



A Note from Pastor Butler

Greetings, Beloved. I should like to thank the members of the Church Anniversary Committee for planning and presenting a meaningful two-day celebration of the congregation's one hundred and forty-two years of continuous ministry unto God in the greater Huntsville community and beyond. The Saturday picnic not only brought us together for fellowship as a family of faith but also drew residents of our surrounding neighborhood with intentionality. It encouraged my heart to see the warm welcome extended to our guests and their children as so many enjoyed carnival rides, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a place in the shade. Certainly, our Sunday service matched Saturday's gathering with a spirited and moving worship. The singing of the choir and the preaching of the gospel by our guest minister still stir our souls. For those blessings we remain grateful to God as embark upon this one hundred and forty-third year of our ministry with zeal and a renewed commitment to God's work.

Additionally, I am pleased to share another opportunity for you and I to dialogue about the important work of ministry at

First Baptist. On the fifteenth day of each month, I will lead an hour-long forum on Zoom called the Pastor's Moment. It will be a time of engagement with disciple-members who wish to hear from me about specific topics of concern to us as a congregation. Not only will I get a chance to speak directly to you, you'll be afforded opportunities to respond and give input. This month's session will focus on church staffing needs. You are invited to join us in the moment. Registration is open via Realm.

It is also my pleasure to announce the candidacy of six disciple-members for the Deacon Ministry of our congregation. During the summer of last year, the Official Board and I discerned in prayer the need to train servant-disciples for leadership in this ministry. The discernment process brought forth the names of the following persons: Brother Ted Arterberry, Brother Ahmad Brown, Sister Ovetta Hobson, Brother Sam Morris, Brother Allan Poole, and Brother Darrell Quarles. This is a year of training and preparation for them, as they yield themselves to this public ministry of service. Remember them in prayer as

they near completion of their training.

Finally, please read the financial update provided by Deacon Tommie Batts, the chair of the Finance Committee and Church Treasurer, in this edition. For decades he has given a watchful eye over the finances of the congregation along with members of the finance team and investment committee. Our church remains fortunate to have significant resources to perform the Lord's ministry. Regular reports about our financial strength are made to the deacons and trustees, as they guide us in good stewardship over these resources. I commend him for his labor and sacrifice in this ministry and thank him on behalf of the church.

Let us remember each other before God in prayer these days, beloved. For this binds us to the common work and makes our living and working together possible. Be assured that you remain on my heart daily.

Candidates for Deacon Ministry



**BROTHER TED
ARTERBERRY**

Member since 2003, he has served in the Brotherhood Chorus, as a Lay Minister of Congregational Care, Missionary Society, and the Marriage Ministry. He works as a Procurement Analyst, Army Contracting Command.



**BROTHER AHMAD
BROWN**

Member since 2003, he actively serves as a Lay Minister of Congregational Care and is a Sunday School Teacher for the middle and high school class. When he is not serving at FMBC, he is Director of Business Management, PM SHIELD, PEO M&S.



**SISTER OVETTA
HOBSON**

Member since 1998, she has served on the JRSCDCA Board, VBS teacher, and Youth Advisor. Hobson currently serves as a Sunday School teacher for YAM, and Chair of the FMBC Foundation Board. By day, she is a Senior Director of Engineering and Product Development.



**BROTHER ALLEN
POOLE**

Member since 1997, he previously served as a Sunday School teacher for the middle and high school class, Children's Church leader, TV Ministry and Meals on Wheels. He currently serves as VBS Director. Poole is a retired Logistics Management and Quality Engineer for the federal government.



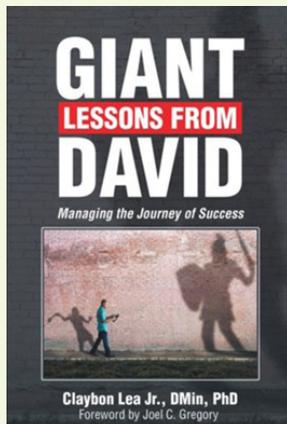
**BROTHER SAM
MORRIS**

Member since 2007, he is serving his second term on the Trustee Board, a member of the Brotherhood Chorus, and a Lay Minister of Congregational Care. Morris works as a Team Lead, Army Material Command.



**BROTHER DARRELL
QUARLES**

Engineer by trade and member of FMBC since 1999, he has served two terms on the Trustee Board and over 20 years in the TV Ministry.



Giant Lessons From David: Managing the Journey of Success by Reverend Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr.

Reviewed by Sister DeAndra Cowan

Rev Dr. Claybon Lea Jr. was one of the guest preachers during this year's summer revival and he does not disappoint in his role as an author. He is the author of *Giant Lessons from David: Managing the Journey of Success*, which is an absolute must read if you have not done so. Reverend Lea tells us that the book is not to be viewed as a self-help book with dedicated steps to success. He chronicles the highs and lows of David's life, how this attributed to his journey of success and what we can learn from the actions of David. He wants us to see our own lives in that of David's.

Each of us have an idea of what success looks like for us and who fits our idea of success. Who comes to mind for you? Whoever you have chosen, that person has endured disappointments, heartaches, and missteps along the way. Each time they learned a valuable lesson in hopes of not making the same mistake again. As a Christian, there should be someone in the Bible that we can identify as a successful person; however, it does not mean the person did not face challenges or obstacles. David was a shepherd boy that would not have been chosen by man because of his stature. When Samuel goes to anoint the new king of Israel, he assumes David's strong and noble brother

would be the chosen one. I Samuel 16:7, But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Some of us can relate to this scripture. Have people taken the opportunity to tell you, based on their perception, that you lack the experience, finances or education to be successful? Perhaps you were overlooked or counted out long before you got started simply because of what you looked like. It made you doubt whether you would ever overcome the giants in life and become successful. One thing is for sure. Improving your skills, work ethic and utilizing your gifts can facilitate success, but you cannot defeat giants without the Lord.

David was the unlikely choice to defeat Goliath and yet he conquered Goliath to eventually become the king of Israel. I Samuel 13:14 says the Lord 'sought out a man after his own heart' and David's heart for God prepared him to be used by God. Give God your heart. Our credentials, pedigree, and resumes are not what makes us useful to God. God can use anyone for his glory and honor. David's success is an example to anyone who may be struggling with life's giants. Life's giants may come in the form of unemployment, a wayward child, an unfavorable doctor's report or handling a difficult relationship. God can take

those giants, failures or misguided steps and shape them into accomplishments. We must affirm that giants in whatever form are no match for our God.

The common theme throughout the book is the Lord was with David and he is with us no matter what giant we face. God anoints us and will appoint us in his perfect timing. Romans 8:31 reminds us that if God is for us, then who can be against us? From time to time, when we overcome giants in our lives, we are able to place those victories in our faith files and use them as references when facing other giants. Sometimes the Sauls in your life do not realize the giants you have already faced and the level of faith and trust you have in God. In managing our success and the insecurities of others, you tend to downplay success to make others feel comfortable. But it is not our responsibility to make others comfortable with what God has done for us nor do we permit others to jeopardize success from God by walking out of His will. No one should get in the way of our worship and praise that God so richly deserves.

Giants in life are inevitable and cannot be avoided and we learn giant lessons each time we face another giant. During these challenging situations, giants even force us to rely on the power of God. Show up like David and let the Lord fight your battles. After all, the battle is not yours.

JRS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND ACADEMY

A Note from Head of School



We have had an A+ beginning to our 2022-23 school year.

A+ Accreditation - We recently received notice of accreditation from Cognia. This dual certification with ACSI and Cognia is certainly an A+ rating to be celebrated. "Based on the findings and recommendation of the Cognia Engagement Review Team and Cognia Accreditation Office, a five-year accreditation/certification term was approved and conferred for your institution by the Cognia Global Commission on June 17, 2022. Congratulations!"

A+ Academics - Our scholars are excelling at all ages and grade levels. A few of our Pre-K4 scholars are already exceeding Kindergarten benchmarks as evidenced by the results of the Fall MAP testing. Our Academy scholars continue to score above the national average in reading, language usage, and math. Two of our recent graduates (Class 2021), currently in seventh grade, are enrolled in eighth-grade level classes.

A+ Agreements - The JRS CDCA currently has partnering agreements with Maitland Conservatory, Rocket City Dance Company, and Alabama A & M University. These partnerships allow our scholars access to arts during the day but also an opportunity to have private lessons during after school if the parents are interested. For the third year in a row, Rocket City Dance Company provides dance lessons. They not only teach dance techniques, but they also have a monthly therapeutic focus. Our instructors engage scholars/dancers in timely discussions. This month's topic includes taking care of our mental health and learning to cope with negative emotions". Our AAMU agreements are with both the Psychology and Foreign Language Departments.

A+ A rich heritage - We continue our 40-year commitment to developing the whole child. Daily we mold our scholar's spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being. We affirm their brilliance and emphasize Christ-like attributes throughout the day. Please join me in thanking God for His faithfulness.

Indeed, we have had an A+ beginning. That doesn't mean we will sit back and take it easy. Just the opposite. We commit ourselves to continue the journey, pushing ahead even when it seems easy to coast. We are laying the foundation for the next 40 years as we agree to get into good trouble, necessary trouble.

Tammy Range Alexander, PhD
Head of School
JRS CDCA

Personnel Committee Updates

Congratulations

TO REV. KIM CARRINGTON ON HER APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR, AND TO REV. CAROLYN LANDRY ON HER REASSIGNMENT TO STAFF MINISTER FOR PASTORAL CARE AND CONGRESSIONAL LIFE. MAY THEY DO GOOD WORKS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD AND MAY GOD BLESS THEIR MINISTRY.

FROM,
THE FMBC PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

KELLI CURRY
CHAIR, PERSONNEL

GINA JONES
VICE CHAIR, PERSONNEL

RON EADY
CHAIR, TRUSTEES

SONYA TOLLIVER
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

DARRYL POPE
SECRETARY

Ministry Update



When I decided to move home in November of 2021 to be with my family, I had no idea that my steps would be ordered back to First Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC)—the church where my roots in faith, music and ministry leadership began. Yet, it has truly been an unexpected gift that has become a source of daily inspiration and compels me deeper into desiring, experiencing and modeling God's heart.

My journey to this moment began more than 40 years ago in FMBC's Sunbeam Choir. In 1988, I joined the Youth Choir, and I served as the Youth Choir director from 1996-1997. Since then, God has favored me to serve in various music ministries across the country. To serve in this time of transition as the Interim Music Ministry and Worship Arts Coordinator and Worship Leader at my home church is an immense honor—yet, a calling that I take very seriously—as I understand that souls can literally be saved, wounded hearts literally made whole, and burdens literally lifted as a result of the liberation that comes from being in God's presence (2 Corinthians 3:17). For these reasons, each day, I diligently seek God's desire for

our worship experience at FMBC, and I invite you to seek and embrace His desire for us with me.

It is my prayer that we will continue to go higher in God through our praise and worship—in truth and spirit—and for that experience to compel the lost to want to know and experience the God whose greatness we testify. For His word says in John 12:32, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to me." Join me in lifting His holy name!

Yours in Christ,
Minister Ryan Patrick Parker
Worship Leader and Interim Music Ministry and Worship Arts Coordinator

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By DEACON TOMMIE BATTIS

I have had the distinct honor of serving as the Church Treasurer for twenty-five years. In that time, I have been able to attest to the goodness of our Lord together with the faithfulness of our tithing and supporting members. As a result of both, First Missionary Baptist Church has been able to not only meet our financial obligations but give generously to impact the lives of those in the community we serve. Thanks to the diligence and oversight of our finance team and investment committee, we remain fiscally solvent.

The financial responsibility of First Missionary Baptist Church is to be a wise steward of the resources God has entrusted to this fellowship. First Missionary Baptist Church is accountable to its membership to make sure the resources of the church are handled with the highest possible level of trust and integrity. Ultimately, the church is responsible to God for the stewardship of its funds. First Missionary Baptist Church has and continues to operate as a good steward in the handling of the funds entrusted to us by our members. We have thus developed and implemented internal controls and risk management tools designed to ensure assets are safeguarded, financial reports and statements are accurate and in accordance with generally accepted accounting

principles, finances are managed with responsible stewardship, and an audit is performed annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA). The internal controls and risk management tools include:

- Develop an annual budget that is approved by the Official Board and the church body.
- Utilization of a church designated financial accounting system designed to capture all income and expenses, reconcile accounts, and disburse monies.
- The adoption and implementation of a financial reporting framework that complies with all relevant Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
- Prepare monthly financial reports of all revenues and expenses, weekly revenues, register of all checks, and investment account amounts.
- Keep the Official Board informed of the financial status and activities of the church by providing them monthly financial reports each month.
- Prepare and provide Official Board periodic reports of Budget versus Actual financial reports.

- Ensures that all funds disbursed by the church are made by check and endorsed by at least two authorized officers of the church Official Board.

- Invest funds in accordance with the FMBC Investment Policy and according to the decisions of the FMBC Investment Committee.

- Provide an annual financial report to the Official Board and church, showing budget versus actual revenue and expenses.

- Utilization of an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to audit the financial records of FMBC annually. This audit is performed and a copy is provided to all Official Board Members, Pastor, and Church Financial Comptroller.

Internal control and financial policies and procedures are important safeguards that ensure we continue to be good stewards of all First Missionary Baptist Church's finances. These safeguards are further enhanced with the hiring of our Financial Comptroller, whose support and assistance will continue improvements to our financial systems, financial reporting, and financial health.



Snapshot on Giving

	Giving Jan 1 - Jul 31, 2021	Giving Jan 1 - Jul 31, 2022	Difference in Year Comparison	% Change in Year Comparison
\$	1,965,751.85	\$ 2,210,147.73	\$ 244,395.88	12.43%

FMBC HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



HAPPY

Birthday

Sister Grace Love

COLLEGE STUDENT FOLLOW-UP

JACKSON QUARLES

Hello Church Family!

I hope you all are doing well. I now attend the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. My adjustment to college has been amazing so far. I recently started my Sophomore year here at the capstone. While attending the University of Alabama my freshman year, I was blessed to be able to join my fraternity (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.) as well as join many different ambassador organizations on campus to advance my involvement and leadership skills. My advice for incoming freshman would be to stay true to yourself and the wisdom that has been poured into you since you were born. The foundation of Christ will get you through any situation you may encounter. Have an amazing year and I can't wait to see you all soon.



FMBC HIGHLIGHTS



Brother Roosevelt and Sister Loretta Conley celebrate 39 years of marriage on September 3rd.



Brother Jesse and Sister Lovie Cook celebrate 30 years of marriage on September 5th.



Brother Enrico and Sister Candice (Scruggs) Hunter celebrate 7 years of marriage on September 5th.

WANT TO BE SHOWN IN THE COMMUNICATOR?

Email a photo and your information of an anniversary or accomplishment to clynk@fmbc.org



JULIUS R. SCRUGGS



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND ACADEMY

Meet The **TEACHER**

Ms. Edna Godfrey



For thirty years Ms. Edna Godfrey has served at the JRS CDCA. She has touched the lives of our scholars in a variety of ways. She has been a K4 teacher, substitute cook, van driver and currently serves as a K3 teacher. Ms. Godfrey has two sons and one granddaughter, Aubree (currently a second-grade scholar at our Academy).

Godfee, as she is affectionately known by some of her scholars, is welcomed daily with open arms and a loving smile. She patiently teaches foundational skills to some of our youngest scholars.

One of her favorite bible passages is found in Psalms 139. According to Ms. Godfrey, she loves the reminder, "no matter where we go, God is watching over us. Before we were formed in the womb, God knew us and was there." Ms. Godfrey has taught scholars through the years that God is loving and kind and that He cares about them.

This month, we say Thank You and Congratulations for being a part of the JRS CDCA family for 30-years!!!

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S *Moment*

AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION BETWEEN
PASTOR AND DISCIPLE-MEMBERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

5:30 PM

REGISTER VIA REALM



PASTOR
DON DARIUS BUTLER



JOIN THE TEAM



Volunteer today!

- SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
- MARQUEE MINISTRY
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER

MEDIA MINISTRY



FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
TRAINING AVAILABLE HOWEVER, EXPERIENCE IS A PLUS! SCAN
THE QR CODE TO COMPLETE THE MEDIA MINISTRY FORM



join our team of **MUSICIANS**

- YOUTH SERVICES
- SCHOOL CHAPEL
- SPECIAL EVENTS

CONTACT MINISTER RYAN PATRICK PARKER | 256-852-4318

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSAL TIMES

- MONDAY- IVOP
- TUESDAY- BROTHERHOOD
- THURSDAY-SUNBEAM
- FRIDAY-SANCTUARY CHOIR

REHEARSALS BEGIN AT 6:00PM



FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH | HUNTSVILLE, AL

WE ARE HIRING

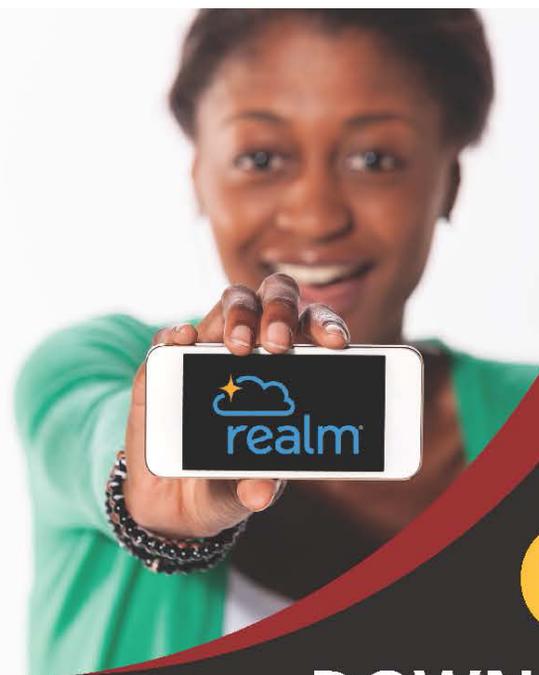
🔍 Facilities Manager

🔍 Staff Minister of Discipleship
and Missions



Visit FMBC.org under the tab Career Opportunities to apply, or scan the QR Code below. Applications will be accepted from August 12-26, 2022.

JOIN OUR TEAM



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

DOWNLOAD THE REALM APP TODAY



GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

Text 'FMBCHSV' and
the amount you want to give
to **73256**

① **Click the link**

② **Complete your gift**

LET'S BE THE CHURCH... TOGETHER

- *Update your personal information
- *Communicate with groups
 - *Follow church announcements
 - *Look up members
 - *Manage giving
- *Create and join events
- *Birthday announcement