

The Herald

"Church With a Big Heart of Love"

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. O. Wendell Davis, Pastor

Volume 22, Issue 1-3

January-February-March 2025

A New Year

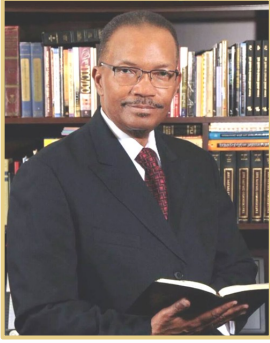
A large, stylized number '2025' is the central focus. The '2' and '0' are in a light grey color, while the '2' and '5' are in a gold color. The number has a 3D effect with a shadow. On either side of the '0' are two stylized fireworks or starburst patterns in gold and grey.

A Renewed You

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From The Pastor's Pen...

"I Can Do All Things"

Greetings, beloved readers!

In Philippians 4:13, Paul declares, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Paul's faith reached this powerful level because he learned to leave everything behind and to be content in whatever circumstances he faced. By reflecting on what Paul learned, we can find valuable guidance for our own Christian journey.

First, with the help of the Holy Spirit, Paul learned to let go of the past (Philippians 3:13). We must also learn to forget both the good and bad experiences of our past. Holding on to past baggage can obstruct our spiritual growth. When we release the past, the Holy Spirit can guide us into fresh, transformative experiences with the Lord.

Next, Paul focused on Christ. We, too, must learn to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Our daily focus should be on Christ, striving to align our lives with His purpose and will.

We should also practice Christian virtues such as honesty, truth, and justice (Philippians 4:8). By holding firmly to these virtues, our lives will be enriched day by day, and we will experience God's peace filling our hearts. As we grow in His grace, we will find contentment regardless of our circumstances.

In the end, like Paul, we'll be able to confidently say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Your Servant Leader,

O. Wendell Davis

A Prayer for the New Year *by Heather King*

***Lord, whether I leave behind a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,
I pause to give thanks.***

Thank you for being with me every day of every year.

***Thank you for making all things new and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts and new beginnings.***

***Remind me of your presence in the days to come, even when I feel pushed and rushed
by busyness. Be glorified in my life this year.***

~ Amen

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Family! We're excited to have you join us and look forward to growing in faith together. We encourage you to explore our ministries and seek God's guidance in discovering your unique gifts. We celebrate your commitment and can't wait to see how God will work through each of you! If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Here are our New Members for January, February and March 2025:

Barbara Baker
CaMauri Baker
Caydence Baker

Landen Blackshear
Annette Etheridge
Nadya Gallien

Chaya Jennings
Kaiana Lacy-Foster
Sanai Lipscomb

London McGee
Vernina Taylor
Miracle Yarber



Barbara Baker



CaMauri Baker



Caydence Baker



Landen Blackshear



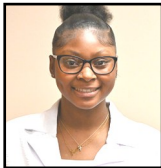
Annette Etheridge



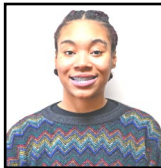
Nadya Gallien



Chaya Jennings



Kaiana Lacy-Foster



Sanai Lipscomb



London McGee



Vernina Taylor



Miracle Yarber

*"Therefore welcome
one another as Christ
has welcomed you,
for the glory of God"*
(Romans 15:7)

We Celebrate You

"O. Wendell Davis Special"

*Congratulations
to*

Mr. & Mrs. Tarrylon Toney

Sunday, February 16, 2025



*Happy Birthday
Mother Dora Davis!*

*Your grace, wisdom and steadfast
support inspire us every day! You are
truly a blessing to our church, and we
thank God for the gift of your life!*

~ Union Chapel M. B. Church Family

~ February 27th ~



Black History Month

Journey Through Blackness

We praise our Heavenly Father for another blessed **“Journey Through Blackness,”** and we extend our heartfelt thanks to our leadership and the entire Union Chapel Church Family for walking this path with us.

The journey began with Deacon Razak Arunaogun, who offered us a taste of our African heritage, history, and a heartfelt call for unity among all African brothers and sisters. On the second leg of our journey, Sister Sandra Beckard captivated us, enlightening and amusing us with her rendition of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s *“The Party.”* Our spirits were stirred by the powerful presentation from the Women of Worship, as they shared African praise, stories of perseverance through slavery, and the anthem, *Oh Freedom!* To complete this second leg, Sister Rachel Salawu tantalized our taste buds with a sampling of African cuisine.

As we moved into the third leg, Sister Feleshia Perry ignited our passions with her reflections on our struggles and triumphs as a people, before blessing our souls with a beautiful medley of praise. We were also blessed with the awe-inspiring exhibit from the Stitching and Quilting Ministry, showcasing their old-fashioned bed turning.

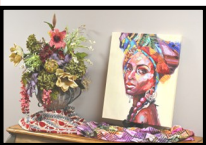
On the final leg of our journey, Brother Marc Williams educated, motivated, and inspired both the young and old to continue pursuing the dream. He awakened us to our collective responsibility as the “Journey Through Blackness” moves forward.

The journey culminated with a heavenly-inspired, beautifully orchestrated praise presentation by The Word In Motion! The presentations, the attire, the food, the praise—To God be the glory!

~ Sister Maude Ellison



“The time is always right to do what is right”
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



Deacon's Ministry

What Is A Deacon

According to the Bible, the term deacon comes from the Greek word diakonos meaning “servant” or “minister.” The word, which appears at least 29 times in the New Testament, designates an appointed member of the local church who assists by serving other members and meeting material needs. As a deacon, your major attention will be given to serving God under the leadership of the pastor and deacon coordinators in the practical ministry of the church.

The Deacons of Union Chapel M. B. Church assist the Pastor in the spiritual ministry of shepherding and caring for the congregation. This includes doing the benevolence work; call and visit the sick and shut-in, which includes hospital visits; promote unity within the Church, and facilitate the spread of the gospel.

Each member and active ministry of Union Chapel M. B. Church is assigned a deacon that will provide guidance, prayer and leadership. They are assigned to a Deacon's Ward:

Ward #1: Members Last Names Ending with A-I

<i>Berry, Jacoby</i>	<i>Henderson, Charles</i>	<i>**Thomas, Eddie</i>
<i>Brown, Roy</i>	<i>Manning, William</i>	<i>Tibbs, Jerry</i>
<i>Butler, John</i>	<i>**Prude, George</i>	<i>Warren, Donald</i>
<i>Cromwell, Cleo</i>	<i>**Sanders, Nathaniel</i>	
<i>Gholston, Sampson</i>	<i>Sims, Themika</i>	

Ward #2: Members Last Names Ending with J-R

<i>Arunaogun, Razak</i>	<i>Crutcher, Marcus</i>	<i>Moore, Sr., Marvin</i>
<i>**Battle, William</i>	<i>Jackson, Michael</i>	<i>Price, Jr., Tobias</i>
<i>**Brandon, Franklin</i>	<i>Jones, David</i>	<i>White, Edward</i>
<i>Collins, Jerome</i>	<i>Lewis, B. J.</i>	

Ward #3: Members Last Names Ending with S-Z

<i>Alexander, Jerry</i>	<i>Lacy, Anthony</i>	<i>Scruggs, Lawrence</i>
<i>Biddle, Andrew</i>	<i>McGhaw, Sr., Kevin</i>	<i>Stevenson, Michael</i>
<i>Burton, Geoffrey</i>	<i>Malone, Michael</i>	<i>Suggs, Jr., George</i>
<i>Cockrell, Johnny</i>	<i>Pitts, Clayton</i>	<i>Taylor, Michael</i>
<i>Dickerson, Sr., Henry</i>	<i>**Pope, Robert</i>	

*** Indicate Emeritus*

Deacon Ministry



Deacon Clayton Pitts
Coordinator



Deacon Donald Warren
Co-Coordinator

Deacons Emeritus



William Battle



Franklin Brandon



Robert Pope



George Prude



Nathaniel Sanders



Eddie Thomas



Jerry Alexander



Razak Arunaogun



Jacoby Berry



Andrew Biddle



Roy Brown



Geoffrey Burton



John Butler



Johnny Cockrell



Jerome Collins



Cleo Cromwell



Marcus Crutcher



Henry Dickerson, Sr.



Sampson Gholston



Charles Henderson



Michael Jackson



David Jones



Anthony Lacy



B. J. Lewis



Michael Malone



William Manning



Kevin McGhaw, Sr.



Marvin Moore, Sr.



Tobias Price, Jr.



Lawrence Scruggs



Themika Sims



Michael Stevenson



George Suggs, Jr.



Michael Taylor



Jerry Tibbs



Edward White



Lent

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - Thursday, April 17, 2025

Lent is the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year in preparation for Easter. It echoes 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and

Luke, before beginning his public ministry.

Three things during LENT.

Prayer:

Lent is a time to intensify prayer and spend more time in conversation with God. This can include attending daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross, or simply taking time for quiet reflection and contemplation.

Fasting:

Fasting during Lent involves abstaining from certain foods or activities as a way to show humility and focus on spiritual matters. While the specific practices vary, many Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays and Ash Wednesday.

Almsgiving:

Almsgiving involves giving to those in need, whether through donations, volunteering, or acts of service. It's a way to show compassion and generosity, reflecting the teachings of Jesus.

Ministry News

Weekday Prayer Line Ministry

The Mission...



The **Weekday Prayer Line** is available to pray for individuals each night from Monday to Tuesday and Thursday to Friday, with Wednesday reserved for Bible Study. When not praying for callers, the team prays for various national challenges, as well as for Pastor and Mother Davis and their family, the leadership, membership, UCCA, CDC, and other areas.

Those interested in joining this ministry can contact the office to express their interest. The same number used for the weekday morning Meditation Line is also used for the Prayer Line. Call-in time is from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. All that's needed is a passion for praying for others through the power of the Holy Spirit, and God will guide the rest.

Members are Sister Jacqueline Jefferson, Sister Beverly Lee, Sister Cynithia Hatchett, Sister Christine Davis and Sister Sherri Cohen.

~ Minister Nettie Pruitt

Union Chapel Girl Scouts



Service Unit 213 truly excelled with their recent ***World Thinking Day Celebration*** at Union Chapel M.B. Church, offering a heartfelt tribute to both the rich history and promising future of Girl Scouting. The event was centered on connection, blending cherished traditions with the exciting opportunities ahead.

A special shout-out is deserved by Troop 10729, who not only hosted the event but also led the program with boundless enthusiasm. Their passion and attention to detail set the tone for a memorable day. Troops from Union Chapel and Epworth United Methodist Church also participated, enriching the celebration by representing a beautiful array of cultures, including Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, and more.

The event's magic was further amplified by Camille Calloway, a talented cadette from Troop 10729. With her exceptional hosting skills, Camille kept the energy lively and the smiles bright throughout the day. Her engaging presence and polished presentation highlighted the global spirit of Girl Scouting and celebrated diversity in the best way.

Every moment of the celebration was filled with community spirit, as stories from around the world sparked meaningful conversations on diversity, inclusion, dance, delicious food, and the power of service. It was a day where learning and fun went hand in hand, with hands-on activities that inspired Girl Scouts of all ages to embrace creativity.

A huge congratulations goes to Service Unit 213, Troop 10729, the troops from Union Chapel and Epworth United Methodist Church, and Camille Calloway for making this event so unforgettable. Their dedication to fostering growth, igniting creativity, and building strong connections is truly something to be celebrated!

~ Sister Annie Burton

Cereal4All Campaign

Thank You!



The Union Chapel Daisies and Brownie Girl Scout Troops express their heartfelt thanks to the Church for support in the Fall 2024 Community Service Project. Partnering with the Cereal4All Campaign and the Food Bank of North Alabama, the girls worked hard to collect a total of 206 boxes of cereal, weighing over 286 pounds. This generous donation provided 536 bowls of cereal for our local community.

As a result of their efforts, the Cereal4All organization has recognized our troops as "Volunteers Across America." We are grateful for the opportunity to give back and for the

continued support of our church family in making this initiative a success.

~ Sister Sandra Beckard, Coordinator

Passage Ministry

In February, Union Chapel hosted its 18th Pre and Post Passage Ceremony, celebrating youth ages 12 and 13 entering Passage and graduating youth in Phases I and II to the next phase. The event began with Boy Scout Troop 156 posting colors, followed by a procession of nearly 30 candidates. The candidates participated in reading scripture, praying, reciting pledges and mottos, and sharing their talents through an instrumental tribute and a

spoken word dramatization with song. One candidate and her mother shared their Passage experiences, making it a memorable occasion. The ceremony concluded with Minister Harold Weatherly presenting each candidate with a token, blessing them, and thanking God for Pastor Davis's vision of Passage.

~ Sister Cassandra Pitts



Cancer Support Ministry

Donations to Regency Rehabilitation

On January 17, 2025, one of our beloved church members, Sis. KaShawnna Wesley, who oversees donations and activities at Regency Rehabilitation, graciously approved the acceptance of Union Chapel's Cancer Ministry donations. These donations, which include cancer caps, will be distributed to both female and male patients at Regency Rehabilitation.

May the Lord bless and keep them all in His loving care.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hampton

Patricia Murdock

Bernice Collins

Beverly Lee

Deacons: Michael Taylor & John Butler, Emeritus



Writing Your Story Workshop



Kim McCoy Smith, a devoted Union Chapel member, graced the Cancer Support Ministry with her beautiful spirit, presence, and incomparable knowledge concerning writing. The members and guests were informed on how to get started with writing, mainly about their life, their accomplishments, education, experiences, and cancer journeys.



McCoy Smith, "Writing Your Life Story" Ministry of Union Chapel MB Church.

One thing for sure, in many of our experiences, daily journal writing is very important, especially for those who are undergoing job issues, isolation, health challenges, survivorship, and grief. *"As for me, reading Christian literature, writing poetry and painting, gave me life, as I entered into God's purpose for my life"* according to Kim Smith.

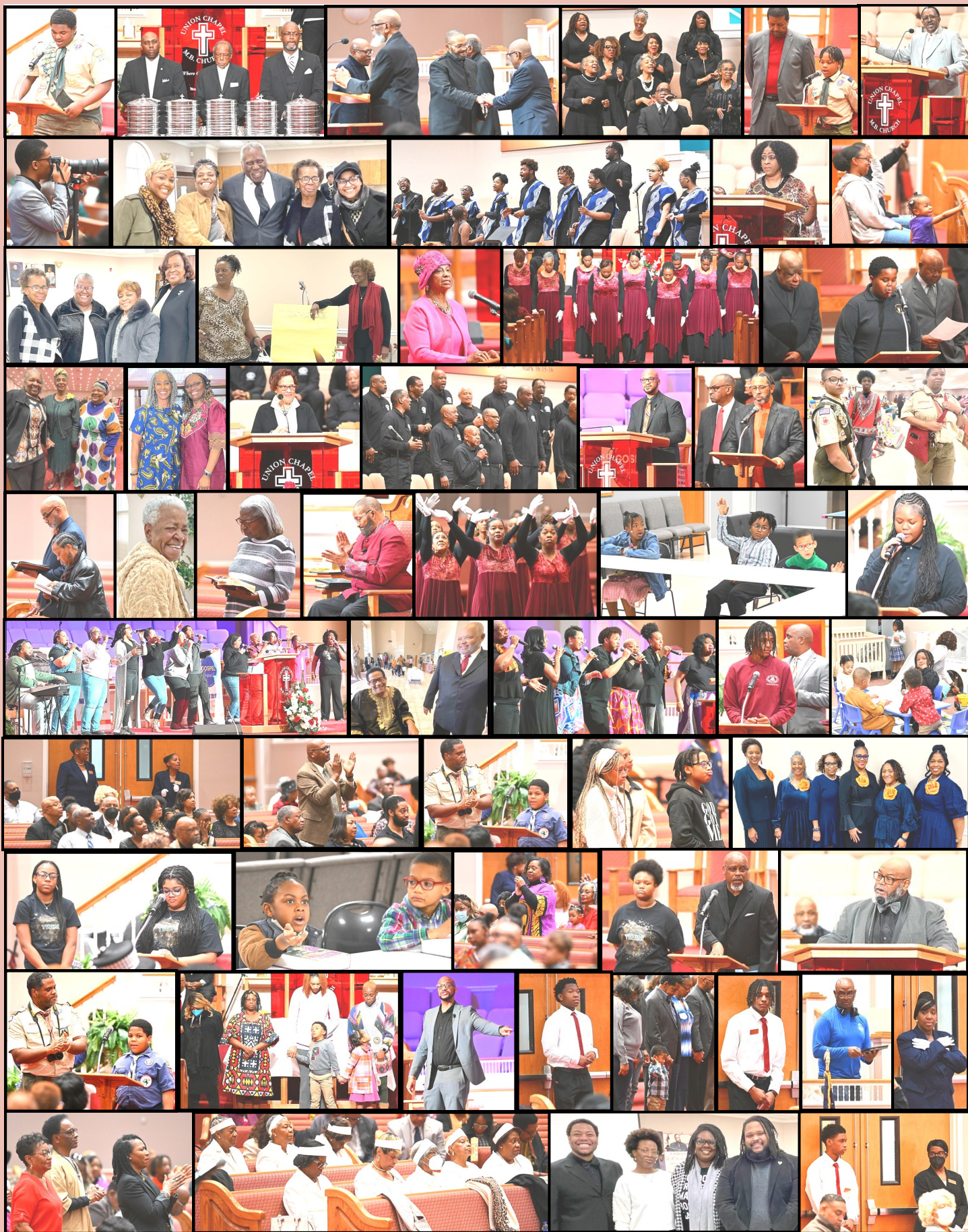
We were undoubtedly blessed with our angel, Kim

Union Chapel Cancer Ministry Coordinators & Deacon:

Joyce Hampton, Patricia Murdock, Bernice Collins, Beverly Lee, & Deacon Michael Taylor



Worshipping through Pictures



Church History

Historical Facts - The Plaques

Church History Facts – “The Grove – The Hollow – The Hill”

As we continue our look at the cornerstone plaques, our focus in this article will be on “The Hill” of the main sanctuary. This plaque reads:

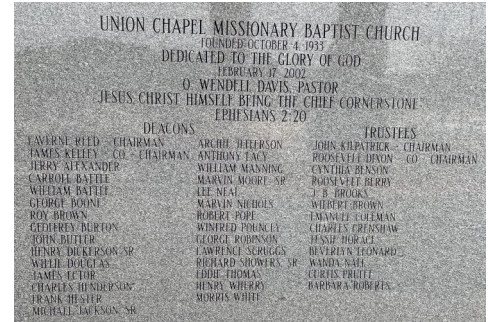
UNION CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Founded: October 4, 1933

Dedicated to the Glory of God: February 17, 2002

Pastor: O. Wendell Davis

Jesus Christ Himself Being The Chief Cornerstone – Ephesians 2:20



In honor of the foundation laid by God and the faithful service of its leaders, we acknowledge the following deacons and trustees whose commitment has helped to build and sustain this house of worship:

Deacons:

Laverne Reed, Chairman; James Kelley, Co-Chairman; Jerry Alexander; Carroll Battle; William Battle; George Boone; Roy Brown; Geoffrey Burton; John Butler; Henry Dickerson, Sr.; Willie Douglas; James Ector; Charles Henderson; Frank Hester; Michael Jackson, Sr.; Archie Jefferson; Anthony Lacy; William Manning; Marvin Moore, Sr.; Lee Neal; Marvin Nichols; Robert Pope; Winfred Pouncey; George Robinson; Lawrence Scruggs; Richard Showers, Sr.; Eddie Thomas; Henry Wherry; and Morris White.

Trustees:

John Kilpatrick, Chairman; Roosevelt Dixon, Co-Chairman; Cynthia Benson; Roosevelt Berry; J.B. Brooks; Wilbert Brown; Emanuel Coleman; Charles Crenshaw; Tessie Horace; Beverlyn Leonard; Wanda Nall; Curtis Pruitt; and Barbara Roberts.

We praise God for these leaders who have served and continue to serve the congregation of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Their dedication and commitment have paved the way for the growth of our church and the spread of God's word.

“The Church With a Big Heart of Love: Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus Christ is Head!”

~ Sister Flora Ector

Continued from page 5 Black History Month



Cardiopulmonary Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training

Cardiopulmonary Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a vital skill that everyone, regardless of age or gender, should learn. To enhance the safety and preparedness of its staff, Union Chapel Christian Academy, employees and various church office personnel participated in a basic CPR class in March to acquire life-saving knowledge. CPR is a critical emergency procedure performed when someone's heart stops beating or they are unable to breathe. The main objective of CPR is to maintain blood circulation and supply oxygen to essential organs, especially the brain, until medical professionals arrive. This intervention can significantly increase the chances of survival, often doubling or tripling the likelihood. As a result of this class, Union Chapel Christian Academy employees will be better equipped to care for each other and the welfare of our students.

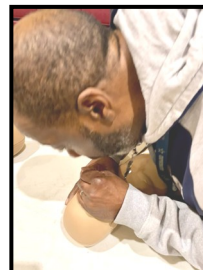
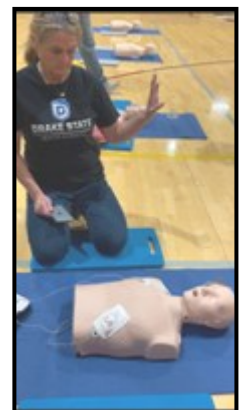


Taking a CPR class equips individuals with the confidence and know-how to act effectively in an emergency. The beginner-level CPR class covered essential topics such as how to recognize and assess emergency distress signals. Using adult and infant mannequins, each participant practiced the following skills:

- Using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED):** Participants learned how to operate an AED, which helps restore a normal heart rhythm in cases of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Performing rescue breathing:** Techniques for creating a tight seal to ensure air reaches the lungs were demonstrated.
- Administering chest compressions:** Proper hand placement and push rates for maintaining blood flow were taught.
- The Heimlich maneuver:** Participants practiced this technique to assist choking adults and children.
- CPR for different age groups:** The class emphasized how CPR techniques for infants and children differ from those used for adults, adapting to their smaller size and developmental stages.

The hands-on approach made the learning process engaging and practical. Upon completing the four-hour class, participants earned CPR certification, valid for two years. Enrolling in a CPR class is an investment in your own knowledge and in the safety of those around you. By learning this skill, you'll be prepared to act quickly in an emergency, potentially saving someone's life.

~ Sister Norma Reaves & Sister Pamela Byers



Union Chapel Child Development Center

Quarterly Events (January - March 2025)



National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) January 9th



K3 Parent Information Meeting With Principal Weathers-Feb 4th



Breakfast Sponsored by CDC Deacon Ministry Leadership (Dea. Sims & Dea. Gholston)- Feb. 11th



Lunchbox Love FEB. 14TH



Random Acts of Kindness Day Feb. 17th



Read Across America - Mar. 3rd - 7th



All Staff Certification Feb. 21st



"Sassy" - Josie Hampton Book Signing - Mar. 21st



Union Chapel Christian Academy (UCCA)



The Union Chapel Christian Academy continues to Walk Worthy for the Lord during their Wednesday Chapel. All students dressed in their Chapel attire are given the opportunity to lead their peers in praise and worship.

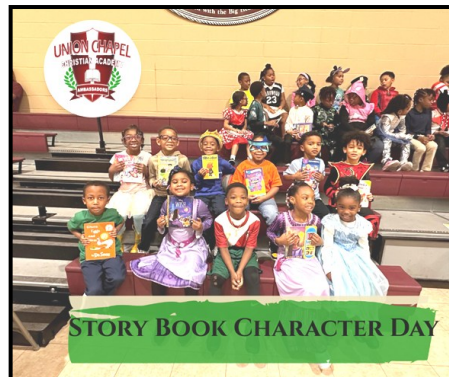
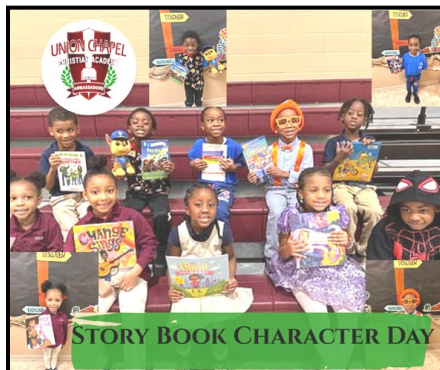
Since the last publication, the UCCA Ambassadors have celebrated 100 days of school. The students got into the spirit by dressing up as 100-year-old students, and judging by the photos, they absolutely *NAILED* it!



February was filled with **"Falling in Love with Jesus,"** celebrated through friendship, food, and fellowship, as well as **"Celebrating our Heritage"** through song, led by the Academy's music teacher, Mr. Alexander Lewis. The cultural cuisine, donated or prepared by UCCA faculty, staff, and parents, added to the festive atmosphere.



March madness allowed the Ambassadors to embrace the Leaders are Readers' challenge through Story book character day and hosting their yearly scholastic books fair March 3rd – 7th, 2025 just before spring break.



UCCA recognizes that creative arts in schools cover a broad spectrum of activities that enable students to express themselves and develop essential skills. These include fostering creativity and imagination, enhancing problem-solving and critical thinking abilities, building self-confidence and self-esteem, and improving communication and collaboration. Additionally, engaging in creative arts helps in the development of both fine and gross motor skills. The middle school girls are thrilled about the chance to learn crocheting from volunteers Mrs. Sadie Pleasure and Ms. Kimberly Craig, as this new addition to **"FUN FRIDAYS"** at the Academy offers an exciting opportunity for growth and creativity.



UCCA is deeply committed to staying active and involved in the community. On March 2, 2025, sixth grader Shiloh Fonjia participated in the Optimist International Huntsville Club's Oratorical Competition and earned first place, along with a \$500 prize and the chance to compete at the next level. On March 29, 2025, Shiloh took that opportunity and once again secured first place, earning a plaque and advancing to the regional competition in Birmingham, Alabama, in April. Let's go, Shiloh!

UCCA is currently accepting applications for summer camp.



Stay tune for more exciting news as we prepare and enroll for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

2025-2026



PreK4 - 8th grade

**“Stand Firm
In The Faith”**

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

I Corinthians 16:13 NIV

ENROLLING NOW

Bible Word Search Puzzle

1 Kings Chapter 9

F	A	T	H	E	R	Y	D	E	H	S	I	N	O	T	S	A	W	D	N	S	S	Y	J
K	I	N	G	D	O	M	T	N	A	D	F	R	E	W	S	N	A	E	F	E	E	F	P
I	U	D	I	Q	T	Q	O	I	F	D	E	K	L	A	W	D	S	W	R	D	T	O	S
F	Y	V	E	Y	I	M	U	E	R	O	F	E	B	O	S	H	S	O	L	X	U	L	E
C	A	F	G	R	O	N	D	F	R	G	M	U	R	Y	B	E	E	L	B	C	T	L	V
D	P	Q	E	L	A	E	E	G	F	E	E	S	P	V	Q	A	N	L	B	O	A	O	R
B	M	E	O	N	H	E	J	R	N	S	H	T	Y	R	O	R	T	A	E	M	T	W	E
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C	R	B	Y	W	O	R	D	P	L	E	A	S	E	D	E	R	L	P	B	D	B	W	X

ACCORDING
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HOUSE
OTHER
PRAYER
SERVE
THRONE

***“Therefore I tell you,
whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it,
and it will be yours.”
~ Mark 11:24***

The Herald is a quarterly publication of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Members are encouraged to submit all newsworthy articles by the **20th of each month to 1newsletter24@gmail.com.**
We reserve the rights to edit for clarity, grammatical correctness, and not to publish an article.

~ The Herald ~

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