

The Herald

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
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In This Issue...

From the Pastor's Pen	2	Wellness News	6
Naming Honor	3	End of Year Giving	6
Church History Facts	3	Ministry Activities Pictures	7-12

THE GIFT

GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL

*"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

ROMANS 5:8



“Advent ”



The King is coming! Jesus' coming is the eager expectation and desire of His people. This is the hope of the Church which He purchased with His blood. It is our joy because He is our treasure and greatest good. This is the theme of “Advent,” formed from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” It's the traditional celebration of the advent of Jesus in humility and the anxious awaiting of His second advent in glory. Jesus Christ has come and will come again! This season is a time for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting.

Advent in the Beginning

Many of us grew up with the story of Advent beginning in a stable. But, the story begins in a Garden. When God created the world, all things were just

as they should be. Creation functioned in perfect order according to God's beautiful design. Man walked in unbroken relationship with God, fully known and unafraid. But in an instant, all that changed as Adam and Eve disobeyed God's good instruction. They took of the fruit and ate, and sin entered the world. Fellowship broken. Peace shattered. Creation thrown into chaos. Darkness, depravity, fear, and shame flooded the human heart, separating man from God. The situation was dire. But right then, amid the darkness, God spoke a word of hope: a Savior would come, born of a woman, to defeat the enemy and deliver God's people.

In Genesis 3:15 we see God's promise of redemption. From the moment of our need for rescue, God's promise was there. Before He addressed Adam and Eve, God turned to the serpent and announced that sin would not have the final word, and that the schemes of the enemy would not prevail. The reason we celebrate Advent is because the story of the Garden doesn't end with man's rebellion - but instead with his redemption.

~Dr. O. Wendell Davis

Let's Study Together

Sunday School Lessons for December 2023

“Profiles in Faith”

12.03.2023	Changing Identity	Ruth 1:6-18, 22
12.10.2023	Facing Life With Confidence	1 Samuel 17:31-37, 45, 48-50
12.17.2023	God Brings “Outsiders” In	Matthew 1:1-17
12.24.2023	Sharing Hope	Luke 1:36-45, 56
12.31.2023	Taking Risks and Reaping Rewards	Matthew 2:1-12

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

~Romans 15:4 KJV~

Game Clock Table Named in Honor of Late Member



The late Erskine Lorenza Valrie, a devoted 1969 alumnus of Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and staunch supporter of AAMU Athletics, has Game Clock Table in the AAMU Event Center named in his honor. The AAMU Board of Trustees approved the naming request from the naming committee at AAMU and President Daniel Wims to name the Game Clock Table.

For many years, Valrie provided dedicated and loyal service as well as in-kind and financial resources to support initiatives at AAMU especially in the Department of Athletics. He had a passion for athletics at AAMU and he volunteered his skills and talents to assist others.

At Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Valrie was an active and faithful member of the Trustee Ministry where he used his skills in finance for the continued growth of the church.

The effort to seek the naming opportunity for the late Erskine Lorenza Valrie was facilitated by Mr. Larry Hamilton, a long-time friend and co-game clock operator.

Church History Facts



Taking a Look Back at the Union Chapel M. B. Church Ladies' Softball Team. The Team was League and Tournament Champs for 1982. Team members pictured are: Kneeling – L-R: Susan Moore; Sharrolyn Conerly; M. Phillips; Sylvia Burton; Wanda Showers. Standing: - L-R: Deacon Richard Showers, Sr. – Team Manager; Coach - Mary Varnado; V. Phillips; A. Chatman; Kathleen Moore; Jenise Showers; Dorothy Fletcher; Tina Willis; Barbara Brewton; and Vivian Kelly. Way to Go Ladies and Team Manager!

If members of the team would like to donate their shirt to the Church Archives, contact the Church Historian.

We Celebrate You...



Congratulations to Sister Kannyetta Ammons, who was recently nominated for the 2023 Kingdom Image Award in the following categories: Song of the Year, "Have Your Way;" Best New Artist, Female Artist of the Year and Best Female Vocalist. The Kingdom Image Awards is the largest independent awards production celebrating the best in performing arts, literary, entrepreneurship, media, and entertainment.

The purpose of the Kingdom Image Awards is to honor artists and promote unity in the Christian community. Kingdom Image Awards will assist in eliminating denominational barriers and reduce the misunderstandings created by Christian traditions. It is the mission of Kingdom Image Awards to recognize the work and musical contribution to those who have given to their local community. The Kingdom Image Awards provides a positive and national platform for artists and allows the opportunity for network, collaboration and support.

The Kingdom Image Awards is an annual event that brings artists together through a variety of creative and elegant events. The Kingdom Image Awards also advances the artists by providing resources and forums for personal and career development. Through events and collaborative programming, the Kingdom Image Awards successfully bonds and breaks civic and religious barriers. The Kingdom Image Awards positively reflects persons and programming of how Kingdom events should appear with excellence. In everything we do, we reflect the Kingdom of God.



tion to the Drake State community.

With a distinguished career spanning twenty-six years, Chief Swain's background showcases his expertise in law enforcement in a college campus setting. He previously served as Sergeant and Huntsville Site Supervisor for the Calhoun Community College police department.

"I am delighted and honored to serve as the Chief of Police of Drake State Community and Technical College," said Swain. "My focus is to provide a safe environment to all members of the Drake State Community. In my efforts, I pledge to support the mission and vision of Drake State. I also look forward to connecting with my fellow law enforcement on the local, state, and federal level as we work diligently to make a safer community."

Chief Swain is a graduate of the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC) academy. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, Public Administration, and Government from Athens State University. His dedication to safety in educational environments is evident through his master's level studies in Homeland Security and Emergency Management at Purdue University Global and Emergency Management and Leadership at Grand Canyon University.

We Celebrate You...(continued)



Congratulations to Coach Anthony Jones, who was recently inducted into the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) Athletic Hall of Fame.

Jones is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and graduated from Wichita State University. He played professionally with the Washington Redskins, and the San Diego Chargers. While playing with the Redskins, he was a member of the 1987 Super Bowl Championship team.

Coach Anthony Jones arrived at AAMU in February of 2002. Once there, he started to put together a winning coaching staff and team. In his inaugural year he led the team to the Eastern Southwest Athletic Conference (SWAC) championship with wins at the Magic City Classic and homecoming. In 2002, Jones was a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. During his career at AAMU he led the Bulldogs to the championship games in 2002, 2005, and 2006 (SWAC Champions) first in school history, 2009 and 2011. During his tenure Jones coached 82 all-conference players, in which several went to play professional football. He led AAMU to eight (8) Magic

City Classic wins in 12 years. AAMU was the first visiting team to win the John Merritt Classic at Tennessee State University. Jones was part of the group that helped to bring the Louis Crews Classic to the Hill and won the inaugural game.

In December 2021, Jones retired from coaching but still lives in the Huntsville area with his wife Valerie and son Anthony.



Congratulations to Caleb Williams, who recently participated in the 38th Beautillion Ball, sponsored by the Fun-Set Social and Charity Club.

Caleb, the son of Masao and Angela Williams, was the recipient of the Beulah Ballard Toney Community Service Scholarship awarded by the organization.

Caleb, a senior at Madison Academy, is a member of the varsity football team (currently undefeated) and the 2023 state champion track and field team.

Caleb recently obtained the rank of Eagle Scout, Troop 156; additionally he is a member of the Audio/Video Ministry.

Wellness News



To Eat Better, Relax. As your Serenity Rises, your Cravings will Fall. Does it ever feel like there's a little creature on your shoulder, steering you toward sweets and other nutrient-bankrupt snacks? Food cravings can hijack your better judgment. Instead of doubling down on willpower, which usually tends to backfire, try making stress management as routine as brushing your teeth. While severe, acute stress can cause you to lose your appetite, the day-in-and-out variety of low-grade stress can do the opposite. Chronic stress amps up levels of a hormone called cortisol, which supercharges your appetite for sugar, other stripped carbohydrates, and fats! Research suggests that the practice of relaxation-based strategies, including mindfulness meditation, can reduce emotional eating. Incorporate a practice that works for you, whether that's a sitting meditation, yoga, tai chi, prayer or breathing exercises. And keep in mind that many packaged desserts and

snacks are engineered to be irresistible (those food scientists know exactly what they're doing!). In your cupboards and fridge, replace packaged goods with vegetables (especially fresh or frozen), fruit (especially fresh or dried), legumes, nuts & seeds, whole grains, fish and other nourishing whole foods. Besides that they are brimming with nutrients, whole foods help to balance your blood sugar, which in turn helps to reduce cravings.

~Cleveland Wellness Clinic

End of the Year Giving

"And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

~Acts 20:35~

As you prepare for your end-of-year giving, please prayerfully consider making a gift to Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc. (UCCAF). There are endless worthy causes in our community, nation, and world that can only thrive with generosity, such as yours.

Partnering with UCCAF enables us to enhance the academic and non-academic programs and provide scholarships to academically talented and disadvantaged students to attend UCCA. The generous contributions from our partners enabled us to update technology in the classroom for elementary and middle school students, as well as to supplement other program initiatives at UCCA.

We recognize that you have a choice in where you give, and your investment in UCCAF will make a difference. As this year comes to a close, please consider a year-end gift to Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc. We are counting on you. All contributions received by mail must be postmarked by December 31, 2023 for full 2023 tax credits.

Ministry Activities

Veterans Ministry Float Assembly:



Ministry Activities

Veterans Day Parade:



Veterans Day Parade, continued:



Pastor's Birthday Celebration:





Thanksgiving Day Worship Service with Pastor Eric E. Dickey (First Missionary Baptist Church, Biloxi, MS):

