

# The FCCBC CONNECTION

**First Christian Community Baptist Church**  
**4116 Groveland Avenue Baltimore, MD 21215**  
**410-664-7443**



**We Are Family**



**FCCBC's men convened for a reflective Men's Prayer Fellowship on September 12, 2020.**  
**Story on page 14**

Photos courtesy of Bro. Roscoe Johnson III and Bro. Tyrone Moore

## Service Times

*Sunday School* Sun. 9:15 a. m.  
*Sunday Service* Sun. 11:00 a. m.  
*Mid-Day Bible Study* Tues. 1:00 p. m.  
*Prayer & Praise Service* Wed. 6:00 p.m.  
*(first Wednesday of each month)*  
*Bible Study* Wed. 7:00 p. m.

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## Message From Our Pastor

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.”  
( 1 Peter 5:7)



During this time of pandemic and uncertainty, many have developed a distorted view of God. Some see God only as a harsh judge who condemns, while others only see Him as one who is compassionate and overlooks their sins. Neither view is totally accurate. To get an accurate view of God, we must reflect on the Scriptures. The Bible tells us that, “ Our God is compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.” Nevertheless, “He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.” (Exodus 34:6-7)

Not only do many people have a distorted and erroneous view of God, but many have no idea how much God cares for them. This pandemic has led many people, the saved and the unsaved, to depression, loneliness, and extreme anxiety. All of us have been affected on some level as a result of COVID-19. Unfortunately, many are looking for escape and relief and are turning to everything and everyone but God.

That’s one of the reasons why I believe the Lord prompted me to re-open our Church doors for worship on June 14, 2020. Everyone needs a place of relief and support. What better place to go to than the Church of God? Who better to turn to than the Lord?

Our worship services have been modified to adhere to the CDC guidelines and they have been abbreviated for the safety of everyone. There is nothing in this world like the worship experience. It gives you power, encouragement, strength to fight on, and a reminder to your heart and soul that, “God cares for you.” He cares about your pain, your hurts, your problems, and your concerns. You can put all of your trust in God because He will never leave or forsake you.

I completely understand why many of our members are not comfortable enough to return to the sanctuary at this time. The virus is still spreading, though on a decline, and people are still being affected in many ways by this deadly disease.

My prayers are with you all and I am looking forward to the day when we can all come back together for worship and fellowship in the house of God. Until that day arrives, I encourage you all to continue to pray for one another, study the Word of God , and keep the Faith.

In His Service,  
Pastor Alphonso Tucker



### Church Directory

Pastor	Rev. Alphonso Tucker	410-466-5776 (home) 410-664-7443 (study)
Chairman of Deacon’s Ministry	Deacon Lawrence Waller	410-281-9185 (home) 410-984-5268 (cell)
Church Clerk	Trus. Marilyn Dorsey	410-298-4892 /443-676-6261
Asst. Church Clerk	Sis. Kitty Owens	410-255-7713
Bus Driver	Trus. Everett Cash	443-850-5494 <b>(NOTE: BUS NOT IN SERVICE)</b>
Courtesy Phone—Lower Auditorium		410-367-9776

## Pastoral Anniversary



Pastor and Lady Tucker's eleventh anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 during morning worship service. During the month of September, FCCBC's Associate Ministers will bring the message each Sunday leading up to the anniversary celebration:

[September 6th -Evang. Juliette Samuels](#)

September 13th -Rev. Dr. Freddie Samuels

[September 20th - Minister Debbie Ervin](#)

September 27th - Minister Harvey Moore

Let's join together to celebrate and show our appreciation as we honor eleven years of service, leadership, care, and love.

## Sermons preached by Pastor Tucker during Pandemic

Recent sermons can be accessed online at <https://www.myfccbc.org>. Click dates below to view August sermons.

<a href="#">August 2nd, 2020</a>	<a href="#">August 16th, 2020</a>	<a href="#">August 23rd, 2020</a>	<a href="#">August 30th, 2020</a>
<p>{Subject}: "Spiritual Warfare" {Text}: Ephesians 6:12-18</p>	<p>{Subject}: "Who's Report Will You Believe?" {Text}: Numbers 13:26-33</p>	<p>{Subject}: "God Is At Work" ❖ {Text}: Jeremiah 18:1-6</p>	<p>{Subject}: "An Intentional Praise"  {Text}: Psalm 34:1-10</p>

Compiled by Sis. Sofie Tucker

## Outreach Center Pre-Development Activities Update

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down the pre-development process but FCCBC's Planning Committee Ministry continues to move forward with the FCCBC Community Outreach Center expansion at 4201 Groveland Avenue and with renovations to the church.

During the summer months, the project consultants completed the permit set design plans and submitted the documents for review to City of Baltimore permit department. The 24,000 sq. ft. lot will include a 2,200 square feet building for Church offices and a multi-purpose hall for various church and community activities. The site will also have a community garden, off-street parking, and green space for other outdoor church activities.

The expansion project also includes moderate renovations of FCCBC's current fellowship hall to increase sitting capacity and provide additional space for the Culinary Ministry's food pantry and kitchen area.

The FCCBC Planning Committee Ministry continues to work with project lender M & T Bank to complete all pre-development activities during the Fall of 2020.

FCCBC fundraising activities will continue to support the cost to the church building renovations and the development of our Community Outreach Center at 4201 Groveland Avenue.

The Planning Committee Ministry would like to thank **FCCBC Members and friends of the Church** for continued faithfulness and support in honoring the **Building Fund** pledges.

Submitted by: FCCBC Planning Committee Ministry

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## *Deacon's Corner*

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**To God Be The Glory. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**1 Timothy 3:13**

**I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.**

**Romans 12:1**

I do greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ who is head of our lives. The last edition of the FCCBC newsletter, we were back in service inside of the sanctuary under COVID-19 guidelines, getting our temperatures checked, hand sanitizing, socially distanced, and wearing face masks. I thank God that we were able to enter the sanctuary under these guidelines.

We are still able to reach out to our members by way of Zoom meetings, conference calls and texts to really emphasize the importance of family. This COVID-19 situation has given us a "new norm." My heart's desire and prayer is to thank God for keeping us safe throughout this process. I am pleased to know that our members are doing well and are excited about being back in the sanctuary. We understand that some members are not ready and some have underlying medical conditions that will not allow them to return. We pray for everyone and cannot wait until the restrictions are lifted so that we all can be back together at one time getting back to the "old norm."

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye will be able to withstand in the evil days, and having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13)

Continue to pray comfort for all of our bereaved families. Pray without ceasing for our beloved Deaconess Ada Bostick, Deacon Owens, the diaconate, ministries, and anyone else that might be struggling during these times of social distance and lack of face-to-face communication.

Through this pandemic error, there is a blessing. There is a need to continue reaching out to our sick and shut-in members/seniors. My heart rejoices in the Lord every time my reaching out gets to another member, to hear their voice, and for the encouragement that goes both ways. COVID-19 has put a change of lifestyle on everyone. We are learning new ways to communicate and new ways to learn. We are learning new ways to live life that we otherwise might not have done. I am learning more about technology and how very useful it is, but we serve a non-changing God who will ALWAYS take care of us. "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

The word of God must go out. I thank Pastor Tucker for his vision for re-opening the church, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of each ministry, for the edifying the body of Christ.

I leave you with 2 questions:

1. What challenges have you faced over the last 6 months that have contributed to your growth?
2. How did you respond to the challenge?

**\*\*Be the first to let me know your answers, I am eagerly waiting to hear from you!!**

I continue to encourage you to attend Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, Bible Study, conference calls & Zoom meetings to show thyself approved unto God and continue practicing the new social distancing rules. Continue to pray for the diaconate ministry that we may remain strong while doing the Lord's work.

\*\*\*\*\*CYBER HUGS\*\*\*\*\*

Humbly Submitted  
Chairman Deacon Lawrence Waller



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## *Summer 2020 Missionary Ministry*

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This summer was like no other. There were no vacations, no trips to the beach, any crab feasts, or family reunions. I did not get the opportunity to visit friends or have them over to my house.

I did, however, get the chance to forge some new relationships on the phone. Some people I only knew casually, but because of the pandemic we have been able to share things that we would not ordinarily share. I have had several conversations that revealed a longing to share and I welcomed the opportunity to put God in the mix. This allowed me to encourage and to be encouraged by their testimonies. Church members and personal friends have made me have a good summer in spite of the devastation that is permeating our society, our nation, and the whole world.

The Black Lives Matter demonstrators have also shown me that change will come because I know that this is God's world and we will have to wait on Him. We know that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and He cares for us.

Being able to attend church has been the highlight of my summer. I look forward to it each week as I am encouraged by the sermons that our Pastor, Rev. Alphonso Tucker, so eloquently brings forth each week.

Trusting in the Lord to bring us through,

Carolyn Laster  
Missionary Ministry President

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## *Deaconess Corner*

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### **Nothing Lasts Forever But The Word of God**

During this COVID-19 pandemic and current racial tension in the United States, we know it will not last forever. Just like Black people have endured slavery, segregation, racism, and the current genocide by those who are supposed to protect and serve us, it will not last forever because God is in control.

If you have read the Bible, Noah was in the flood, but it didn't last forever. When Jonah was in the belly of a whale, God delivered him. Job lost everything, but God gave him twice as much as before. The Bible tells us we will have trouble when we come into this world, "but the Lord will always be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble," (Psalm 9:9) but trouble don't last always. If we put our trust in the Lord, we have everlasting life in Christ.

The Bible tells us that Jesus had to die to save us. Sometimes storms come to make us stronger, but we don't realize it when we are in the midst of it. While we are down here on earth, we need to have faith, study the word, and continue to pray day and night.

The word of God will last forever and it will never change. In one of our Sunday school booklets, we had a topic called, "Be Patient and Enduring" James 5: 7-12. Read it and it will tell you what you should be doing in this COVID pandemic. Keep the faith, because nothing lasts forever but the word of God.

Deaconess Hallie Allen

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## *Message from the Sunday School*

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**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Welcome back to Sunday School! For the returnees, you are all a sight for sore eyes. What a privilege and pleasure to be back among fellow believers who love the Word of God. Due to the viral pandemic, we were closed for several weeks, which seemed like an eternity. Coming back, of course, we follow strict Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to study in a safe environment.

We would like to thank our teachers, Rev. Debbie Ervin, Minister Harvey Moore, and Evangelist Dr. Juliette Samuels for the wonderful job they are doing. They came on board after the passing of our beloved teacher, Dr. Bob Sanders. We also thank the ushers, under the direction of Bro. Tyrone Moore, for their vigilance in overseeing safety measures.

So, for those who have not come back, please know that we miss you and hope that you will join us soon. We are back to our regularly scheduled time, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. May God bless you and keep you safely in His care.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School

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## **Returning to Indoor Services**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has been a tremendous challenge for all of us, and many things were put on hold. But despite what’s going on in today’s world, the FCCBC family has resumed worship indoors.

### **Sunday Services Hours:**

*Sunday School* - 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

*One Hour Morning Worship* - 11:00 a.m. until 12 noon

We continue to follow **CDC guidelines**. Everyone is required to wear face masks/coverings at all times, temperatures are taken prior to entering along with the use of hand sanitizer, health screening questions and social distancing is practiced throughout the church. The church is cleaned between each use. Those in attendance are noted for contact tracing purposes.

We are extremely thankful for the Senior Usher’s ministry for their continued commitment in ensuring these safety precautions are upheld.

The number permitted in the church adheres to the Baltimore City Health Department’s updated Gathering Guidance - as of 9/8/20 - not to exceed 50% of the maximum capacity.

The church bus is not currently operational.

There have also been some improvements within the church. There will be an upcoming FCCBC Media Ministry. We have discontinued paper bulletins and removed hymnals and bibles. At the moment, a projector has been displayed in the sanctuary presenting lyrics for the congregation to sing along, announcements, and sermonic scripture and subject (conducted by Sis. Sofie Tucker).

## Return to Service (continued)



Mid-day and Wednesday night Bible Study has resumed. It is currently being held by audio conference call. All are encouraged to join to study the Word of God. If you care to participate, please contact Trustee Dorsey for the dial-in phone number and access code.

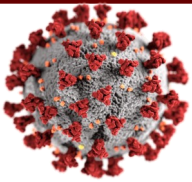
Submitted by: Sis. Sofie Tucker

Photos courtesy of Bro. Roscoe Johnson, III and Sis. Sofie Tucker

## FCCBC Youth and Young Adult Day 6/14/20



Photos courtesy of Trus. Henry Smith and Sis. Sofie Tucker



# COVID-19 REFLECTIONS



Church Family, for our newsletter this month, I asked our youth and young adults these questions to get their perspective on COVID-19:

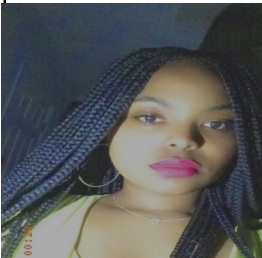
1. What are your candid thoughts on the pandemic?
2. If bored, what did you do to alleviate this?
3. Which media did you use to get pandemic information?

**Kaitlyn Sanders wrote:** My thoughts on the pandemic is that things happen that are not in our “control” but I know who is! GOD is in control and I know He’s been keeping all of us. I think we should take time to become closer not just with God but also with our families. This should be a time of growth. When I am bored, I watch movies, play with my dog, spend time with my sister and her children, and take walks. My pandemic information comes from watching the news and from Instagram and Twitter.



**Maya Jones wrote:** My thoughts on the pandemic are that it’s real and unpredictable. When I’m bored, I like to catch up on my favorite shows. I do my workout everyday. I do research on the colleges I’m interested in. I also do chores around the house. I don’t look at the pandemic information. But, my father looks on a website that shows the COVID-19 numbers for Maryland.

**Sofie Tucker wrote:** My candid thoughts on the pandemic are that this pandemic has truly been a challenge. It has affected many around the world, and honestly this entire year has been greatly affected in a lot of ways-negatively and somewhat positively. Well, for starters, it takes a lot for me to get bored, so I really don’t get bored too often but when I do I’ll just go on the app, “TikTok” or “YouTube” to look at some funny and entertaining videos. I also try to be creative with expanding my love for art by seeing what I’m good at or like to do. The site that I mostly use to get pandemic information is, “www.cdc.gov.” This website has information on how to wear your mask properly, the importance of social distancing, etc. But, I also use “Google” to see current COVID-19 cases in Baltimore and around the world in order to know if the numbers are down.



**Tequilla Haynes wrote:** This has proven to be a difficult time for us all. I pray for healing and restoration of our land and people. Also, that we all will remain strong and continue to follow all safety rules and guidelines. When I’m bored, I go for walks, read books and do ZOOM sessions with friends. I use various media resources to get pandemic information – radio, television news, social media, etc...

Thank You !!

Compiled by Sis. Leslie Hyman





**This edition continues to document the experiences of members during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will find testimonies, stories, photos, and creative expressions throughout the newsletter.**

### **Trials and Tribulations**

The year of 2020 started off full of unknown uncertainties and unforeseen situations. Little did we know that within a few months things were going to affect the entire nation.

Trials can be intense encounters or struggles which can cause anger, hurt, and grief.

When we are first faced with difficulties and despair, it seems to be no relief.

We were exposed to what some would call a lifetime of trials in this one year.

To a non-believer, it would easily be considered just too much to bear.

The Believers were ready to bear arms and fully engage in Spiritual Warfare.

We have to effectively battle with “the sword of the Spirit” and Trust that God is there.

Tribulation is a period of time where all of us experience trouble and severe events that cause suffering.

In Proverbs 3:5-6, we must Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all of our ways we must submit to Him, and He will direct our paths.

We must be incited by God’s Word, Our Trust must begin with God and end with Him.

He will establish our steps and lead us where He needs us.

But in God, we put all of our Trust; Only in Him, it is a must.

Think of all we have been through from then until now, couldn’t go through it on our own.

It was because of our God Who sits high on the Throne.

We were affected by many events that appeared to be beyond our belief.

We started off with an impeachment trial for a so called Commander in Chief.

There was shocking news of the deaths of Kobe Bryant and his Daughter, too!

It was nobody but God who got us all through.

The Covid-19 hit the world running rampant fast and wide.

This was a severe disaster, but we still had God on our side.

An uproar happened across the globe because of the death of George Floyd; which created protests everywhere.

Our city remained peaceful with their protests and demonstrated with prayer.

We also lost a Legend when John Lewis passed, for years he endured beatings and being harassed.

He showed the world how to get in “good necessary trouble.”

He was never a quitter, no matter the cause, he remained in the struggle.

Things started happening with the U.S. Postal Service which was simply unheard of before.

Even going to the polls to vote is not quite the same anymore.

It doesn’t matter what trials and tribulations are thrust upon us.

We Must Keep All of our Faith in God Whom We Trust!!!

Submitted by Mae F. Williams

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## Youth and Young Adult News

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**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** 2 Timothy 2:15

### Youth Sunday School

I wanted to share the impact that our Sunday school lessons are having on the lives of our students, as well as myself and Sister Jackie. In this quarter, we have been studying the book of James. This book speaks to the "believer," on how we should behave in our everyday lives, especially in times of trials and tribulations.

With "Wisdom," being the unifying topic, we seemed to have really connected to these scriptures in a very real and meaningful way. Our students have shared thoughts about these lessons and how they can apply them to their lives. Sister Jackie and I also have shared how important the book of James is and how we can also relate to its message.

James 1: 19, teaches that, "we must be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger," and verse 23 teaches us that it is not ok just to, "be hearers of the word but be doers of the word." There are many, many other messages that James gave to the Israelites but they also apply to us today. We also learned the difference between "earthly" wisdom and "spiritual" wisdom, that "wisdom" comes from God, and it is pure and brings about good "fruits."

God desires obedience from us, and the book of James shows us how we can be seen "righteous" in the eyes of God.

Submitted by: Angela Ray

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## Youth Spotlight

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Our Youth Spotlight has been a active member of FCCBC's liturgical dance ministry ("Anointed Vessels of Praise"), she's an active Sunday School member (even through a pandemic), as well as the Drama ministry. Her eagerness continues to grow in serving the Lord. She is currently in the fourth grade at Lakeland Elementary School. She's an honor student. Her humbleness at such a young age is what makes her stand out as well as her intelligence. She is the granddaughter of Pastor Tucker and Lady Bridgett.

Today's Youth Spotlight is nine year old Shiloh.

Submitted by: Sis. Sofie Tucker

# Educational Ministry Update

On Youth Day, the Educational Ministry honored Kaitlyn Sanders and Jayme Troy on their High School graduation achievement and Alea Powell for her accomplishment in receiving her Bachelor's degree. All three graduates were honored with a monetary graduation gift. Best wishes to all graduates on their future endeavors!

The Educational Ministry did not receive applications for the academic or book scholarships, thus resulting in no awards for this academic year. The scholarship season will open again February 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 guidelines, the school supply drive has been cancelled for this year.

**We offer well wishes and encouragement to all of the students  
as they begin the new school year!**

Submitted by: Sis. Cheryl McCottry



## *A Fight For Justice*

*“But let justice and fairness flow like a river that never runs dry.” Amos 5:4 CEV*



Thank you, family, for supporting the Legal Defense Fund (LDF ) initiative. You heeded the call to confront an urgent issue. You are saying with your donations that you are supporting the fight for justice. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans. LDF also defends the gains and protections won over the past 75 years of civil rights struggle and works to improve the quality and diversity of judicial and executive appointments.

We cannot afford to become complacent. We have to be vigilant and supportive of legal means that seek to affect change. Although we have made strides, it has been and continues to be an upstream battle. You do know what happens if you stop rowing as you go up stream? It is not enough to be empathetic; we have to put our words and platitudes into action. We must first pray, not only for ourselves, but for our leaders and enemies as well. As the songwriter, James Weldon Johnson, wrote in Lift Every Voice and Sing, he said, *“Let us march on till victory is won.”*

For more information, visit [www.naacpldf.org](http://www.naacpldf.org) or direct inquiries to (212) 965-2232 or -2212.

Submitted by: Deaconess Mary Murphy

“People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.”

MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR.



Quote courtesy of  
Trustee Henry Smith

## SPENDING TIME WITH BLACK HISTORY

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, my volunteerism at the Woodlawn Senior Center is limited and my volunteerism at the American Red Cross is cancelled.

I was invited to serve as the Administrative Assistant for the RJY Chick Webb Council, Inc. (RJY), a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. Chick Webb was a famous drummer. Dr. Ralph Jonathan Young was Chick Webb's physician, who promised Chick Webb he would build a recreation center for the youth in Baltimore City. The Chick Webb Recreation Center was built in 1947.

The Chick Webb Recreation Center was designated as a historical site in November 2017. RJY's mission is to raise awareness of the Chick Webb Recreation Center to a national level. The center has been an outlet for many youth in the east Baltimore area.

The community is being redeveloped and the City of Baltimore plan to expand the Center. RJY's purpose is to advance the health and wellbeing of youth and adults through recreation and education. Presently, one of our missions is to help Baltimore City with the expansion and improvement of the center. We are currently on a mission to bring awareness to the community that a multi-generational community center is needed

We need your help. Ask me how.  
Sis. Leslie Hyman



Ron Miles, CEO, Tara Miles, Kameron Cheatham, Leslie Hyman, Paula Blue and Lindsay Finch (taking the picture), passed out flyers in the neighborhood.



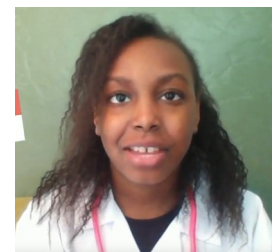
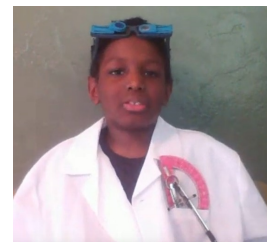
## Educational Pursuits

Amaya and Arion, grandchildren of Sis. Mary Cole-Vaeth, recently participated in science fellowships at their school. Their school sponsors fellowship programs for students to participate in research, education, and hands-on experience with science projects.

Arion participated in the [Rare Earth Elements Fellowship](#).

Amaya shared an [update](#) on the Kid's Heart Project 2019-2020.

Submitted by: Sis. Mary Cole-Vaeth



What are you grateful for today?

# Gratefulness

For all things  
GIVE THANKS

Members were asked to share what they were grateful for during Summer 2020. Below are the responses received.

## So Thankful

When I think of God's goodness and all that He has done for me,  
I can't help but to give Him Praises because He is so Real to me!  
I Thank Him for bringing me this far, for I know it was by Faith.

I leaned only on Him and what the Word saith.

These have been some trying times for the last several months.

I found myself calling on him daily, many times more than once.

Not one time did He turn me away, "I am here my child" was what He would say.

I am so Thankful because it is true that God always does just what He said He would do!

I have had ups and downs throughout this pandemic, but Thankfully more ups than downs.

Simply because the God I serve was always around.

I Thank Him for everything, whether it was good or bad.

All that He has done has made me happy and glad.

Again, I say I am so Thankful and grateful, too.

That I serve a God Who is Alive and Oh so True!!!!

Submitted by Mae F. Williams



Deacon Garry Carter continues to faithfully deliver mail each day. One of the families' on his route created this mailbox tribute.



Thank you Deacon Carter for being a COVID-19 Front Line Hero!

## WORKING ON OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH TOO

This pandemic has caused me to be even more thankful and grateful to God who has brought me this far. As I hear about people losing their loved ones due to this virus, you have to feel blessed that you can sustain and try and help those who do not have jobs nor transportation to take advantage of the Food Bank's donations. I have waited in line at schools and churches to get produce and non-perishables for distribution.

This has been a time of reflection on so many levels. It's a time to believe that our Father will see us through this pandemic. So many travel plans I've had this year have been cancelled. I thank God I was home (USA) instead of Europe. I am truly blessed.

A couple of months ago, I resumed walking on the Milford Mill Track. Our group is called "Milford in Motion." We social distance by staggering the lanes. Most start at 5 a.m. I start at 5:45 and walk for an hour (3 miles), 5-6 days a week. Here we are!

Sis. Leslie Hyman



**“FCCBC MEN WITH FAITH IN JESUS” 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13****FCCBC Men's Day Theme 2020**

The year 2020 will be remembered in the annals of history as one that required mankind to assess their faith in God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The crises that face mankind including climate change, violence, racism and the pandemic – COVID-19 has each of us leaning on the Word of God, knowing that all our needs shall be provided by our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

On Sunday November 1, 2020, FCCBC Men will celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ with a special service. The COVID-19 pandemic will adjust the 11:00 a.m. morning program service but will not prevent FCCBC from declaring our faith.

The Men's Day Theme: **FCCBC MEN WITH FAITH IN JESUS** is drawn from **1 Corinthians 16:13** **“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”** The Word of God will be presented by Pastor Dr. Rev. Alphonso Tucker.

All are welcome to join FCCBC's Men Day's celebration. In keeping with CDC social distancing recommendations, all guests will be required to wear masks, have their temperatures taken upon entrance to church, and to sanitize their hands at the door.

**FCCBC Men's Prayer Fellowship 2020**

The pandemic has required FCCBC Men to cancel several fellowship activities during the summer months which included two car washes, the Men In Black worship concert , and the FCCBC Biennial Crab Feast.

Another fellowship activity that occurs annually in March that had to be cancelled is the FCCBC Men's Prayer Fellowship Breakfast. This activity always included fellowship with other churches and friends.

The FCCBC men decided it was very important that the men come together to pray and fellowship given the impact the pandemic is having on each of our lives and families. On Saturday morning, September 12, 2020, sixteen men came together for prayer and fellowship.

Bro. Roscoe Johnson, III welcomed FCCBC Men to the morning fellowship. Rev. Freddie Samuels opened the session with an emotional prayer that set the tone for the fellowship. Bro. Keith Owens, Jr., led the men in song “ We've Come This Far By Faith.” Deacon Lawrence Waller gave thanks to the men for continuing to provide financial support to the church during these hard times and the offering collected for men's assessments.

The primary focus of the prayer fellowship was to give the FCCBC men the opportunity to express what was on their minds. Each man took as much time needed to share their thoughts and thanks for God's mercies as related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. In many cases, the men shared very personal feelings and asked for prayer as they coped with life challenges noting that their faith in God is helping them to overcome those obstacles.

Rev. Harvey Moore shared scriptures from Philippians 4:4-7, “(6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God).” Rev. Moore expressed how God is providing him guidance during these times when so much uncertainty exists.

Pastor Tucker commented that he had been blessed by the out pouring of emotions and candid conversations from the men. He also reminded the men as they overcome those issues in life that Jesus is the source of our success. “Rejoice in the Lord Always” in good or trouble times.

The FCCBC men left the Prayer Fellowship encouraged and look forward to coming together again soon. The COVID -19 Pandemic will not keep us from rejoicing in the Lord.

**Men's Monthly Meetings July – August 2020**

The men of FCCBC meet each month for devotions, fellowship, and to make plans to give service in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The COVID-19 has impacted the normal in-person fellowship meetings. FCCBC men have been meeting each month via conference call. The pandemic has required FCCBC men to show our faith and commitment to continue our fellowship activities.

Each month's meeting permitted the men of FCCBC to express their faith in God, regardless of the circumstances that have been presented to each of us and our families by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

All men are welcome to join us at the **next Men's Ministry Fellowship meetings at 6:00 p.m. on September 28, October 26 and November 23, 2020.** For more information regarding how to join the FCCBC Men's conference call meetings, please contact the FCCBC administrative assistant (contact information is on page 2).

Submitted by: Chairman Roscoe Johnson, III



**The Women's Corner—Women's Day 2020**



On June 28th, this year's Women's Day Program was conducted in an abbreviated form due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We were limited in the amount of exposure time to each other, which was one hour. Although limited in time while practicing social distancing and donning face masks, it did not diminish the impact of the Word by Evangelist Juliette Samuels. Her sermon was preceded by her singing, "I'm Holding on to MY Faith." She preached from the theme, "Learning and Growing in God's Grace," with the scriptural reference of 1 Corinthians 15:58 (KJV), "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always

*abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* We were encouraged to be: steadfast, strong, unwavering, firm, loyal, and fearless. Concomitantly, we were exhorted to stand on the Word of God and to hold on to our faith.

Dress was casual as we eschewed the pastels that were originally planned. Marching was also eliminated, along with the choir. Miss Alea Powell and Miss Kaitlyn Sanders were our esteemed soloists.

Thanks to our chairlady, Miss Kaitlyn Sanders, and Deaconess Vurely Johnson for their diligence in planning the activities for this year which were thwarted by COVID-19. We were all disappointed that no plans were executed after March 15<sup>th</sup>. But we know that whatever we do for the Lord is not in vain. Nevertheless, we continue to praise and thank God even during this most difficult time.

Let us all pray for the healing of the land, physically, socially, economically, and spiritually.

Submitted by: Deaconess Mary Murphy, Secretary

## Member Spotlights

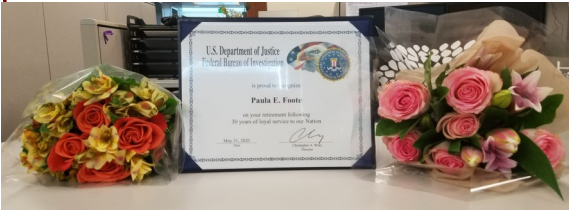
### Retirement Congratulations!

Hello to my FCCBC family. I thank God that after 31 years of government service, I have officially retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation as of May 31, 2020. To God be the glory!! I plan to do some traveling when it is safe to do so and I also plan to move.

Sis. Paula Foote



Gwendolyn Taylor has retired as of September 1, 2020. She worked at Morgan State University under the THOMPSON HOSPITALITY CATERING SERVICES for 27 years. She never took a vacation or used any personal days. Even though she was due at work at 11: 00 A.M, she would leave home at 8:30 A.M. She really enjoyed her work. She is thankful to God for her many blessings!



May you both enjoy the blessings of retirement!

### FCCBC Newlyweds

In spite of the pandemic, love was still in the air. God made a way, On August 13, 2020, Bro. Keefe Flanigan and Sis. Jasmine Conway joined hands in holy matrimony.

God Is So Awesome !!



Photo courtesy of Bro. Keefe Flanigan

The FCCBC family wishes you God's blessings and all the best as you begin your new lives together!

### Posthumous Recognition

On Sunday, July 12, 2020, Wayne Nichols, Faith Nichols, and I accepted the [Nancy Rogowski Advocate of the Year Award](#), on behalf of my daughter Chrystal L. Nichols. This international award honors an individual who demonstrated excellent advocacy and dedication to raising awareness and understanding.

The Ehlers Danlos Society is an international group of doctors and researchers working on finding a cure for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS); a medical condition that has no known cure. EDS affects the connective tissues supporting the skin, bones, blood vessels and other organs and tissues. There are a number of different types of EDS. Unfortunately, my wife Carolyn, my son Jared, and Chrystal had and passed away as a result of having Type 4 - one of the worse types of EDS - which is vascular in nature.

Chrystal was a tireless advocate for EDS. To enlighten the community about EDS, she made a number of appearances on radio, virtual forums, podcasts, and held different events to help raise money for research. She also spoke at two of the national societies conferences where she also made a video about living with EDS.

The award [video](#) is available online.

Submitted by: Trustee Henry Smith





## Potpourri

### Contact Updates

Are you receiving our One Call Now messages? FCCBC is using this method to reach out to members about services, weather and closing notices, reminders, schedule changes, bereavement announcements, and other important notifications. This is especially relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic as many are unable to venture out due to age or underlying medical conditions.

Please help us to make sure we have accurate contact and personal information for you.

If you have not already done so or if your information has changed, please see Trustee Marilyn Dorsey and complete a Member Information Sheet or email newsletter@myfccbc.org. Thank you!



### Helpful Hints

*The original purpose of tissue boxes was to help you through a sad time to wipe away tears or to catch a sneeze.*

*Empty tissue boxes can be used to store plastic grocery bags. Stuff the bags into the box and store in a convenient location (for example - under the kitchen sink)*

*The plastic bags can be used for table waste after a meal or as a liner for small wastebaskets in the bedroom or bathroom.*



*Submitted by: Sis. Jackie Ward*

### Support Our Newsletter

The FCCBC Connection is a quarterly newsletter designed to share news and to keep our members and friends informed of church services, fellowships, programs, and projects as well as information of interest (thank you notes/cards, prayer requests, testimonies, birthdays, awards, retirements, anniversaries, engagements, weddings, births, etc....).

Our goal is to distribute newsletters before each season ends (Fall by 12/20, Winter by 3/21, Spring by 6/20, and Summer by 9/21). **The DEADLINE to submit articles, photos, and announcements will be 12/6/20, 3/1/21, 6/6/21, and 9/5/21.**

Ministry representatives and members are asked to email photos, articles, announcements, information and suggestions to newsletter@myfccbc.org or submit to Sis. Sharon Johnson or Sis. Sofie Tucker. Thanks to all for supporting our newsletter ministry!

**Fall newsletter photos, announcements, and articles will be due on 12/6/20.**  MARK your CALENDAR

### BGE Quick Home Energy Check-Up

The BGE Quick Home Energy Check-Up program is allowing in-home services that follow proper safety protocols (please check for updates by calling the BGE Call Center at **877.685.7377** or visit <https://bgesmartenergy.com/residential/help-me-save/quick-home-energy-check>).

A certified energy efficiency professional will perform a free, in-home walk-through to inspect the condition of your insulation levels, air leakage, heating and cooling systems, windows and doors, lighting and appliances, and water-heating equipment. They will also install energy-saving measures at no additional cost and provide you with a report of recommendations to help you reduce your energy use and save money. Check-ups must be scheduled with BGE online or by phone. A certified contractor will contact you to schedule your appointment. **NOTE: BGE reps do not go door-to-door to schedule or perform Energy Check-Ups.**

## FCCBC Wishes Comfort and Peace

*The Bereavement Ministry humbly expresses our deepest condolences to our church families who have lost loved ones.*

*Your life was a blessing.  
Your memory is a treasure  
You are loved beyond words  
And you are missed beyond measure*

*Please continue to pray for:*

*Sis. Diane Habeebullah on the loss of her husband Malik Habeebullah*

*Brother John & Sis. Dorothy Arthur and Sis. Amy Arthur on the loss of Norris Arthur*

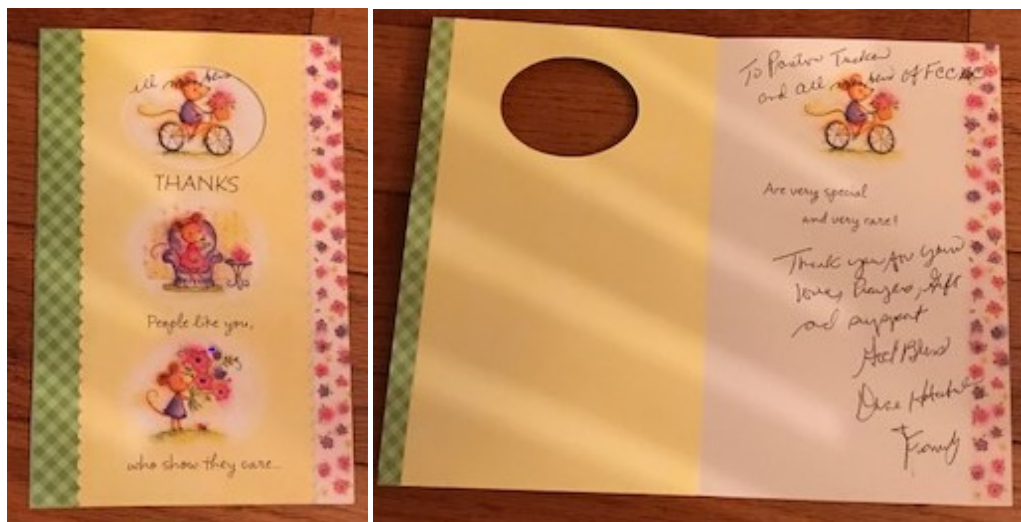
*Sis. Teresa Boyd and Sis. Carolyn Lassiter on the passing of their brother Thomas Young*

*Sister Delores Hines and Bro. Michael Montoute on the transition of Marjorie Pope McCaully*

*Deaconess Vurely Johnson on the loss of her sister Marvetia Roberts*

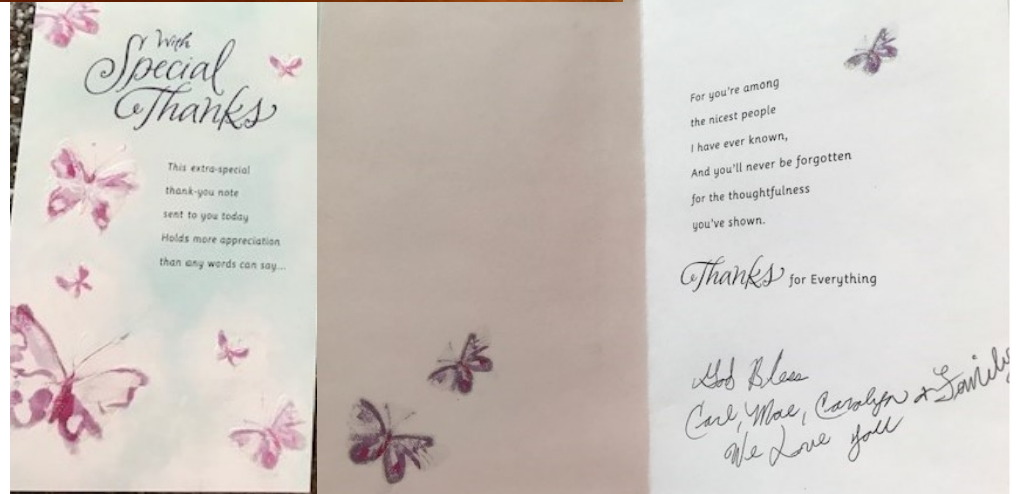
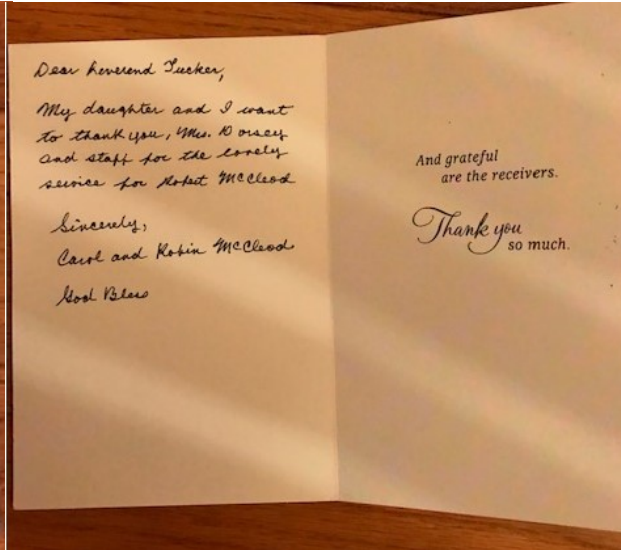
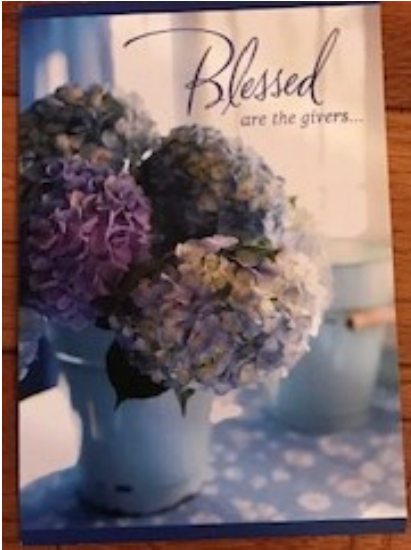
*Psalms 34:18 The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*

*Submitted by: Sis. Marilyn Brunt*



# Thank You Cards and Acknowledgments

**On behalf of the Edwards, Flanigan and McCloud families, we would like to thank First Christian Community Baptist Church for all the prayers, cards, calls and many expressions of sympathy shown during the loss of our loved one. Your love, comfort, and support are greatly appreciated.**



# Public Service/Church Notices

## From the Centers for Disease Control

Practice social distancing by putting space between yourself and others. Continue to practice healthy habits to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and then disinfect frequently used surfaces
- Stay home if you're sick
- Avoid touching your face

Learn more about staying safe and healthy at [cdc.gov/covid19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19)

Your cloth face covering should:

- ✓ Reach above the nose, below the chin, and completely cover the mouth and nostrils
- ✓ Fit snugly against the sides of the face
- ✓ Be made of multiple layers of fabric that you can still breathe through
- ✓ Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damaging the material or shape

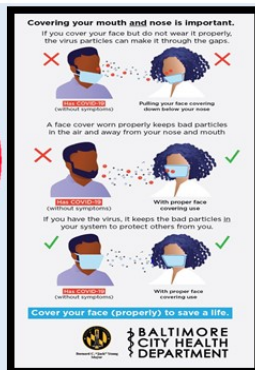
Do not buy surgical masks to use as a face covering. Those are intended for healthcare workers and first responders. Many items you may already have in your home can be used to create face coverings.

Try creating a cloth face covering using bandanas, ski masks, washable napkins, or dish towels.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2Ravt42>



**COVID-19**



### DO's & DON'Ts



Do's and Don'ts Submitted by Sis. Sofie Tucker

### Stay current on the latest about COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/COVID19/>

<https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>

## Protecting FCCBC

First Christian Community Baptist Church

### Until Further Notice - Upon Entering

- ✓ Face mask Must be worn throughout the church ...
- ✓ Temperature must be taken ...



CDC guidelines (100.4° / 38° c) or above **NO ENTRY**



- ✓ Adhere to social distancing (6 feet)
- ✓ Wash or sanitize hands frequently

**Front Entrance to be used only ...**

## Giving

We are a member supported church. We thank our members for their faithfulness in giving. Through your continued support, we are able to maintain our weekly/monthly expenses and to keep our church operations in good standing. We have three easy ways you can give to support FCCBC's mission. You can drop your tithes and offerings in the designated receptacle at a worship gathering, give online (see below), or mail your check or money order (no cash please) to: FCCBC P.O. Box 67407 Baltimore, MD 21215

You may visit [discover.givelify.com](https://discover.givelify.com) and enter FCCBC or download the mobile giving app from the App Store (iPhones) or Google Play (Android devices). You will get an immediate receipt in the app and via email. An ongoing history is also available. Make sure that you see a picture of the church and Rev. Tucker's photo before making your gift. For more information, please visit <http://www.givelify.com>.

Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you!

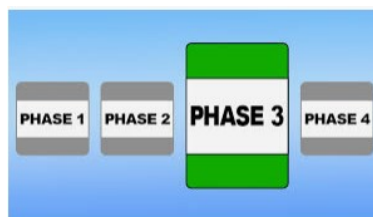
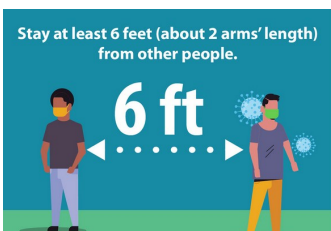
Submitted by: The Finance Ministry



### Coronavirus Smart and Wise

We are dealing with something that is way bigger than us.  
It is all about knowing and in Whom to put your trust.  
The analysis' we receive and hear on a daily basis,  
Reports that there are more rather than less Covid-19 cases.  
We all want to attend gatherings and outings to have fun.  
Sometimes it is much easier said than it is done.  
You have to take steps back and wonder if you are doing the right thing.  
There are repercussions that attending a gathering could possibly bring.  
Everyone doesn't fear or feel that they are in danger when among a crowd.  
It is necessary to be coronavirus smart for every man, woman, and child.  
This means wearing a mask, a shield, and gloves if you please.  
Social distancing from others of at least 6 feet is key and should be.  
If we can't keep washing our hands, use an antibacterial spray.  
These are the ways to keep us safe and somewhat secure everyday.  
As a stated rule, outdoor is considered better than indoor to be spaced apart.  
Here is where you must be wise, and make your decision from the start.  
For right now, this is the new norm, and all of us should be smart and wise.  
These are rules that everyone of us should follow and comply.  
Doing the RIGHT things will help provide the safety of all of us.  
Since we are coronavirus smart and wise, we won't make hasty decisions on  
the impulse!

Submitted by Mae F. Williams



## Blessings and Birthday Wishes To:

### October 2020

Sis. Alma Baker  
Miss Brac'lyn Barnes  
Miss Rickia Briggs  
Sis. Donna Bright  
Rickyah Brooks  
Miss Kirsten Cole  
Miss Dontia Cummings  
Trustee Gwen Franklin  
Sis. Lorraine Hale  
Sis. Audrey Highsmith  
Sis. Leslie Hyman  
Bro. James Johnson  
Bro. Phillip Johnson  
Sis. Zenobia McLaughlin  
Sis. LaNecia Owens  
Sis. Aleea Powell  
Bro. Jonathan Powell  
Sis. Esther Steptoe  
Sis. Brenda Taylor  
Sis. Jackie Ward

### November 2020

**Special Honorees: Min. Debbie Ervin  
Dea. Walter Adams**

Sis. Alexis Banks  
Trustee Rudolph Cole  
Sis. Deborah Cooper

### November 2020 (continued)

Sis. Shirl Farrare  
Joseph Foote  
Sis. Marquette Heaggins  
Bro. Precious Hale, Jr.  
Sis. Betty Jackson  
Sis. Sharon Johnson  
Trustee Steven Jones  
Miss C'ynai Moore  
Bro. Keith Owens, Jr.  
Sis. Megan Roundtree  
Bro. Quennell Sowers  
Sis. Ella Smith  
Master Javier Troy  
Master Journi Troy

### December 2020

**Special Honorees: Pastor Tucker  
Min. Harvey Moore  
Dea. James Bostick  
Dea. Keith Owens, Sr.**

Bro. Charles 'Petey' Bright  
Sis. Kim Carter  
Sis. Pamela Chapman  
Sis. Barbara Cole  
Jasmine Flanigan  
Miss Kayla Davis

### December 2020 (continued)

Bro. Lewis Ervin, Jr.  
Sis. Kayla Johnson  
Sis. Monique Malone  
Bro. Darrell McCoy  
Bro. Tyrone Moore  
Sis. Kimberly Randall  
Sis. Patricia Rhinehart  
Sis. Remira Robinson  
Sis. Vera Robinson

**Member and visitor birthday honorees - be sure to get your complimentary sundae on "Birthday Sundae Sunday" the last Sunday of your birthday month! Ice cream sundaes will be available to the congregation-at-large for only \$1.00 (while supplies last)**

**If you don't see your birthday, please notify Sis. Michelle Bright or e-mail newsletter@myfccbc.org so we can keep our records up-to-date. Thank you.**



## Welcome!

Welcome Our Fifth Generation



**Deon Jamal Pettaway**  
Born July 30, 2020 7lbs 5ozs.  
Great great grandson of Mother Lillie Mae Campbell  
Great grandson of Delores (Sue) Mason  
Grandson of Shanai Mason  
Son of Gerald Pettaway III



## Wedding Anniversary Wishes

### September (inadvertently omitted)

12th - Bro. Robert & Sis. Betty Jackson, 50 years

### October

9th - Bro. Precious & Sis. Lorraine Hale, 9 yrs  
12th - Bro. Ruppert & Sis. Joyce Jackson, 21 years  
21st - Rev. Alphonso & Lady Bridgett Tucker, 20 yrs

### December

18th - Bro. Theodore & Sis. Delores Hines, 23 years  
23rd - Dea. James & Deaconess Ada Bostick, 53 yrs.  
31st - Trus. Everett & Yolanda Cash, 32 years

## Wedding Anniversary Wishes (con't)



*So that we might acknowledge your anniversary, please notify Trustee Marilyn Dorsey or email newsletter@myfccbc.org.*

Bro. and Sis. Jackson celebrated 50 years! Congratulations!!

## Regularly Scheduled Ministries

## Our Known Sick & Shut-In

Sunday School	9:15 a.m.	Sundays
New Members Ministry	9:30 a.m.	1st & 2nd Sundays
Mid-Day Bible Study	1:00 p.m.	Tuesdays
Prayer Service	6:00 –6:45 p.m.	First Wednesday each month
Bible Study	7:00 p.m.	Wednesdays
Baptismal Service	9:30 a.m.	Third Sunday
Humphrey Choral Ensemble, Male Chorus, Unified Voices, and Voices of Praise Rehearsals	7:00 p.m.	Refer to monthly schedule

Dea. Walter Adams (Home)  
Sis. Pam Chapman (Home)  
Sis. Nancy Pope (Home)  
Trus. John Spencer (Home)  
Bro. Calvin Taylor (Future Care,  
12020 Reisterstown Rd., 21136)

## Church Calendar

### October 2020

4 Pastoral Anniversary Celebration	During a.m. service
18 Baptism (if candidates)	9:30 a.m.
26 Men's Fellowship meeting	6:00 p.m.

### November 2020

1 Men's Day	During a.m. service
8 Usher's Anniversary	
15 Baptismal Service (if candidates)	9:30 a.m.
15 Unified Voices Anniversary	During a.m. service
23 Men's Fellowship meeting	6:00 p.m.
26 Thanksgiving Day Service	11:00 a.m. - noon

### December 2020

3 Quarterly Official Board meeting	7:00 p.m.
12 Annual Church meeting	10:00 a.m. - noon
13 Baptismal Service (if candidates)	9:30 a.m.
20 Annual Christmas program	9:30 a.m.
28 Men's Fellowship meeting	6:00 p.m.
31 Watch Night service	10:00 p.m. - midnight

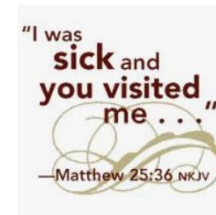
**Dates subject to change. Please check before leaving home.**

**Remember to set your clocks back an hour and change the batteries in your smoke detector on November 1st.**



**Remember the Sick and Shut-In everywhere in your prayers.**

**Any act of kindness can make a big difference in their lives.**



## Prayer List

Bro. John Arthur	Deaconess Ada Bostick
Sis. Donna Bright	Mother Lillie Mae Campbell
Sis. Dené Cole	Bro. Ronnie Cole
Trus. Rudolph Cole	Bro. Walter Jones, Jr.
Sis. La-Kia Kommeren	Sis. Flore Mincey
Sis. Annie Norris	Sis. Rosetta Quarles
Sis. Karen Cole Sanders	Sis. Mae Williams

## In God's House...

**As we praise and worship God in this House, we are reminded to adhere to the following:**

- The congregation shall stand when the choir enters the sanctuary
- The congregation shall stand during the reading of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- All pulpit ministers shall wear white or black robes on Communion Sunday (as appropriate)
- During Communion, no one shall exit or enter the sanctuary
- Blessings of infants are to take place on the first Sunday of the month
- Turn off cell phones/electronic devices

## Welcome to our New/Reinstated Members



## Information of Interest

### Remember to Register and Vote

On November 3rd, the United States will elect leaders at the local and national levels. Maryland early voting will span Oct 26th-Oct 29th. We encourage you to learn about the candidates and issues and to cast your vote.

**Maryland's voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020.** Because of changes to the election due to the pandemic, you may need more time to complete the voting process. To vote by mail, you will need to allow time for the Board of Elections to send your ballot so you can return it by Election Day. You can update your name/address, check your existing registration, find out where to vote, find your voting districts, see the status of your mail-in or provisional ballot, and view a sample ballot online at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>. For information on registering to vote or to request a ballot, visit [https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/application.html](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/application.html). More information is available on the State Board of Elections website at <https://www.elections.maryland.gov/>.



**Disasters Don't Wait.  
Make Your Plan Today.**

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to learn how to stay safe during the pandemic, how to create an emergency kit with all the right items, and how to make an emergency plan. Be sure to practice your emergency plan.

#BeReady

#DisastersDontWait

<https://www.facebook.com/readygov>

<https://twitter.com/readygov>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FEMA>

<https://www.instagram.com/fema>

First Christian Community Baptist Church  
4116 Groveland Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215