AMEC SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION PROPOSES SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE! LET'S RIDE THE BUS!

Please join members of the Social Action Commission (SAC) as we participate in conjunction with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VAIPL) "Ride the Bus Week." The purpose is to bring awareness to the need to reduce carbon emissions and fossil fuel that are polluting the environment and creating climate change.

On **Sunday, September 10, 2023**, please join members of SAC after church service for a short transportation ride on a GRTC Bus.

For more information and a brief survey see:

[https://youtu.be/kVCsIF4GpXU?](https://youtu.be/kVCsIF4GpXU?si=YWgTpLaGiVI76Uvy)

[si=YWgTpLaGiVI76Uvy](https://youtu.be/kVCsIF4GpXU?si=YWgTpLaGiVI76Uvy)

<https://forms.gle/cbFRAWxpkfpM5WDEA>



S.A.L.T. Book Club

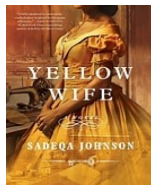
Meeting Date: Friday, September 8, 2023

Time: 8:00pm

Book: "The Yellow Wife"

Author: Sadeqa Johnson

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489538032?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489538032?pwd=cE5mVXlvRndiZjN2YUc0bHhQcStZQT09)
[pwd=cE5mVXlvRndiZjN2YUc0bHhQcStZQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489538032?pwd=cE5mVXlvRndiZjN2YUc0bHhQcStZQT09)



Senior Adult Ministry

An Invitation to Join the

Senior Adult Ministry



Who: Adult Seniors

When: September 13, 2023

Time: 9:45 a.m.

**Where: Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
600 N. 2nd St., Richmond, VA 23219**

Agenda: Kick-Off Meeting

- **Tour at Maggie L. Walker Historical Site, then**
- **Meet at Belle Hall and learn about the plans of the Senior Ministry**
- **Lunch/Fellowship & Adjournment**



23RSVP: Register by Sept. 4, 20

The Benevolent Offering Schedule

1st Sunday – WMS

2nd Sunday – YPD

3rd Sunday- Bea's Boutique

4th Sunday – Bethel Cares

5th Sunday – Nehemiah

CONGREGATION CORNER

Quick Question?

Who was your musical inspiration?

Jonathan Mitchum

"Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart."

Lloyd Dunaway

"Anyone that could play the piano. As a child, I would watch piano players and then go home and mimic their keystrokes at the kitchen table while humming the tune"

Carolyn Campbell

"My musical inspiration happens to be my 97 yr. old Aunt Frances who is known for being a gospel soloist. Her and my uncle Arthur who was a member of the Golden Eagles with Sam Cooke, sang in quartets on the Gulf Coast. The first time I remember hearing her sing, I kept on searching until I found the "King of Kings". I cried until I was moved from the children choir to the Youth choir. The song "Yes Jesus Love Me" just wasn't enough."

"My dad as he sang with the choir at Greater Saint James AMECH, as a child, I loved to hear the choir sing 'Oh Happy Day'."

Angela Yerby

"The Bethel Ensemble, as a child I would sit in on their choir rehearsals in the Allen Hall while doing my homework and singing along and learning all the parts. It was here that I learned to listen to my choir mates, seeking to match their notes, compliment their tone with mine, and harmonize. I learned there are many ways to minister and share the gift God gave me."

Malinda Demps

"Mahalia Jackson. 'Just a Closer Walk with Thee' was one of the first songs I attempted to sing back when I was younger. I can't do it justice like she did, but I was inspired by her. My family was very active during the civil rights movement in the 60s and she was a strong presence during that time."

Pamela Thompson

"I grew up listening to the Bethel Ensemble of Third Street Bethel under the direction of Ronald L. Coles. The choir inspired me to continue music through handbells in church and playing the trumpet in middle and high school. The Bethel Ensemble was not only dedicated to the music, but to spreading God's word musically. My mother, the late Mary Perthone, was a choir member, so I traveled near and far to listen and watch them perform in many places throughout Virginia. It was an honor to follow and listen to the amazing music by the Bethel Ensemble"

Zena Raye

THE STEWARD'S CORNER

With the beginning of Autumn, we begin to cover our arms and legs and block our skin from the sun to produce vitamin D. People with naturally darker skin require longer exposure times to produce vitamin D and can be deficient during the shorter days of Autumn and Winter. (see "Vitamin D: The 'sunshine' vitamin" PMID 22629085). Please be sure to speak to your medical professional about vitamin D supplementation if required.

Thinking of the sunshine reminded me of a song sung by Pebbles and Bamm-Bamm from the Flintstones. The song was named "Open Up Your Heart (and Let the Sunshine In)". As a child, I liked the song and sang along whenever the episode aired. As an adult, I loved the song after reading the lyrics. With further research, I learned the songwriter, Stuart Hamblen, originally sang the song for his church Sunday school. On television, the song was not always played in its entirety so as not to offend non-religious groups.

The lyrics are going to be shared here and I hope none are offended, but if you are feeling gloomy, just let the sunshine in.

Mommy told me something a little kid should know.
It's all about the devil and I've learned to hate him so.
She said he causes trouble when you let him in the room.
He will never ever leave you if your heart is filled with gloom.

So let the sunshine in, face it with a grin.
Smilers never lose and frowners never win.
So let the sun shine in, face it with a grin
Open up your heart and let the sun shine in.

When you are unhappy, the devil wears a grin
But oh, he starts a-running when the light comes pouring in
I know he'll be unhappy 'cause I'll never wear a frown
Maybe if we keep on smiling he'll get tired of hanging 'round.

So let the sunshine in, face it with a grin.
Smilers never lose and frowners never win.
So let the sun shine in, face it with a grin
Open up your heart and let the sunshine in.

If I forget to say my prayers the devil wears a grin.
But he feels so awful awful when he sees me on my knees

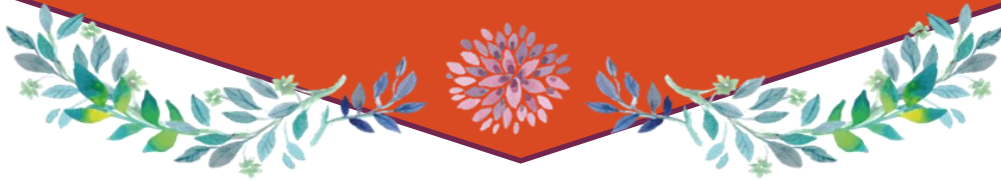
So if you're full of trouble and you never seem to win,
Just open up your heart and let the sunshine in.

So let the sun shine in, face it with a grin.
Smilers never lose and frowners never win.
So let the sun shine in face it with a grin
Open up your heart and let the sunshine in.



Dennis Yerby
dwyerby@gmail.com

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-jOE3ZO](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGoO)

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