

New Era Hot Topics

New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

“Equipping and Empowering Churches”

Volume 7



“Developing What We Now Possess and Blooming Where God has Planted Us”

Numbers 13:17a; Numbers 13:30

Bishop Dr. Rosa L. Williams
Convention President

Rev. Stanley A. Smith
First Vice President

Rev. Karen Kelley
Second Vice President

Rev. Dr. Antonio Proctor, Sr.
Third Vice President



From the Desk of the President...

Bless the Lord, New Era!

We recently celebrated the eternal victory that was won for all mankind on Calvary. New Era, I am thankful that the celebration and the winning for eternal life took place on Calvary is still being celebrated today. Yes! Let God arise and let us give Him all the Glory, all the Honor and all the Praise.

Let the Joy of the Lord continue to be your strength and hold on to the Victory that He won for us. Prayer is the foundation that our Convention will go forward in the Resurrected Christ.

We will bloom in His will through Christ Jesus. Let us support whole heartedly all of the upcoming events for the year. Our Adjourned Session was blessed and we are praying for victory with the Center Night Celebration and the Youth and Young Adult Conference (TBA).

Where there is unity, there is strength. Let's keep the Prayer wheel turning!

**From my heart to yours,
Gripped in His Grace**

Bishop Rosa L. Williams
President



NEW ERA'S 63RD ADJOURNED SESSION

The Adjourned Session was held March 18-20, 2024 at The St. James Baptist Church in Forsyth, GA where Rev. Dr. Antonio Proctor, Sr. is the Pastor. We began with the Welcome Service which had gracious music, uplifting songs, special greetings and Youth and Young Adult recitations.

Over the next two days, our Convention-In-Training brought us information on “Mental Health: Treatment Options & Resources” presented by Sister Veronica Wiggins, RN; Bishop Christopher A. Johnson presented “Rethink the Church”; Bishop Micheal A. Strickland presented “The Gathering” and “Youth and Our Future” was presented by Bishop Marshall Mabry, III.

Our Convention-In-Worship included some Powerhouse Pastors: Rev. Dr. Addison L. Canidy of Mount Zion Second Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. Paul M. Harvey of First Comfort Morning Star Baptist Church; and Rev. Dr. Wilford K. Rice, Jr. of Beluah Baptist Church. All three were on FIRE, but you had to be there to experience it.

This Adjourned Session gave us the opportunities to “Develop What We Now Have and Bloom Where God Has Planted Us” as this is our theme guided by our Convention President, Bishop Rosa L. Williams.

The New Era's 62nd Adjourned Session convened with The St. James Baptist Church March 18-20, 2024. We began planning for our Convention's arrival and Adjourned Session business with much prayer for God's guidance. As we planned, we reached out to our neighbor Church not only to assist us with the use of their facilities, but to join us and experience our excellent programming. We also asked our neighboring pastors to participate in the opening night program. I am thankful for the Youth of our church, for their offerings of recitations of the Cross and the Crucifixion.

I also want to say 'thank you' to my Pastor, Reverend Dr. Antonio Proctor, Sr., our youth Minister Keith Perkins, and a very special thanks to our Convention President, Bishop Rosa L. Williams and her staff for your help and participation. I especially thank God for all He has done this week.

Anytime you wish to return to St. James you will be welcomed and I am sending a shout out to New Era for such a wonderful time sharing with our brothers and sisters in Christ blooming where God has planted us.

Blessings to each of you and on this great Convention,
Sister Chris Glover

Prayers and Blessings,
Minister Dyssie High



SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH

Diane E. Dunston, M.D.

March 11, 2024



Dementia is a common disorder which affects almost every household and is often misunderstood. Dementia is the general term for a group of brain disorders that cause memory problems and make it hard to think clearly. The symptoms of dementia usually start off very mild and over time progress. Symptoms can include: forgetfulness, acting confused, trouble with speech and writing, trouble concentrating, problems with tasks such as paying bills, getting lost in familiar places. As dementia gets worse, people may have episodes of anger, see things that aren't there, believe things that aren't true, be unable to eat, bathe, dress or do other everyday tasks, lose bladder and bowel control.

There are different kinds of dementia. The most common kinds of dementia include: Alzheimer disease, Vascular dementia, and Parkinson disease dementia. Alzheimer disease is the most common cause of dementia. Alzheimer disease is a disorder in which brain cells slowly die over time. Vascular dementia happens when parts of the brain do not get enough blood. This form of dementia is common among people who have had strokes. Parkinson disease is a brain disorder that affects movement. It causes trembling, stiffness, and slowness. As Parkinson disease gets worse, some people develop dementia. Dementia can also occur if a person's brain has been damaged, such as having many head injuries.

See a doctor if you think you or someone close to you is showing signs of dementia. There are times when memory loss and confusion are caused by medical problems other than dementia that can be treated. An example of treatable causes of confusion can occur in people with diabetes, when their blood sugar is not well controlled. The healthcare provider will decide which tests are necessary to diagnosis the cause of memory loss and confusion. Tests that are most useful in the diagnosis of dementia are the ones that look at how certain questions are answered, and certain tasks executed.

Treatment of dementia depends on the kind of dementia diagnosed. There are medicines that may help in the treatment of Alzheimer disease. In vascular dementia the focus is to keep blood pressure and cholesterol as close to normal as possible. There are no good treatments for most types of dementia. Depression or anxiety associated with dementia can be treated.

A person with dementia may not be aware of how much they are affected by the condition. Often tasks such as driving and cooking will no longer be safe to do. People with dementia often fall and hurt themselves. It is important to reduce the risk of falls by keeping walkways well lit, securing loose rugs and making sure the person with dementia wears sturdy and comfortable shoes.

There are no proven ways to prevent dementia. However, there are some things that help keep the brain healthy. Keys to maintaining a healthy brain include healthy eating, physical activity, and social interaction.

New Era Hot Topics

New Era and Our Authors

By Sister Chris Glover

I didn't know whether you knew this or not, but our Convention has a number of authors giving us spiritual, emotional, inspirational and social tips and tools to help us on our life's journey.

During the 2023 Annual Session, Reverend Anthony A. W. Motley presented us with his book, "The Queen Takes A Stand", embracing God's vision for women's equality, challenging patriarchal dominance in religion and society. Being a past New Era Missionary Baptist Convention President, Reverend Motley brings to this book an enormous amount of spiritual, economic, and social conditions through God's word; Deason Willie A. Sands, DDiv, our current Treasurer of the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention, introduced his book, "Witnessing For The Ages" focusing on the traditional church as he explores the generational communication breakdowns; Sister Alice H. Johnson, author of "A Dove in the Golden Light", poetry with inspiration, love, prayers and wisdom. This is a collection of intimately poured out emotions in poems to share with God's people and the world. I do believe to have these three authors at our Convention all presenting their books is a historical moment.

The 2024 Adjourned Session brought additional authors, Bishop Marshall "Tripp" Mabry, III, "Mr. Tripp's Classroom: I'm not Weird, I have Autism", a children's book beautifully illustrated to help them understand what autism is and the many ways it may affect us; Bishop Michael A. Strickland, Senior Pastor, Victory Tabernacle Church International, life coach, vocalist, empowerment specialist shares his book, "A Guide To Effective Worship Leading", which provides practical tools that worship leaders, teams and ministers can use as they lead and usher congregations into the presence of God. All of these authors are like us and want to empower and enlighten us and everyone on with the power of knowledge and wisdom. Don't forget to pick up a book, reading is good for all!

New Era Women's Department "Sowing Spiritual Seeds of Love"

Scripture: Mark 4:8

Serving in Unity

The Women's Department of New Era is dedicated to sowing spiritual seeds of love, as inspired by the scripture Mark 4:8. We believe in serving in unity, coming together as sisters to fulfill our calling and glorify God. We express our gratitude to Reverend Dr. Antonio Proctor and the St. James Missionary Baptist Church for hosting our 63rd Adjourned Session, which was a time of planning and fellowship that exceeded our expectations.

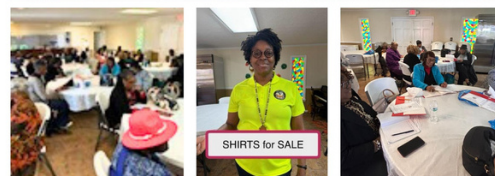
In a world that often feels chaotic, we find solace and hope in the promises of our God. As we navigate through this present age, let us remember the powerful words of Charles Wesley's hymn, "A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify...to serve the present age, my calling to fulfill. Oh, may it all my pow'r engage to do my Master's will." These words remind us of our purpose and the importance of using our gifts to serve others.

Beloved sisters, let us embrace unity as we serve this present age. Our unity not only strengthens our bond as sisters but also serves as a powerful witness to the world, showcasing the love and grace of God. It is through unity that we can truly make a difference and fulfill our calling to serve.

As we move forward, let us actively seek opportunities to utilize our spiritual gift of service.

One way to deepen our understanding and grow in our service is by reading the book "Seasons of a Woman's Life" by Lois Evans. This insightful book, available on Amazon for \$10.99, offers valuable guidance and inspiration as we navigate the different seasons of our lives. Let us invest in our spiritual growth and continue to sow seeds of love through our service to others.

Check out the Highlights from our Women's Department March 2024!



NEW ERA SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications.

Attention New Era Churches **Deadline**
May 1, 2024

We are excited to announce the 2024 New Era Scholarship opportunity for graduating seniors. The application packet is located under The New Era Baptist Convention of Georgia Website at www.neweraconvention.org

Be sure to share this information with your Church congregations. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

THE 7 LAST SAYINGS

MARCH 29th | 7 pm
1008 May Street, Savannah GA 31415
Collaboratively Organized by:

Min. Shajee Loadholt, Guest Preacher | Min. David Shaw, Guest Preacher

Pastor Terman Woods | Pastor Christopher Dittman | Reverend Barbara Simmons | Pastor Ricardo Manuel | Pastor Samuel Williams | Pastor Chauncey Bligg

Speakers:
Reverend Barbara Simmons (International Helping Hands Outreach Ministries)
Elder Samuel Treece (Land Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church)
Reverend Ansley Harrison (Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church)
Reverend Myra Mitchell (First Bryan Missionary Baptist Church)
Elder Alice Pynn (Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church)

PASTOR PAUL E. SMITH, M. DIV.
BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

New Era Hot Topics

New Era Ministers' Spouses Department learned "The Charge Has not Changed!" By Lady Portia Lacy

"Has the CHARGE of the First Lady/Spouse changed or not in our current culture?" This question was examined, and discussed in the Ministers' Spouses Department at the March 2024 Adjourned Session of the New Era Baptist State Convention of Georgia, Inc. at the St. James Baptist Church – Forsyth, Georgia.

Spouses from the following churches were present: Mt. Olive Baptist Church – Stockbridge, GA., First Baptist Church Gresham Road – Atlanta, GA, 2nd African Baptist Church – Savannah, GA., Mount Zion Baptist Church – Griffin, GA., Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church – Hapeville, GA., and Christian for Change Baptist Church – Riverdale, GA.

New Era's own, The Rev. Dr. Elaine Gattis, wife of the Rev. Dr. Terrance Gattis of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church – Stockbridge, GA was group leader and shared information with the gathering. Leading us in a very interactive group dialogue, Dr. Elaine Gattis is the Executive Pastor of The Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Dr. Gattis is also a seminary professor, an author, and a mother. Attendees shared their "calling in ministry" with their spouses which led to a very enlightening discussion.

Dr. Gattis along with participants shared the following as we tackled the topic, "Has the CHARGE for ministers' spouses changed?"

- We have to be authentically ourselves. "...we are fearfully and wonderfully made:....." Psalm 139:14
- Ministers spouses have many roles: Ex, parents, CEO, wives/husbands, Pastors, Spiritual leaders, ministry leaders, executives, Co-Pastors – Gattis
- "There is no mandate in the Bible for a Pastor's Spouse" - Gattis
- "God has a specific and unique calling on our life" – Gattis
- Understand that Pastor's spouses are "Help-mates" – Genesis 2:18 - Gattis
- Spouses must be noble/virtuous - Proverbs 31 – Gattis
- Spouses should be established in Christ – Prov. 31:30 - Gattis
- Spouses are mentors – Titus 2:3-5 - Gattis
- Pastor's spouses are called to ministry as are all disciples of Christ – Matthew 28:16-20 - Gattis
- Pastor's spouses are call to the ministry – Ephesians 4:11-12 – Gattis
- The Charge is Clear. It has not changed. - 2 Peter 1:10-11 – Gattis



Our Convention President, Bishop Rosa L. Williams imparted that ministers' spouses must be like Ruth.

"Entreat me not to leave thee....where you go, I will go....." Ruth 1:16

The Ministers' Spouses Department initiative for this annual session was to collect personal hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and personal body wipes that were delivered to the Monroe County School System for middle-aged school females. A basket filled with these items were collected and Dr. Jessica Whatley Evans, Family Services Coordinator, McKinney Vento Liaison and Foster Care POC for the Monroe County School System, received the items for distribution.

Black Baptists meet in historic convening to address critical issues facing our communities



By Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland
BJC Board Member

For only the second time in history, the four Black Baptist Conventions - National Baptist Convention, USA; Progressive National Baptist Convention; National Baptist Convention of America; National Missionary Baptist Convention - held in Memphis, TN on January 22-25, 2024. Thousands of clergy and lay leaders were in attendance for the National Baptist Joint Board Session under the theme "We Are Better Together" with Ecclesiastes 4:1-9 as the scripture reference.

In an effort to galvanize around an agenda and strategize about ways to work together collaboratively in this critically important year, the joint meeting included several symposia on topics crucial to the black community including voting, mental health, reparations and others.

The historic convening ended with the Presidents of the four conventions committing to work together cooperatively and strategically increase their collective efforts to address critical issues facing the Black community.



New Era Hot Topics

News from Our Regions

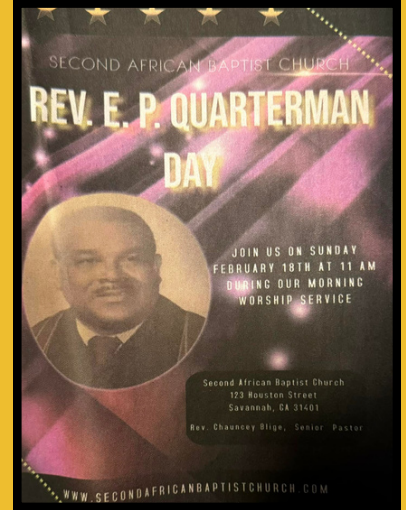
Be sure to share news and events from your region with us!



Bethlehem Baptist Church
Celebrated 165 Years of
Christian Ministry in
February

SOUTHERN REGION

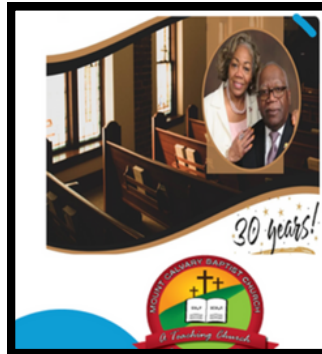
**HISTORIC SECOND AFRICAN CHURCH
CELEBRATED REV. QUARTERMAN DAY
(A FOUNDING MINISTER OF NEW ERA)
WITH THE DEDICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL IN HIS HONOR.**



The missionary society of Mount Zion Second Baptist Church had the opportunity to prepare dinner March 13th and 14th 2024 for students from Iowa state college. A non-profit student volunteer organization "Pay it Forward" where they volunteered community service in Piedmont Park. A total of 45 students received hot meals both nights. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of "God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

The New Era Family offers our well-wishes to Former President, Dr. Douglas E. Stowers as he retires as Senior Pastor of The Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Atlanta Georgia after 30 years of faithful service to the people of God.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Rev. Dr. Douglas Stowers & Lady Wanda Stowers Retirement Luncheon

- Atlanta Marriott Gateway Hotel
- April 13, 2024 @ 1:00PM
- Tickets: \$65/Adult, \$25 Ages 6-10, Free Ages 5 years & under
- Gift Box will be available for Love Gifts
- See Sis. Betty Chandler for additional information.
- 404-696-1039
- Deadline for tickets: April 1, 2024

NORTHERN REGION

Contact INFORMATION

New Era Hot Topics

Contact INFORMATION

This will be a quarterly newsletter that will be posted on New Era Website. <http://www.neweraconvention.org/> If you have an article, please email it to neweranews01@gmail.com, no later than **JUNE 1st** please keep in mind that we have limited space. NO copies will be sent by USPS! The staff welcome all comments as well.

Newsletter email Address: neweranews01@gmail.com

Staff:

Sister Sally Fuller – sallyfuller@att.net

Sister Christellia Glover – christellia@bellsouth.net

Sister Selethia Smith – sdawn3296@gmail.com

Sister Carolyn Blackshear – cmultiline@gmail.com

Sister Letha Moore – letmoo58@gmail.com, Sister Brenda Cherry – bvc2672@att.net

Irene Williams – irenewilliams653@gmail.com



By texting your name and email address to