August Quarterly

The Community

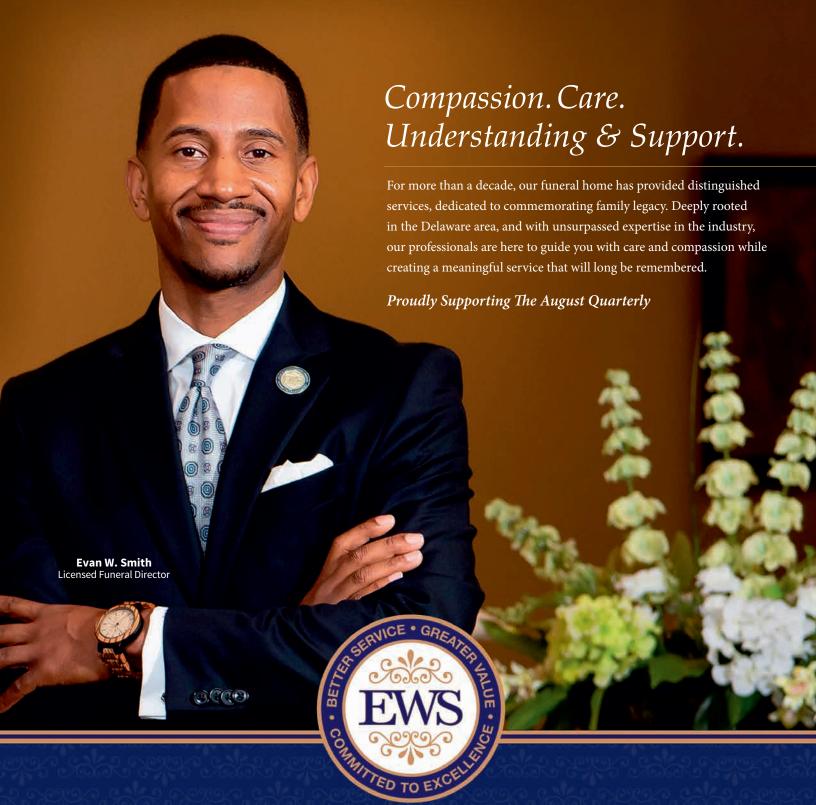


Wilmington, Delaware



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What's Inside



Contribute and be a Distinctive Friend to the August Quarterly Festival.

For more information visit us on www.augustquarterly.org

A 501(c)(3) Organization under IRS Code Email:augustquarterlyfestival@gmail.com

August Quarterly Festival Committee, Inc., P.O. Box 2719 Wilmington, Delaware 19805-0719

Host: Mother African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church 812 N. Franklin Street Wilmington, DE 19805 Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II, Sr. Pastor









Cover Designer: Michael Riley

Michael majored in Commercial Art at the Art Institute of Philadelphia. He was commissioned by the Head of Surgery at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia, He began a career as a freelance illustrator and writer. His favorite subjects are history, spirituality and self-empowerment. His poem, "No Pancy Parade" appeared in Essence Magazine's 2004 Anniversary Issue.

Michael relies heavily upon his faith for guidance and inspiration. He believes that his creations are divinely inspired exchanges of ideas, principals and emotions.

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Special Acknowledgements to all Clergy, Churches, Politicians, State, Local Organizations, Musicians, Choirs, Special Guest, Families and Friends. We, thank you for your commitment and support during this great celebration. August Quarterly Festival is truly a community-wide historical event that benefits the entire Wilmington and surrounding regions. Special thanks to our loyal sponsors and all those who continue to support "The Big Quarterly."

The August Quarterly Festival Committee does not discriminate based on sex, age, race, religion, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

August 25, 2024



The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but a life without a purpose.

Dr. Myles Munroe

Bountiful Blessings Co-Laborers,

On behalf of the Historic Mother African Union Church, The August Quarterly Festival Committee, and our partners, I welcome you to the 210th celebration of the August Quarterly Revival.

This year's theme is, "The Community Recommitted To Our Common Purpose." The aforementioned premise is extremely poignant, given the profound pain, predicaments, and problems, which persist within too many communities, especially minoritized and vulnerable communities.

Thus, in agreement with the late Dr. Myles Munroe, notions that our lives should be fueled by purpose, let us not reduce ourselves to having "good church" today, but rather, let us be the church that is committed to illuminating the true essence of this historic gathering, which is rooted in justice, liberation, empowerment, education, holiness, and a community, committed to the purpose of possibilities, illuminated in ACTS 2:42-47!

In doing so, we can provide a counternarrative to every problematic predicament in the city of Wilmington, and the State of Delaware. To that end, I hope that you leave this year's gathering, recommitted to living a life of purpose!

Love You,
Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, !!

Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II
Pastor of the Historic Mother African Union Church



WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

1814 - 2024

WE, THE 210TH AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, ARE: "THE COMMUNITY RECOMMITTED TO OUR COMMON PURPOSE"

THE AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL – THE BIG QUARTERLY

August Quarterly, is the Oldest Religious Festival, started in 1814 by our Founder Rev. Peter Spencer. It was a time for Free Blacks and Slaves alike to come together, from multi-states to celebrate their faith with singing, dancing, testimonials and feasting on Good Home cooked Soul Food. The August Quarterly is the Oldest such celebration in the Country.

August Quarterly became a kind of Independence Day for Black People on the Delmarva Peninsula. In the early years of the Festival "Abolitionist and Underground Railroad Conductors, i.e., Thomas Garrett and Harriet Tubman were often in Wilmington to assist slaves who chose to escape!

The August Quarterly has changed over the years but, through Faith and the Grace of God, we've remained committed to carring on the Tradition and Celebrating our "August Quarterly Festival!

I would like to Thank our Pastors from the Past and the current Pastor of Mother African Union Church (The Motherland) for allowing and putting confidence in Me and My Committee to carry out this Celebration. To My Committee Thank You is such a Small Word, because without your commitment, this would not happen because there is no I in TEAM!

The BIG QUARTERLY FESTIVAL "210 WE ARE IN IT TO WIN IT"

MARILYN J. MONK, GENERAL CHAIRLADY

The August Quarterly Festival Committee, Inc. Thanks to our Sponsor's for 2024













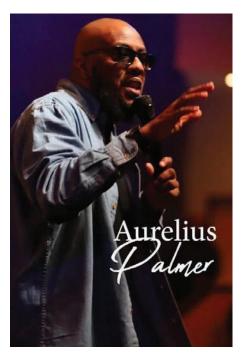








The 2024 August Quarterly Book is Dedicated to **Aurelius Palmer**



Born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Aurelius Palmer was the youngest of three siblings. His musical journey began at 5 when he sang his first solo in his childhood church. He started directing choirs at the age of 11 and playing the piano and organ at the age of 15. His talents developed quickly, and he began to sing and minister at churches such as Bible Way, Cathedral of Fresh Fire, and many more.

Aurelius, or "Rell," as he was affectionately called, traveled extensively throughout the country, conducting musical workshops, teaching classes, and cultivating and helping music ministries everywhere. He was blessed to sing, record, and write songs for countless artists, such as Tracy Shy, A Jermaine & Ascension, Northern Delaware Chapter of the GMWA, and Tony Moore & Jehovah's

Chosen, to name a few.

He also provided live background vocals for Kim Burrell, Lorraine Stancil, Yolanda Adams, and many others. In 2016, Aurelius released his first solo project, "Intro to Rell," and in 2019, he was blessed to perform on tour in Italy with Eric Waddell and the Abundant Life Singers. In May 2022, he released his project, "Live at the Glory House."

Aurelius served as the Minister of Music at Cathedral St. Mark Christian Community Church in Chester, Pa., under the leadership of Bishop Anthony C. Hanna, where he served faithfully for 15 years. Aurelius also served as the Worship Leader at Everlasting Life International Ministries in Wilmington, Delaware, under the leadership of Bishop Matthew Washington and Dr. Celeste Washington.

Aurelius loved the month of August. At August Quarterly each year, you could catch him working backstage or on the stage announcing the groups and spending time with his only son, Kamar Aurelius Smith.

Aurelius' motto: "To serve through music until the power of God changes someone's life."

"Let The Work I've Done Speak For Me"

August Quarterly Festival Honors

Reverend Dr. Benjamin "Twin B" Brown

Rev. Dr. Benjamin "Twin B" Brown's sunrise was August 7, 1934, and sunset at 89 on January 16, 2024. Born and raised in a nurturing family in Daytona Beach, FL, Brown's early life was marked by a deep sense of community and passion for helping others. This ethos propelled him into a distinguished career in media and community service, where he leveraged radio and TV as tools for social change. Through a close friendship with Sammy & Cherie of the Congo Hour, "Twin" was provided the opportunity to lay the foundation of his services in Wilmington, DE.



He dedicated 70+ years to community service, 45+ years to the Spiritual Revival Hour, and 30+ years to the Video Production Workshops, touching the lives of seniors and youths. In addition, "Twin" featured many documentaries during Black History Month. He is affectionately known as the "Godfather" of Leased Access. DE-TV honored him with a plaque at the studio, naming the control room after him. 'Twin B 's" motto remains, "Making the positives outshine the negatives."

His platform paved the way for African American politicians to be elected, including the first black Mayor, James H. Sills Jr., and the first black New Castle County Council President, Dr. Christopher A. Bullock. His motto was "Vote for the Person, not the Party." He held annual turkey drives, telethons for medical needs, fundraisers to help families, and organized discussions informing the community about "What's Going On and providing "Community Updates." Dr. Brown actively participated with the August Quarterly Committee, providing advertisements, public service announcements, and Community Cable-TV Channel 28 interviews.

Dr. Brown's Video Production Workshops trained thousands of youths and adults who now utilize their professional skills nationwide. He mainly focused on DE, MD, NJ, and PA workshops but also taught worldwide. Through his Spiritual Revival Hour television broadcast, he devoted weekly songs of inspiration, consolation, meditation, and education—targeting seniors who were sick and shut-in. He acknowledged the oldest senior among the high rises each month to present them with an S 100 bill or check.

Brown's personal life, interwoven with his professional endeavors, reflects his commitment to the betterment of society. His legacy is a testament to the power of using one's talents and resources to make a positive difference, which is highlighted in his book, "The Legacy of Dr. Benjamin Twin B Brown," by author Sharon L. Burton, Ph.D.

Twin and his family are truly grateful for the care and comfort Edwina Bell, his Personal Assistant, provided throughout his illness until his untimely death. Twin passed his torch to Edwina Bell, Executive Director of Community Communications Corporation, Inc., and Don Thomas, Director of Operations.

August Quarterly

August Quarterly was started in 1814 by Peter Spencer, the founder of the Union Church of Africans. He started the religious gathering on the first anniversary of the Union Church of African Members, which was the first denomination incorporated in these United States, by African Americans for African Americans. There were several local congregations, and even a few independent local churches in the south, but Spencer and his Union Church was the first to do so with an alliance or denomination in mind.

By 1814 there were several churches that aligned themselves with Spencer's movement, and they came together in a celebration of religious freedom and racial solidarity. Peter Spencer was perhaps a man ahead of his time in that he believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Church provided a vehicle to teach and preach about five principles of life—hope, salvation, community, liberation and self-determination. It was these five principles that provided a foundation for his ministry, the Union Church and the August Quarterly.

The August Quarterly grew into an opportunity for the African American Community in and around Wilmington, DE to become self actualized. Delaware was unique in that it was both a slave state and a free state. Geographically, it was below the Mason-Dixon line, yet in the northern part of the state it was declared "free." August Quarterly provided a rare, and almost militant opportunity for African Americans, both those yet enslaved and those who had been granted freedom, to gather together. Freedom of assembly for African Americans was against the law in many parts of the country, and unheard of in all parts of the nation. But Peter Spencer and this newly formed church dared to call for solidarity and the freedom of assembly for men and women of African descent.

The message went out throughout the surrounding areas and not only to the churches associated with Spencer's movement, but men and women from all over would journey to Wilmington to share in these ideals, and if they were not free, they at least shared in the hope of freedom. In time, enslaved Africans were granted passage by their captors to attend the August Quarterly in Wilmington, and people would travel from Lower Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore to attend the AQ. People also came on steamships, in wagons and on foot from New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York for this great celebration and participation in the hope of freedom. Thousands of African Americans made the pilgrimage to Wilmington, Delaware on this last weekend of August to attend the Big Quarterly, which was the proper name, though most knew it by the name *August* Quarterly because it always ended on the last Sunday of August.

Education was another principle espoused by Peter Spencer. There was a school associated with every church that aligned itself with the African Union Church movement. Today, the first African Union Church congregation is represented by the Mother African Union Church, which has been granted by God with the honor of serving as host church for the AQ. But the AQ does not belong to Mother Church, it belongs to all of the faith community, the City of Wilmington, and the region, and it is a sign, symbol and foretaste of the Kingdom of God. The Mother African Union Church today is striving not just to keep alive the celebration of AQ for us to remember, but the church makes every effort to keep alive Spencer's vision for the church and the principles he stood for—hope, salvation, community, liberation and self-determination.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL

FOR BRINGING TOGETHER
OUR COMMUNITY AND
CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
DR. PETER SPENCER!
Best wishes,

Chi Com

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New Castle County and County Executive
Matt Meyer congratulate the August Quarterly
Festival on their 210th anniversary.

Thank you for your commitment to celebrating religious freedom and ensuring that important history is not forgotten.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, & meaningful celebration.



Karen Hartley-Nagle

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As President of New Castle County Council for the past eight years, it has been my privilege to serve our community with dedication, transparency, and a relentless focus on improving the quality of life for all residents. Today, I am honored to extend my unwavering support for the historic August Quarterly.



August Quarterly is more than a

celebration; it is a testament to our rich cultural heritage, resilience, and the spirit of unity that binds us together. It reminds us of the importance of safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, job creation, the need to enhance senior programs for our growing senior population, and the expansion of educational opportunities for our youth through our world-class libraries and parks.

Throughout my tenure, I have championed these causes and many others, advocating for social justice and ensuring that every voice in our community is heard. The support I have received from the community has been invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and encouragement you have given me.

As I run for the position of County Executive, my campaign slogan, "Experience Matters," reflects my belief that my extensive experience and proven leadership will continue to benefit New Castle County. With your support, we can build on the progress we have made and create an even better future for our County.

Thank you for being such a supportive and vibrant community. I am asking for your support and your vote in the Democratic Primary for New Castle County Executive on September 10, 2024. For more information on my campaign and plan for New Castle County, please visit KarenHartleyNagle.com

With gratitude,

Karen Hartley-Nagle

Karen Hartley-Nagle President, New Castle County Council Candidate for New Castle County Executive

Paid for by Friends of Karen Hartley-Nagle



Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Hartley-Nagle Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Toole Date of introduction: July 23, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 24-158

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE LEGACY AND IMPACT OF THE AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL

WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson once said, "Those who forget their history are destined to repeat it." This profound statement underscores the importance of remembering and celebrating our past, particularly the pivotal moments and movements that have shaped our society and our values of freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly Festival, also known as the Big Quarterly, is the oldest African American religious festival in the United States, initiated in 1814 by Peter Spencer to commemorate the founding of the Union Church of Africans in Wilmington, Delaware—the first African American church independently incorporated in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the festival has historically provided a rare platform for enslaved and free African Americans to worship together, discuss critical issues such as colonization and abolition, and celebrate their cultural and religious freedoms. It was a crucial event for the African American community, especially during the years of slavery, offering one of the few opportunities for social interaction and reunion; and

WHEREAS, Peter Spencer, born in captivity and later a free man, played a significant role in the African independent church movement, leading to the establishment of the Union Church of Africans in 1813. His leadership and vision culminated in the creation of the August Quarterly, which became a symbol of religious and civil freedom; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly Festival became a key gathering for abolitionists and Underground Railroad conductors like Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett, providing a space for planning escapes and offering hope and support to those seeking freedom from slavery; and

WHEREAS, the festival has evolved over the centuries but continues to be a beacon of African American cultural and religious heritage, attracting thousands to Wilmington each year to celebrate with music, crafts, preaching, and community activities, fostering a spirit of unity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly remains a testament to the enduring struggle for freedom and equality, reflecting the themes of community, hope, salvation, self-determination, and liberation preached by its founder, Peter Spencer. It stands as a historic testament to African American resilience and the pursuit of religious and civil liberties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of New Castle County hereby recognizes and honors the August Quarterly Festival, acknowledging its profound historical significance and ongoing impact on the community. We celebrate the festival's role in promoting African American cultural and religious freedom and its continued importance as a symbol of unity and resilience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all residents of New Castle County to participate in and support the August Quarterly Festival, joining in the celebration of this vital part of our shared heritage and commitment to freedom and equality for all.

Adopted by County Council of New Castle County on: 7/23/2024

Karen Hartley-Nagle President of County Council

of New Castle County



on another successful year of celebrating our deep religious roots.

Faith, Family and Freedom describes the significance of August Quarterly.









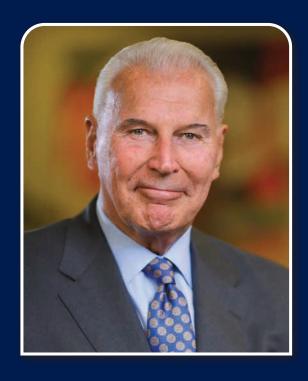


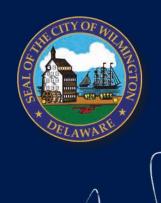














Mayor Mike Purzycki and the City of Wilmington congratulate



August Quarterly

August Quarterly Festival Committee, Inc.

On the 210th August Quarterly **Festival Celebration**

Sunday, August 18, 2024 - Sunday, August 25, 2024

The People of Wilmington salute you for providing an eminent historical event.

- "Lest We Forget"



www.WilmingtonDE.gov



City of Wilmington Belaware



Froclamation:

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is delighted to commemorate the 210th Anniversary of August Quarterly, the country's longest-running celebration of African American religious freedom in the United States; and

WHEREAS, August Quarterly, also known as the "Big Quarterly," is one of our City's most cherished celebrations combining historical reflection, education, and warm fellowship with an unwavering devotion to faith, hope, and love; and

WHEREAS, this festival marks the founding of the Union Church of Africans – now known as the Mother African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church at 9th and North Franklin Streets – and honors Reverend Peter Spencer's visionary leadership in founding the first independent African American church in the United States; and

WHEREAS, considering the hard work and commitment necessary to organize this esteemed event, we commend the efforts of the many friends, volunteers, and sponsors who make this festival so joyous and memorable each year. Your tireless efforts and generosity, as well as the work of the 210th August Quarterly Festival, Inc. Committee, are essential to ensuring the continued success of this iconic festival.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL S. PURZYCKI,

Mayor of the City of Wilmington, Delaware, do hereby celebrate

August Quarterly 2024

and ask all residents to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Reverend Peter Spencer and in recognizing this extraordinary celebration.

ATTEST:

Mayor

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal of the Office this 16th Day of August 2024.

Mayor



Wilmington City Council

108th Session



"On behalf of Wilmington City Council, we would like to commend the August Quarterly Festival Committee for continuing the nation's longest-running celebration of African American religious freedom, freedom of speech, and the right to assembly in the United States. Thank you for keeping the tradition going in our community, and for continuing the legacy of Reverend Peter Spencer in recognizing this historical celebration!"

TRIPPI CONGO President, Wilmington City Council



VINCENT M. WHITE 1st District Council Member



SHANÉ N. DARBY 2nd District Council Member



3rd District Council Member



ZANTHIA OLIVER MICHELLE HARLEE 4th District Council Member





BREGETTA A. FIELDS YOLANDA M. MCCOY 5th District Council Member 6th District Council Member



CHRIS JOHNSON 7th District Council Member



NATHAN FIELD 8th District Council Member



MARIA D. CABRERA Council Member At-Large



ALBERT "AL" MILLS Council Member At-Large



JAMES SPADOLA Council Member At-Large



LATISHA BRACY Council Member At-Large

www.wilmingtoncitycouncil.com

City of Wilmington Pelaware



City Council

June 20, 2024

Sponsor: Council President Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II

WHEREAS, it is the sense of City Council to honor individuals, organizations, and milestones that exemplify outstanding achievement and are deserving of recognition and acknowledgment. Council President Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II would like to recognize the 210th anniversary of the August Quarterly; and

WHEREAS, August Quarterly, also known as Big Quarterly, is the oldest festival of its kind in the United States. In 1814 Reverend Peter Spencer, founder of the African Union Church, scheduled the church's annual conference or fourth quarter meeting, when church business and the ministers' assignments for the next year would be announced, in August. This final quarter's meeting was a time for the Black community to come together and celebrate the founding of the first African American church in the United States with worship services, feasting, singing, dancing, and testimonials; and

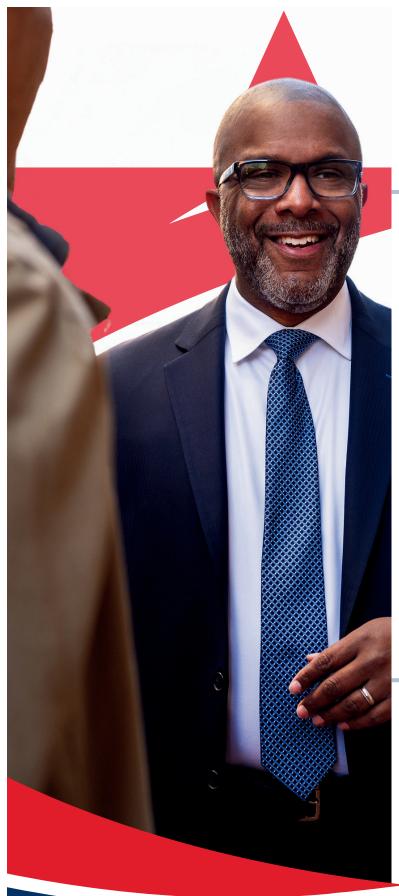
WHEREAS, August Quarterly has untold historical significance for our City, State, and nation. During the festival, abolitionists and conductors of the Underground Railroad were often in the Wilmington area to assist enslaved people, who had chosen to escape to freedom. The word quickly spread up and down the Delmarva Peninsula as the August Quarterly celebration became known across the region. Over the years, August Quarterly became a celebration of freedom and independence for African Americans all over the country; and

WHEREAS, for over two centuries, Wilmington has served as the host city for the August Quarterly Festival, which is now held at Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park. This annual gathering has remained a time to unite, celebrate African American heritage, and showcase the important contributions that African Americans have made, and continue to make, in Wilmington and throughout the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that this Legislative body commends the August Quarterly Festival, its organizers, and its supporters for their ongoing efforts to carry on the unique and rich legacy of this historic event.

Mira Grenardo
Deputy City Clerk

"Wilmington: A Place to be Somebody"





Congratulations on
the 210th August
Quarterly! Thank
you to everyone
celebrating
religious freedoms.
Wishing everyone a
happy and
meaningful event!

PO Box 7348 Wilmington, DE 19805

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@MarcusHenry2024



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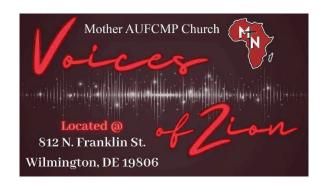


August Quarterly

Congratulations on the 210th Celebration of The Nation's Oldest African American Festival

Did You Know?

- Vincent led the fight to maintain Wilmington's residency requirements, protect and save jobs for city residents, and support the community.
- Before serving on the City Council, Vincent was the President of Northwest Civic Associates for 19 years, advocating for homeowners and protecting property values.
- Vincent advocated for increasing the Water Bill Assistance Program to \$250,000. If you need help paying your water bill, call him.
- Vincent has awarded more than \$25,000 in college scholarships to 1st District graduating Seniors enabling graduates to attend the college of their choice.
- Vincent has awarded more than \$20,000 to 1st District community groups such as the PAL, One Village Alliance, Harlan Civic Association, and the North Wilmington Library.



The Voices of Zion

Congratulates

The August Quarterly Festival Committee

On 210 Years of Continuous Celebration of the

August Quarterly Festival

"Big Quarterly"

To God be the Glory!







"Let Everything that has breadth praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" Ps 150:6

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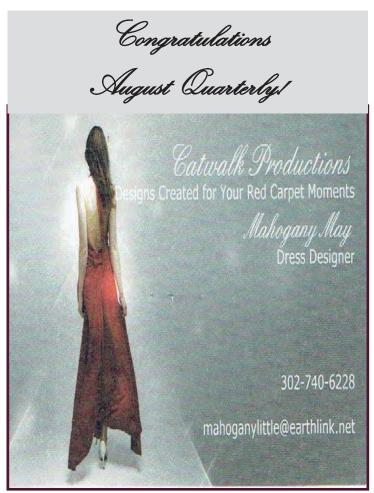
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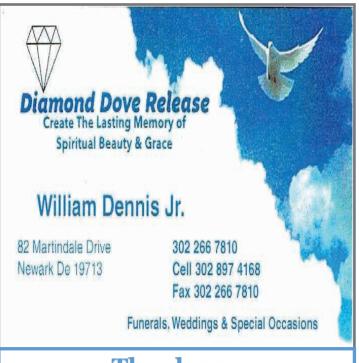
To the August Quarterly 2024 Festival:

"Best wishes for a great celebration this year and continued success in the future"

From: Charles H. Toliver, IV, Esquire Law Offices of Leroy A. Tice, Esquire, P.A. 1203 N. Orange St., Suite 2 Wilmington, Delaware 19801

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Thank you
August Quarterly
for all your support!

Congratulations
August Quarterly Festival
Celebrating 210 Years

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Email: authentictailoringservices@gmail.com

Celebrating August Quarterly Festival

















Ladies of Mahogany Red Hatters



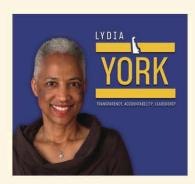


Wilmington, DE Queen: Mother Ms.Virginia Bell A great sisterhood for women over 50! Best Wishes to August Quarterly



CONGRATULATIONS

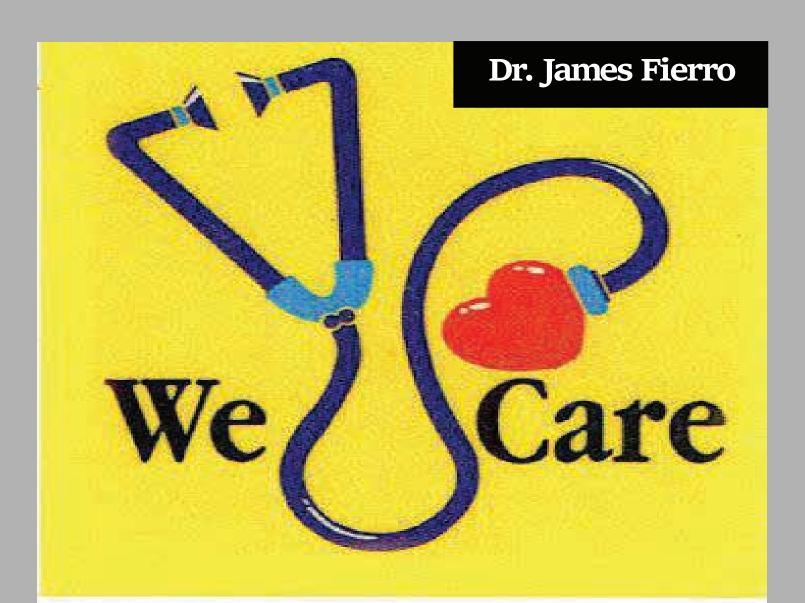
ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AUGUST QUARTERLY CELEBRATION



Psalm 27:13:

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LODD in the land of the living.

PAID FOR BY YORK FOR DELAWARE



DR. JAMES FIERRO

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fax: (302) 529-2257

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THE BANCROFT ALUMNI CHAPTER

AND

PRITCHETT ASSOCIATES LLC

SENDS

Congratulations and Best Wishes To The 2024 Year Celebration Of The

"August Quarterly"

"Whoooo Needs A Teacher?"



Contact Information

Juanita Pritchett ~ Nicole Pritchett
(302) 275-1746

pritchettm@gmail.com

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Centering Black Liberation, By (Re)Connecting Ourselves Back to The Radical Black Church Tradition!

Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II



PHOTO: TAYLOR HILL/GETTY IMAGES

In his 2018 certified platinum album named *Championships*, rapper and activist, Robert "Meek Mill" Williams defiant standout track was a bristling collaboration with fellow rap icons <u>Jay-Z</u> and <u>Rick Ross</u>. The song highlights the ills of historical and contemporary systemic racism, present-day socio-political divisions, the realities of <u>mass</u> <u>incarceration</u> and <u>the pernicious Prison Industrial Complex</u>, while simultaneously, organically illuminating the need for economic freedom; and as the renowned Black Psychologist-Dr. Na'im Akbar would argue, the importance of "<u>Breaking The Chains of</u> Psychological Slavery."

It is within the context of wrestling with the query, "What's Free?" that we need to explore the current State of the Black Churches [1] engagement within this modern day freedom struggle. Specifically, we are in the midst of a vicious Attack on Critical Race Theory, Challenges to Black Voting Rights, ongoing Bald-Faced Denials in America, coupled with what Laurencin & Walker (2020) calls a "Pandemic on a Pandemic."

To that end, we have to honestly ask ourselves if the modern-day Black Church and Black Church leaders have a critical "Black Theology of Liberation" (Cones, 1970), a heart-burning homiletical message (Luke 24:32), and an accurate hermeneutical lens to facilitate an ethos of freedom within the communities that we are called to serve?

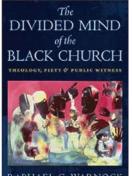


Courtesy Union Theological Seminary

In the release of his book titled: <u>Blue Note Preaching In A</u> <u>Post-Soul World: Finding Hope In An Age of Despair</u>, Otis Moss III (2015) gives us another lens to explore my aforementioned claim, when he writes:

"When you have no theology, then you have a messed-up psychology, and you cannot have the right sociology, and you will have a skewed anthropology. The mandate that we have is a mandate to make our history sacred, but not only a mandate to have our history sacred. We also have a mandate to speak up for those who have no voice" (p. 105).

The Divided Mind of the Black Church by Raphael G. Warnock, Paperback, 263 pages



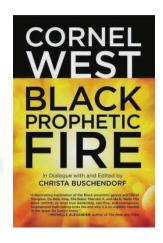
If the contemporary Black church is truly serious about centering Black liberation within our praxis and prophetic witness, then we need to embrace the "fifth movement" of the Black church that Warnock (2014) talks about in his book named: *The Divided Mind of the Black Church: Theology, Piety, & Public Witness*. Expressly he writes:

"If Black Academic theologians and black pastors are serious about black people's survival and liberation, then they ought to risk the comfort and

prestige of their respective enclaves of academic and ecclesial privilege and commence a new moment, and integrative moment that bring together the revolutionary insights of black intellectuals and the institutional strength of the black church. The immediate aim is the development of a full-orbed pastoral and public theology of black liberation-one that is hermeneutically sophisticated in its engagement of biblical texts, historically conscious of the liberating heritage of the black church, multidimensional in its methodology, organically connected meaningful social praxis, and sufficiently attentive to the latent spiritual militancy ensconced in the evangelical religion of the masses of black churches" (p.185).

While I vehemently agree with Warnock's (2014) sentiments, pertaining to the "fifth movement" of the Black Church, "lest we be fooled" (Whitaker & Hilton, 2021) that this is a new-fangled conception. For example, as argued in my article titled, <u>A Charge To Revive the Black Church through the Principles of Peter Spencer</u>, one seminal early radical Black church leader, who possessed a keen intellectual prowess, coupled with what West (2014) would term, "<u>Black Prophetic Fire</u>," was Peter Spencer.

Black Prophetic Fire by Cornel West and Christa Buschendorf, Hardcover, 253 pages



To further this point, Baldwin (1987) argues that Spencer "was a prophet as well as a priest, a realist and an idealist, a politician as well as theologian, and a social reformer and an evangelist" (p. 21). As I also argued in my previously mentioned article:



"Peter Spencer is repeatedly omitted in the discourse pertaining to the great historical patriarchs and liberators of the African American church tradition (Baldwin, 1983, 1987). However, such a negation of the life and legacy of Peter Spencer, robs the scholarly canon of Black church history. Moreover, it also robs the current generation of Black church leaders of gleaming from the knowledge of historical "faith giants" that aspired to meet the comprehensive needs of their congregants and the community in which their church was situated" (Whitaker, 2020).

Photo: Alamy Stock — Explicitly, if the contemporary Black Church is truly serious about centering Black liberation, then we have to re-connect ourselves back to the radical Black tradition, steered by radical Black Church leaders such as Peter Spencer. Spencer understood that "having church" and being the church are often times not synonymous!

Thus, in fighting for the liberation of his people and communities, Spencer audaciously articulated and lived-out Dr. Wade Nobles <u>notions of power</u>. Precisely, Nobles defines power "as the ability to define reality and to have others respond to your definition as if it were your own and that the most important reality to define is the meaning of one's own human beingness."

In our quest to center Black liberation, we must also courageously wrestle with the question posed by The Rev. Dr. Charlie Dates,[2] in his recent and already classic sermon on <u>Righteousness & Justice</u> tagged: "*The Autopsy of a Dead Congregation*," when within his address, he raised the inquiry, "*What's a Prophet To Do When a Nation is In Trouble?*" To embellish the textual musings of Dr. Dates, I suggest that this nation is in trouble, thus, Black Church leaders need a critical theological framework for operationalizing freedom!



Photo Courtesy of Progressive Baptist Church

This framework should intersect the claims of Harris (1990), when he asserts, "The black church needs a practical theology that can help liberate it from social, political, and economic oppression." Further, this framework should also include the insights of Davis (2010), who emphasizes that, "church leadership in the twenty-first century must work to help move the black church beyond a survival model of operation to a liberation model of operation" (p.101).

Therefore, as I conclude this article, I proclaim that "the movement, the message, and the legacy" (Baldwin, 1987) of Peter Spencer, is one such exemplar critical theological framework, which uplifts the best of the Radical Black Church tradition! Definitely, Spencer

refused to be "niggered" (Harper, 2009), "re-negrized" (West, 2014), and subjected to being treated as a "nobody" (Hill, 2016).

Additionally, 120 years before King articulated and penned the phrase, "injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere," within his prophetic stance, Spencer fearlessly lived out the precise meaning of those words! Further, through his critical analysis of racial inequities, Spencer also understood that the "Value Gap" (Glaude, 2016), makes all other gaps (e.g. Education, Healthcare) possible.

Lastly, Spencer also recognized that our notions around "having church," must align with "justice roll(ing) down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream," (Amos 5:24) within our respective congregations and communities! Henceforth, it is critically important that we absorb Peter Spencer's critical theological framework, in our existing efforts to Center Black Liberation!

[1] The author of this work is in alignment with Gates (2021) notions of the term the "Black Church," when he writes, "just as there is no monolithic "Black vote" or "Black Perspective," I use the phrase the "Black Church" as a way to acknowledge the importance of institutions of organized religion to African Americans over time."

[2] The Rev. Dr. Charlie Dates is an Affiliate Faculty member at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary and also the Senior Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church

Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker. II

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A Charge to Revive the Black Church Through the Principles of Peter Spencer!

In 2010, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., penned a scathing article titled:

<u>The Black Church is Dead!</u> For context, in this article, Dr. Glaude made the claim that "The idea of this venerable institution (the Black Church) as central to Black life and as a repository for the social and moral conscience of the nation has all but disappeared."

Professor Glaude supported his aforementioned claim by suggesting:

(1.) from a historical and contemporary standpoint, too many Black churches and Black preachers have not been "prophetic or progressive,"

Photo: Alamy Stock Photo are no longer the sole bedrock within Black communities, and (3.) The Black church has been reduced to recalling past success as a means to sustain Black America in its current season.

Dr. Glaude's article was certainly not the first time that the Black church has been examined by scholars and theologians (*Kurosaki*, 2012), but his analysis, did cause Black leaders, to grapple with the role, relevancy, and "heartbeat" of the Black church in the 21st century.



Eddie S. Glaude Jr., a religion professor at Princeton, found himself "in the firestorm" with his essay "The Black Church Is Dead."Credit...Mike Greenlar/The Post-Standard, April 16th, 2010, The New York Times

Ten years removed now from Dr. Glaude's seminal article, as we are in the genesis of a new decade, questions persist about the role of the Black church, especially as it relates to the economic, social, educational, and political progress of black communities. The

previously mentioned is heightened, given the fact that from a macro-level perspective, there is a steady decline of <u>Christianity</u> and <u>Church Membership</u> in the United States. The decline of <u>religious engagement</u> also affects <u>the Black church</u>.

In focusing on the current state of the Black church, we also have to acknowledge a catastrophic and cancerous problem within this institution, and that is, the <u>communication</u> dissonance, with the <u>"godless generation,"</u> also known as millennials. And although Black millennials tend to be <u>more religious</u> than their peers (*e.g. White millennials*), this population still has a major problem with the <u>language</u> of Black religious and civil rights "elders," and the overall <u>theology</u> and <u>respectability politics</u> of the Black church.

With the ongoing debate about the significance of the Black church in the 21st century, coupled with the sticky <u>generational divide</u> that exist between baby-boomers and millennials within the sacred walls of this longstanding influential establishment, one has to ponder if the Black church is indeed in the final stages of expiration? While I do not totally subscribe to Dr. Glaude's previous declaration that the Black church is dead, I will suggest that the Black church needs to be revived, while simultaneously receiving a pertinent treatment plan for holistic healing post resuscitation. To that end, this is why I argue that operationalizing Peter Spencer's framework is critically needed <u>"for such a time as this."</u>

Peter Spencer is repeatedly omitted in the discourse pertaining to the great historical patriarchs and liberators of the African American church tradition (*Baldwin*, 1983, 1987). However, such a negation of the life and legacy of Peter Spencer, robs the scholarly canon of Black church history. Moreover, it also robs the current generation of Black church leaders of gleaming from the knowledge of historical "faith giants" that aspired to meet the comprehensive needs of their congregants and the community in which their church was situated. Therefore, I advocate for Spencer's message of *hope*, *salvation*, *community*, *self-determination and liberation* (*Baldwin*, 1987, p. 41), which for the purpose of this opinion-editorial (op-ed), I will refer to as principles, as a relevant and proactive theological framework that could aide in the regeneration of the Black church and Black communities.

From a historical and contemporary perspective, Peter Spencer's first principle of *Hope* is critically important, given the fact that African American communities disproportionately deal with wealth gaps, healthcare gaps, opportunity gaps, employment gaps, and another phenomenon called the <u>value gap</u>, which Dr. Glaude defines as the "belief that white people matter more than others." Given the steadfast systemic "niggering" (*Harper 2009*) and **hope** deferment of Black Bodies, the Black church must present a counternarrative that espouses an ethos of **hope**; that is not merely existential, but rather, gives Black people the energy to endure, elevate, and excel, in the midst of existing socio-political evils.

Homiletically, as many theologians have professed, Black preachers' articulation of the salvific message is the most dynamic depiction of expository preaching (*Thomas, Redmond, 2020*). However, perhaps Peter Spencer was pushing us to consider that **Salvation** was not merely regulated to when we get to "yonder," but just maybe; we should also focus on an earthly salvation that will deliver individuals of African descent from the United States original sins of *Racism, White Supremacy, and White Privilege*. Dr. King illuminated my previous claim in his famed <u>Mountaintop Speech</u>, when he argued:

"It's all right to talk about "long white robes over yonder," in all of its symbolism. But ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here. It's all right to talk about "streets flowing with milk and honey," but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can't eat three square meals a day."

The point that I am raising, is that a salvific message that solely focuses on one's eternal life while overlooking earthly realities, is a message that lacks substance, and also a message that is not sustainable!



"The Late sculptor Charles Cropper Parks created this statue, "Father and Son," to honor Peter Spencer at the Wilmington Plaza that bears Spencer's name. The figure of a black man in T-Shirt and jeans, holding a sleeping child does not portray Spencer, but was created as symbol of the hope he inspired.

GINGER WALL/ The News Journal." This picture and statue narrative was originally published on March 4, 2014.

In his book titled: *If God is So Good, Why Are Blacks Doing So Bad?* Bishop James Dixon, II (2007) gives a charge to the Black church to return to being a "*Battleship*" that is situated on the frontline of defense in our communities. Even though Bishop Dixon's charge is correct, "*less we forget*" that Peter Spencer was a forerunner of *Community* consciousness and *Community* advocacy, as he labored for civil rights and the freedom of assembly. Is it the communal consciousness and advocacy of Spencer; that needs to be channeled to contemporary faith leaders, as our communities desperately need a "safe place" that will sustain us from vicious systemic inequities that continue to target minoritized and marginalized populations and communities (*Khalifa, 2018*)! Hence, for this "safe place" to be actualized for the people that we serve, the Black Church must reestablish itself as "the primary organ of social reform in the community" (*Gaines II, 2014*).

Further, our commitment to community uplift is causally linked to our message of **Self-Determination**. It was the **Self-Determination** of Spencer that fought for religious freedom, freedom of speech, and full constitutional rights; and it will be the Black Church's contemporary commitment and elucidation of **Self-Determination** that will work towards "Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery" (Akbar, 1996).

I close this article, with how I began my intellectual musings, and that is, an exploration about the pulse rate of the contemporary Black church. Despite Professor Glaude's thesis that the "*Black Church is Dead*," my theological and audacious hope still believes in the potential of the Black church to arise and reclaim its prophetic place! Nevertheless, the potential of this hallowed institution needs to be pumped by Peter Spencer's final principle of *Liberation*.

Explicitly, in these contentious times of societal chaos, anti-blackness, <u>COVID-1619</u> and <u>Systemic Economic Racism</u>, the Black church needs to be *liberated* from cowardice and conformity. Additionally, the Black church needs to be *liberated* from narcissistic anti-holy expressions of worship. Furthermore, the Black church needs to be *liberated* from devilish doctrines that overlooks the needs of the "*least of them*." Therefore, I strongly proclaim that revisiting the life, legacy, and ideological beliefs of Peter Spencer, is a critically important step to *liberating* and resuscitating the modern-day Black church from *Life Support!*

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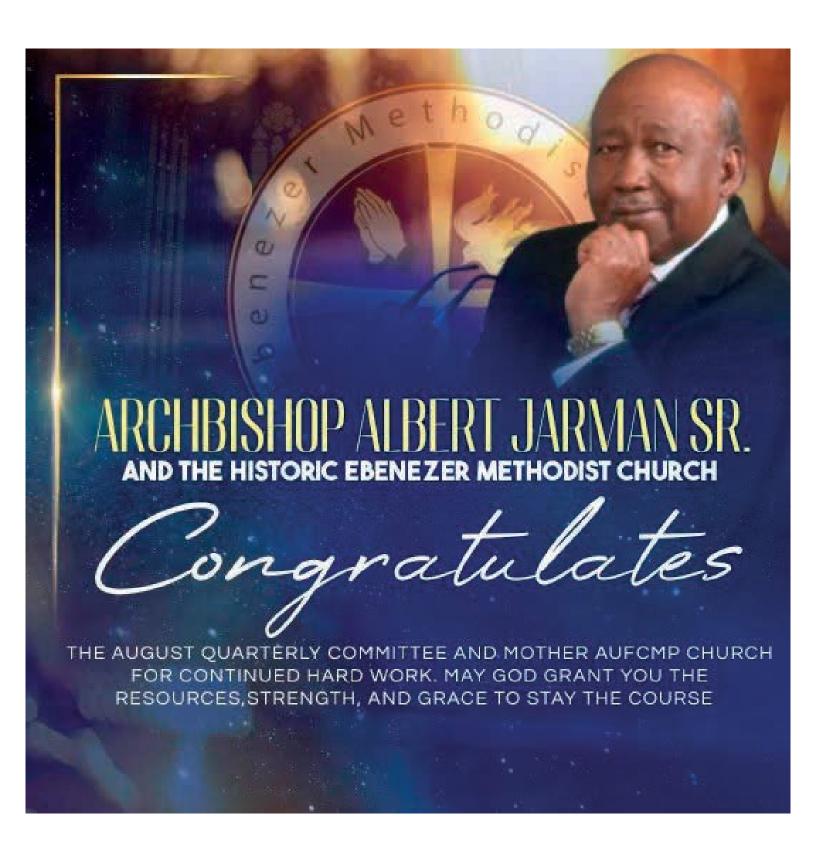


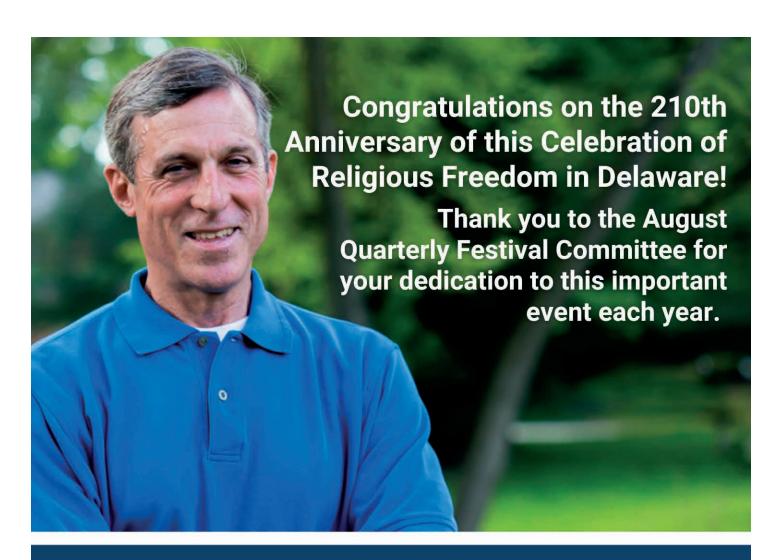
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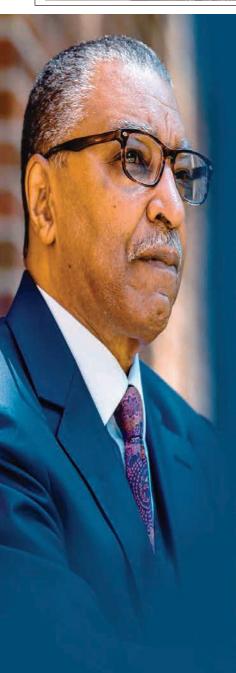
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Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.



BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Soaries is the Senior Pastor (Emeritus) of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens ("FBCLG") in Somerset, New Jersey. In July 2021 he retired from 30 years of ministry, which focused on spiritual growth, educational excellence, economic empowerment, and faith-based community development. As a pioneer of faith-based community development, Dr. Soaries' impact on FBCLG and the community was tremendous.

In 1992, he founded the Central Jersey Community Development Corporation ("CJCDC"), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that specializes in helping revitalize underserved and vulnerable neighborhoods. In 1996, the CJCDC launched Harvest of Hope Family Services Network, Inc. This organization developed permanent solutions for hundreds of foster children and parents.

Dr. Soaries was inducted to the The Martin Luther King Jr Board of Preachers at Morehouse College.

Dr. Soaries is also the President and CEO of Corporate Community Connections, Inc., a company that assists corporations expand and improve their Corporate Social Responsibility efforts.

From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Soaries served as New Jersey's Secretary of State, making him the first and only African-American male to serve in that office. He also served as the former chairman of the United States Election Assistance Commission, which was established by Congress to implement the "Help America Vote Act" of 2002.

In 2005, Dr. Soaries launched the dfree® Financial Freedom Movement. The dfree® strategy teaches people how to become financially self-sufficient. His work in financial empowerment was featured in a CNN documentary.

Dr. Soaries has written 12 books including "Say Yes to No Debt" and "Say Yes When Life Says No." he is the host of a weekly radio show "For Your Soul" on SiriusXM Urban View.

Dr. Soaries currently serves as an Independent Director at Independence Realty Trust and Ocwen Financial Corporation. He served as an Independent Director at the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York for 16 years. He also serves as a Trustee of RWJ Barnabas Health.

Soaries earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Fordham University, a Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary. Dr. Soaries resides in Sarasota, Florida with his wife, Donna.

The August Quarterly Festival Worship Service August 25, 2024



Processional	Clergy, Choir and Special Guests
Praise & Worship	Praise & Worship Team
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Opening Hymn What A Fellowship	Congregation
Opening Prayer	Bishop Sandy McClain
Welcome	Sis. Darla Chase
Selection	
Remarks	Sis. Marilyn Monk
Significance of Peter Spencer and August Quarterly	Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II
Recognition of Guests	Sis. Pasqulita Jackson
Offering	Bishop George Gibson
Grand March	Masonic Lodges
Offertory "All things come of Thee O Lord and of Thine own have we given Thee"	
Introduction of the Preacher	Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II
Sermonic Selection	August Quarterly Mass Choir

Sermon

Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr. Pastor Emeritus

Frist Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens Somerset, NJ

Overseer Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II



The Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II is the Senior Pastor at the Historic Mother African Union Church. Dr. Whitaker is an ordained minister of the Gospel, who has held numerous ministerial leadership positions for over 20 years. As a Spiritual thought leader, Dr. Whitaker has been uniquely gifted to assist churches, ministries, and faith-based organizations.

As a Critical Scholar-Practitioner, Dr. Whitaker is an incoming Associate Professor at Arcadia University, an appointed Scholar in Residence at Duquesne University, and an inaugural Faculty Fellow in Race, Research, and Justice at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Whitaker presents his research at both national and international conferences. His research centers on issues of Race, Racism, White

supremacy, Social Justice, the Plight of Black Males, and the Prophetic Black Church Tradition.

Educationally, The Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II has earned Five degrees. He received his Doctorate Degree from Duquesne University, Masters Degrees from both The University of Pennsylvania and Eastern University, and Undergraduate Degrees in Urban Ministry Leadership and Biblical Studies from Geneva College at the Center for Urban Theological Studies where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. Further, Dr. Whitaker also earned a Certificate in Culturally Sustaining Teaching from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and an Executive Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Additionally, as a Minister of the Gospel, The Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II has been blessed to receive theological professional development training at the annual Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary, The E.K. Bailey Preaching Conference, and Christian Research and Development (CRD).

Apart from work and ministry, Dr. Whitaker enjoys spending time with his wife (Sheronda) and daughter (Rayan), reading and watching documentaries, eating seafood, and traveling. As a Prophetic Black Preacher, The Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II finds ministry inspiration in Luke 4: 18-19, which declares:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Bishop Teresa B. Hicks



Bishop Teresa B. Hicks is the Pastor and Founder of The Tabernacle Shalom Worship Center Inc.; established on October 7, 2007.

Bishop Hicks, affirmed an Apostle in the Lord's church in 2016 and received her Episcopal Consecration as a Bishop in the Lord's Church in 2018, accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her savior at the age of 14 while attending the Mother Church of God in Christ, Wilmington Delaware. While in this ministry, she accepted the call to the ministry at the age of 21.

She served faithfully under other ministries until the Lord gave instructions to establish The Tabernacle Shalom Worship Center in Claymont Delaware. These ministries included the New Community Church of God and the Cathedral of Fresh Fire Church.

While at the Cathedral of Fresh Fire, she was ordained an Elder. She served as a Ruling Elder, an instructor in the bible school, administrative assistant to the Youth Pastor, and established the children's church ministry.

In January of 2004, Bishop Hicks accepted the position of Assistant Pastor of the New Community Church of God, under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Edward Cross, Sr. Her goal was to assist Reverend Cross in building a people of God by giving them the tools necessary to achieve greatness in their service to our Great God. In May of 2005 Bishop Hicks was honored at the Markevic Johnson Scholarship Banquet as a Women of Distinction for her work in the religious community. Bishop Hicks was featured on the cover of Fresh Oil Magazine for their October 2017 edition. She was also featured in the Great Achievers Voice Magazine in Valencia Spain. Bishop Hicks was appointed as an Ambassador of Peace in March 2018 in Nigeria. In September 2018 Bishop Hicks received The Spirit of Excellence Award, The Visionary Award, The Triumphant Award, The Musically Gifted Award and The International Award at the Eagle Excellence Awards Ceremony in Blackwood, NJ. Bishop Hicks also appeared on the Tuskegee Television Network. In 2022 she received an award at the Ladies of Debonair Conference. This award was for her persistence to pray, pursue and prevail as a spiritual pioneer in the Kingdom of God. The Ladies of Debonair recognized and honored her progression and continued demonstration of faith in the Body of Christ.

Bishop Hicks has designed and facilitated various training seminars to assist the servants of God in the advancement of the Kingdom of God. She has served as a mentor to countless individuals both inside and outside the Christian Community. She believes her goal in life is to be that 'city of refuge' where the weary traveler may come and find solace. Bishop Hicks has served as a volunteer and staff chaplain for Christiana Care Hospital and is a member of the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council (IMAC) of Delaware bringing spiritual, social, and economic transformation and renewal in the Greater Wilmington Community.

Bishop Hicks is a member of Kingdom Fellowship Covenant Ministries College of Bishops, is on the Executive Board for the United Nations Council of Churches & Joint College of Apostles & Bishops USA/Spain/Africa, serving as the International Administrator. She has also ministered in various churches in Africa and aided in meeting the physical and emotional needs of men, women and children in Nigeria, South Africa and Spain.

Bishop Hicks received an Associates of Arts in Biblical Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Urban Ministry Leadership from Geneva College's Center for Urban Theological Studies. She also received an Honorary Doctorate from Great Achiever's International University College & Seminary and is a certified Christian Chaplain.

Bishop Hicks is married to Norris Hicks and has one son and 4 grandchildren.

Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr.



One of the nation's most prominent scholars, Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., is a passionate educator, author, political commentator, and public intellectual who examines the complex dynamics of the American experience. His writings, including "Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul", "In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America", and his most recent, the New York Times bestseller, "Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for our Own", takes an exhaustive look at Black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States

and the challenges we face as a democracy. Of Baldwin, Glaude writes, "Baldwin's writing does not bear witness to the glory of America. It reveals the country's sins and the illusion of innocence that blinds us to the reality of others. Baldwin's vision requires a confrontation with our history (with slavery, Jim Crow segregation, with whiteness) to overcome its hold on us. Not to posit the greatness of America, but to establish the ground upon which to imagine the country anew."

A highly accomplished and respected scholar of religion, Glaude is a former president of the American Academy of Religion. His books on religion and philosophy include "An Uncommon Faith: A Pragmatic Approach to the Study of African American Religion", "African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction", and "Exodus! Religion, Race and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America", which was awarded the Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize.

Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of African American Studies, a program he first became involved with shaping as a doctoral candidate in Religion at Princeton. He served as the inaugural chair of the department for more than fourteen years. He is also on the Morehouse College Board of Trustees. He frequently appears in the media, as a columnist for TIME Magazine and as an MSNBC contributor on programs like Morning Joe and Deadline Whitehouse with Nicolle Wallace. He also regularly appears on Meet the Press on Sundays. Combining a scholar's knowledge of history, a political commentator's take on the latest events, and an activist's passion for social justice, Glaude challenges all of us to examine our collective American conscience.

Bishop Sandy McClain

Bishop Sandy L. McClain, Senior Pastor of Mt. Calvary Madison shares his message of Hope, Inspiration and God's love to win souls to Christ.

Bishop McClain believes the gospel can and will deliver anyone regardless of education, gender or socio-economic background. This dynamic orator reaches millions through his radio and television ministries.



Bishop McClain is a graduate of Trevecca University. Bishop McClain is a native of Nashville, Tennessee where he resides with his wife Sarah and their two sons Calvin and Quinton. He is the proud son of the late Pastor Willie Russell and Carolyn Russell.

Bishop McClain has a special calling on his life that began with his first Pastorship at the First Baptist Church Hopewell in Old Hickory, Tennessee. He served on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers of Nashville and was voted 2007 "New Pastor of the Year" by the Association of Pastors.

Under his leadership at Mt. Calvary Madison, the multi-cultural congregation has more than quadrupled, the church have constructed a new 3 million dollar Family Life Center. Bishop McClain has inspired numerous ministries that have reached thousands in the Nashville and Gallatin area. So much so, that he was named "Pastor of the Year 2012" by The Gospel Music City Awards.

His television broadcast "Everyday with Pastor McClain" airs Saturday and Sunday mornings on CTN (Christian Television Network). Pastor McClain appeared weekly on "The Crossroads" on 760AM The Gospel. In 2011 he launched a second radio show "Up in the Air with Pastor McClain" on 880AM. The "Crossroads" carried discussions of everyday living infused with word & spirit application.

In 2014 Bishop and his wife co-authored the book "Couples In Covenant". A biblical guide to covenant relationships with great respect to the sanctity of a Godly marriage.

This Man of God is known for his service to the church and community, he shares his vision that all of God's people are blessed and should know it. He is committed to the 3 E's: **Encouraging**, **Empowering** and **Enlightening** the people of God.





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A "Bridge to Wholeness", (B2WC) is a Campus for Southbridge residents to experience transformational impact on their quality of life.

for more information on supporting this project, contact 302–655–7751

email – mountjoyumc@gmail.com

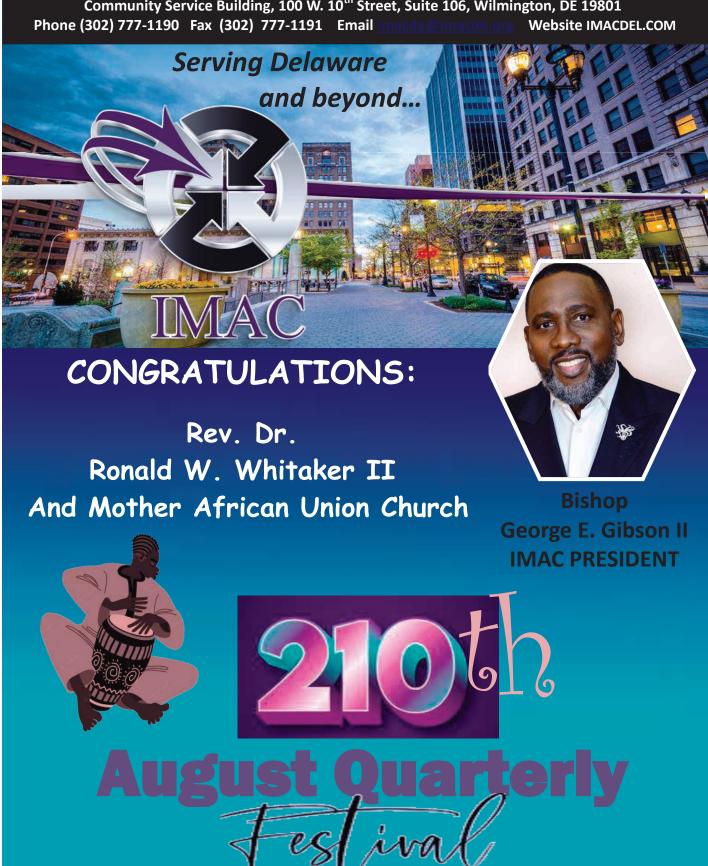
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Mt. Joy U.M. Church (302) 655-7751

451 Townsend Street. Wilm., DE 19801 mountjoyumc@gmail.com

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Congratulations AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL









Manna Christian Fellowship Church

733 E. 22nd Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19802
Rev. Aaron R. Moore, Pastor

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:58

Congratulations August Quarterly

on being the oldest African American religious festival in the nation.





COME WORSHIP WITH US

REV. PEARL SCOTT JOHNSON Lead Pastor

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Simpson United Methodist Church 907 Centerville Rd Wilmington, DE 19804

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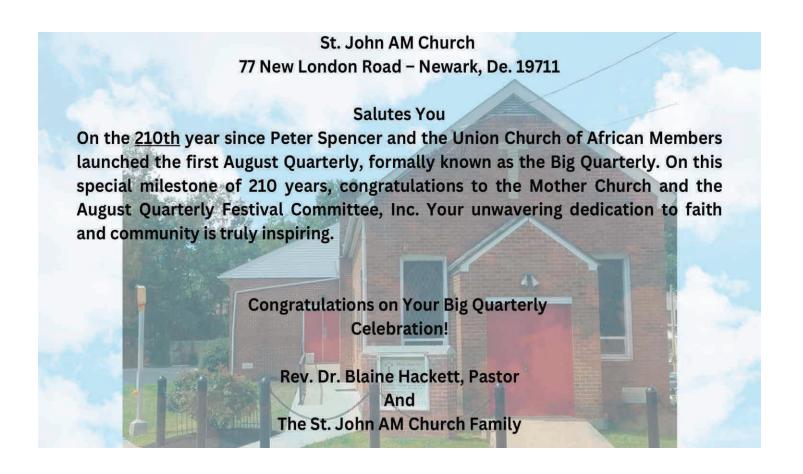
honors

the life and legacy of Rev. Peter Spencer. As sons and daughters of Richard and Sarah Allen, African Methodists familiar with our history understand the importat role Rev. Spencer played in the development of our branch of zion. Methodism was the vehicle used by God to bring a liberating Gospel to those enslaved, and we are the living proof of God's goodness, and Rev. Spencer and Bishop Allen's faithfulness. May the work of Rev. Spencer continue to inspire us to preach Christ and Him crucified until Jesus returns.

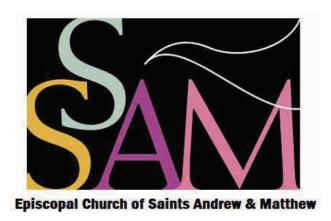




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Congratulations to the August Quarterly Festival Committee, Inc.



Sunday services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Facebook prayer services

Monday-Friday at 8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

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302-764-4500 3114 N.Market St. Wilmington, DE 19802 Bishop Charles L Amos, Pastor



MOTHER AFRICAN UNION CHURCH



AUGUST QUARTERLY

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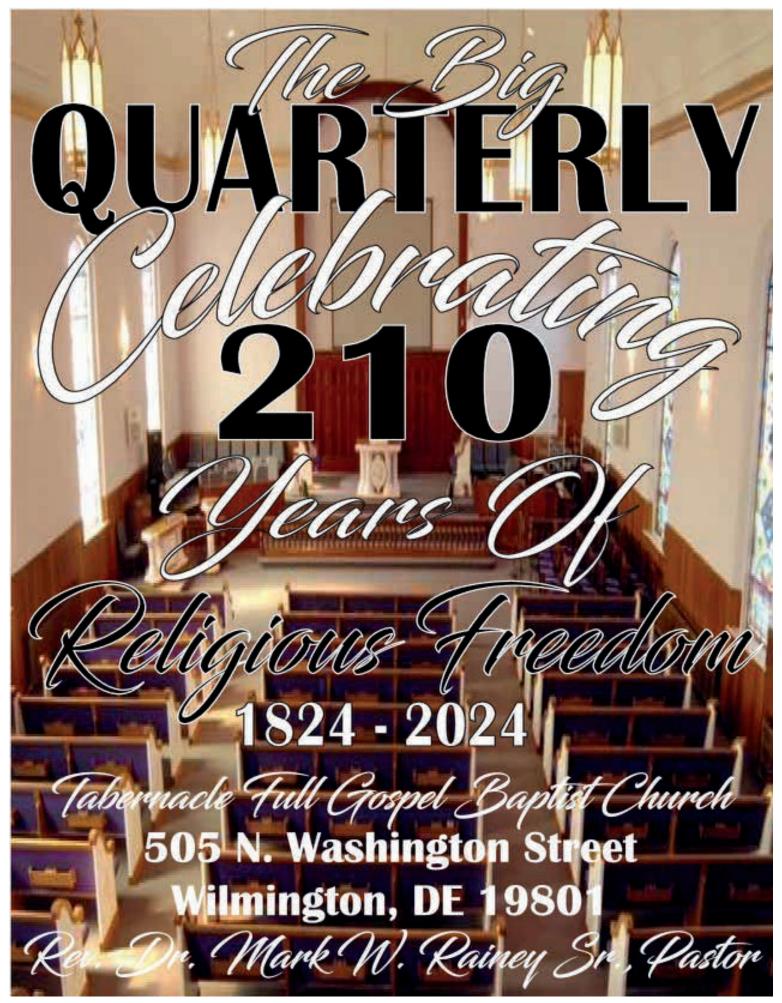




Making a Difference in the Lives of Children in Wilmington for 9 years!

We taught them to stand tall and proud, even in the face of history, and the future was made new and whole for us all,

one child at a time.

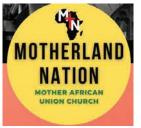


Mother African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church

812 N. Franklin St., Wilmington, DE 19806

302-658-3838, 652-9937 fax 658-2065 REACHING PEOPLE FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST "Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian"

Mother African Union Church 211th Church Anniversary







Invites you to fellowship with us Sunday, September 15, 2024 10:00 am Worship Service

as we continue to celebrate a milestone 211 years of Religious Freedom



Saturday, September 14, 2024 Church Gathering Fellowship More information to come!





Anniversary Committee 2024 Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II, Senior Pastor



Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware

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Congratulations August Quarterly for Celebrating 210 Years of Religious Freedom!

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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU AUGUST QUARTERLY FOR 210 YEARS OF SERVICE.

OUR PROGRAMS



SSVF

Securing safe and affordable permanent housing providing financial assistance for housing, security deposits, past due rent and utilities.



GPD

Our GPD transitional housing program promotes housing and services for female Veterans.



CERS

Our CERS program provide emergency residential services supporting enhancement of independent living skills for homless male Veterans.









● ● ● ● DCHV's Female Grant and Per Diem Program

Each female in our program has their own hotel suite and is able to utilize the other services offered by the Hope Center and it's other community-based nonprofit partners for a full one-stop-shop of services.

The purpose of the transitional housing component of the program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and services with the goal of helping homeless female veterans:

achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.







This program is designed to uplift and support you on your path to housing stability and self-sufficiency.

OUR NEWEST PROGRAM

SSVF

We offer a range of personalized services such as securing safe and affordable permanent housing, and providing essential financial supportive services including:

finding housing, security deposits, past due rent, utilities,

legal matters, employment,

mental health support, or simply helping you make the right choices for your family. We're here every step of the way!



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DEBORAH A. WRIGHT & THE LATE ROBERT O. WRIGHT, I C.F.S.P.



DESSERTS

Lemon Poke Cake

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Yield: 24 servings



Need a dessert, but don't have a ton of time to fuss over making it? Whatever it's for, this Lemon Poke Cake will exceed all of your expectations! We've found an easy way to doctor-up a moist and tangy boxed lemon cake so well that everyone will be asking for the recipe! How do you get there, you might be wondering? You just poke a few holes into top of the cake, fill them in with a rich and citrusy pie filling, and top it with some delicious whipped topping. And that's that! Super simple and yummy. We're happy to share this Lemon Poke Cake hack with you, and we hope it amazes everyone's taste buds as much as it did ours!

Ingredients

- 1 (15.25-ounce) lemon cake mix, plus the ingredients called for on the package
- 1 (21-ounce) can lemon pie filling
- 8 ounces whipped topping, thawed
- lemon zest, to taste, for topping

Directions

Step 1

Cook the lemon cake according to the package directions.

Step 2

Allow the lemon cake to cool completely.

Step 3

Use the bottom of the handle of a wooden spoon to poke holes in the top of the cake.

Step 4

Spoon and spread the lemon pie filling onto the cake, ensuring the holes are filled.

Step 5

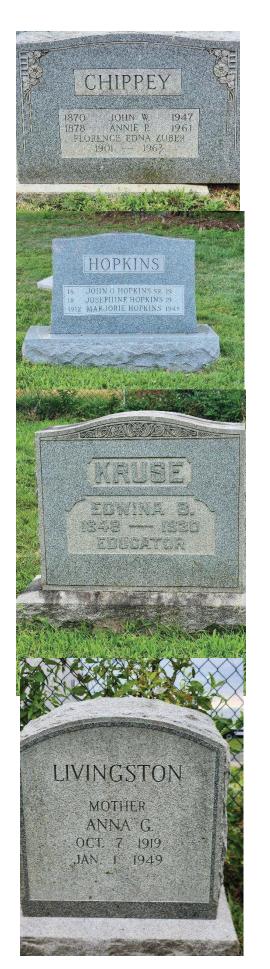
Spread the whipped topping over the top and sprinkle with the lemon zest.

Step 6

Refrigerate the cake for 1 hour.

Step 7

Slice and serve



Historic Mt. Olive Cemetery — Remembering Loved Ones on Memorial Day





Loved & Missed by Many... JOSEPH 700 BRIJMSKILL

"Rather than mourn the absence of the flame, Let us celebrate how brightly it burned."

Let us recall favorite memories of sharing times when we were all together. Let us celebrate the spirit of one very special life, so in our hearts the flame will burn forever..

In the spirit of

"Peter Spencer, Educator,"
Joe's guiding motto:

"Embrace, Inspire and
Challenge Every Child
Every Day."

Thyra Brumskill and Family

In Loving Memory of my son

Jerome O. Browder

Jan. 14, 1963—Mar. 23, 2023

He give us great comfort to know

That you are resting in the arms of our Lord

No more pain and suffering—

Rest in Peace, my dear,

Mom and Family

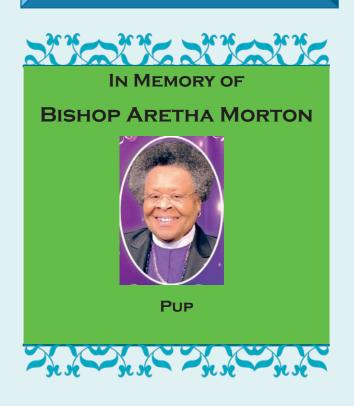
In Loving Memory of our Parents and Grandparents

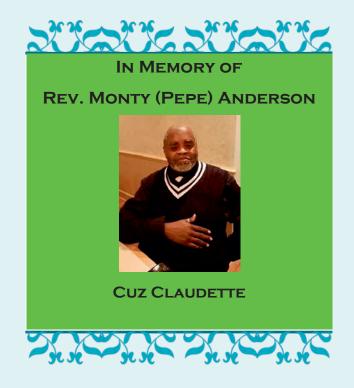
Claudius and Gertrude Williams

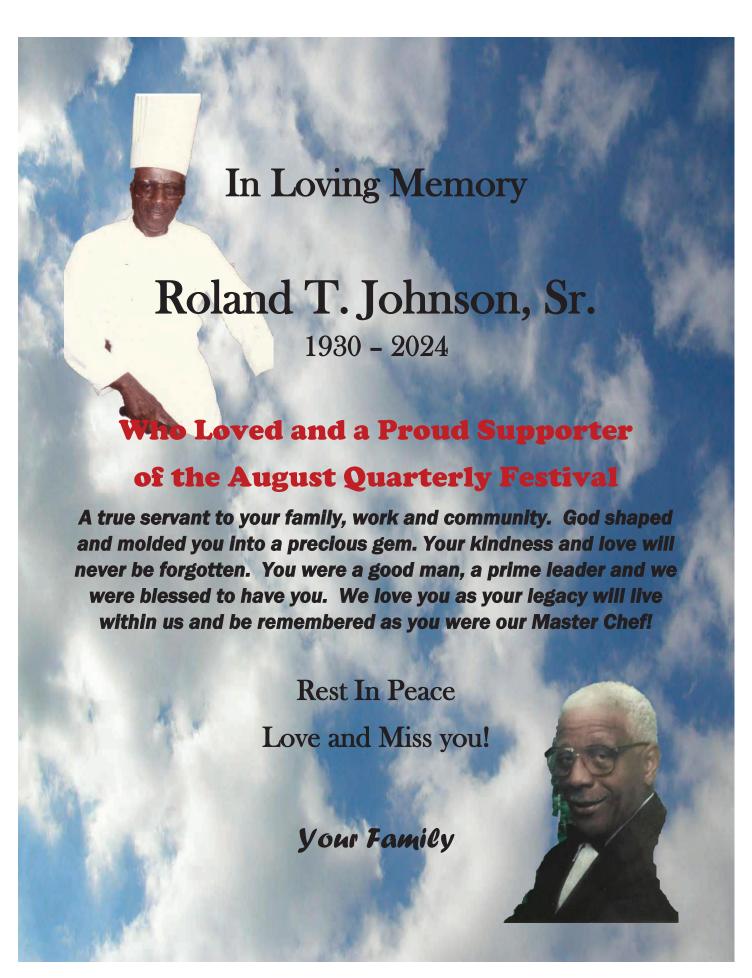
In the rising of the sun and it's going down
In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter
In the rustle of the leaves and the beauty of autumn
In the beginning of the year and when it ends
When we are weary and in the need of strength
When we are lost and sick at heart
When we hae joys and we yearn to share.... WE WILL REMEMBER
So long as we live they too shall live for they are a par of us...
AS WE REMEMBER

Geneva DePaul Badson
Herschel and Florence Badson
Marguerite "Betty" Morgan
Lloyd and Elsie Badson
Deborah Badson
Thelma Ann (Badson) Butler
Brian Leslie Butler
Troy Lamont Butler

(Jesus sadi), "I Am with you always, to the ends of the earth" MATTHEW 22:20









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MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory

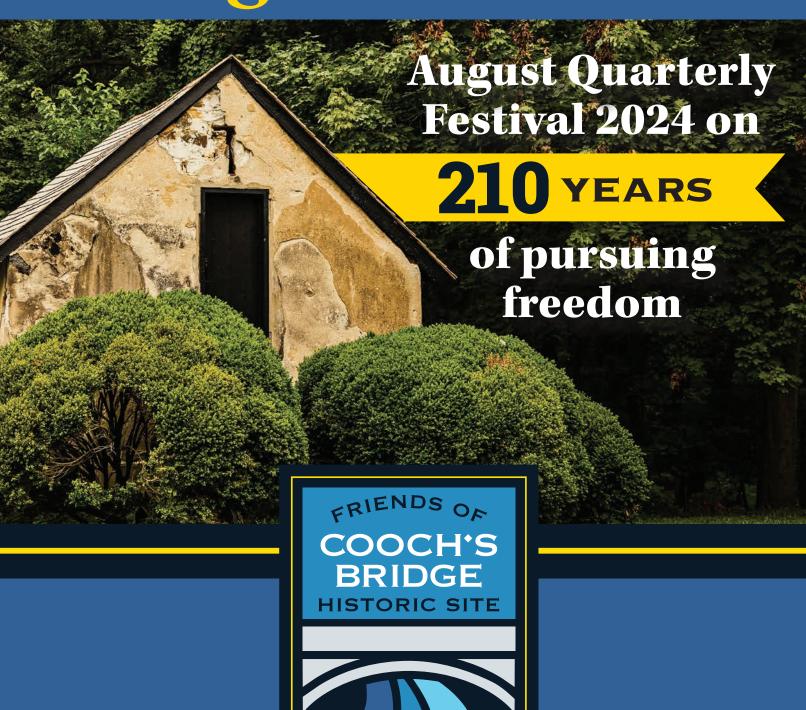
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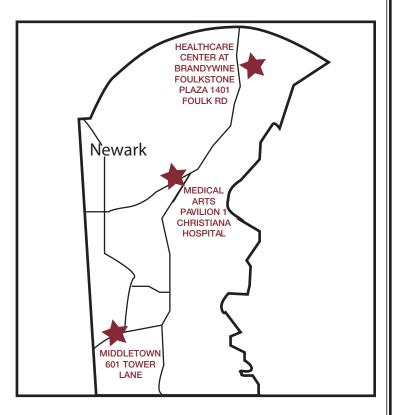
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