



AUGUST QUARTERLY *Festival* 2026 AUG 29-30, 2026

Legacy. Freedom. Unity.
Our Soul, Our Story!

CELEBRATING
212 YEARS

THE NATION'S OLDEST GOSPEL FESTIVAL
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



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Volume No. 32

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*

Temporary Address Location

*St. Stephan's Lutheran's Church
1301 N. Broom Street
Wilmington, DE 19806*



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Host Church



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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 QUARTERLY
FESTIVAL

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to Our Sponsors!

YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS US CELEBRATE OUR FAITH,
PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE, AND **IGNITE UNITY & SPIRITUAL REVIVAL.**

WE APPRECIATE YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT!



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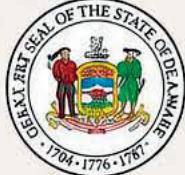
THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
DELAWARE



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Because of you, the **August Quarterly Festival** continues
to make a lasting impact in our community.

Together, we make a difference!

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August Quarterly

August Quarterly is a religious gathering that started in 1814 by Peter Spencer, the founder of the Union Church of Africans. He started the religious gathering on the first anniversary of his founding of the Union Church of African Members, 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 were 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, Delaware 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.

Credit to Rev. Lawrence M. Livingston, 2015

Welcome to the 212th Closing Worship Celebration of the August Quarterly

Our Soul. Our Story.

"One generation shall praise Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts."

— Psalm 145:4 (NKJV)

Grace and peace to you,

On behalf of the Historic Mother African Union Church, it is both my distinct honor and heartfelt joy to welcome you to the **212th Closing Worship Celebration of the August Quarterly**.

Today, we gather not simply to conclude a service, but to celebrate a sacred legacy. For more than two centuries, the August Quarterly has stood as a living witness to the enduring faith, resilience, and sacred courage of a people who believed that worship could sustain a community, that hope could outlast hardship, and that God's faithfulness would continue from generation to generation.

Our 2026 theme, "**Our Soul. Our Story.**", is both a celebration and a sacred invitation. It reminds us that our story is more than a collection of historical moments—it is the testimony of a people whose faith has endured, whose culture has inspired, and whose witness continues to shape the moral and spiritual fabric of our nation. Our soul is found in our unwavering trust in God. Our story is written in every prayer whispered, every hymn sung, every sacrifice made, and every generation that has carried this sacred legacy forward.

Whether you are a lifelong participant in the August Quarterly, a first-time guest, a member of our beloved Motherland Nation family, a friend from another faith tradition, a community partner, or a visitor joining us from near or far, **know that you are welcomed, valued, and deeply appreciated**. This celebration belongs to all who believe in the transformative power of faith, community, justice, and hope.

As we worship together today, may we honor the vision of our founder, the Rev. Peter Spencer, whose courage helped establish a legacy that continues to inspire generations. May we also recommit ourselves to building communities marked by compassion, unity, reconciliation, and love, ensuring that the story we inherit becomes an even greater story for those who will come after us.

Thank you for sharing this historic and sacred occasion. May today's worship renew your spirit, strengthen your faith, and remind each of us that while history remembers where we have been, faith always calls us toward what God is yet preparing.

Welcome to the 212th August Quarterly Closing Worship Celebration.

May God richly bless you, your family, and the generations to come.

With gratitude and joyful expectation,

Dr. Ron Whitaker

Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Senior Pastor

Historic Mother African Union Church

212th August Quarterly Closing Worship Celebration

August 30, 2026



And Still We Rise

Our Soul. Our Story.

"You may trod me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I'll rise."

— **Maya Angelou, *Still I Rise***

There are few declarations in the English language that capture the spirit of a people quite like Maya Angelou's timeless refrain, "**Still I Rise.**" Those three words have become more than poetry; they have become the testimony of generations who refused to allow oppression to determine their destiny. They echo through the cotton fields where enslaved Africans whispered prayers beneath the stars. They resonate in the songs of the Civil Rights Movement. They live in the voices of mothers who raised children against impossible odds, pastors who preached hope in seasons of despair, and communities that continued to build when the world expected them to break.

As I reflect upon the remarkable legacy of the August Quarterly, I cannot help but conclude that long before Maya Angelou ever placed pen to paper, Peter Spencer and our ancestors were already living those words. They understood that while circumstances may bend the human spirit, they need not break it. They believed that faith was more than a private conviction; it was the courage to stand again after every fall, to build again after every loss, and to hope again after every disappointment.

That, perhaps, is the story of the August Quarterly.

For **212 years**, this sacred gathering has stood as a living testimony that God's people possess an extraordinary capacity to rise. It has survived wars, economic depressions, pandemics, racial violence, political upheaval, changing generations, and cultural shifts. Yet year after year, believers have gathered to worship, to remember, to celebrate, and to proclaim that God's faithfulness has never failed.

Our theme this year, "**Our Soul. Our Story.**", reminds us that history is not simply something we inherit—it is something we steward. Every generation receives a sacred story and bears the responsibility of carrying it forward with integrity, courage, and hope. We are beneficiaries of sacrifices we did not make, prayers we did not pray, and victories we did not earn. Because others refused to surrender, we have the privilege of standing where we stand today.

At the heart of that story stands one of the most remarkable yet often overlooked figures in American religious history—the Reverend Peter Spencer.

Born into slavery, Peter Spencer understood firsthand the crushing weight of oppression. Yet what makes his life extraordinary is not simply that he endured hardship; it is that he

transformed hardship into holy purpose. Rather than allowing injustice to define him, he devoted himself to building institutions that affirmed the dignity, leadership, and spiritual authority of African Americans. In 1813, he founded the Union Church of Africans, establishing one of the earliest independent Black church movements in the United States. A year later, he organized what would become the August Quarterly, creating a sacred gathering where Black Christians could worship freely, strengthen community, reunite families, exchange ideas, and celebrate the goodness of God.

Peter Spencer did not merely establish an annual meeting.

He cultivated a movement of hope.

He understood something that remains profoundly relevant today: whenever people discover their God-given dignity, they begin to rise.

His story reminds us that freedom is never merely political; it is deeply spiritual. Before people can rise outwardly, they must first believe inwardly that they were created in the image of God. Spencer understood that worship was not an escape from the realities of life; worship was preparation to transform those realities. Every hymn sung, every sermon preached, every testimony shared, and every prayer offered during those early August Quarterlies became a declaration that God's children would no longer allow the world to define their worth.

This spirit has always distinguished the Black Church.

Scholars such as James H. Cone, Albert J. Raboteau, Howard Thurman, and Lewis V. Baldwin have demonstrated that the Black Church has never been merely a religious institution. It has been the moral conscience of communities, the birthplace of leadership, the guardian of culture, the keeper of memory, and the incubator of hope. Long before African Americans possessed political influence or economic power, they possessed faith. That faith built schools, organized mutual aid societies, nurtured entrepreneurs, challenged injustice, educated generations, and proclaimed that every human being bears the image of God.

The Black Church has always believed that theology must be lived.

Prayer must become purpose.

Worship must become witness.

Faith must become action.

Perhaps this is why Scripture continually points us toward the remarkable truth that God's greatest work often emerges from humanity's greatest adversity. Joseph rose from the

prison to preserve a nation. Moses rose from exile to become a liberator. Ruth rose from grief to become part of the lineage of Christ. Esther rose from obscurity to influence an empire. Nehemiah rose among broken walls to rebuild a people. The prophet Micah boldly declared, **"Though I have fallen, I will rise"** (Micah 7:8). Isaiah encouraged a weary generation by proclaiming, **"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles"** (Isaiah 40:31). The Apostle Paul reminded believers that though they were **"hard pressed on every side,"** they were **"not crushed... struck down, but not destroyed"** (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Yet the greatest testimony of rising is not found in any prophet or patriarch.

It is found in Jesus Christ.

The very foundation of Christianity is resurrection.

Our faith is not ultimately built upon suffering; it is built upon victory over suffering. It is not anchored merely in the Cross, but in the empty tomb. Jesus declared in John 11:25, **"I am the resurrection and the life."** Likewise, the Apostle Paul proclaimed that **"if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you... He will also give life to your mortal bodies"** (Romans 8:11).

This means that resurrection is not simply something Christians celebrate once a year.

Resurrection is the rhythm of Christian living.

Every act of forgiveness is resurrection.

Every restored relationship is resurrection.

Every child who overcomes impossible circumstances is resurrection.

Every congregation that refuses to surrender after hardship is resurrection.

Every believer who chooses hope instead of despair is living resurrection.

That truth has become especially meaningful for the Historic Mother African Union Church.

This year, our beloved congregation experienced one of the greatest challenges in our 213-year history with the devastating loss of our historic sanctuary. For many communities, such a tragedy might have marked the conclusion of a story. But our story has never been defined by what we have lost. It has always been defined by the God who continues to restore.

We have discovered anew that buildings can be destroyed, but vision cannot. Walls may fall, but worship continues. Sanctuaries may burn, but the Church of Jesus Christ remains

unconquered. Like Peter Spencer before us, we have learned that our greatest strength has never been found in brick and mortar, but in faith and fellowship. We have continued to worship. We have continued to serve. We have continued to love our community. We have continued to believe that God is still writing our story.

And still, we rise.

Our ancestors understood this truth. They rose from slavery to freedom. They rose from exclusion to leadership. They rose from segregation to legislation. They rose from silence to prophetic witness. Every generation faced obstacles unique to its own moment, yet every generation left behind a testimony that whispered to the next: "Do not give up. God is not finished."

Now it is our turn.

The question before us is not simply whether we admire Peter Spencer.

The question is whether we possess his spirit.

Will we rise above division with unity?

Will we rise above fear with faith?

Will we rise above complacency with service?

Will we rise above cynicism with hope?

Will we rise above injustice with courage?

Will we rise above comfort to become builders of stronger communities, faithful disciples, compassionate neighbors, and transformational leaders?

History is not changed by spectators.

History is changed by people who are willing to stand when standing is difficult, to serve when serving is costly, and to believe when believing requires extraordinary faith.

That is the legacy Peter Spencer entrusted to us.

That is the legacy our ancestors preserved for us.

That is the legacy Christ calls us to embody.

As we celebrate this 212th August Quarterly, let us remember that we are not merely honoring the past. We are preparing the future. The children watching us today will one day tell the story of this generation. May they say that when uncertainty surrounded us, we chose faith. When challenges confronted us, we chose courage. When setbacks

threatened us, we chose perseverance. And when the moment required us to rise, we answered the call.

Maya Angelou gave poetic language to what generations of Black believers already knew. Peter Spencer gave institutional expression to it. Our ancestors demonstrated it. Jesus Christ secured it through His resurrection.

Now, it is our responsibility to live it.

May our soul remain anchored in God. May our story continue to inspire generations yet unborn. And may the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead empower each of us to rise above every obstacle, every disappointment, every injustice, and every fear.

For as long as God remains faithful—and He always will—our testimony shall forever be the same.

And still... we rise.

Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Senior Pastor

Historic Mother African Union Church



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Praise God for
212 Years
of the August Quarterly Festival
Celebrating the Right to Religious Freedom
and the Legacy of our
Founder the Rev. Peter Spencer!



From the
Ministerial Staff of the
Historic Mother African Union Church



Congratulations on
212 Years
of Continuous Celebration of the
August Quarterly Festival



From the
Diakonos /Deacons Ministry
of the Historic Mother African Union Church



“OUR SOUL – OUR STORY” UP THROUGH the ASHES

1814 – 2026

**THE 212TH AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, Inc.,
“RECOMMITTED TO OUR COMMON PURPOSE AND DREAMS OF
OUR FOUNDER PETER SPENCER”**

THE AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL – “THE BIG QUARTERLY”

**Is Truly “The Soul and The Story” For Me and My Family!
Beginning with My Great Grand Father Rev. Moses Martin-Preacher
and my Grandfather John Louis Martin, who became a Members of
The Mother Church after relocating from Have de Grace, Maryland in the early 1900’s**



August Quarterly, is the Oldest Religious Festival, started in 1814 by our Founder Rev. Dr. 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 carry on the Tradition and Celebrate our “212th August Quarterly Festival! Even with the Devastating fire of our Church Building at 9th & Franklin Street, Our commitment to the memory of Peter Spencer’s principals must go forward.

I would like to Thank our Past Pastors and our current Overseer, Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II, Senior Pastor of Mother African Union Church (The Motherland) for allowing and putting confidence in Me and My committee to carry on this Great Celebration.

To My Committee because of your Commitment, Love and Endurance
The August Quarterly Festival Continues!!!

**The AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL, INC.
“BIG QUARTERLY”
“Motto”**

“212 WE ARE RISING FROM THE ASHES”

MARILYN J. MONK,
General Chairlady
212TH August Quarterly Festival Committee, Inc.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND
THE GENERAL BOARD OF THE
**AUGUST QUARTERLY
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INC.**



Greetings

*We count it an honor and privilege to work together again this year
to bring Rev. Peter Spencer's vision to life with a Spirit of Excellence
for the 212th August Quarterly Festival.*

*Today, as we celebrate religious freedom, honor our African American
heritage, promote community unity and foster spiritual renewal;
may you feel the love and joy of God!*



Marilyn J. Monk
Chairperson

Hiram Dyer
Logistics Coordinator

Stacey L. Suggs
Executive Secretary

William "Bill" Jones
Treasurer

LEADS

Jordan N. Robinson • Jonelle E. Monk • Juanita Richardson • Darla Chase • Shevawn Thomas
Sharon Davis • Mark Badson • Renita Roane-Brown • Mahogany May

May God Bless You!

Congratulations
• TO OUR •
**NEWLY APPOINTED
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS &
HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**
• OF THE •

AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INC.



Rev. Dr. Ron Whitaker, II



Alicia Clark



Steven Cole



Bishop Blaine Hackett



Ivan Henderson



Gary Hutt



Velda Jones-Potter



Terry Nichols



Margaret Owens-Collins



Mark Sills



Ernest "Sammy" Congo, Sr.



Mayor John Carney



State Senator Darius Brown



U.S Senator Chris Coons



Your wisdom, leadership, and commitment are invaluable assets
as we continue our mission of preserving our heritage,
strengthening our community, and inspiring future generations.

Thank you for saying yes to serve!

HONORING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT • BUILDING OUR FUTURE

AUGUST QUARTERLY *Festival* Honors...

APOSTLE

Linda D. Henry

DELAWARE'S QUEEN OF GOSPEL MUSIC



From the streets and sanctuaries of Wilmington, Delaware, rose a sound that would travel across the nation and touch the hearts of countless souls.

Apostle Linda D. Henry, the lead singer of **Linda Henry and the Daughters of Faith**, has carried that sound with excellence, anointing, and unwavering faith.

Her journey began with The Gospel Vessels. Out of that season, God birthed a new vision, and **Linda Henry & The Daughters of Faith** was formed—a group that would go on to make history.

They became one of the first gospel groups from Delaware to earn a national record deal, signing with Malaco Records and charting in the Top 20 with their soul-stirring quartet music.

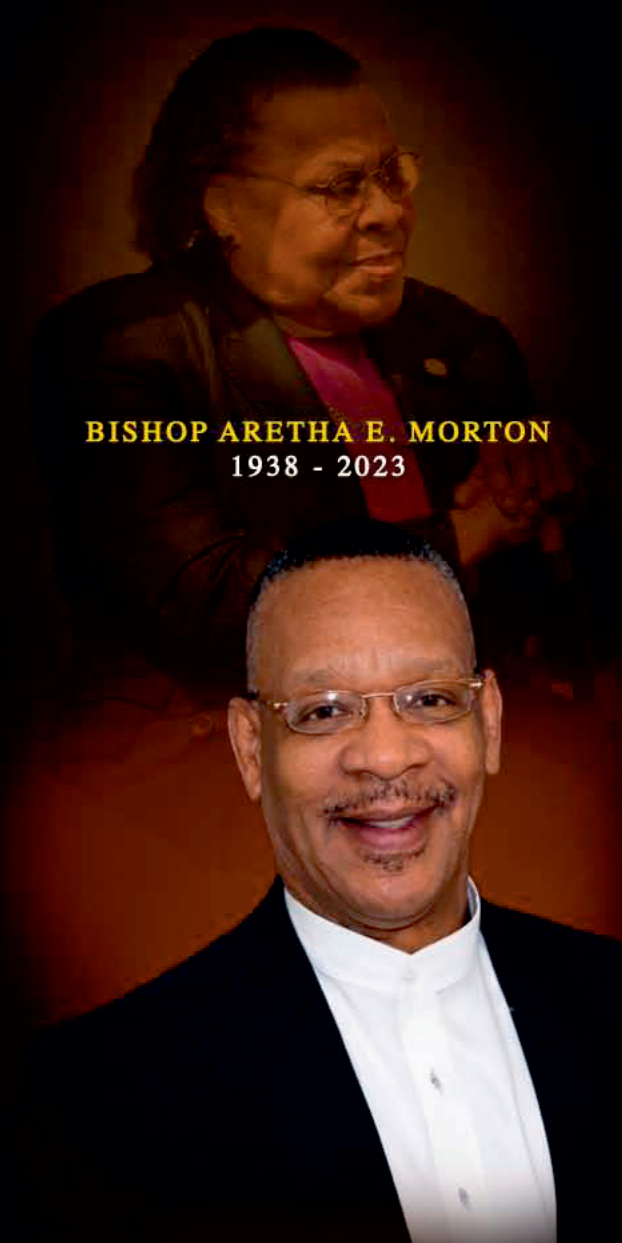
For more than 50 years, Apostle Linda D. Henry has been a faithful supporter and servant of the August Quarterly Festival. Her voice has lifted generations. Her leadership has shaped choirs. Her presence has been a covering. Her legacy is woven into the very fabric of this festival.

We honor her today not only for what she has sung, but for the lives she has poured into, the doors she has opened, and the Kingdom she continues to advance.

Thank you, Apostle Linda D. Henry,
*for being a voice, a vessel,
and a visionary.*

THANK YOU FOR OVER 50 YEARS OF DEDICATION,
EXCELLENCE, AND ETERNAL IMPACT.





BISHOP ARETHA E. MORTON
1938 - 2023

PASTOR OF THE YEAR

*The Bishop
Aretha E. Morton*

PASTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Rev. Aaron
R. MOORE

SENIOR PASTOR OF
MANNA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

A native of Delaware, Rev. Aaron R. Moore has dedicated his life to the ministry of Jesus Christ and to the people of Wilmington.

For well over 40 years, he has been a steadfast supporter of the August Quarterly Festival. His commitment to the festival and to the work of the Kingdom has helped uplift gospel music, strengthen unity, and inspire generations.

As Senior Pastor of Manna Christian Fellowship Church, he leads with compassion, integrity, and a heart for service—meeting people where they are and pointing them to where God wants them to be.

**A FACE IN WILMINGTON.
A VOICE WE TRUST.**



A trusted source of guidance in difficult times—offering wisdom, prayer, and hope when it's needed most.



Whether performing a wedding or celebrating a union, he helps families begin their journey with faith and love.



Whether burying a loved one or comforting the bereaved, he brings peace, strength, and the hope of Christ.



A voice of leadership.
A servant of the people.
A man of God.

Thank you, Pastor Moore,
for your unwavering support
of the August Quarterly Festival
and for your lifelong dedication
to the Gospel, our community,
and the Kingdom of God.

WE HONOR YOU!

**AUGUST
QUARTERLY** *Festival*

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
AUGUST QUARTERLY
FESTIVAL

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

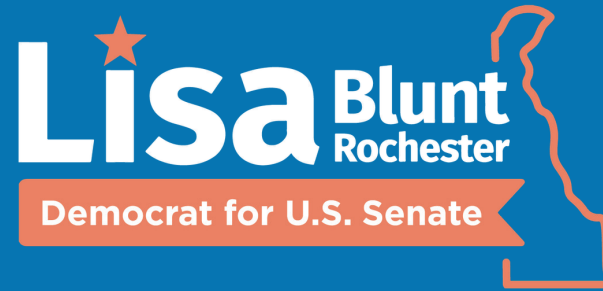
BEST WISHES,

Chris Coons

Chris Coons
U.S. SENATOR FOR DELAWARE

PAID FOR BY CHRIS COONS FOR DELAWARE





Thank you and congratulations to everyone involved in planning this year's August Quarterly.

This year's theme, "Our Soul, Our Story," could not be more timely. It seems every day there are those who wish to rob us of our culture, our history, and our joy. We won't let them.

This celebration is a reminder of the power of our Beloved Community.

X @LisaBRochester

Instagram @LBR Facebook /LisaBluntRochester

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PAID FOR BY LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER FOR SENATE

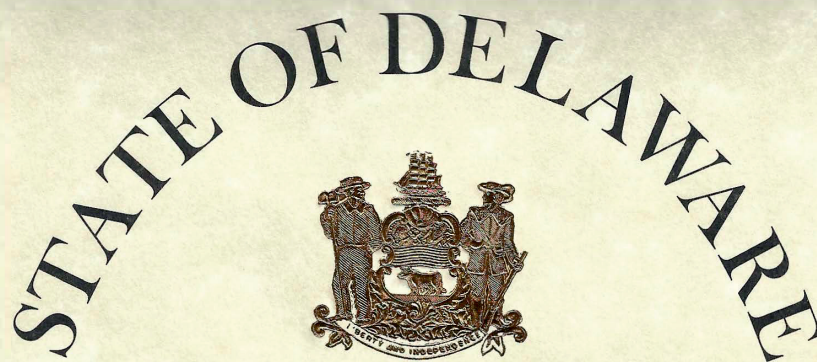
**I'm so proud to support the
August Quarterly Festival
and celebrate their 212th
anniversary. Enjoy!**

**SARAH
McBRIDE**

for CONGRESS



Paid for by McBride for Delaware



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL

Whereas, the August Quarterly, known as the “Big Quarterly,” is an annual celebration commemorating the founding of the Union Church of Africans, which was founded in 1814 by the Reverend Peter Spencer in Wilmington, Delaware; and

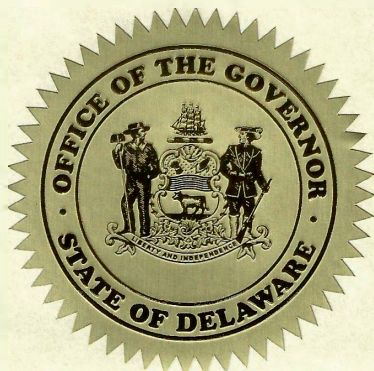
Whereas, the Quarterly educates participants on a variety of American freedom movements, including, but not limited to, the Underground Railroad, the August Quarterly, the Abolitionist Movement, and other revered freedom movements; and

Whereas, the August Quarterly commemorates and celebrates the significant historical perspectives of our nation in general and the African American experience; and

Whereas, in 2026, the August Quarterly Festival is celebrating 212 years of historic and religious freedom.

Now, Therefore, I, Matthew Meyer, Governor,
do hereby recognize August 23-30, 2026, as
THE AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL

in the State of Delaware, and encourage all citizens to honor the significance of the August Quarterly and urge them to participate in the services and festivities.




Matthew Meyer
Governor



PROCLAMATION

Be it hereby known to all that The Honorable Marcus Henry,
New Castle County Executive, recognizes

August Quarterly

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly, also known as the "Big Quarterly," began in 1814 in Wilmington, Delaware, and stands as the oldest African American festival in the United States, founded by Peter Spencer, a visionary leader and trailblazer of religious and civil freedom; and

WHEREAS, Peter Spencer, often regarded as the "Original Civil Rights Leader," firmly believed in the principles enshrined in the Bill of Rights, especially the freedoms of religion and assembly, and acted on those beliefs by establishing a space where African Americans could gather in faith, fellowship, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly was a sacred and rare time when enslaved African Americans from across the eastern seaboard could travel, reconnect with loved ones, and celebrate the spirit of unity, resilience, and hope; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly commemorates critical historical movements including the Underground Railroad, the Abolitionist Movement, and other landmark freedom movements that shaped the path toward civil rights, equality, and justice for all people in this nation; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly Festival Committee continues this powerful legacy, providing cultural activities and educational programs that uplift African American heritage and instill pride and a sense of belonging across generations—from youth to elders; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly has become a vital institution, drawing thousands to Wilmington annually, preserving the memory and message of African American endurance and triumph through black history presentations, conferences, theatrical dramas, and family-centered events; and

WHEREAS, the Mother African Union Church has long stood as a historic beacon of faith, hope, and service, serving as a spiritual home for generations of worshippers while enriching the cultural, civic, and religious life of the community; and, in the wake of the devastating fire in May, the congregation has demonstrated extraordinary strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to preserving its enduring legacy and rebuilding for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Marcus Henry, County Executive, do hereby proclaim the last week of August as:

"August Quarterly Week"

in New Castle County, and urge all citizens to join in commemorating this vital piece of American history by supporting the August Quarterly Festival, honoring the legacy of Peter Spencer, and reflecting on the enduring principles of freedom, unity, and faith that it represents.

New Castle County and County Executive Marcus Henry congratulate the August Quarterly Festival on 212 years of celebration!

Thank you for your unwavering
commitment to honoring
religious freedom and
preserving the rich history and
cultural legacy of this historic
gathering.

Wishing everyone a happy,
healthy, and meaningful
August Quarterly festival.



County Executive Marcus Henry



City of Wilmington Delaware



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation:

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly, founded in 1814 by Reverend Peter Spencer in Wilmington, Delaware, stands as the oldest continuously celebrated African American festival in the United States, rooted in the principles of religious freedom, the right to assembly, and the unyielding pursuit of liberty and dignity for all people; and

WHEREAS, Peter Spencer, known as the “Original Civil Rights Leader,” created this historic gathering as a sacred space for worship, reunion, and community-building—empowering enslaved and free African Americans to unite in faith, resilience, and hope during a time of great oppression; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly has served as a beacon of freedom and cultural identity, connecting generations of African Americans to the enduring legacy of the Underground Railroad, the Abolitionist Movement, and other transformative freedom movements that shaped our nation; and

WHEREAS, for more than 200 years, the August Quarterly has brought together youth, families, elders, and visitors from across the country to celebrate shared heritage through music, drama, education, and spiritual fellowship; and

WHEREAS, the August Quarterly Festival Committee continues to preserve and elevate this powerful tradition, ensuring that the stories, struggles, and triumphs of African Americans are honored, remembered, and taught to future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware are proud to be home to this extraordinary cultural milestone, which contributes to our shared commitment to diversity, history, and community;

*Be it hereby known to all that I, John C. Carney, Mayor of the
City of Wilmington, celebrate*

August Quarterly 2026

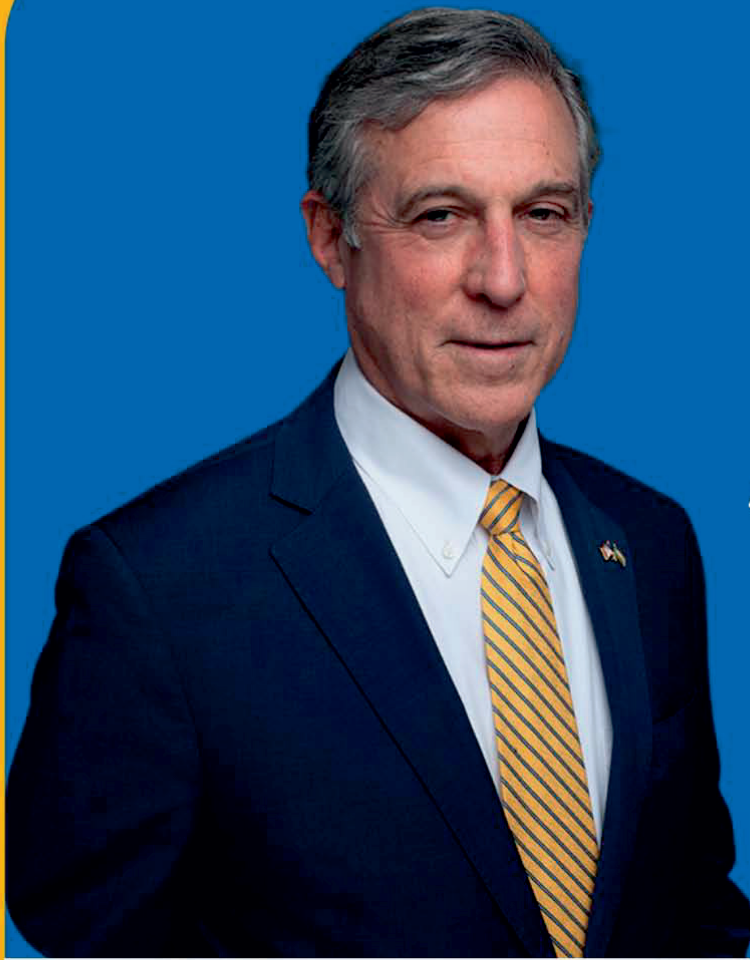
and call upon all residents and citizens to join in commemorating this profound chapter of American history, to participate in its celebrations, and to reflect upon the enduring legacy of Reverend Peter Spencer and the freedom that he so boldly proclaimed.

ATTEST:


Witness




Mayor



*Mayor John Carney
and the
City of Wilmington
congratulate the*



On the 212th August Quarterly Festival Celebration

Sunday, August 23, 2026 - Sunday, August 30, 2026

*"The heart of Wilmington beats stronger each year
through the voices and legacy celebrated at the
August Quarterly."*



www.WilmingtonDE.gov

City of Wilmington Delaware



City Council

August 23, 2026

Sponsors: Council President Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II and Council Members Coby J. Owens, Shané N. Darby, Zanthia Oliver, Michelle Harlee, Christian Willauer, Yolanda M. McCoy, Christofer C. Johnson, Nathan Field, Latisha Bracy, Maria D. Cabrera, Alexander D. Hackett, and James Spadola

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. The Wilmington City Council would like to recognize the 212th 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 supporters for their ongoing efforts to carry on the unique and rich legacy of this historic event.



Margaret Rivers
Deputy City Clerk

"Wilmington: A Place to be Somebody"

WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



TRIPPI CONGO
PRESIDENT

“As we celebrate the 212th Anniversary of the August Quarterly, we honor a remarkable tradition that has stood as a symbol of African American faith, freedom, resilience, and unity for more than two centuries. Born in Wilmington through the vision of Peter Spencer, the August Quarterly continues to inspire generations while celebrating the enduring legacy of African American spiritual independence. May this year's celebration remind us of the strength of our past and the promise of our future.”



COBY J. OWENS
1st District



SHANÉ N. DARBY
2nd District



ZANTHIA OLIVER
3rd District



MICHELLE HARLEE
4th District



CHRISTIAN WILLAUER
5th District



YOLANDA M. MCCOY
6th District



CHRIS JOHNSON
7th District



NATHAN FIELD
8th District



MARIA D. CABRERA
At-Large



ALEXANDER D. HACKETT
At-Large



JAMES SPADOLA
At-Large



LATISHA BRACY
At-Large

www.wilmingtoncitycouncil.com

Kathy JENNINGS

DELAWARE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL

— MADE FOR THIS MOMENT —

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 212TH
AUGUST QUARTERLY! WISHING
YOU AND YOURS A JOYOUS AND
MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION.

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Celebrating
the
2026
August
Quarterly





“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

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ON 212 YEARS
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Maria
**DE LOS ANGELES
CABRERA**
WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
at Large

Congratulations TO THE **AUGUST QUARTERLY**

A LEGACY OF FAITH. A FUTURE OF HOPE.

Congratulations to the August Quarterly for continuing the legacy and history of Peter Spencer and the Nation's Oldest History of African American Religious Freedom.

As a proud supporter for decades and working with the Quarterly I have seen it grow into one of **Wilmington's premiere events!**

Now more than ever our continuous support is needed. This Councilwoman is **committed to the Quarterly and Mother Church** as they enter their next phase of growth!



**The Gospel Spirituals
of Philadelphia**

have been singing God's praises for over 25 years! Performing in multiple cities, churches and venues!

The Gospel Spirituals have appeared on national and local television, radio and social media!

*"Our goal is to bring all people to Christ and sooth their souls.
Amen."*



Thank you to August Quarterly for your leadership and commitment to preserving African American cultural and religious heritage here in Wilmington. I am looking forward to celebrating your hard work at the Big Quarterly!

— TED —
LAUZEN
DEMOCRAT FOR TREASURER
★



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VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON **SEPTEMBER 15**

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COUNTY EXEC. MARCUS HENRY

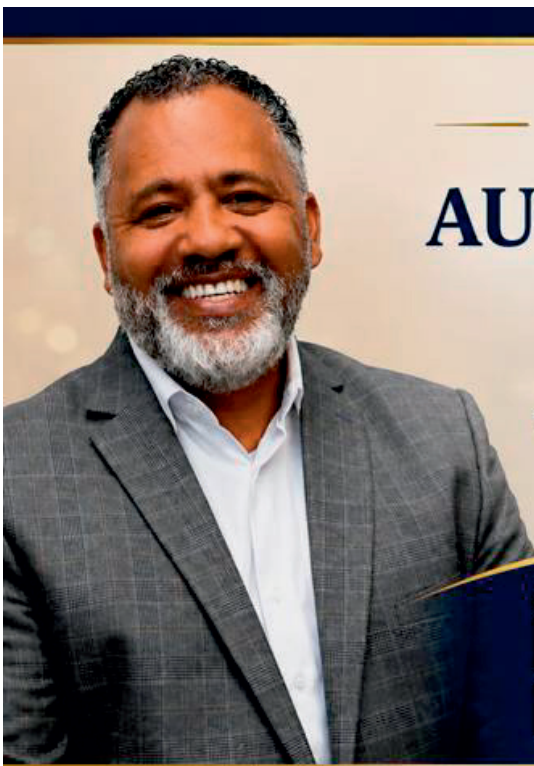


STATE REP. STEPHANIE T. BOLDEN



NCC COUNCILMAN PENROSE HOLLINS

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CURTIS LINTON



Congratulations
— TO THE —
AUGUST QUARTERLY
Festival!

★

Thank you for continuing to uplift our community
through faith, music, culture, and service.
Congratulations on another successful year!

With best wishes,
MIKE MILLER ★ *DEMOCRAT FOR*
STATE TREASURER

EXPERIENCED ★ TRUSTED ★ COMMITTED TO DELAWARE

— VOTE —

SEPT. 15

★ ★ ★ ★

HELENA M.

CREAMER

NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 4

YOUR NEXT **VOICE**
on
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“ I’m committed to building a stronger, safer, and more connected community—where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.
— *Helena M. Creamer*

PEOPLE • PURPOSE • PROGRESS • PEACE



PEOPLE

Investing in families, youth, and seniors to strengthen our community.



PURPOSE

Creating opportunities through education, jobs, and economic growth.



PROGRESS

Moving our district forward with smart solutions and accountable leadership.



PEACE

Building safer neighborhoods and a brighter future for all.

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT HELENA M. CREAMER

★ 212 ★

YEARS

Celebrating African-American Religious Freedom
Honoring the Struggle
Reuniting Families and Communities
Preserving Culture and History



THANK YOU

August Quarterly Committee
for Carrying on the Tradition!

~ Velda Jones-Potter



The poster features a large, ornate Gothic-style church building in the background. In the foreground, two men are prominently displayed. On the left is Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries Jr., wearing a light-colored suit and glasses. On the right is Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II, wearing a dark suit. The church's logo, a red map of Africa with a white cross and the letters 'M' and 'A' on either side, is in the top left corner. The text 'HISTORIC MOTHER AFRICAN UNION CHURCH' is at the top in yellow and white. Below it, the address 'WORSHIPPING AT 1301 N. BROOM STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19806' is written in white. The central text '213TH Church ANNIVERSARY' is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below this, a yellow banner reads 'HONORING 213 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS'. The theme 'THEME: "AND STILL WE RISE" -JOHN 11:25' is in white. The date and time 'SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 AT 11:00 AM' are in yellow and white. The 'CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS' are listed in white. The 'JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE' section is in yellow and white. The bottom of the poster has a yellow bar with the church's website, social media icons for Facebook and YouTube, and a globe icon.

HISTORIC
MOTHER AFRICAN UNION CHURCH
WORSHIPPING AT 1301 N. BROOM STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19806

GUEST SPEAKER
REV. DR. DEFOREST B. SOARIES JR.

SENIOR PASTOR
REV. DR. RONALD W. WHITAKER, II

213TH Church ANNIVERSARY
HONORING 213 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

THEME:
"AND STILL WE RISE"
-JOHN 11:25

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
AT 11:00 AM

CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. REMEMBRANCE OF CHURCH LEGACY AND HISTORY DURING SERVICE
2. SPECIAL MUSIC AND PRAISE
3. LIGHT FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING SERVICE

JOIN US AS WE
CELEBRATE
A LEGACY OF FAITH,
A FUTURE OF HOPE,
AND A CHURCH THAT
STILL RISES!

 MOTHERAFRICANUNION.ORG |  



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Because healing is more than what you drink...
it's the story you pour into every cup.

Holistic Alchemy Brews is proud to support the 212th running of the August Quarterly Festival and this year's theme, "Our Soul; Our Story."

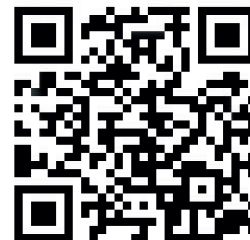
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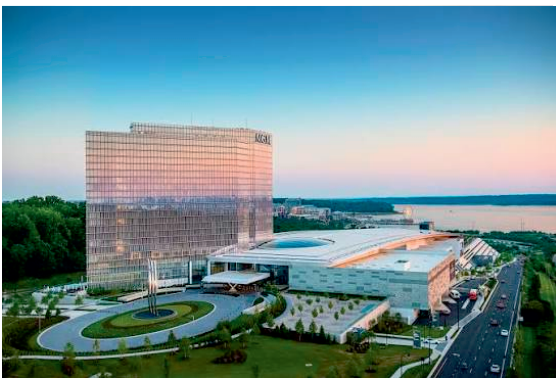
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Carlye Place
Wash Commanders Northwest Park
First Baptist Church of Glenarden

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CECA proudly supports August Quarterly 2026

We must celebrate the successes of our heritage, as we strive to build on those legacies

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Looking Back











*As we carry on the legacy of
Peter Spencer, we extend our
heartfelt congratulations on 212
years of the August Quarterly.*

psflf.org



Mother Bethel
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Congratulations to

THE AUGUST QUARTERLY

FOR 212 YEARS OF CELEBRATING FREEDOM,
FAITH, AND SACRED COURAGE

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then,
and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

— GALATIANS 5:1 —

REV. CAROLYN C. CAVANESS, 53RD PASTOR

www.MOTHERBETHEL.org 419 S 6TH STREET | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147



Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness

Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness is the daughter of the late Rev. Harold Cavaness and Ms. Karen Cavaness. A fourth-generation preacher, Rev. Cavaness' great-grandfather, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Slade, Sr., pastored numerous churches in the Philadelphia Annual Conference and in the New Jersey Annual Conference, including the historic St. James AME Church in Newark, NJ. Her great-uncle, Rev. Walter Slade, founded Union Chapel AME Church in Newark, NJ, where Rev. Cavaness served on the Ministerial Staff. Rev. Carolyn embarked on her ministerial journey at Israel Memorial AME Church, Newark, NJ, where she answered her call to preach at the age of 14, rendered and received her license to preach at the age 15.

Rev. Cavaness is a graduate of Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City, with a major in Urban Studies with a concentration in Economics. During her time at Barnard, she served as President of the Student Government Association, Vice President of Student Government, President of the Columbia University Gospel Choir, President of Black Church at Columbia, and was involved in many other activities and boards. Also, she was Programming Coordinator for the 2003 New Student Orientation Program at Columbia University. For her contributions to the Barnard Community Carolyn received the Frank Gilbert Bryson Prize, the highest leadership award of the College. She was also the recipient of the Barnard Bear Pin for her dedication and commitment to campus life.

Rev. Cavaness graduated in May 2011 from Union Theological Seminary in New York City with a Master of Divinity degree. In her second year, she was awarded the Hudnut Preaching Award. The

award is conferred annually by the faculty at the end of the middle year to a student who, in their judgment, has made the best preparation for the preaching ministry.

Prior to enrolling in seminary, Rev. Cavaness was deputy finance director for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's historic campaign for President. She was employed by Barnard College as Officer to the Barnard College Annual Fund. She was also Finance Director for New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Carolyn was also Director of Development for George Jackson Academy in New York City.

Rev. Cavaness is fluent in Spanish after spending her junior year in high school abroad in Zaragoza, Spain.

Rev. Cavaness served for eight (8) years as New Jersey Conference YPD President of the AME Church. She was also 2001 AME Youth of the Year for the New Jersey Annual Conference.

At the age of 16, Rev. Carolyn was admitted on trial in the AME Church. She was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the AME Church on April 17, 2010, and on April 14, 2012, an Itinerant Elder in the AME Church.

On November 9, 2024, Rev. Cavaness was appointed by Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., the 53rd Pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church, the first woman to lead the birthplace of African Methodism, which sits on the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by African Americans in the United States purchased by the founder of the AME Church, Bishop Richard Allen.

Prior to her historic appointment, she served for ten (10) years as the Pastor of Bethel AME Church of Ardmore, PA the first female pastor in that church's 130-year history. During her tenure, Rev. Cavaness was blessed to serve alongside this congregation in leading the congregation to embark on various capital improvements

including: upgrade and overhaul of the HVAC system, roofing and renovations of the lower level of the church. In Spring, 2018, the congregation launched the Bethel Community Garden, which in its first year harvested over 1,000 lbs. of produce, which impacted local pantries, members and friends. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bethel has been on the front line in service to the community providing food and household supplies support, tutoring, mental health support and resources for children and families and COVID-19 testing and vaccine/booster clinics. In response to the church's critical presence during the pandemic, the congregation received a \$1.5 million dollar grant from the Montgomery County Recovery Office to undergird its vaccine, farm/garden and mental health programs. Additionally, due to this support a capital improvement and upgrade plan has been launched which will include a complete renovation and upgrade of the church's current fellowship hall/community life spaces, kitchen as well as ensuring that Bethel is accessible to persons who experience mobility challenges. In addition, Rev. Cavaness led the congregation in the purchasing of a multi-family unit and commercial business unit located directly on the church's property line. Literally saving three (3) families from being displaced due to gentrification and development.

Joining with sisters and brothers of other faith traditions, she helped to form the Lower Merion Clergy Interfaith Alliance and also served as co-convenor of the Lower Merion/Narberth Food Insecurity Working Group, which has been at the cutting edge of bridging resources to children and families in need of food and social service access

She has been blessed given her commitment to interfaith dialogue, to travel to Israel in 2017 by invitation twice to advance dialogue between the African American and Jewish communities.

In 2018, she and the Bethel, Ardmore Family were blessed with the honor and privilege to host the 202nd Session of the Philadelphia Annual

Conference - the first time ever held on the Main Line and hosted by a Main Line congregation.

On January 1, 2022, Rev. Cavaness was elected the first female president of the Main Line Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. On July 1, 2023, Rev. Cavaness was elected the first African American female president of the Rotary Club of Ardmore.

Rev. Cavaness considers herself a bridge connecting people and resources all towards creating the beloved community. She is blessed to serve(d) on various boards and initiatives some including: Chair - Bethel Academy, Board Member - Interfaith Philadelphia, Vice-President-CommUNITY Breakfast of the Main Line, Executive Committee Member - Main Line NAACP Executive Committee, Treasurer - AME Ministerial Alliance of Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Vicinity Treasurer, Treasurer - Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, Board Member - Family Promise of the Main Line, Board Member - Health Spark Foundation, Board Member - Bucks-Mont Collaborative - Board Member - Common Space, Member - Lower Merion Police and Minority Relations Board, Board Member - Ardmore Library, Board Member - Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, Vice Chair - TUSDA's Urban Agricultural County Committee for Philadelphia.

Rev. Cavaness has been featured in the *CRAINS* Business magazine, *New York Post's* Page Six magazine. In addition, she has been named Millennial Superstar by Montco. Today and a Main Line Hero by *Main Line Today*. Recently, Rev. Cavaness was recognized by Radnor Township for her work in the dedication of a historical panel in honor of Bishop Richard Allen's walk to Radnor in 1784.

She desires to use all of her God-given talents and gifts to reach and help all that she can. She lives by the statement, "*Only what you do for Christ shall last.*"



212th Gathering of the August Quarterly

Closing Festival Worship Service

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, Delaware



Prelude to Worship

Prelude of Praise

Processional of Clergy, Choir, and Distinguished Guests

Praise & Worship August Quarterly Festival Worship Team

Call to Worship Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Opening Hymn August Quarterly Festival Choir

Opening Prayer Bishop Blaine A. Hackett

A Celebration of Our Legacy

Welcome to the 212th August Quarterly

Recognition of Community Partners

Musical Selection August Quarterly Festival Choir

Recognition of Distinguished Guests

Special Recognition Sis. Marilyn J. Monk (Chair AQ Festival)

A Litany of Remembrance Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Recognition of Honorees and Award Recipients

Greetings from Government & Civic Leaders

Worship Through Giving

Invitation to Give Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Grand March of the Masonic Lodges

Offertory Response

"All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee."

The Proclamation of the Word

Introduction of the Preacher Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Sermonic Selection August Quarterly Festival Choir

Sermon Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness

Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA

The Invitation

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Altar Call Overseer Dr. Ronald W. Whitaker, II

Sending Forth in Faith

Benediction Bishop George E. Gibson

Overseer Doctor 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 George E. Gibson, II

Bishop George E. Gibson, II is a respected pastor, preacher, leadership trainer, and community leader whose ministry is distinguished by a commitment to spiritual empowerment, collaborative leadership, and community transformation.

He serves as the **Senior Pastor of The Love Nation in Wilmington, Delaware**, where he provides visionary spiritual leadership and is committed to developing disciples, strengthening families, and equipping believers to live with purpose and impact.

Beyond his pastoral ministry, Bishop Gibson serves as **President of the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council (IMAC) of Delaware, Inc.**, providing leadership to one of Delaware's important ecumenical ministerial organizations. Through IMAC, he works alongside clergy, congregations, community leaders, and public officials to address issues impacting communities throughout Delaware while advancing unity, justice, service, and the collective voice of the faith community.

A gifted communicator and leadership trainer, Bishop Gibson has shared his ministry and leadership insights across denominational and organizational settings. He has served as a guest preacher and speaker for gatherings including the **Baptist Pastors & Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity**, the **Union General Baptist Association**, and the historic **August Quarterly**. He also provides leadership to the **Kingdom International Consortium (KIC) Convergence**, creating opportunities for clergy and ministry leaders to connect, develop, and strengthen their capacity for Kingdom service.

Bishop Gibson's ministry reflects a conviction that the Church must have both a strong spiritual witness and a meaningful presence in the community. Whether preaching the Gospel, developing leaders, convening clergy, or advocating for the needs of the community, he continues to build bridges across churches, denominations, and institutions.

At the heart of his leadership is a passion for **Kingdom advancement, transformational leadership, Christian unity, and community empowerment**. Bishop George E. Gibson II remains committed to using his voice, influence, and ministry to strengthen the Church, develop leaders, and help communities flourish.



BIOGRAPHY - DR. E. DEWEY SMITH, JR.



Dr. E. Dewey Smith is the Senior Pastor/Teacher of The House of Hope Atlanta, The House of Hope Macon, and The House of Hope WestPointe – one church in three locations. A proud native of Macon, GA, he has been a minister of the gospel for more than 30 years. He commenced his preaching ministry at age 17 and his pastoral ministry at 19.

Smith is a learned man. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, in Atlanta, GA; graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Science degree from Amridge University in Montgomery, AL; and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Additionally, he was inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College as a “Distinguished Preacher” and

received the prestigious honor of having his portrait displayed in Morehouse’s International Hall of Honor.

Pastor E. Dewey Smith has always had a passion to redress those things that plague the community and burden the people he serves. Throughout his ministry he has been heavily involved in prison reform, re-entry programs, mental health care, human services and community development. In 2013, he launched The Tabitha’s House, a non-profit organization that provides housing, counseling and support to young girls rescued from human trafficking.

Dr. Smith loves the arts and is professionally involved in music, media, film and television production. His first solo project, “God Period,” was named one of the top albums of 2021 by Billboard. His first single, “Your Presence Is A Gift,” scored #1 on the Billboard Gospel Airplay Charts. He is a 2022 Stellar Award winning solo artist, two-time Dove Award nominee, and an American Music Awards nominee. His sophomore solo album, “Songs Daddy Used To Sing,” will be released Fall 2025, and is a stellar tribute to his deceased father, as well as classic Gospel Music.

Smith is also the Founder/Overseer of the “Ambassadors Assembly,” a network of over 300 pastors and leaders from across the globe. An ecumenical fellowship, Ambassadors Assembly provides ministry oversight, comprehensive ministry strategies, and para-church support to churches and leaders throughout the world.

Dr. Smith is married to the lovely, former Andrea Fambro, his best friend of over 30 years. They have been blessed with two sons, Kamari Elijah and Kylen Isaiah.



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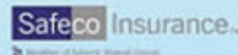
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AUGUST QUARTERLY

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A poster for the August Quarterly award ceremony. The background is a red curtain with stage lights. In the center is a large, ornate gold trophy with a star on top. To the left of the trophy is a woman, Ashley Johnson, smiling. To the right is a man, Rev. Dr. Ron Whitaker, smiling. The text 'AUGUST QUARTERLY' is at the top in large, gold, textured letters. Below it is 'THE PETER SPENCER SACRED STORYTELLING AWARD' in white. The trophy has a banner that says 'Legacy. Freedom. Unity.' and 'Our Soul, Our Story!'. At the bottom are various logos of sponsors and partners.

AUGUST QUARTERLY

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August Quarterly Festival — 2026 —

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Best wishes and congratulations to the members of Mother AUMP Church as well as all the participants in the August Quarterly Festival 2026 for another great program.

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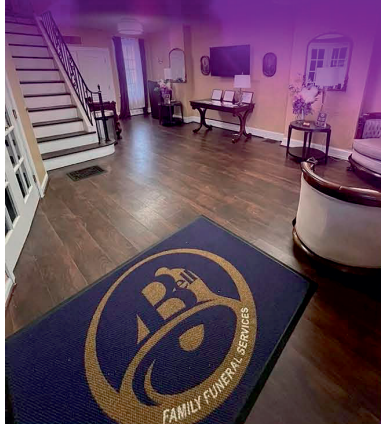
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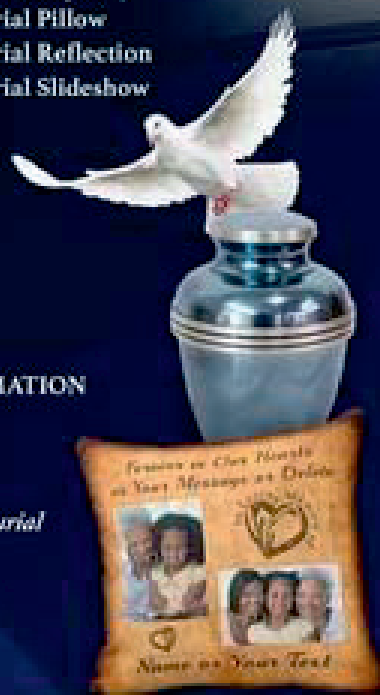
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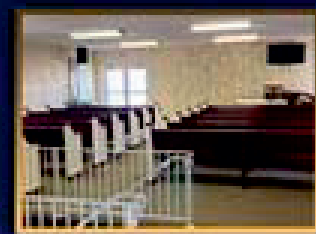
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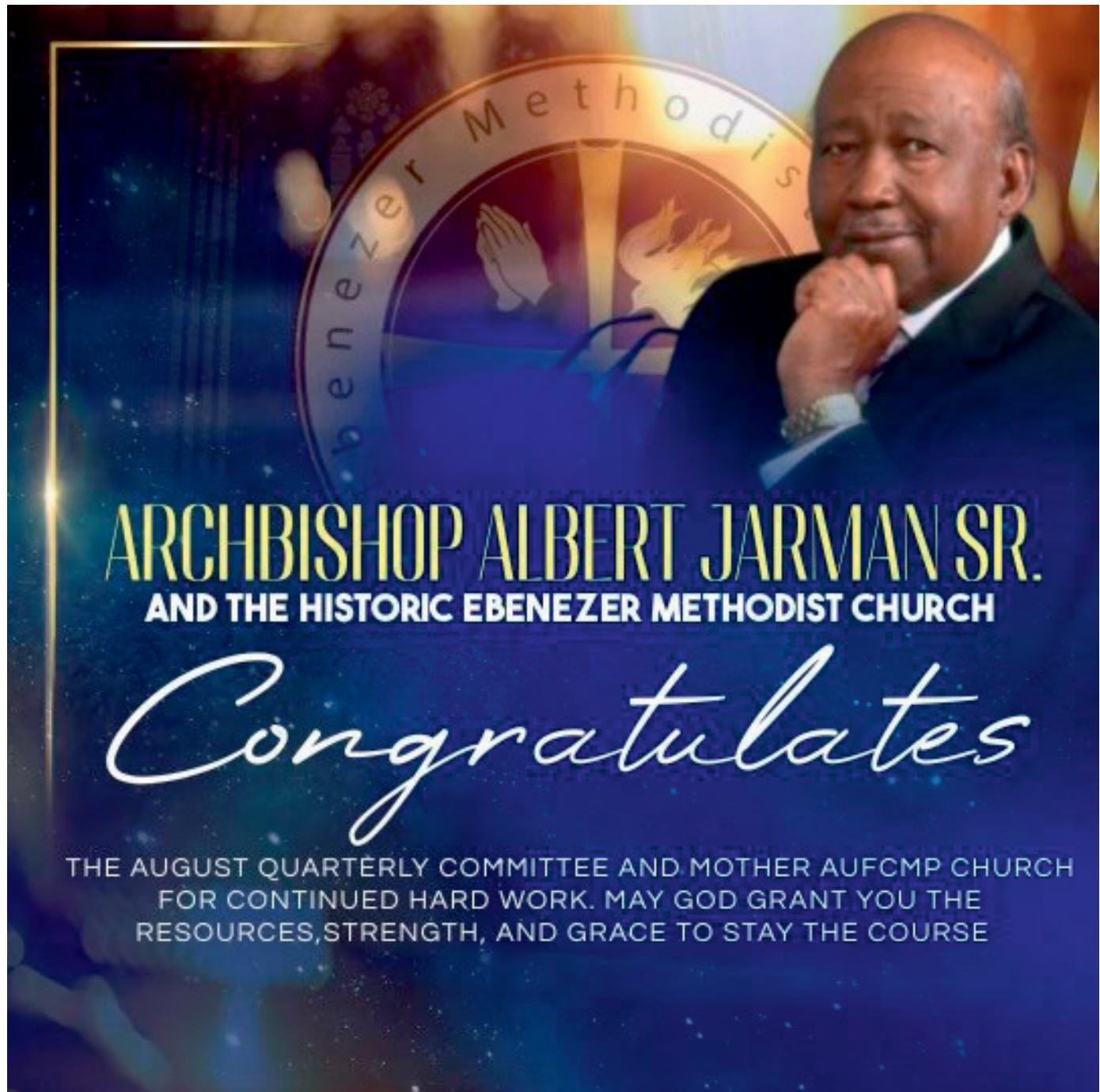
honors
the life and legacy of Rev. Peter Spencer. As sons and daughters of Richard and Sarah Allen, African Methodists familiar with our history understand the important role Rev. Spencer played in the development of our branch of Zion. Methodism was the vehicle used by God to bring a liberating Gospel 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. Congratulations on 212 years!



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Worship with us on Unity Day, Sunday, October 18th at 9:30 a.m.

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Bishop

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212th

August Quarterly

Festival



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Celebrates your
212th year



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Congratulations

***AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL
ON YEAR...***

212



Manna Christian Fellowship Church

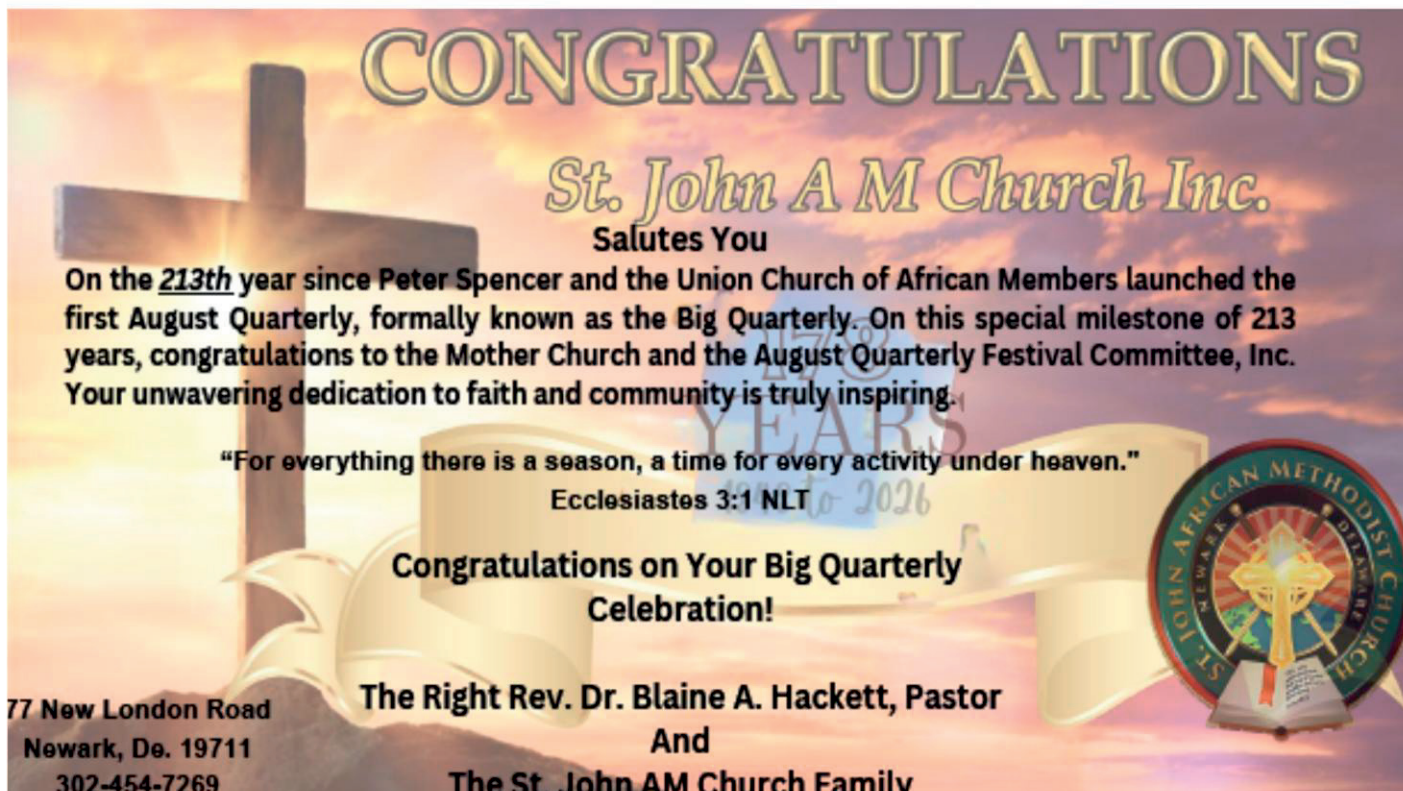
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Rev. Aaron R. Moore, Pastor

(302) 777-4240

*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

St. John A M Church Inc.

Salutes You

On the 213th year since Peter Spencer and the Union Church of African Members launched the first August Quarterly, formally known as the Big Quarterly. On this special milestone of 213 years, congratulations to the Mother Church and the August Quarterly Festival Committee, Inc. Your unwavering dedication to faith and community is truly inspiring.

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1 NLT

Congratulations on Your Big Quarterly Celebration!

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And
The St. John AM Church Family



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Our Vision:
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WORSHIP TIME:
11:00 AM
IN PERSON

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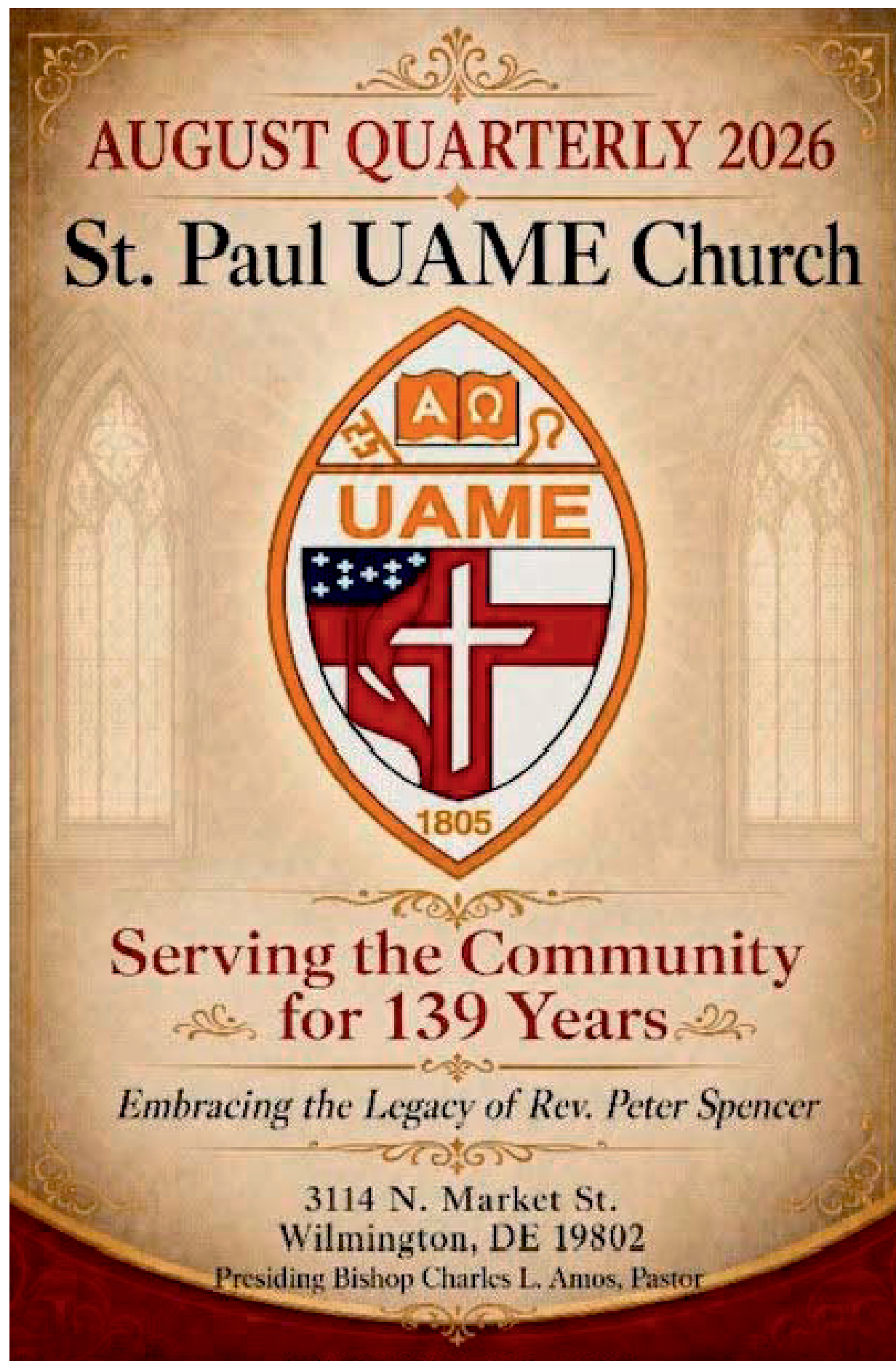
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7:00 pm

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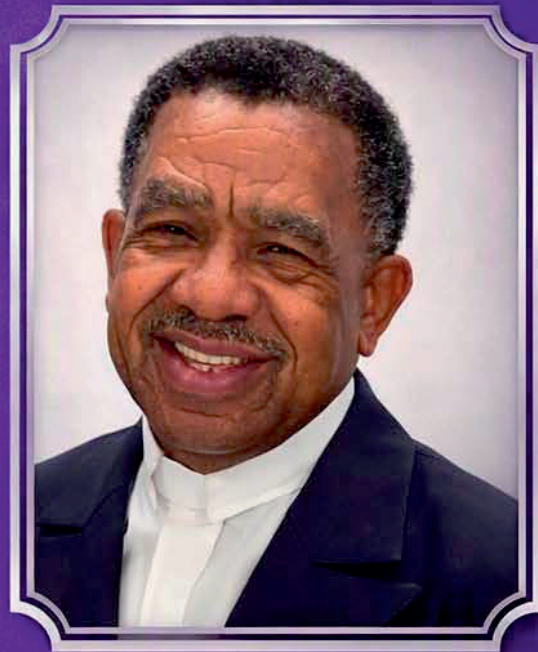
Facebook prayer services
Monday-Friday at
8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.



AUGUST QUARTERLY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INC.

From
Bishop John T. Graham

Temple United Church, Inc.
602 Washington Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

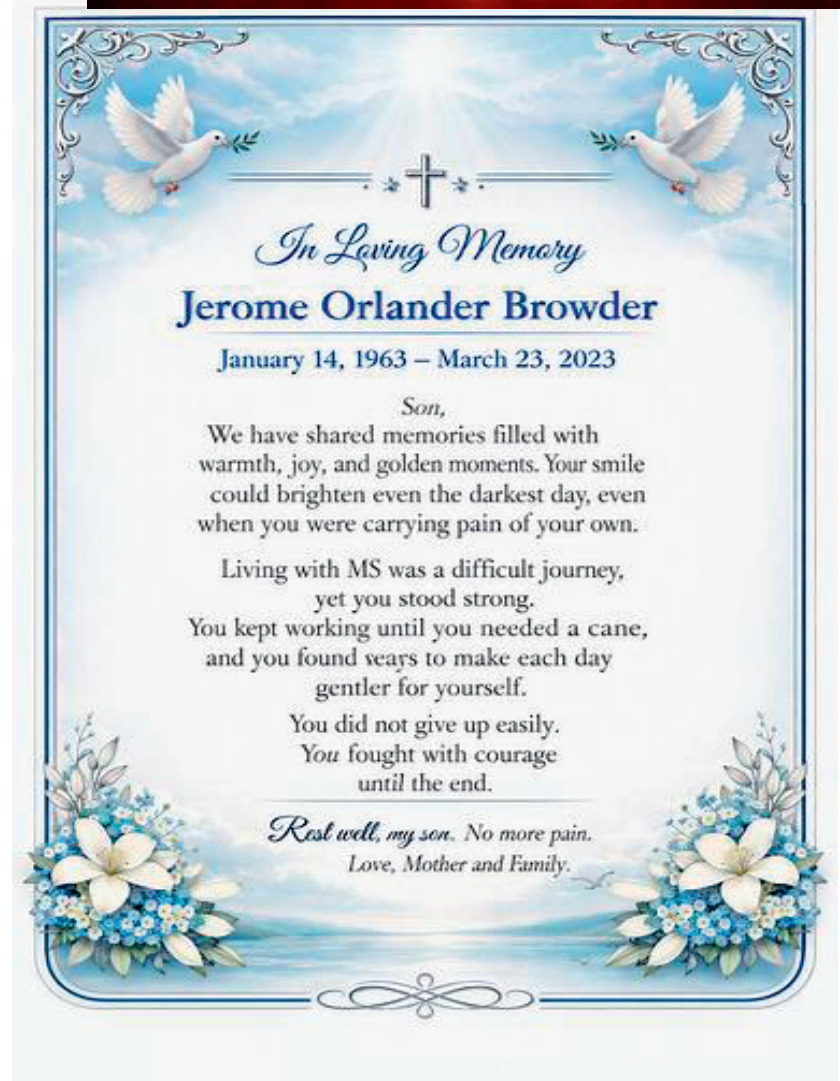


*With heartfelt appreciation,
we honor your dedication to preserving
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**Celebrating Faith,
Legacy, and Community**

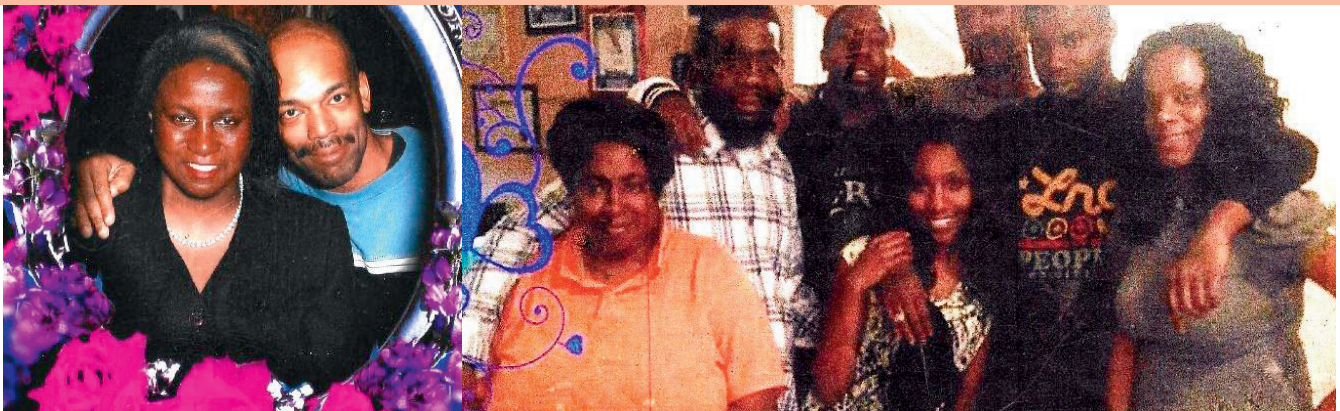


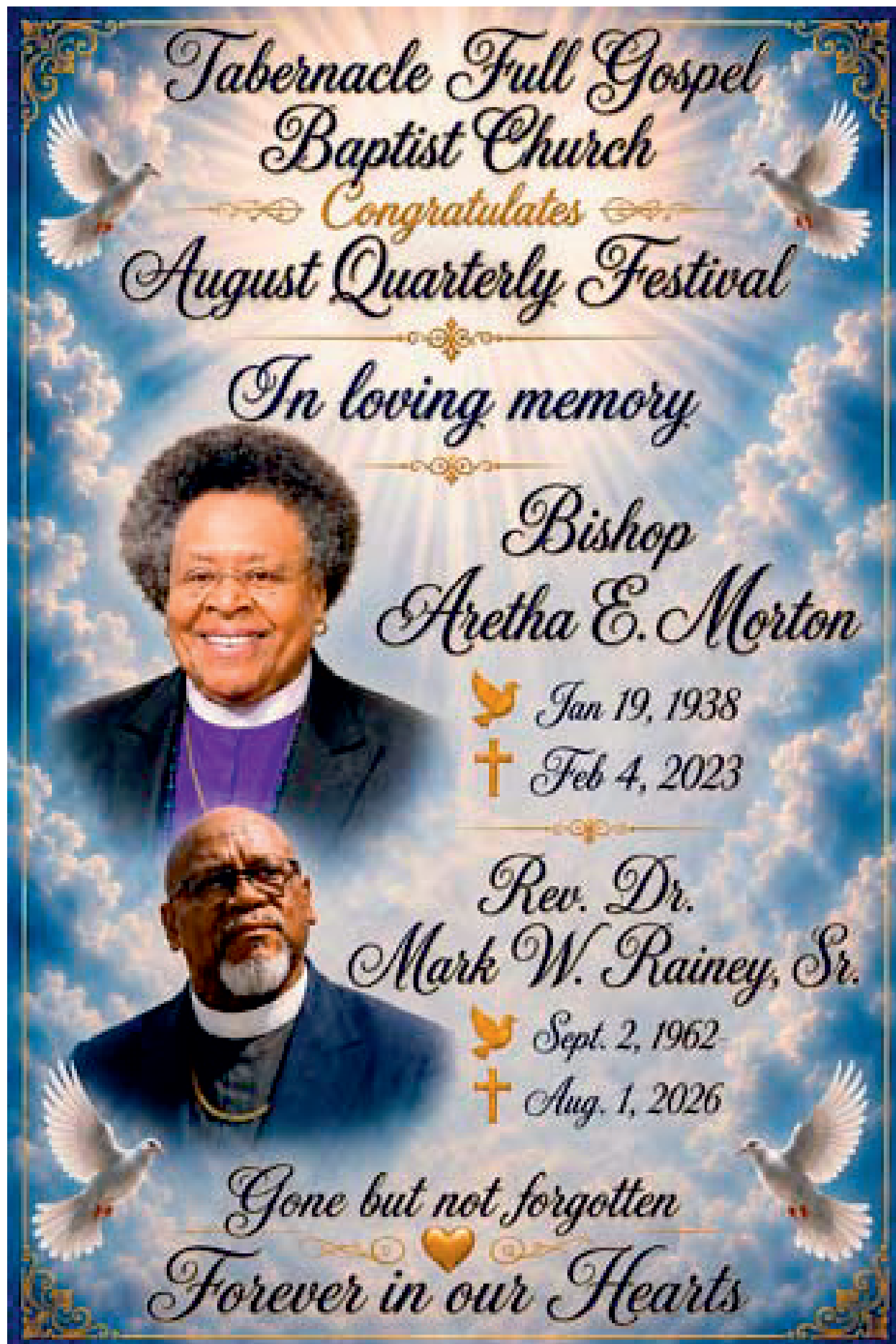
*In Loving
Memory to all
our loved ones*





Celebrating 212 Years with August Quarterly
Beverly Whye Todd and Family





Loved & Missed by Many...
**JOSEPH “Joe”
BRUMSKILL**

*“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.”**

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In Loving Memory of
Deacon Carolyn Moody

September 8, 1946 to May 2, 2026

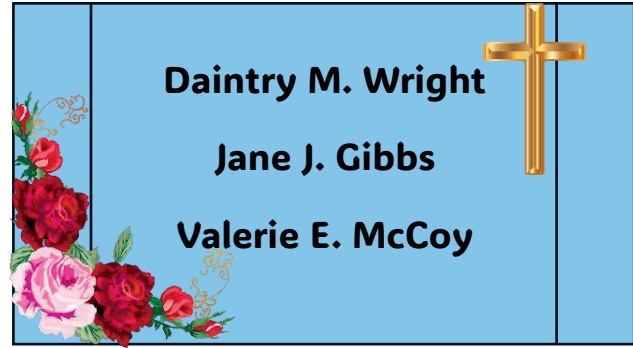


Gone But Never Forgotten!

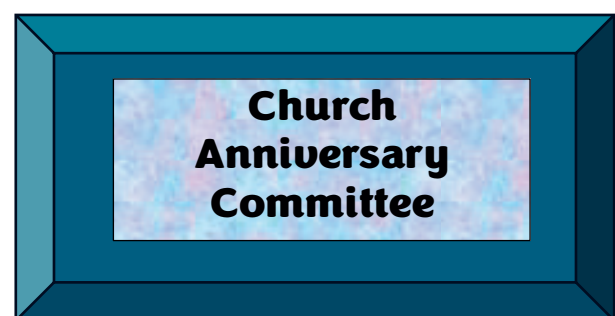
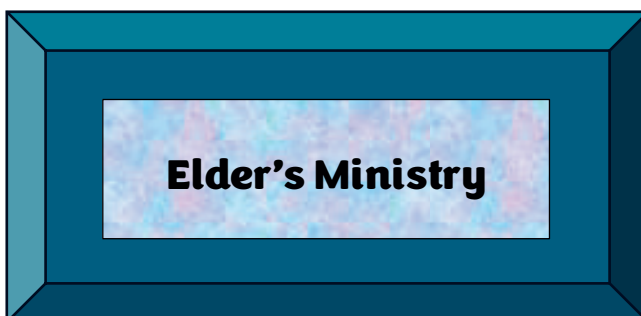
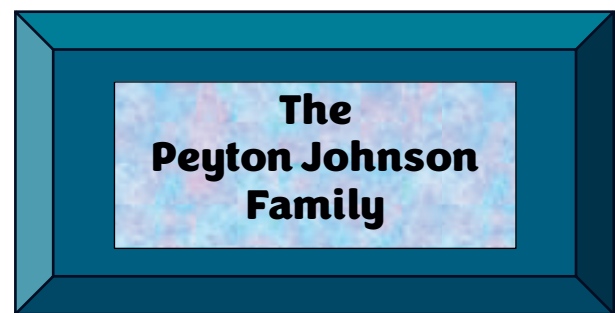


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Brunch



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