

Grace Beacon

Grace Baptist Church of Germantown
Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., Senior Pastor

**Happy Sixth
Anniversary to
Pastor and Mrs. Buck
Champ and Jaida!**



Pastor's Corner

The Easter Tide Season



It is with great joy that we have this chance again to visit an empty tomb. Let me see if we can reflect what was going on a few years ago. For the last three years, we have been held by the unknown impact of a virus that had the entire world shook. It was so impactful that it literally brought the entire global community to an immediate halt. Loved ones who had been with us for so long transitioned from labor to reward. Continued sickness and stresses are still visiting many of our people and yet to this day, God is still holding and healing many. We have so much to praise God for as we celebrate this Easter Tide Season.

So let's say it this way, Happy Easter – Happy Easter – Happy Easter

You are here and you are healed. You are covered and you are kept by God. You are more than a conqueror and you are equally becoming complete. Philippians 1:6 “He who began a good work in you will complete it until the coming of Jesus Christ”.

Reflecting on this Easter Season, we humble ourselves in the presence of a risen savior. The humbleness of a compassionate God has been God's gift to all of us who are in search and have accepted His merciful love. God gave the most precious and promising gift to us in the manifestation of His Son Jesus the Christ. It was He who bore the sins of the world, took on the principles of evil and stapled all of our dysfunctions to the cross never to be shouldered by us anymore.

A Poem about the Resurrection:

Let every heart be filled with joy – A joy of thankfulness to our Savior and King – He is victorious over sin and death – He conquered to give us a new life.

A life blossoms through His unending love – It is for a cause and without condition – The love that brings healing and reconciliation – A pure love that creates in us real peace.

Peace that springs from his sacred heart – A heart that bleeds for our affliction – It is full of mercy and compassion – A heart wounded for our sins and vainglory.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Jesus is truly risen from the dead – For us to live once again – To live without blemish of pride – And live a life unselfishly for others in need.

On behalf of our entire family, we wish you all a HAPPY EASTER and a HAPPY RESURRECTION Day.

Pas Vobiscum
Pastor Buck

It's Friday
Jesus is praying
Peter's a sleeping
Judas is betraying
But Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
Pilate's struggling
The council is conspiring
The crowd is vilifying
They don't even know
That Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
The disciples are running
Like sheep without a shepherd
Mary's crying
Peter is denying
But they don't know
That Sunday's a comin'

It's Friday
The Romans beat my Jesus
They robe him in scarlet
They crown him with thorns
But they don't know
That Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
See Jesus walking to Calvary
His blood dripping
His body stumbling
And his spirit's burdened

IT'S FRIDAY...BUT SUNDAY'S COMIN'

But you see, it's only Friday
Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
The world's winning
People are sinning
And evil's grinning

It's Friday
The soldiers nail my Savior's
hands
To the cross
They nail my Savior's feet
To the cross
And then they raise him up
Next to criminals

It's Friday
But let me tell you something
Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
The disciples are questioning
What has happened to their
King
And the Pharisees are
celebrating
That their scheming
Has been achieved
But they don't know
It's only Friday
Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
He's hanging on the
cross

Feeling forsaken by his Father
Left alone and dying
Can nobody save him?

Ooooh
It's Friday
But Sunday's comin'

It's Friday
The earth trembles
The sky grows dark
My King yields his spirit

It's Friday
Hope is lost
Death has won
Sin has conquered
and Satan's just a laughin'

It's Friday
Jesus is buried
A soldier stands guard
And a rock is rolled into place

But it's Friday
It is only Friday
Sunday is a comin'!

**S.M. Lockridge (1913-2000),
pastor of Calvary Baptist
Church in San Diego from 1953
to 1993.**



From the keyboard of the editor

He Did What?

Last Sunday, Minister Blackson talked about women who tell their stories and what we can learn from them. I think back to a time when I heard a minister say, “No one can tell your story like you can.” The late Dr. G. Daniel Jones would give an update of his stewardship on his anniversary every year so that the church would know what he did on a day to day basis. Pastor Buck has not shared his labors with the church in the same way, and as a consequence, some have mistaken this silence for inaction. Nothing could be further from the truth. This edition of the Grace Beacon is sharing some of what Pastor Buck has done in his six years with us. You be the judge of whether he has been inactive! By the way, Pastor offered very little of this. Our Beacon Staff had to pull information from many sources to provide this update.

Led by the Spirit of God to accept the 10th Pastorate of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., has been faithfully working to fulfill the Lord’s Will for His Church. Installed on April 30, 2017, Pastor Buck promptly became immersed in the culture of both the church and the community.

He immediately brought together the Associate Ministers to hear their desires for ministry and growth as well as opportunities for service, hosting them in the relaxed atmosphere of his home. He said at that time, and continues to say, that the Associate Ministers are prepared and capable of preaching the Gospel throughout Philadelphia and vicinity.

From his first year, Pastor has placed emphasis on congregational study. In addition to regular church-wide study, he led the congregation in an intensive study of the books, *I Am A Church Member...Discovering the Attitude That Makes The Difference*, *An African-American Perspective on Church Membership and Building A Contagious Church*.

In addition to the numerous counseling, weddings, home-going celebrations and other ministry obligations, Pastor Buck worked diligently with the youth in the community. At the invitation of a young parishioner, Rev. Buck attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School’s King Day of Service. He led a workshop with the Philadelphia Police regarding how to engage Police, tips for academic success, social and spiritual health. He offered his phone number to the young men in attendance. That began a partnership with the school and its students which quietly continues today. Pastor Buck has served as a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, caterer, panel participant and is an award recipient for his unwavering commitment to the youth of King High School even after the young man who initially invited him graduated.

Rev. Buck’s inaugural year began the rich collaboration with Senator Dwight Evans, State Representative Stephen Kinsey, State Representative Chris Rabb and State Senator Art Haywood. This partnership directly led to a million dollar State grant for the construction of the Community Center. Pastor’s partnership with the Northwest Coalition was responsible for the partnership with Chestnut Hill Hospital, Rite Aid Pharmacy, sister churches and civic leaders who came together to ensure equity in the dissemination of information and distribution of life saving Covid Vaccine. Grace Baptist Church was one of the first testing sites to serve our community.

Having received his Doctorate in Transformative Leadership with a dissertation topic *Reduction of Recidivism in African Americans Through Community Based Programs*, Rev. Buck desired to create a program which put the premises of his paper into practice. His great wish was to utilize Grace Community Center to

bring this ministry opportunity to our church for our community. Unfortunately, the legal separation between the church and the center required for this to happen, has not been achieved to the present. The GCCC remains under the 5013C of the church and is not an independent legal entity.

Because of the current need in our community and the calling of God to address this need, *Southern Flames* was born. Rev. Buck has turned soul food into a business model that employs traditional employees working beside men and women who don't need a handout but rather a hand up, to change their life trajectories when many others said "no way." Southern Flames is now a model hailed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a model to reduce the recidivism rate of non-violent felons by allowing them to receive training, counseling and marketable skills so that they may become contributing members of society.

Rev. Buck continues his pastoral ministry: mentoring 6 Ministers for ordination set for this year; mentoring 1 MIT and possibly another to come along; encouraging and directing Grace Clergy to be involved and visible. Advocating for them to get their ministries back up and running. (Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth, Wellness, Marriage, Ushers, New Members , etc.). Within our church, leadership continues to grow. From the ordination or licensing of 4 female Deacons, 1 male Deacon to the recent conferences where some church leaders came together to work on and rewrite important church missional statements, Pastor Buck continues to emphasize the importance of, not only recognizing God's purpose for His people in the life of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, but also living it. He teaches Bible Study each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm with prayer meeting immediately following.

While budgetary constraints often limit what can be done, they have not stopped ministry. In response to the need for summer camp and in the face of budgetary concerns, Pastor's vision for **SEE at Grace** was created. It was primarily funded, at no cost to the church, by donations and minimal tuition costs to parents. It provided an opportunity for enrichment and opportunity for growth in both the students and staff.

Through participation in Ministerial and Civic Associations and through visits to other churches, Pastor Buck keeps abreast of what is happening in the Church and Community. Guest speakers and preachers have been uplifting and diverse. This year, Grace was re-established as a venue for **Preaching With Power**.

While unrest, chaos and violence plague our city, Pastor Buck has been in the midst of providing responses. For example, when social unrest after the death of George Floyd rocked Philadelphia (in addition to the rest of the nation), Rev. Buck and several of the Associate Ministers were called to participate in an attempt to quell the unrest at risk to their personal safety. These men and women of God prayed for, with and over our city, speaking with young people and diffusing aggression as they walked the streets of Philadelphia. Out of this grew the **Philly Safe** movement which was co-founded by Rev. Buck and which, in January 2023, received a \$220,000 grant which is being used for cleaning, lighting and greening of neighborhoods in the Mt. Airy section of town.

During the Pandemic when human physical connections were few, Pastor led the Audio-Visual Team to step up our technological capabilities so that we could worship, study, conduct church business and stay connected with each other. During this time, Pastor supported Rev. Brian Wallace's desire to create an on-line prayer line which has given comfort and hope to many and continues to be operational. The Prayer line reached beyond Grace into the community, as did Pastor's use of Social Media to have Community Bible Study.

Because of the pandemic, Pastor met with and encouraged the Music Department to alter choirs, create another unified choir (United Voices of Grace) and re-establish Praise and Worship to reach others in a special way.

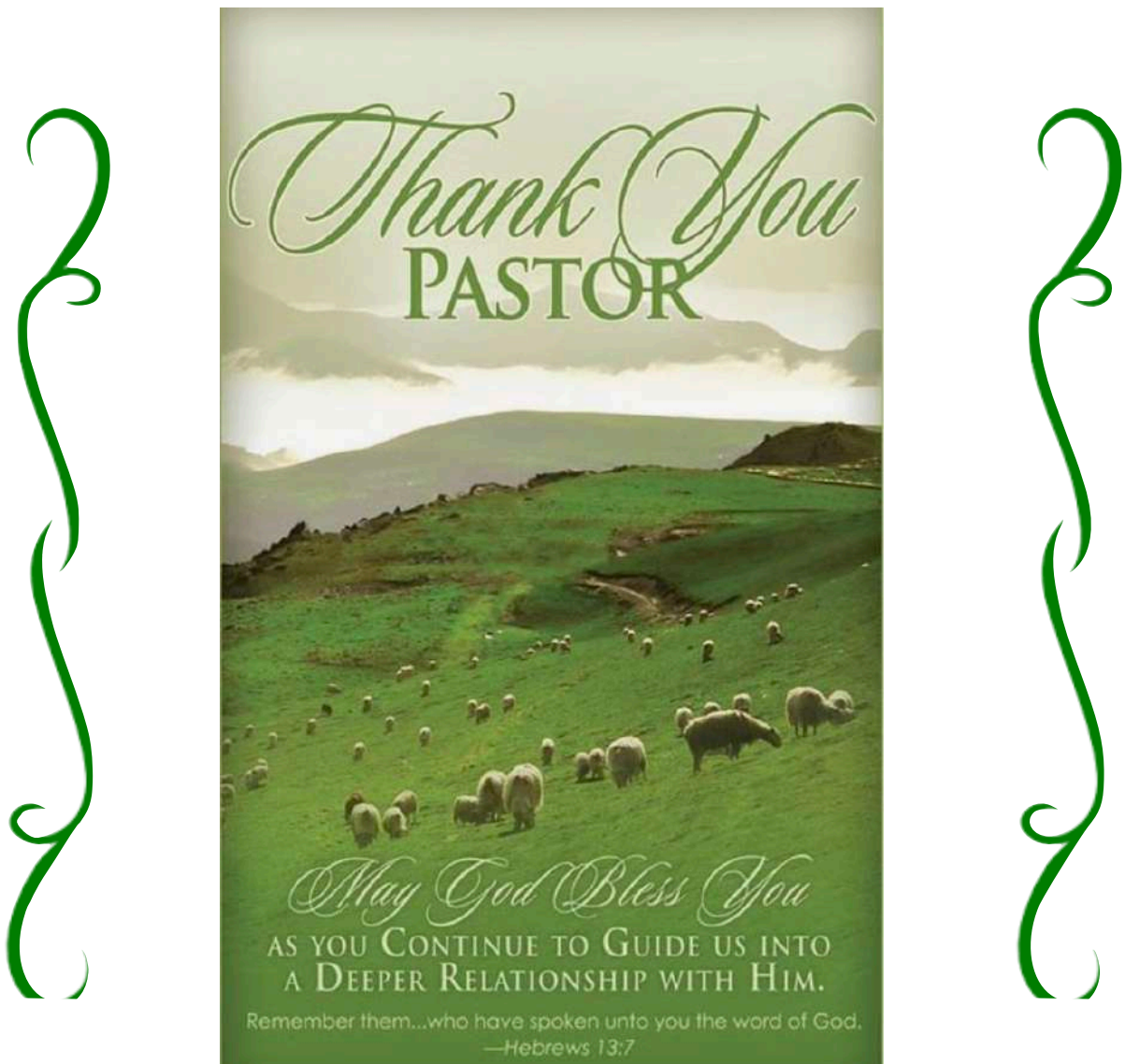
In the past six years of his pastorate, Grace Baptist Church has seen growth in a number of ways, despite 2.5 years of pandemic. Under Rev. Buck's pastorate approximately 30 have accepted Christ as their personal Savior and have been baptized; approximately 38 have received the Right Hand of Fellowship; at least 3 couples have been married and 5 babies have been dedicated by Rev. Buck. God has called at least 60 of our members home to glory, and Pastor conducted the Home Going service for most of them.

Despite the challenges we have faced, now face and will face, God continues to lead Pastor and people forward, showing us how to live out our motto, *In the Heart of the Community, Seeking Ever To Win the Community's Heart*, Our vision, *To be Christ-centered followers obeying the Word of God, shining brightly in the community and sharing the message of hope where faith and real life come together*, and Our mantra, *Hope Happens Here!*

May we always remember that no leader can be strong without the support of faithful followers, and that each member has a role to play in the retention of members! Did you have cross words with another member? Did a new member see or hear that and decide to walk away? That wasn't the fault of the leadership, was it?

Remember Romans 12:18, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" and Romans 14:19 "So then, let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification." That is God's vision for His church according to the Apostle Paul.

Happy Anniversary, Pastor, and above all, BE ENCOURAGED!



Wellness Ministry's Did You Know April 2023



April is National Minority Health Month

Did you know...

- The Origin of National Minority Health Month is in the 1915 establishment of National Health Week by Booker T. Washington
- National Minority Health Month builds awareness about the disproportionate burden of premature death and illness in people from racial and ethnic minority groups
- Encourages action through health education, early detection and control of disease complications

Now that you know you can learn more at www.nimbd.nih.gov

April is National Autism Awareness Month

Did you know...

- In 1972, the Autistic Society established National Autistic Children's Week as part of its efforts to educate people about the autism spectrum disorders and how to support autistic people.



- That Autism effects over 70 million people worldwide and is the most rapidly growing developmental disability in North America

- Signs that someone may have autism is social and cognitive impairments, communication difficulties, repetitive behaviors

Now that you know, more information can be found at nationalautismassociation.org

Minister Carolyn M. Blackson



SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EVENTS AT GRACE

April 2	Palm Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service followed by Pastoral Anointing
April 5	Wednesday	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Return of in-person Noonday Prayer Meeting; Virtual Evening Prayer Meeting
April 6	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	Musical Presentation by Chancel Choir; Message brought by Rev. Brian Wallace
April 7	Good Friday	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Seven Last Words 1 st Word - Minister Clifford L. Stanley 2 nd Word - Rev. Dr. Suzanne W. Kershaw 3 rd Word - Minister Karol A. Mason 4 th Word - Minister Jeanine F. Watson 5 th Word - Reverend Victoria Monts 6 th Word - Reverend Carmen Watson 7 th Word - Minister Carolyn M. Blackson
April 9	Resurrection Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service

SEXTON JOB POSTING



The Grace Baptist Church of Germantown is seeking a **full-time Sexton** for the general custodial care of the church building and grounds, set up church/rooms for regularly scheduled church programs and functions and assist with preparations for events such as baptismal, weddings, funerals or other events as needed.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must have commercial cleaning experience, knowledge of cleaning methods: materials and appropriate equipment for a variety of cleaning tasks to perform each essential duty satisfactorily.

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required:

- Education and experience - High School diploma or GED, with one to three years related experience or training.
- Must be able to clearly and effectively carry out instructions,
- The ability to safely work with power tools such as, sprayers, vacuums..., etc.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The individual in this position must be able to:

- The ability to climb steps and ladders as well as to bend, pull and push.
- The ability to move and carry objects.
- The ability to carry and lift up to 50 lbs.



A successful background check will be required before employment.

THANK YOU FROM THOSE IN UGANDA WHO HAVE BEEN HELPED BY YOUR LOVE AND SACRIFICE.

Your thoughtfulness and overwhelming generosity to the Uganda Mission Project helped many men, women and children in need in Jinja and Kampala, Uganda. I am happy to let you know that the Mission Team who has partnered with the Christian Humanitarian Aid Organization from Canaan Family Life Center, returned to Uganda this past **February**. We can once again provided help, food, clothing, education, medical care, and emotional support in this severely improvised country where child mortality rates are skyrocketing at alarming rates, many due to AIDS and Malaria. The need is overwhelming in Uganda, but we intend to make a difference one child at a time.

Because you cared, I along with the six other members of the Team, were able once again to give personal testimonies, minister and encourage the children and adults in any way needed. We took supplies and other miscellaneous gifts. The greatest gift we offered is the love of Jesus Christ! We wanted each person to understand that their life matters and God has a plan for them to be with him for eternity. **We also distributed the pillowcase dresses, lovingly made by the women of Grace**, to girls and teens who are so grateful and appreciative of our kindness.









FREE PARKING

FREE ADMISSION

theMann.
HBCU
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY
TD | TD READY COMMITMENT

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR • MARCHING BANDS
 CHOIRS • CHEER SQUADS • FOOD TRUCKS
 GUEST SPEAKERS • FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES
 MASTER CLASSES • LIVE MUSIC • DRUMLINE BATTLE
 SPECIAL GUESTS AND MORE!

PRETTY VEE

TERRENCE J

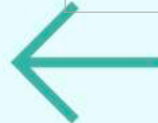
MAY 20 **theMann.**

Join us at the first-ever HBCU Festival Presented by TD Bank at the Mann on May 20, 2023! This FREE festival will be an all-day community event celebrating Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their vibrant culture. As an interactive college fair featuring representatives from national and regional HBCUs, the festival will serve to engage and inspire the next generation of students while celebrating the rich and varied performing arts that are integral to HBCU culture.

The festival will include performances by guest artists as well as live HBCU choirs, marching bands, majorettes, and cheer squads. Attendees can also enjoy masterclasses by choral and band directors, panel discussions on college affairs, and more. There will be food trucks and plenty of family-friendly activities such as face painting, balloon making, crafts, and more around the campus for all to enjoy!

#WORKREADY

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR WORKREADY SUMMER 2023



www.workready.org

- LEARN MORE AND APPLY -

HEY PHILLY!

GET THE JUMP ON YOUR CAREER WITH A
 #WorkReadyPHL SUMMER JOB!

Applications are now open for Philadelphia youth from 12-24 years old!* Don't miss your chance to earn \$1,000+ and build your resume this summer through hands-on placements at more than 600 worksites around the city!

*Though WorkReady opportunities are available for young people ages 12-24, opportunities for ages 20+ are limited. To learn more about other PYN programming available for ages 20+, visit the [PYN website](#).

Grace Baptist Church of Germantown
25 W. Johnson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Virtual
Prayer
Meeting



Wednesday
Night Bible Study

Prayer Line:

Every Day - Mondays thru Fridays @ 10:00 AM
Dial-In# 727-731-8137

Bible Study (starting January 17, 2023):
Third Tuesdays Only @ 11:00 AM - Chapel

Noonday In-Person Prayer Meeting:
(starting back in April 2023)

Bible Study:

Every Wednesday Evening @ 6:00 PM - Zoom or Facebook

Virtual Prayer Meeting:

Every Wednesday Evening @ 7:00 PM - Zoom Only

Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/7599267727?pwd=dGFtLSg0LY3pxRHF4WkEzUzQ1cVU1Zz09>

Zoom Conference Call:

Dial: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 759 926 7727 ##
Passcode: 869858



Telephone No. 215-438-3215 *** Fax No. 215-438-3210
Community Center No. 215-848-2700 *** Conference Prayer Line No. 727-731-8137
Website: www.gracebaptistgtn.org *** Facebook: Grace Baptist Church GTN

Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., Senior Pastor

Effective 1/1/2023

**NOON DAY PRAYER MEETING
RESUMES
APRIL 5, 2023**

Prayer



Sick & Shut-in List

OUR KNOWN SICK AND SHUT-INS:

Dr. K. Wesley Alford
Mrs. Dorothy Allen
Ms. Joyce Allen
Deacon Robert Berkley
Mrs. Luvonia Bivens
Ms. Dolores J. Bouldin
Mr. Leonard Carter
Mrs. Shirley Carter
Trustee Em. Ruben Collins
Mrs. Claudia Cuyler
Mrs. Juanita Dade
Mrs. Carol Daley
Trustee Em. Sidney Estes
Mrs. Liller B. Green
Mrs. Brenda Hinson
Mrs. Florence Jenkins
Mrs. Deborah Steward-Johnson
Mr. Darryl Jones
Mrs. Jacqueline Johnson
Mrs. Elayne King
Mrs. Patricia Lomax
Ms. Celesta McLean
Mrs. Helene Morris
Mr. James Napoleon
Mr. Joseph Norman
Mrs. Florence Palmer
Ms. Ida Reeder
Mrs. Dorothy Wint-Ryan
Miss Aileen K. Scroggins
Mrs. Beulah Steward
Mrs. Virginia Thomas
Ms. Alice Whitaker
Ms. Sandra White
Mr. Anthony Williams
Mrs. Irma Williams
Mrs. Catherine Willie
Ms. Audrey Wright

Hospitalized:

Mr. Fred Corbett, Abington Hospital

OUR NURSING HOME & REHABILITATION

RESIDENTS:

Mrs. Marian Davis, **Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley Room**
Trustee Em. Kenneth Jackson, Sr. **Complete Rehab at Harston Hall**
Mrs. Pearl Montgomery, **Genesis Healthcare Nursing & Rehab**
Deacon Em. William Ballou, Jr., **Germantown Home** Miss
Ms. Ellen Corbett, **Phoebe Wyncote**
Mr. George Beach, **ProMedica Total Rehab+**,
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Ludell Roberts, **Springfield Crossings Rehab and Health Care.**
Mrs. Barbara Hutchinson, **Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapley**

Ms. Keisha Way, **Towne Manor East,**

PRAYER LIST:

Ms. Linda Lawrence, **sister**, of Mrs. Barbara Autry
Mr. Kevin Barlow, **son** of Mrs. Cora P. Barlow
Ms. Annette M. Jackson and Mrs. Shirley Macon, **sisters** of Mrs. Cora Barlow and Mrs. Theresa Smith
Ms. Joanne Evans, **friend** of Mrs. Patricia Beach
Ms. Karen Beyers and Mr. Eugene Beyers
Mrs. Shyolanda Nichols-Brown of Denver, CO
Mrs. Norma Birckett
Ms. Juan Clairbourne of Las Vegas, NV, **cousin** of Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr.
Aeesha Butts, mother and Teesha Butts, **daughter**
Mr. Adelbert Bush
Ms. Janey Martin, **mother** of Mrs. Betty J. Coleman
Mr. Robert Corbett, **brother** of Mr. Fred Corbett & Ms. Ellen Corbett
Ms. Elizabeth Corbett
Mrs. Helena Dennis, 125 E. McIver Road, Darlington, SC 29532, **mother** of Ms. Lisa Dennis
Mrs. Marlene Diggs
Mrs. Mildred Elliott
Mr. Willie Evans, **father of** Ms. Tiffany Evans
Mrs. Parthenia Gardner, **sister** and Mr. Tyrone Randolph, **son** of Mrs. Geraldine V. Gilmore
Mrs. Geraldine V. Randolph-Gilmore
Mrs. Carolyn McLean of Raeford, NC, **sister** of Ms. Vera Graham
Mr. William Harris, son of Mrs. Delores Harris
Mrs. Ethel Johnson
Mr. Edmund McLaurin, Jr. **nephew** of Ms. Joanne Johnson
Mrs. Christina Pleasants-Johnson
Mr. Christopher H. Vinson, **son** of Mrs. Geraldine Lamar
Ms. Yvonne Love, **sister** of Ms. Vinnette Love
Mrs. Florence Lucas, **sister-in-law**, Mr. Robert Lucas, **brother** and Mrs. Dorothy Ripley, **sister** of Trustee William & Adele Lucas
Mrs. Jacqueline (Garden) Marshall
Mr. Roger Lee Jenkins (NC), **uncle** and Ms. Yolanda Bailey, **cousin** of Deacon Prince & Lorraine Massey
Rev. Victoria Monts and Master Joshua Monts
The Moody Family
Mrs. Lillian V. McClanahan-Nunn
Mrs. Marlene Patterson
Ms. Alice Vaughn (GA), **niece** and Mrs. Vira Dennis, **friend** of Rev. Arnold C. Storr
Mr. Vito Scutti
Mr. Kevin Turner, of Durham, NC, **son** of Mrs. Elayne Turner
Mrs. Matilda Simmons, **sister** of Ms. Alice Whitaker & Mr. Landon Whitby
Mrs. Lisa Williams, **wife** of Mr. Anthony Williams
Mrs. Ellen L. Williams
Mrs. Mae F. Williams

APRIL CALENDAR

*BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARY *MEMORIAL

- M 01 MARION F. BELL
- B 01 ELISE HOPE GRIFFIN
- B 01 ROMONA HARRIS
- M 02 ELOISE B. FREEMAN
- B 03 JADEN A. FIELDS
- B 03 COLIN RANDOLPH
- B 04 LORRAINE MASSEY
- M 04 ROSIABELL T. MUSE
- B 04 JOYCELYN E. LEE
- B 05 BURNESTINE BURRELL
- B 05 REV. TAMIKA HOLDER
- M 05 ELIZABETH C. JONES
- B 05 WILLIAM LUCAS
- M 11 WILLIAM J. FISHER
- B 15 CLARA EDWARDS-HUGGINS
- B 15 BARBARA A. JAMES
- M 15 PATRICIA E. RILEY
- M 15 DAVID E. WIMBUSH
- M 16 DEACON HARRY H. JONES, SR.
- B 18 JADE LYNN HICKENBOTTOM
- B 18 CHARLES S. RYAN KERSHAW
- A 18 WARREN & FANNIE RUSSELL
- B 21 JO ANNE JONES
- B 22 KEVIN A. BARLOW
- M 22 THELMA H. WILLIAMS
- M 23 EMMONS M. WILLIAMS, JR.
- B 25 EVAN JACOB BLAKE
- M 26 CARL B. DORSEY
- B 26 BIANCA SUMMER ROSE BLAKE
- M 28 JERRY BRANCH, SR.