



THE LIBERTY HILL Chronicles

JANUARY 2026

www.libertyhillamechurch.org

Christmas on the Hill

The Christmas season at Historic Liberty Hill unfolded with a spirit of holiness, joy, and deep expectation. From the first Sunday of Advent to the New Year's Eve Message, the entire month felt like a sacred journey—one that brought our congregation closer to God and to one another.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles



Each week, the altar glowed a little brighter as the Advent candles were lit with a message of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Their soft flames reminded us of Christ's promise to enter our world with light that no darkness can overcome. Litany readings, led by couples of the church (Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Jarod Stukes, and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Dyson) along with heartfelt prayers, created a reverent atmosphere that set the tone for the season.



The Advent Celebration

The Advent Celebration on the 2nd Sunday of December featured a play put on by our YPDers which brought the nativity story to life with warmth, humor, and heartfelt devotion. Several adults gave seasonal readings, including Sisters Winoma Dyson, Carolyn Gamble and Betty Simon. It was a

beautiful reminder that the message of Christmas is alive in every generation.

The Annual New Vision Christmas Concert



The season reached its crescendo with a breathtaking Christmas concert. The New Vision Choir, resplendent in red and gold, lifted their voices in powerful anthems and soulful spirituals celebrating the birth of Jesus. The theme for this year's concert was *From the Manager to the Gospel — A Christmas Fusion*. The concert opened with the processional

featuring soloist Sheila Ragin-Choice and the song "Come Jesus Come". This somber presentation was followed by Celebrate the King with a performance by The Praise Dance Ministry. The first half of the concert continued with traditional Christmas anthems and the second half featured uplifting contemporary Gospel tunes.

The New Vision Choirs always conclude the year with a service project — this year providing gifts to active YPDers from the Angel Tree.

New Year's Eve Service

The season concluded with a Zoom Watch Night Service on December 31st. Members enjoyed several gospel selections and a New Year's Eve message from Rev. Hicks entitled "Watch, Pray and Enter into His Promises".

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED THIS QUARTER



JANUARY

Debra Ann Brailsford (15th)
 Krsha Burgess (29th)
 Kane Carty (25th)
 Lisa Dyson (2nd)
 Opal Dyson (4th)
 Aaron Jones (29th)
 Tracie E. Jones (7th)
 Deon McFadden (9th)
 Lateshia Ragin McFadden (19th)
 Taylor Miller (19th)
 Janaiya Ragin (17th)
 Susan Ragin (21st)
 Millie Robinson
 Betty Simon (26th)
 Maureen J. Stewart (25th)
 Jarod Stukes
 Jackson Stukes (31st)
 Julian Stukes
 Edna F. Walters (9th)

FEBRUARY

Jacqueline Bennett (4th)
 Hattie Mae Blackwell (9th)
 Naomi Bradley (13th)
 Benita R. Brailsford (2nd)
 Natalie Brown (16th)
 Christopher Burgess, Jr. (13th)
 Christian Paige Cooper (17th)

William Dallas (28th)
 Asantewaa E. Dyson (28th)
 Beulah Gibson (4th)
 Joi Hill (5th)
 Sharon Madison (17th)
 Rev. James Oliver (7th)
 Anthony Ragin, Jr. (27th)
 Reagan Tindal Ragin (24th)
 Michaela Rutledge (7th)
 Daylyn Walters (10th)
 Monica Watson (12th)
 Shakemia Williams (10th)
 Daryl Wilson (5th)

MARCH

Betty Bennett (30th)
 Norine Brown (3rd)
 Kali Carty (3rd)
 Doris Dallas (15th)
 Mary Foye (31st)
 Michelle Hill (21st)
 Wendell Hilton (5th)
 Dorothy House (4th)
 Catherine Jones (8th)
 Bertha Lawson (30th)
 Roosevelt Mitchell (29th)
 Ernest Oliver (14th)
 Mildred Oliver (24th)
 Fred Richburg (1st)

Stop by the church office if you would like your name added to the birthday list for next quarter.

Liberty Hill celebrates birthdays the last Sunday at the beginning of each quarter. The next birthday celebration will be March 29th, celebrating birthdays in the Months of January,

WATER FOUNTAIN MINISTRY



Sister Jacqueline Bennett continues with the "Water Fountain Ministry", decorating the fountain for each season. The above is a photo celebrating Christmas last month.



SPECIAL NOTICE

Liberty Hill's Facebook page is

LIBERTYHILLAME7

The previous page is no longer active.

Look for this coin as the profile picture on Facebook.



PASTOR'S APPRECIATION



On the evening of October 18th, our church family gathered in the beautifully adorned fellowship hall to celebrate and honor our beloved Pastor and First Lady. The occasion was our Pastor's Appreciation Banquet—a heartfelt expression of love, gratitude, and unity for the shepherd who faithfully leads our congregation.

The fellowship hall was transformed into a warm and elegant space, decorated in green and gold, colors that reflected both the richness of our faith and the joy of the occasion. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, fellowship, and the unmistakable spirit of thankfulness.

A riveting message was given by our guest speaker, Rev. Desimond Antley of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Allendale, South Carolina. The title of his message was "He Relly Loves God", taken from John 21:15-17.

From savory dishes to sweet desserts, every bite was a testament to the love and care poured into the evening's preparations by our culinary staff. The food was not only delicious but also served with the warmth of Christian fellowship.

Most importantly, Rev. and Sister Hicks were deeply touched by the outpouring of appreciation. Their smiles and words of gratitude reflected how much the evening meant to them.

"A pastor's work is never done, but moments like these remind us that it is never in vain."

As we look ahead, may we continue to honor our Pastor not just on special occasions, but through our prayers, our service, and our commitment to the mission God has placed before us.



YOUTH GAME DAY AT SCSU



On Saturday, November 1st, several of our YPDers enjoyed a South Carolina State Football game for their annual Youth/ROTC Day. This outing was sponsored by Brother Charles Oliver and Brother Julius Adger.

SANCTUARY CHOIR OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Sanctuary Choir visited the Pocotaligo Health and Rehab Facility in Manning on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. The afternoon was a blessed experience as the members of the choir ministered to the residents through songs, Scriptures, and inspirational poems and recitations. Among the residents is one of Liberty Hill's own family members, Sister Vivian Oliver, who is among those in the Community Room waiting for the fellowship. (Another church member, Sis. Mary Foye is also a resident at Pocotaligo.)

As always the choir members are recipients of the love and thanks from the residents and staff along with the grace that God bestows to allow us to reach out to those who are "shut in" but not "shut out."

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

During the 2025 Advent season, the Christian Education Ministry helped plan the Advent Candle Lighting segments of each of the four Sundays. The emphasis this year was on couples in the church family serving as leaders of the litanies. This idea was based on the focus on families during the AME 7th Episcopal District Summer Summit in Florence. During that three-day experience several worship services, workshops, and classes were led by couples and families (clergy and lay), culminating in the Anniversary celebration of Bishop and Supervisor Davis, our Episcopal leaders.

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, the theme was HOPE. The leaders were Bro. Aaron and Sis. Catherine Jones. On the second Sunday of Advent, December 7, the theme was PEACE. The leaders were Bro. Leroy and Sis. Winoma Dyson. **On the third Sunday of Advent, December 14, the theme was JOY. The leaders were Bro. Jarod and Sis. Margo Stukes.**

We are grateful for their willingness to lead the congregation and we pray that in the future other couples and families will participate in special observations in Liberty Hill as the Lord leads them to use their gifts and talents.

SENIORS DAY AT SC STATE FAIR



Wednesday, October 15th, was Seniors Day at the South Carolina State Fair, giving visitors aged 55 and older the chance to enjoy all the sights, sounds, and tastes of the fair for just \$5 admission at the gate. Several of Liberty Hill Seniors enjoyed this day of sunshine and fun!

Order of Worship — Sunday, January 4, 2026

The Manifestation of God in Jesus Christ

Brother Julius R. Ragin, III, Presiding

The Introit Hymn #61
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

The Doxology Hymn #647
"Praise God, from whom all Blessing Flow"

The Call To Worship Brother Julius R. Ragin, III

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! (Psalm 122:1-2)

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Psalm 84:10)

Leader: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God; I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:9)

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13)

Leader: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells. (Psalm 26:8)

People: But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises. (Psalm 98:1,4)

The Hymn of Praise Hymn #580
"Another Year is Dawning"

The Morning Prayer Sister Felita Grady-Hicks

The Choral Response The Sanctuary Choir

The Worship through Music The Sanctuary Choir

The Liturgy of the Word Brother Daryl Wilson
Ephesians 3:6-12 (NIV)

The Introit to the Decalogue Hymn #69

The Full Decalogue Rev. Dr. George E. Hicks

The Gloria Patri Hymn #626
The Worship through Music The Sanctuary Choir
The Special Appeals
The Greetings/Announcements
Sister Sharon B. Madison

The Worship Through Giving Ushers
The Choral Response Hymn #644
"All Things Come of Thee"

The Pastoral Prayer and Altar Call Rev. Hicks

The Choral Response The Sanctuary Choir

The Hymn of Preparation

THE MESSAGE... REV. DR. GEORGE E. HICKS, PASTOR

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Communion Hymn Hymn #405
"What Can Wash Away My Sins"

—The Sacrament of the Holy Communion—

**(Follow along prayerfully beginning on page 798
of the AME Church Hymnal and the Display)**

The Solicitation; The General Confession (Pg 5)

The 1st and 2nd Collect

The Prayer of Adoration; The Prayer of Humiliation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Serving of the Consecrated Elements

The Lord's Prayer; The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Song of Celebration The Sanctuary Choir

The Apostle Creed (Pg 5) Congregation

Hymn of Going Forth "Always Remember"

The Doxology Congregation

The Benediction Rev. Dr. George E. Hicks

The General Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Thy Devine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead' he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

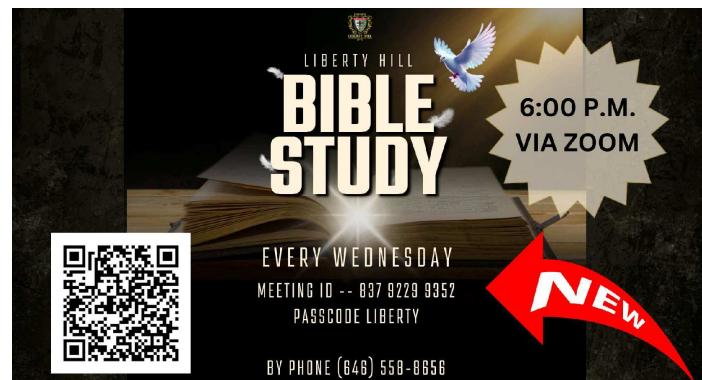
Sermon Notes

Today's Scripture: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Sermon Highlights: _____

Church Announcements



TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH

Central Conference WMS Planning/Information Meeting at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 2515 2276
Passcode: 517309

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH

Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

NEW Meeting ID 837 9229 9352
Passcode: liberty
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+16469313860,,83792299352#,,,*4466292#
Saturday, January 3rd
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
at 10:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH
Youth Choir Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH
Official Board Meeting after Services

The NAACP Clarendon Branch monthly meeting, 4:00 p.m. at Trinity AME Church, Manning, SC.

If you would like to receive church communications via email, please stop by the office and submit your email address.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY IS LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

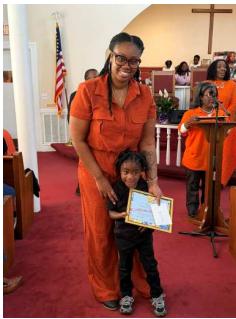
UPCOMING EVENTS:
JANUARY - Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance

FEBRUARY - Black History Month - stay tuned for the weekly activities being planned

ANY CHURCH MEMBER WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE
PLEASE SEE THE CED TEAM - Sis. P. Lawson, Director

Lay Tots & Teens Contest

The annual lay tots & Teens contest was held on Sunday, October 12th. Collectively, over \$2,500 was raised for the Lay Organization by the children. 1st Place went to Lenox McElveen, 2nd Place to Kre-Shaun Barfield, 3rd Place to lylah Gaymon. Other participants were Madison Jones and Olivia Nicole Tyson.



1st Place winner Lenox with mom Adrianna McElveen



2nd Place winner Kre-Shaun with dad Asante' Barfield, Rev. & Mrs. Hicks and Grandmother Deloris Brown.



3rd Place winner lylah Gaymon with mom, Miracle and grandmother Dorothy Rivers.



Mr. & Mrs. Jones accepting appreciation for their granddaughter, Madison Jones.



Olivia Nicole Tyson



The Daughters of Sarah Ministry gifted our associate minister, Rev. Aretha G. Johnson, with a token of love on Sunday, October 19th. It is a great honor having Rev. Johnson to be of service to her home congregation and Rev. Hicks appreciates all that she does for Kingdom Building.

Church School Acknowledgements

On October 19th, Church School Superintendant Martha Wilson-Gilyard acknowledged several church school participants for the contributions on the success of the church school. Acknowledged were Clarence Caldwell, Isabelle Jacksonm, Bertha Lawson (her son Phillip accepted her award), Betty Simon, Mary Foxx and Deloris Moore.



Sister Brown Speaks



On Sunday, November 30th, our very own Sister Brandi Brown was the guest speaker for the WMS Worship Service. Sister Brown's message

was from Jeremiah 29:11; and her topic was "Ignited for Service Under Hazardous Conditions: Pack Your PPG Kit: Prepare, Pray, and Go!"

Sister Brown holds many roles throughout the conference and locally, including Central Conference DMC Commissioner.

Annual Veteran's Recognition



On Sunday, November 16th, the Grandparents' Ministry recognized our veterans. Veteran's in attendance received a scrumptious meal and a lovely plaque honoring their military service.



On Sunday, November 2nd, we welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Hicks back to Liberty Hill to serve another conference year.



We are a Church of GRACE & GRATITUDE

Grace is what happens when we let go and let God

Gratitude is the most powerful practice at our disposal.

Together, they help us over come what may appear hardships and disappointments so that we can live more abundantly.

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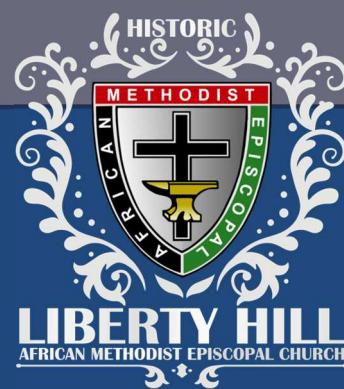


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Our Recipe for Unity

- A large bowl of less of me, less of you, and more of God
- 1 cup of active listening
- 2 tablespoons of mutual respect
- 1 large dose of empathy
- 1 cup of a common goal
- 3 pinches of humility
- 1 tablespoon of clear, constructive communication
- 3 dashes of commitment
- 2 cups of dialogue



Bishop James L. Davis, Presiding Prelate

Sister Areli Davis, Episcopal Supervisor

Rev. Betty Deas Clark, Presiding Elder, Santee District

Rev. Dr. George E. Hicks, Pastor

Mrs. Felita Grady Hicks, First Lady

Rev. Aretha G. Johnson, Associate Minister