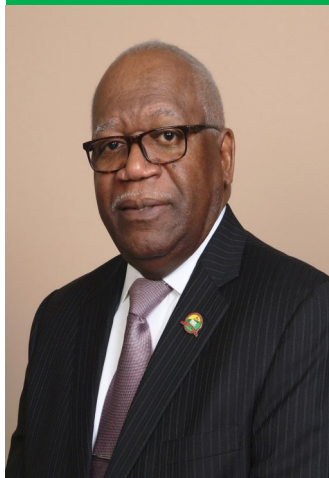


# Calvary's Voice



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Greetings,

As we reflect on this past year, we remember the favor of God's Mercy on all of us and give Him Thanks.

The Lord God has led us and kept us every step of the way. Through paths of uncertainty; loneliness, partings of love ones and friends and through unexpected situations that we knew not the why or how. But

through it all we were never alone or without; because God you were there. In all our circumstances God; you provided.

As we stand on the brink of a New Year, we know that you promised; Never to leave nor to forsake those who abide in your Word and in You.

Because of Your Word, we approach this new beginning with Strong Faith and New Determination in your service.

May We go forth knowing that our God Sees, Cares, and Loves us.

Be Encouraged!  
Pastor Stowers

## Important Dates:

**Dec. 4: 50 Years Church Membership Recognition**

**Dec. 11: Communion Sunday**

**Dec. 25: Candle Light Service**

**Dec. 25: Christmas**

**Dec. 31: New Year Eve's Worship Service**

**Jan. 1: New Year's Day**

**Jan. 16: M. L. King Jr. Day**

## Vision

### Statement

Mount Calvary Baptist Church seeks to be a "Teaching Church", empowering people through the Word of GOD to effect change in their lives and the life of the community.



## Mount Calvary Baptist Church Celebrates 122 Years of Growth and Blessings

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, Mount Calvary Family and Friends came together to celebrate its 122nd Church Anniversary. Mount Calvary Baptist Church was founded in 1900 when seven ladies, **Eliza Lindsey, Hattie Holley, Jane Hardeman, Mary Clark, Mintoria Walker, Eliza Hardeman, and Minnie Davidson** felt the need for a church in the Rockdale Park Community. Urban renewal forced the congregation to relocate to the Adamsville community in 1963. With only eight pastors in the church's 122 year history, **Pastor Douglas E. Stowers** was called to serve in 1994 and has served for 28 years thus far.



The history committee, lead by **Gwendolyn Mayfield—Chair** and members **Geraldine Collins, Crystal Mayfield Jones, Gayle McDaniel, Ossie Mitchell, Leander Parker, Patti Poole, Nichelle Stephens, and James Washburn**, created a memorable program and booklet entitled "A Litany of History and Thanksgiving." The program included a focus on Our Church History, History of Pastors, Deacons, Mothers, Ushers, Church Trustees, A Teaching Church, Music History, Family and Fellowship, Outreach and A Promise for the Present and Future. **Rev. Curtis Richardson** read the scripture, **Minister Mary Greene** prayed a prayer of thanksgiving and **Pastor Stowers** delivered a memorable sermon, "Got A Story to Tell", based on Psalm 66:16 and Luke 17:19. The souvenir program booklet ended with the following regarding 'A Promise for the Present and Future. "So, it was then, So it is now, "The Future is as bright as the Promises of God." For it is God who declares, "For I know the plans I have for you." (Jeremiah 29:11) Let us hold

fast to our history and may it propel us forward in Hope and Faith to be the Light in darkness and the Refuge for those who seek the Lord. And the Church's response: "We thank you, oh God for **Pastor Stowers** who shepherds us and shows us the promise of God as he leads us forward in faith and hope."







## Christmas

Happy Holidays to My MCBC Family,

God has given us another season of Advent and for that I'm so grateful. God has just been so good to us. Christmas is upon us and it's a special time of the year when families gather to celebrate JESUS. When you hear the name Jesus, what image comes to your mind? Depending on the season, it might be a sweet baby sleeping on a hay filled manger or a bleeding savior wearing a crown of thorns and hanging on a cross. Or maybe you envision a man with kind eyes, teaching crowds and healing the sick. If you are like me and grew up with a picture of Jesus in your home, you might visualize Him seated at a table with his disciples during the Last Supper. All these images of Jesus relate to His life on earth. Have you thought of what Jesus is doing right now? We know that Jesus lives inside of us because we were given the Holy Spirit at Salvation. Several scriptures say Jesus now sits at God's right hand, interceding for us. While that doesn't conjure up a specific mental image it certainly should fill us with hope and joy. How comforting to know that Jesus is serving as our advocate in heaven. He comes against anything and anyone who tries to condemn us. He stands ready to mediate on our behalf in every detail of our lives. One of the greatest gifts from our Heavenly Father was his son, Jesus who is perfect in every way. In all the hustle and bustle of this season, only one gift matters- Jesus's love and forgiveness are readily waiting. Hold Jesus close to your heart this season and always.

## For The New Year

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

New Years Eve is the perfect time to look ahead and think about what you want to accomplish in the upcoming year. New goals and dreams, healthier habits, new activities, take the old calendar and put up a new empty calendar. It's also a good time to clear space in your heart and mind to make room for new ways God wants to work in your life. Take inventory of what you might need to let go. Kick the habit of worry, make room for more prayer time with Jesus. Release your regret over past mistakes to clear space for the Joy of abiding in the love and forgiveness. Replace the fear that holds you back with great courage and boldness in serving Him, no matter how insignificant you feel. God has plans for your New Year, like serving Him in a new way, understanding His word more deeply or living a life according to Jesus's teachings. So, celebrate the eve of a new year. Trust in God's exciting hope-filled plans for you.

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Take faith steps, ask Jesus to help you make two lists "out with the old and in with the new."

Happy New Year to All! Love Is Forever!

*Lady Wanda Stowers*



### Mission Ministry "Read to Succeed" Program



Our focus has continued with our volunteer efforts. In the "Read to Succeed Program" we volunteered with L.P. Miles Intermediate School. This year we tried a different format than we did in the past. We worked with 4 children in kindergarten for an 8-week period twice a week. We focused on developing reading comprehension. We used the "Dolch Sight Words List, which provided a list of words Pre-K and K students should be familiar with prior to entering the next grade. The volunteers (**Sisters Ilene Simmons, Janie Lowe, Barbara Chapman, Shirley Seymour and Bettye Reid**) gave the class 6 to 8 words. They had to spell the words, pronounce, and use them in a sentence. The following week they reviewed the works from the previous week and were given new words. The volunteers were given books to read using the same words. The students had to let the volunteer know when they heard the word. This was great because they had to listen and pay attention to the reading. The principal told me they could see the difference in word recognition with the children. There was also an improvement in test scores. Our 8 weeks ended November 18, 2022. We plan to extend the program with more volunteers and return in January or February 2023.

As always, we ended our session with gifts of school supplies for the students.

*Sister Ilene Simmons*



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Mt. Calvary Congratulates and Celebrates members with 50 Years of Church Membership

Lillie Ervin  
Eddie Ewings  
James Floyd  
Jean Floyd  
Alyce Odister





### MCBC Briana Bunkley as 'Mary' in Black Nativity



Briana Elise Bunkley, M.A., M.F.A., daughter of Brother Renard and Sister Regina Bunkley and granddaughter of Brother James and Sister Jean Floyd, appeared as 'Mary' mother of the baby 'Jesus' in the gospel holiday Christmas musical "Black Nativity" held at the Georgia Tech Ferst Center for Performing Arts. The Social Action Ministry (**Barbara Chapman, Zakiya Seymour and Shirley Seymour**) sponsored an initiative that encouraged MCBC members to attend as a group to support our native dance daughter. **Briana** started taking dance classes at the age of 3. She began her dance training at Price Performing Arts Center in College Park before continuing her studies at Tri-Cities High School Visual and Performing Arts (Dance Magnet, Class of 2014). After graduating, she enrolled and graduated from the Boston Conservatory Dance with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Contemporary Dance. Her passion and dedication for dance has allowed her to travel nationally and internationally. She has also studied, performed and choreographed in Kampala, Uganda and Manchester, United Kingdom. **Briana** is now the Director of Dance at Tri-Cities High School VPA Magnet where she has since directed and produced several dance concerts as well as won two Shuler Hensley Awards for Best Choreography in her work for Tri-Cities production of FELA. Her sister **Leslie Bunkley** is a paid Professional Dancer with Pliadanco in Philadelphia. **Leslie** will be performing next month on the Tom Joiner Cruise for one week. **Congratulations Briana! We wish you God's continued blessings and success!**







## Greetings

When someone says “its December already” what do you immediately think of? Of course, with me, the first thing that comes to my mind is, I can’t believe another year is almost over and Christmas is just around the corner. So the hustle and bustle begin. Every Christmas, billions of greeting cards are sent around the world. But did you know that long before printing companies introduced their first card, God sent a Christmas greeting for the world to hear. It was the original Christmas card, sent by God, and delivered by angels. “..... for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, A Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). It was a message of **HOPE** – hope for happiness, peace, healing, deliverance, prosperity, freedom; all wrapped in the salvation package that Jesus provided for all people over 2000 years ago.

We all can testify to the fact that God has done some exciting things this year. We have faced situations that justified tears and sorrow but we’ve seen God work them for our good. God tells us in His Word that what we see around us is changeable. The atmosphere we live in is pretty negative right now. Blame shifting, making excuses and complaining are everywhere. But we know that our fight is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in high places. It’s not people or politics – it’s the devil.

As we look forward to a new year, let’s focus on the message in that first greeting card. The Word says that Jesus came that we might have an abundant life. His Word brings us spiritual power, wisdom, and compassion; and it speaks through us to those who need to hear it. Everyone needs to know about JESUS. God has designed us to be a pipeline of God’s power and life. If we put our self in a position to bless others, we will experience God in a greater way than we’ve ever known before. How will this happen? By the church (**every believer in Christ**) rising up in our supernatural authority, speaking the Word of God in LOVE and pulling down strongholds. Do we really believe that we, as children of God, have that much power? The last thing Satan wants is for us to know and operate in the power we have through Christ to demolish his works, and for us to walk in victory.

We have to quit talking about opinions and start talking about God. The message is clear, God has done His part, and it is up to us to do our part. As we await the coming of a new year, let us simply just practice what God has said. And remember, when the world around us looks bleak, we can raise our voices and say “Now thanks be to God who always gives us the victory to change the world around us.” God is love and we must love. Wishing you a wonderful and merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year in Jesus name!

*Sister Janie Lowe*





### Breast Cancer Awareness

The Women of Mount Calvary chose the 4th and 5th Sundays in October to highlight the importance of screening, detection, and risks for breast cancer. A resource packet from the Susan B Coleman's Foundation was given after morning worship. The following Sunday the congregation was asked to join the ladies in a "pink out" during worship and pink ribbons were given as a reminder for now and beyond.

*Sister Betty Reid*

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### MCBC Diaper Drive

The Support Ministry decided to support the 14th Annual Cobb County Annual Diaper Drive. Cobb County Diaper drive goal this year was to collect more than 100,000 diapers to assist low-income families. With the awesome support of the Mt. Calvary congregation, the Support Ministry donated 2,823 diapers and 144 wipes. Thank you all for your support. *Sister Carla Pennyman*

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**The Annual Esther M. Smith PNBC Missions Christmas Drive** was held at Mt. Calvary on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00pm. **Sister Betty Chandler** (PNBC Missions Department) gave the Reading of the Missions Report to reflect \$15,000+ in donations and contributions were received. **Pastor Stowers** gave the welcome. **Sisters Ilene Simmons and Shirley Seymour** from MCBC Missions Ministry also attended the worship service.







## Farewell: It's Been an Amazing Journey

Greetings Mount Calvary Family,

How do I say farewell and thanks for how you have blessed me. First, I want to thank **Pastor Stowers** for allowing me and my late husband (**Cornell Seymour**) to serve as Co-Editors of Calvary's Voice for so many years. **Cornell** was the very proficient writer and I supplied him with all the photos he needed to supplement his articles when it came to our Mt. Calvary events and members. After his untimely passing, I became the Editor because I believe that Calvary's Voice is an essential part of our church history and legacy.

Greetings from **Pastor Stowers** graced the cover of each edition and always encouraged us. His signature ending to his articles was, "Be Encouraged." **Lady Wanda Stowers** (Love Is Forever) and **Sister Janie Lowe** never missed an opportunity to encourage and teach us with their articles. They never said no when I asked for an article, was enthusiastic in their response and for that, I thank them and am eternally grateful.

So many of you spoke with your voice by sending in articles about your ministry events. We learned about health, safety, Black History, Church events and current events. You were encouraged to stay engaged in our community by serving. MCBC sponsored countless events that served our community such as winter coat and wraps drive to benefit the local elementary school, food drive, Bags of Love to benefit women's shelters, Gift bags for men's shelters and these events were highlighted here in Calvary's Voice. We traveled with **Pastor Stowers** as he served as President of New Era Convention and rejoiced when he was elected to office at PNBC. What a joy it was to highlight **Pastor and Lady Stowers** during his pastoral anniversary and to follow the church history here during it's anniversary. We saw our youth grow up through many pictures and highlighted their educational and community achievements. Many church events were also highlighted here. These are just a few of the things Calvary's Voice spoke to during the time I have been blessed to be the Editor.

Calvary's Voice is your voice and I pray that your voice will continue to speak in print as I end this final edition under my name. Continue to give your support to the new generation of editors as we enter into a new year, new season, new ideas, new stories, new articles, and new blessings. **May God continue to bless Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Pastor and Lady Stowers and all of you who have enriched my life by your love, care and presence. Merry Christmas and A Happy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year!**

**Blessings Always,**

*Sister Shirley Seymour*

