



CONGRATULATIONS 2021 FMBC GRADUATES!

IN THIS ISSUE



A Father's Words of Wisdom
Page 3



FMBC Reader's Corner
Page 4



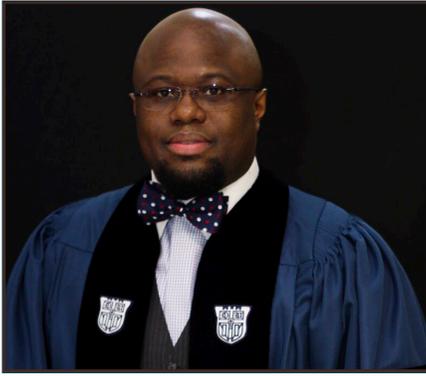
FMBC GRADUATES
Page 6 -7



FMBC MISSIONS
Page 8



YOUTH MINISTRY
Page 9



A Congratulatory Message from Pastor Butler

Greetings, Beloved. I am pleased to congratulate the graduates of the Class of 2021 on behalf of the faith family of First Missionary Baptist Church. Through a global pandemic, you have stayed the course and completed your studies for which you are deserving of public commendation. Maintaining your discipline under strenuous circumstances was no small feat, I'm sure. The adjustments in scheduling and modes of instruction along with the absence of the usual in-person, social engagement have challenged you, as it has the rest of us. Yet, your grit and determination coupled with the support of family and friends have pushed you along to this place of achievement. I salute you all at the various levels of your accomplishment, and encourage you to be good stewards of knowledge you have mastered.

Forty-one years ago, during a commencement address at Spelman College, Howard Thurman urged the graduates to listen for the sound of the genuine within themselves. He observed that something within all of us waits for this genuine sound despite the traffic, different signals, and the vast impulses going on in our minds. Yes, the genuine sound has to be distinguished and

differentiated from other noise, even noise that can be a part of our dreams and ambitions, Thurman warns. In the wake of graduations and other public recognitions, I urge you to pause and listen for that sound, for if you cannot hear it, as Thurman cautions, "you will all your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls."

This year's recognition in celebration of your accomplishments comes between two significant milestone remembrances for ebony people in America. The first memorial is the centennial remembrance of the Tulsa Massacre, and the second is the Juneteenth observance. Much attention has been given to the former in recent days, as President Joseph R. Biden became the first American president to commemorate the carnage of that domestic attack on the citizenry of the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma. A dastardly assault motivated by racial animus and the envy of black flourishing had long gone untold in American history. But the testimonies entered into the congressional record last month by survivors of the massacre – now centenarians – along with the unequivocal naming of the event for what it was by the President of the United

States ensures that the world will no longer pretend that white rage and violence do not have fatal effects upon Black people in this land. Similarly, the Juneteenth celebration – as it is becoming more widely known, particularly among other ethnicities – is the annual opportunity to share the story of freedom's slow march across the country, as evidenced in former slaves in Galveston, Texas, receiving news of emancipation much later than others.

I call these commemorations to mind in the context of your celebration to remind you that your accomplishments flow from the fount of sacrifice and struggle of ancestors for whom graduations were only a dream or from whom they were stolen. When you don your caps and gowns, when your academic hoods are placed around your necks and drape from your shoulders, when you move tassels on mortarboards from one side to the other, it is not a solitary celebration – far from it. Every time this practice is observed in the life of the congregation, we bear witness to the excellence of Black humanity and affirm the dignity in which we are created. This, beloved, is worthy of all the fanfare.

TRIBUTE TO FATHERS

Like My Daddy Used to Say...

Where would we be without sage advice from our fathers and father figures. As we celebrate the impact of faithful fathers this June, we also wanted to share with you some of the wisdom they have imparted to make our lives the richer. Happy Father's Day!



"With sacrifice and discipline, you can do anything you set your mind to, it's on you."

~Rosemary Spragins remembering Roosevelt Spragins



"In all your getting, get wisdom."

~Camille Scruggs honoring Charles Scruggs



You know my Pops as Rev. Alexander, we know him as Pops, Dad and Daddy (three children, three different names). My sister would say, she learned how to be self-sufficient and the importance of knowing your worth. My brother would say he learned the importance of laughter and making others laugh (our dad secretly wanted to be a comedian). I learned how to be a father to my own son. It wasn't just the words that he shared, it was what he modeled by the time that he spent with us- throwing and catching a ball, real talk on being a Black man in America, taking us on mission trips and making sure we gave back to others. Like my Pops always says, "Honor God and He will take care of the rest".

~Micah Alexander honoring Willie Alexander



No matter how bad a situation seems, "this too shall pass." Secondly, "reading is extremely powerful, otherwise they wouldn't have prevented our ancestors from doing it." Both wise sayings I treasure in my heart.

~LaDonna McCann honoring Gilliam Carpenter



My dad would say to, "Love, despite how others treat me. God loves us no matter our faults, and we should always strive to be like God. Matthew 7:12 states, So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

~Cher-Rhonda Woodard-Lynk remembering Martin Woodard



One piece of advice my dad gave me is to always do my best and to keep God first. He also used to tell me, "Growing up, that you must always have insurance, lol."

~ Tonya Briggins honoring Charles Briggins



"Strive to be a productive, contributing member of society."

~Matthew Frost honoring Fred Frost



Instead of asking why me, say why not me because my life could bless someone else. It may look rough, but we have to trust that everything will work out."

~Stacy Langford honoring Doug Montgomery

FMBC READER'S CORNER

READING BENEFITS AND SUMMER SUGGESTIONS

BY SISTER LADONNA MCCANN

Everyone is encouraged to read at least 30 minutes a day. According to an article on The Reading Warrior entitled 12 Great Benefits of Reading 30 Minutes a Day. The complete article can be found at readingwarrior.com.

The 12 benefits are:

1. Improved sleep
2. Better empathy
3. Intelligence
4. Minimize brain decline
5. Improves mood
6. Richer Social Connections
7. Better Career Opportunities
8. Better vocabulary
9. Improved Focus
10. Better Writing



My recommended reads for the summer are:

Elementary

- Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson
- The STEAM Chasers: We Made That by Doresa A. Jennings
- Kayla & Kyle: The Walking Dictionaries by Nicholas Baumah
- I Keep Getting Mad by Isaiah Wesley Thompson
- Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest Episode 1: The Quest for Screen Time (Book 1 of 5: Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest) by Marti Dumas and Marie Muravski
- ****Bonus Family Read**** The Undefeated (Caldecott Medal Book) by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson

Middle/High School

- The Crossover (The Crossover Series)- (Book 1 of 2: The Crossover) by Kwame Alexander
- Gaither Sisters Trilogy: One Crazy Summer, P.S. Be Eleven, Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia
- A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée
- ****Bonus Read for Families**** Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers by Michelle Obama
- ****Bonus Read for Families**** Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy by Emmanuel Acho

Young Adults

- The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas
- Letters to a Young Brother/Letters to a Young Sister by Hill Harper
- She Would be King: A Novel by Wayetu Moore
- ****Bonus Read**** Before the Mayflower by Lerone Bennett Jr.

Adults

- Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen: A Novel by Sarah Bird
- The Warmth of Other Suns and Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
- The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
- ****Family Bonus Read**** Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo" by Zora Neale Hurston



JRS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND ACADEMY CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Ms. Fomby's Kindergarten Scholars



**Angela
Bradford**



**Mason
Copeland**



**Aubree
Godfrey**



**Leah
Hayes**



**Jazlyn
Huff**



**Christian
Matthews**



**Ga'Darren
Pitts**



**Kyler
Scott**



**Ryan
Shelby**



**Journey
Wherry**



**Kaniya
Williams**



**Ms. Megan
Fomby**

Ms. Webster's Kindergarten Scholars



Jamari Byers



**Zy'Niya
Burke-Carter**



**Chasidy
Cunningham**



**Arianna
Custard**



**Jacob
Franklin**



**Kherrigan
Green**



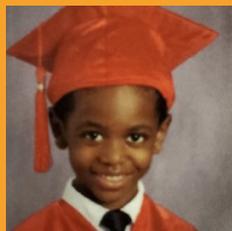
**Lauren
Jones**



**Brenyn
Little**



**Aleena
Riley**



**Justin
Vaughner, II**



**Ms. Bria
Webster**

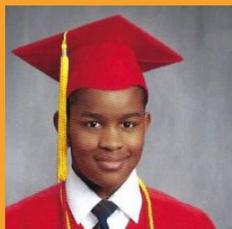
Ms. Tickles' 5th Grade Scholars



**Justin
Bartlett**



**Jada
Gay**



**Cordell
Mullins**



**Elijah
Nomel**



**Indali
Robinson**



**Ms. Kayla
Tickles**



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Angela Bradford
Julius R Scruggs CDCA



Brenyn Little
Julius R Scruggs CDCA



Landen Seright
Horizon Elementary School



Isaiah Wesley Thompson
Monrovia Elementary School



Lauren Carrington
Williams Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL



Nequoia Adams
Madison Academy



Malaya Brabson
Hazel Green High School



Cameron Cole
Sparkman High School



Malik Odell Harris
Valley Fellowship Christian Academy



Eyanla Cierell Jackson
Huntsville High School



Kennedy Jackson
James Clemens High School



Kristen Alexis Lewis
James Clemens High School



Donovan Mitchell
James Clemens High School



JaKarra Alexis Oglesby
James Clemens High School



Jackson Quarles
James Clemens High School



Jordan Riche
Grissom High School



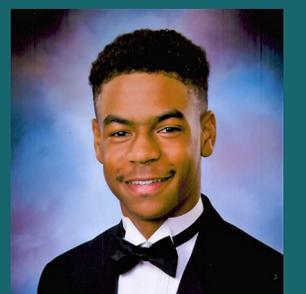
Kendall Harrison Russell
James Clemens High School



Kydarra L. Pope
Lee High School



Rania Shelby
Buckhorn High School



Jared Smith
Sparkman High School



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED



Nathan Stewart
Bob Jones High School



Jonathan Emerson
Turnage
Sparkman High School



Angelina Williams
Madison Academy

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY



Jaylah A. Carpenter
*University of Alabama
Huntsville*



Jonathan K Ford, Jr.
*University of Pennsylvania
Law School*



Tomekia Fuzzell
*Florida Institute
of Technology*



Janessa Jordan
*University of Alabama
Huntsville*



Courtney Alexis McMillan
*University of Alabama
Birmingham*



Alexa Nicole Nunn
University of Alabama



W. Temple Richie, Jr.
*Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary*



Chelsy Allison Robinson
Spelman College



Carisa Rudder
*University of Alabama
Huntsville*



Jayson Smith
Tuskegee University



Rosemary Spragins
Alabama A&M



Gerah Mone' Watson
*Calhoun Community
College*



Ashley Wright
*Pennsylvania College of
Optometry*

NOT PICTURED
Devyn Cowan
Sparkmann Middle School

Embracing God's Great Commission for Outreach with Open Arms

by Sister Phyllis McMillan
President of The Joint Missionary Society



As we are tasked to reach far beyond our current outreach, I thought about the nun and missionary, Mother Teresa, who worked tirelessly to make the world a better place no matter the circumstance. She had the right idea about how to deal with people, especially those in need of tangible and intangible things whether it was food, clothes, or love. She had a servant's heart. Jesus had the ultimate heart of a servant.

The Joint Missionary Society was organized to serve others and to be open to encouraging those we serve to have a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We as heirs of King Jesus, are commissioned as royal soldiers to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." This indeed is The Great Commission because the one

who has All authority in heaven and on earth, commissioned us as disciples to reach far and beyond to bring lost souls to have a relationship with Him so that they may have an opportunity to be saved (Matthew 28:18-20).

It has been harder to implement our outreach during the pandemic, but we have managed to stay afloat and reach out to people within the community safely. The Angel Tree Ministry was successful this past year as we supported more children and families than we have in the past.

We have been fulfilling tangible and intangible needs with our outreach by partnering with local organizations and schools by giving clothes, food, toiletries, gifts, monetary donations, with love. We have channeled our giving with open arms to invite others into the Kingdom of God to be saved. We have received the gift of salvation through Calvary and the Resurrection of Jesus.

It is our goal to be consistently willing to be service oriented to support the work and actions of Jesus through what we do and say during our mission outreach. It is also our goal to be visible within the community, to go out, and to invite others to walk with us into the divine presence of God.

We look forward to making an improved imprint within our community. Remember, we are all missionaries. We thank the Lord for His Grace and His Mercy. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:8-10). We give All the glory and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for what He has done with and through our ministry.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT WEEK 2021

EMBRACING THE FUTURE



Prepare for a time of faith, fellowship, and fun during our 2021 Youth Empowerment Week. This year's theme is Embracing the Future, and the scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you".

We recognize that the plans of the Lord don't wait for the future to unfold, because He has things for us to do right now. That means our best option for walking into His plans is to prepare now. God's message to Jeremiah was one of encouragement to the people to embrace the present times in order to prepare for the future. And so it is today. Despite the uncertainties of a pandemic, racial injustice, climate control and even cybersecurity that we face in the present age, we must embrace the opportunities of each so that God might prepare us for what He has in the making.

So, right now we invite you to come out, have some fun, and see how God speaks to us through the many activities we have in store. You can register via Realm to participate. Please see below for the list of events we have planned for the week.

JUNE 7TH - 13TH

Monday -Vaccine Clinic - 1:00 pm | Day Party 6:00pm

Tuesday - Game Night - 6:00 pm

Wednesday - Field Day - 6:00 pm

Thursday - Community Service - 4:00 pm youth | 6:00 pm children

Friday - Movie Night - 8:00 pm

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SERVICE ON

Sunday, June 13th

8:30 am

Guest Preacher Minister Denero Rahming





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Monday, June 14th - Drive-by Parade and material pick-up. - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, June 15th - Game Night and VBS lesson. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, June 16th - Craft Night and VBS Bible Study. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Thursday, June 17th - Throw Back Thursday VBS at the Pavilion. 6:00 - 8:00 pm

ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

- Tuesday, June 15th - Follow The Leader
- Wednesday, June 16th - I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up
- Thursday, June 17th - You've Prayed, Now What?

REGISTRATION ON REALM WILL OPEN SOON FOR ALL

FMBC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Minister Robert & Harriet Clark celebrate 35 years of marriage on June 28th



Reverend Carlisle and Sister Mary Ann Hammonds celebrate 43 years of marriage on June 18th



Deacon James & Deaconess Joyce Oglesby celebrate 22 years on marriage on June 5th



Brother Wilman and Sister Dianne Pidgeon celebrate 52 years of marriage on June 28th



Brother Charles and Sister Annie Rountree celebrate 59 years on marriage on June 5th



Brother Daniel and Sister Elizabeth Scrivens celebrate 34 years of marriage on June 8th



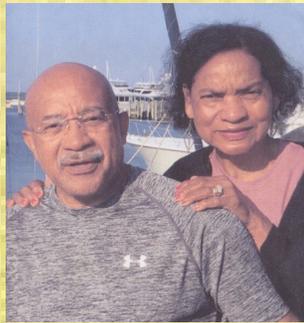
Brother Kirby and Sister Shelia Stevenson celebrate 37 years of marriage on June 2nd



Brother Bobby and Sister Linda Thigpen celebrate 33 years of marriage on June 18th



Brother Terrance and Sonya Tolliver will celebrate 15 years of marriage on June 17th



Brother James and Sister Shelley Wyckoff celebrate 48 years of marriage on June 2nd



Congratulations Morgan Kennemer, winner of the FMBC Renaissance Hymn Writing Contest



Congratulations to Craig Nelson II who was nominated by his teacher to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum Explore STEM in July



Congratulations Jared Smith who tied for the 4th lowest score +1 (73) and made the all-tournament golf team. He also qualified for the Sub-State Golf Tournament (RTJ River)



Congratulations to Terence Tolliver who is the recipient of Riverton Intermediate's Optimist Award.

WANT TO BE SHOWN IN THE COMMUNICATOR?
Email a picture and your information of an anniversary
or accomplishment to
clynk@fmbc.org

Stay Connected

DOWNLOAD THE REALM APP TODAY



LET'S BE THE CHURCH...TOGETHER

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



GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

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

- 1 Click the link
- 2 Complete your gift

