



SANKOFA



A RETURN TO THE PAST

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Riverview Baptist Church is to become a loving, evangelistic church that seeks to glorify God through worship, ministry, Christian education, missions, fellowship, and stewardship.

MERRY XMAS – HAPPY NEW YEAR

Xmas season is here and every year we see signs and bumper stickers which say, “Put Christ back in Christmas.” **The “X” in “Xmas” does not take Christ out of Christmas.**

The idea of “X” as an abbreviation for the name of Christ came into use in our culture with no intent of any disrespect for Jesus. There is a long and sacred history of the use of X to symbolize the name of Christ.

Xmas is actually a religious version of “Christmas.” The practice of using the symbol “X” in place of the name of Christ has been going on among religious scholars for at least 1,000 years. First, we must understand – it is not the English letter X that is put into Christmas, but the first letter of the Greek name for Christ; **Christos** is translated into our alphabet as an X. That X has come through church history to be a shorthand symbol for the name of Christ. In the Greek language and alphabet, the letter that looks like an X is the Greek letter Chi (pronounced ‘kye’ – it rhymes with ‘eye’) which is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, Christos.

Therefore, Xmas can also mean Christmas, and should be pronounced ‘Christmas’ rather than ‘ex-mas’! Some people do not think it is correct to write Christmas as ‘Xmas’ as they believe it takes the ‘Christ’ (Jesus) out of Christmas. Actually, Christmas comes from Christ-Mass, the church service that celebrated the birth of Jesus.

To our church family: **May your Xmas be merry and bright!!!**



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It is the season when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is more than giving and receiving gifts. It is more than Christmas trees and glowing lights. It is more than parades and other secular celebrations. It is about the great love God showed in sending Jesus as our Savior and high priest. It is about the great joy Christ brought into the world. It is the confirmation of one being born to save us from our sins.

During this season of shopping, we should shop for peace and love to dwell in our hearts; God is Love! When we give and receive gifts, let us not forget the true meaning of this great celebration. Remember to keep love foremost in all we do; hate brings about discord.

This quarterly newsletter is a symbol of love from the ministries of our church. It keeps us informed of events involving our church family and the community. We thank our Media Ministry and Office Staff for their dedication in distributing this publication in a timely manner. It is my prayer you will have a blessed holiday season.

Sincerely,



Pastor Hewlett



THE MEANING OF SANKOFA

Sankofa means "go back to the past in order to build for the future," or we should not forget our past when moving ahead. We should learn from the past and move forward into the future. Sankofa is a realization of self and spirit. It represents the concepts of self-identity,

redefinition and vision. It symbolizes an understanding of one's destiny and collective identity of the larger cultural group.

Sankofa is symbolic of the spiritual mind-set and cultural awakening African people were experiencing in the decades after independence on the African continent.

The Sankofa bird is used to represent Sankofa. The symbol is of a bird turning its head backward and its long beak is turned in the direction of its tail. - Reprinted from the Adinkra Dictionary by Bruce Willis

DEACON MINISTRY

Deacon Jacqueline Silver, Chair
Deacon Wayne Thomas, Vice Chair

The Hope of Christmas

Christmas is the season of hope. Children, teens and even grown-ups desire to receive a gift of some kind during the holidays. Oh, how we wish, dream, anticipate, and hope to receive a new toy, trinket, electronic device, new item of clothing or some other special present.

The true hope of Christmas is much greater than our holiday wants and wishes; because Jesus is our hope. We celebrate Jesus' entrance into the world, as a baby, who was given the charge of rescuing us from the power of sin. When Jesus reached manhood, He gave his life as payment for the redemption of sins so we might live. As Christians, we believe Jesus died by crucifixion, was buried, raised from the dead, and continues to live today giving us hope of a future. We can look forward to the future because the baby in the manger was and is Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, our hope and builder of our heavenly home.

We can enjoy the anticipation of receiving a special Christmas gift(s), but let us also remember the reason for the season, and share gifts with those in need. By sharing, we can help lift spirits, giving people reasons to dream, to believe, be hopeful, and joyful of the future that God has in store for them; because... **Jesus is our hope!**



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

ADVENT, which comes from the Latin word for “arrival” or “coming,” is a period of preparation for the birth of our Lord.

ADVENT begins on the Sunday nearest to the 30th of November and lasts until midnight on **Christmas Eve**. **Advent Sunday** is the first of four Sundays before the 25th of December. The first Sunday for Advent for 2017 was December 3.

It is a time of joyous anticipation. The liturgical color is purple, a sign of atonement. It is a time to let the light of the world shine in. It is a time of hope and expectation as we watch the Christmas story unfold.

The **Advent** wreath and candles have special meanings. The wreath, made of evergreens, is a symbol of life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The four candles represent the four weeks of **Advent**. The purple candles represent **hope**, **peace**, and **love**. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday and represents **joy**; because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of **Advent**, their preparation is half over and they are close to **Christmas**. The fifth candle, located in the center of the wreath, is white and represents the birth of Christ. It is usually lit on **Christmas Day**. The flame of this candle reminds us He is the light of the world and if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.



THE MEANING OF LITURGICAL COLORS

Liturgical is a word derived from “liturgy” meaning a form of public worship. Colors are used to decorate the space of worship according to the season. The church year consists of six seasons: **Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost**.

These seasons follow the life of Jesus beginning with the preparation of His birth. The colors for each season are as follows: **Advent** – purple, as the royal color of the coming Christ; **Christmas** – white, a reference to the purity of the newborn King; **Epiphany** – white, same as Christmas; **Lent** – purple, as the bleak color of repentance and solemnity; **Easter** – white, as the color of joy in the Resurrection; and **Pentecost** – red, as the color of fire to remember the tongues of fire that descended on the crowd in Jerusalem.

There are other colors after Pentecost. The color green is used to indicate the growth of faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. - Adapted

RIVERVIEW CELEBRATES ADVENT

The participants for Riverview’s 2017 Advent Ceremony Sundays were:

December 3

Kaila Lambert
Quentin Lambert

December 10

Ellen Meade-Gibbs
Esther Folly

December 17

Thomasa Grate
Jermasia Grate

December 24

Marisha McCollum
Michael Johnson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mary J. Jackson, Chair
Joan T. Taylor, Vice Chair

We look forward to this special holiday when we commemorate the coming of The Messiah. It is because of this miraculous birth the season of Peace, Joy, and Love is celebrated. The illumination of lights gives us a bright and happy feeling. It was the light of the Star in the East that led Wise Men to the place where our Lord and Savior was born. Jesus' birth is a loving gift from God.

During our celebration, let us always remember to pray for Peace, Joy, and Love as a means of promoting unity among humankind. This world is in dire need of unification. We know God can provide the atmosphere we need to work together for the good of our nation.

The Ministry of Christian Education will continue to teach the importance of what it means to be a follower of Christ. In the process of teaching, we will continue to learn together. Remember, **"A chain is only as strong as its weakest link."**



CHURCH SCHOOL

Deaconess Brenda J. Cheeks, Superintendent

The mission of the Church School Ministry is to teach God's word in a spiritual environment fostering the development of Christ-like thinkers and doers.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as superintendent. We are also grateful to Deaconess Threnodiez Baugh, Deacon Pamela Bridgeforth, Audrey Anderson, Ashley Woodson, and Gracie Dolly who so graciously accepted to be available each Sunday for our children. We need more children.

Our adult classes are held every Sunday, as usual. We continue to celebrate the Christmas season with our annual tree. This year, our tree was beautifully decorated by our Children's/Youth Ministry – C.O.P.S. (Children of a Powerful Savior). They were supervised by Rev. Creasy Arceneaux and Rev. Cherise Copeland. The tree was lit on the first Sunday of Advent.

The Annual Christmas Program was held Sunday, December 17, at 9:30 a.m. Holiday cheer was exhibited with presentations and sharing of gifts.

Keep our church school in prayer!



EVANGELISM

Barbara Haynes, Co-Chair
Rev. Dr. Audrey Fleming-Hawkins, Co-Chair

There Would Be No Christmas

There would be no CHRISTmas,
Without God's mercy and His love;
There would be no Nativity,
Without this Gift from above.

There would be no hope,
Without the Virgin's birth;
There would be no joy,
For a new heaven and earth.

There would be no Holy Night,
Without the Good News;
There would be no adoring Him,
Without the King of the Jews.

There would be no peace,
Without the Prince dying for it;
There would be no rebirth,
Without the Holy Spirit.

There would be no CHRISTmas,
Without Calvary's cross . . .
For Jesus was born to save
The sinner and the lost!

~Deborah Ann~

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Helen Gary, Chair

The word “steward” as used in the Bible, comes from two Greek words that, together, mean “house-manager.” In simple terms, it means that God made you the manager of the goods and abilities He has placed into your hands. (Adapted from Pathways to Spiritual Understanding)

The aim of this ministry is to teach the Biblical understanding of what it means to be a true steward and how we can relate this knowledge to the present day responsibility of giving in support of God’s work. It is also our intent to create an awareness of God’s promises to those who are concerned about being good stewards.

Stewardship/Bible Sunday was observed on November 19, during morning worship service. The theme was “**Faithful Stewards: Managing God’s Resources.**” Rev. Braunda Ridley blessed us with an inspirational sermon, **Giving You The Best That I Got.** Her message was enlightening and well received. We are grateful to all who participated in helping to make this a memorable occasion.

STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE!

C.O.P.S./CHILDREN’S/YOUTH MINISTRY

Rev. Cherise Copeland, Co-Chair

Rev. Creasy Arceneaux, Co-Chair

Greetings from C.O.P.S. (Children Of A Powerful Savior)

The mission of the Children’s/Youth Ministry is to nurture youth, children, and young adults holistically, spiritually, and culturally, enabling them to discover and develop their faith, minds, bodies, and souls.

On October 21, our Youth Ministry enjoyed a day out at the Pumpkin Patch. The following Sunday they enjoyed, snacks, cupcakes, and bursting several piñatas! Everyone really enjoyed themselves!

On December 16, we sponsored a trip to **Christmas Town at Busch Gardens.** The youth and adults who attended enjoyed this festive-filled day of Christmas lights, holiday shows, hot chocolate, and rides! We heard someone say, “I really saw Santa Claus!”

ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. LaVerne Briggs, Co-Chair

Sheila Thomas, Co-Chair

The U in Jesus

Submitted by

Rev. Dr. Briggs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you’ll see it is true,
You can’t spell out JesUs and not include U.
You’re a really big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born, that’s why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died,
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn’t it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
And this world resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward
ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to
mention.

”Go into the world and tell them it’s true
That I love them all – Just like I love U.”

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don’t they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends not on what U will do,
He’d like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

~Author Unknown~



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LEADER DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

Deaconess Threnodiez Baugh, Chair

The mission of the Leader Development Ministry is to develop, coordinate, and sponsor effective programs for current and potential leaders.

The Leader Development Ministry successfully completed all of its objectives for this year.

We are currently planning special events for 2018 Black History Month. The theme will be "African Americans in Times of War."

Remember, "Leaders don't create followers, they create more leaders." — Tom Peters



MEDIA MINISTRY

Deacon William Jackson, Chair

Christmas Thoughts

Doing something for someone else is one of the ways we can demonstrate we are grateful to God for His many blessings. Even if this has been a difficult year for you and your family, helping others will help you. Your focus will move from your own circumstances to serving others. There are always people who can use a helping hand; enrich this holiday season by getting involved in helping others.

We thank all Media Ministry staff members for their hard work throughout the year.



OUR MISSIONS MINISTRY

Carolyn Washington, Chair
Joan T. Taylor, Vice Chair

The mission of the Missions Ministry is to exemplify and spread the Christian message of care, mercy, and love and to remain involved in educational opportunities for spiritual growth.

October and November were months for sharing and caring. The Maggie L. Walker Class of 1968 worshipped with us during Homecoming. The class treasurer, Lindsay Bryant, presented a \$100 donation to the Missionary Ministry. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the ministry worked with the church to celebrate "Pinktober." Everyone was asked to wear pink on the 5th Sunday to show unity and support. Kimberly Elliott, MBA (Susan G. Komen Educator and Volunteer Committee Member) spoke to the congregation about the risks of breast cancer among men and women. The Riverview Family donated \$346.75 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation to help in the fight against breast cancer.

In November, the Missionary and Food Bank Ministries prepared a Post-Thanksgiving meal (meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, string beans, roll, cake or pie) for our sick and shut-in members. Thanks to all who gave monetary donations totaling \$204. Those who were not able to receive a meal were given a card and a monetary donation. James Montague prepared the meal; Perida Giles donated the pies; Danita Johnson assisted with packing; and, our Deacon Ministry delivered the meals. We are sincerely grateful to all who helped with this project.

As we enter the Christmas season, let us remember "Jesus is the best gift of all."



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DISCIPLESHIP & FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Deacon Fennon Henderson, Chair
Rev. Dr. Audrey Fleming-Hawkins, Vice Chair

The mission of the Discipleship and Fellowship Ministry is to nurture and teach new disciples and the congregation in their faith journey, and to provide a welcoming environment to visitors.

The Discipleship and Fellowship Ministry welcomes Reverend Brenda Mines to the Riverview family. It is our prayer she will share her gifts while continuing to grow in Christ.

Unity Sunday will be observed January 21 during the morning worship service. The ministry members are excited as we plan for this event. We look forward to having a highly spirited service.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Discipleship and Fellowship Ministry, please contact Deacon Fennon Henderson or Rev. Dr. Audrey Fleming-Hawkins. We will be delighted to have you join us.

Looking upward and forward!



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Trustee Kirk Jones, Chair

Christmas Hymns and Social Justice

During Advent and Christmas, our churches seem to sing more heartily as hymns remind us of the promise and joy of the birth of Jesus. There is a wealth of wonderful texts and tunes for the season which bring "tidings of comfort and joy."

A number of our Christmas hymns also have messages of social justice and peace. We often overlook them in our comfortable celebration of Christmas. These hymns point to Jesus as a bringer of justice and peace, and they appeal to Christians to be agents of change for a world in need.

William Sears' Christmas text "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" was written in 1849 as a poem in the *Christian Register*. He wrote the poem specifically to call attention to issues of slavery and strife in the United States. The third stanza uses the image of "All ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low" for the slavery of his time. While Sears' hymn grew from a very different time, the messages of peace and justice are just as appropriate for 21st century Christians.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the text of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" as a poem for Sunday school children in Boston for Christmas Day in 1863. While the hymn speaks of a sense of despair because of war, the pealing bells ultimately remind us of the message that "God is not dead nor doth he sleep. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth good will to men." The hymn reminds us that God's ultimate purpose for the world is peace

These hymns, when used in the context of Advent and Christmas worship, can help our congregations focus on the needs of others as we worship the new-born Prince of Peace.

Richard Shadinge ~Adapted~

God, Grant Us Hope and Faith and Love

Submitted by
Deaconess Serena Archer

Hope for a world Grown cynically cold,
Hungry for power And greedy for gold...

Faith to believe, When within and without
There's a nameless fear In a world of doubt...

Love that is bigger Than race or creed,
To cover the world And fulfill each need...

God, grant these gifts To all troubled hearts
As the old year ends And a new year starts.

~Helen Steiner Rice~



**RIVERVIEW SENSATIONAL
SENIOR MINISTRY**

Stephanie Cason, Chair

The Mission of the Sensational Senior Ministry is to continue to develop members spiritually, mentally, socially and physically, which will enhance the overall quality of life.



On September 23, the Sensational Seniors acknowledged Trustee Minnie C. Carey for her 11 years of dedicated services to the Senior Ministry. She was very surprised and grateful for this recognition. Minnie gives all praises to God for His goodness and mercies.

Our Senior Ministry is on the move. We have four new members joining in January. On November 30, some of our members attended Virginia Union University's "Miracle on Lombardy Street" Christmas Concert. In December, members participated with and attended the Celebration Male Chorus' Concert. We also attended the Glen Allen Culture Arts Center's Illumination, "A Festival of Trees" exhibit and followed up with a birthday and holiday luncheon at Metro Dinner in Libby Place.

Upcoming events for the New Year will include workshops on Scamming the Senior Citizen, Health and Welfare for the Senior, as well as pertinent Tax Information. We will also enjoy chair exercises, line dancing, traveling, and much more.

Our motto: "Don't sit at home feeling lonesome and blue, come join us; we have something for you to do!"



PRAYER PARTNER MINISTRY

Deacon Ida B. McCollum, Chair
Rev. Dr. LaVerne J. Briggs, Vice Chair

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Matthew 21:22

RING OUT THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

Submitted by
Deacon McCollum

Ring out the message of Christmas,
Tell it to folks everywhere.
The marvelous message of Christmas,
God's wondrous love let us share.
Tell how He sent us a Baby,
Tell that He gave us His Son
Tell of the peace and the goodwill,
The gladness Jesus brought everyone.
Tell of His sweet precious Mother,
How she gave God all the praise,
She was so joyously happy,
Blessed, for all of her days.
Let us forever sing the story
Of glory so beautifully true,
Ring out the message of Christmas,
It all happened for me and for you.

~Celeste Nadine Gallucci~

Give glory and honor to God for Jesus. Pray daily for our church family, community, and world at large.

**Love and prayers for a blessed holiday
season!**



COUPLES MINISTRY

Rev. Stephen and Jeannie Hewlett, Co-chairs
Eugene and Sheila Thomas, Co-chairs

You are invited to attend our Valentine's Day Celebration, Saturday, February 10, 2018. This event will be held at the Ginter Park Women's Club, 3016 Seminary Avenue, from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The event will include a buffet dinner with music, photos, and lots of fun for all. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Should you need additional information, please contact a member of our ministry.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

AB GIRLS

Rev. Creasy Arceneaux, Co-Chair
Rev. Cherise Copeland, Co-Chair

The mission of the AB Girls is to grow in Christ, serve others in God's world, and share our gifts of time, money, talents, and prayers so the light of life may shine through us.

AB GIRLS (ages 7-17) strive to build relationships with other girls and adult women, people in their own communities, and around the world. Through this organization, girls and young women make new friends and become closer to the friends they already have. It is rewarding to meet with a group of girls to laugh, talk about problems, and explore new adventures together.

AB GIRLS support girls and young women as they grow in their relationship with Jesus, study the Bible for guidance, and give them a safe place to discuss their questions of faith. Through worship and service to others, girls and young women grow closer to God and see Jesus in the faces among them.

The AB GIRLS here at Riverview meet every 4th Saturday from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. We invite all girls who are interested to become a part of this ministry; please join us on January 27, 2018. We would love to see you there!!



FINANCE MINISTRY

Deacon William Jackson, Chair

The mission of the Finance Ministry is to establish and maintain an efficient financial system that improves resources, supports the church's mission and ministries, and models and teaches stewardship.

The Responsibilities of the Finance Ministry is to:

- coordinate the preparation and implementation of the annual budget;
- obtain estimates of financial needs for the coming year from the pastor, staff, and ministry leaders;
- receive collections of cash, checks, and other gifts;
- model and teach stewardship;
- determine the order of priorities in ministries for the next year; and
- make regular reports to the pastor and congregation regarding the church's financial status.

NOTE: Disciples are urged to fulfill their 2017 financial responsibilities. The Church Budget is dependent upon our dedication toward giving and tithing. We are appreciative to all who participated in Adopt-A-Pew. It signified results of a family working together. May God continue to bless us all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD BLESS



FOOD BANK & CLOTHES RACK

James Montague, Chair

The Vera T. Johnson Food Bank and Clothes Rack is opened each 3rd Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

After many years of dedicated service, James Montague is resigning as chair of the Vera T. Johnson Food Bank and Clothes Rack, effective January 1, 2018. James believes the time has come for new ideas and workers to bring them to fruition. Let us please continue to support this mission.

Presently, we are in need of canned goods, soups (canned, cup or oodles of noodles) and canned meats (tuna, spam, salmon, mackerel, corned beef hash, vienna sausages, potted meat, etc). Please take note of the expiration dates on foods being donated. Thank you again for sharing a portion of your good fortune.

“Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9. (ESV)

BUS MINISTRY

James Montague, Co-Chair
Deacon Fennon Henderson, Co-Chair

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

We thank all of our bus drivers for their dedication throughout the year. We salute Gary Clark, Sr., Larry Giles, Deacon Fennon Henderson, Danita Johnson, Deacon Cornell Roane, James Montague and Deacon Derick Vance for their unwavering service.

There is always room for more drivers to join this magnificent team. Share your gift by volunteering once a month to assist our congregation and help “ease the load” of our drivers. If you need a ride for church school or morning worship, please call the church office in advance (804-353-6135). The schedule will be prepared on Saturday. Thank you and God bless!

PERSONNEL MINISTRY

Bernadine Spencer, Chair

We have been blessed again to see the end of another year. The last quarter of 2017 has been a busy time but all is well. God does not ask us to solve our own problems, only to cooperate with Him in the process as he helps us through them.

In October, the 2017 Pastoral Evaluation was disseminated for congregational feedback. We had marked improvement in the number of respondents. The summary was discussed and reviewed with Pastor Hewlett. Copies are available for all interested persons in the church office.

All employee evaluations were completed, returned, and filed in November. On November 12, we observed Employee Appreciation Sunday. Taylor Randall was recognized for 5 years of outstanding service with the Pre-Destined Praise Team. Her dedication and efforts have enhanced our worship experience as well as provided a platform for our youth. We thank Taylor for a job well done. It is our hope the power and presence of God continues to protect and guide her.

We are actively seeking Music Worship Leaders to replace Sterling Hines, Director of Music. Our vacancies have been posted and advertised on our church’s website, Baptist General Convention website, and in the Free Press. Feel free to encourage all interested candidates to apply. The musical needs of Riverview will be met because the limitless power of God creates endless possibilities. As we prepare for the unknown of 2018, let us move forward with confidence knowing that grace paves our way.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Monique L. Logan

Dr. Monique L. Logan completed her doctoral studies at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Monique received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampton University. She received her Master of Interdisciplinary Studies and Master of Education degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Logan earned her Doctor of Education degree from the Rossier School of Education at USC. Her published dissertation researched the retention, persistence, and matriculation of provisionally admitted college students in academia. Monique is the daughter of Lawrence and Deacon Shirley Logan.

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

Congratulations to **James Davis and Marisha McCollum** who are Maggie L. Walker inductees into the 2017 Richmond Public Schools Hall of Fame. James was recognized for excelling in basketball and Marisha excelled in basketball and track. A reception was held on Saturday, October 21, at Fifth Baptist Church. It was well-attended and enjoyable.

Jordan Franisco received awards for Scholar Roll, perfect attendance, and good citizenship, at Linwood Holton Elementary School.

Victoieria Butler is a Scholar Roll student at John B. Cary Elementary School. She received awards for Citizenship and Perfect Attendance. Victoieria also attends Higher Achievement at Lucille Brown School.

Quentin Lambert is an honor student at Seven Hills School.

Kaila Lambert is an honor student at St. Gertrude's High School.

Valencia Clark received her Master of Arts Degree in Adult Education and Development from Strayer University on December 2.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

What Christmas Is Really About

Frantic shoppers crowd the stores,
Buying up bargains by the score.
Do they know the meaning of Christmas?
It's difficult to tell for sure.

Christmas isn't a race to see
How many gifts that you can buy.
It's not about cooking a ham,
Or about baking pumpkin pie.

It isn't about hanging lights,
Or visiting Santa at the mall.
No it really isn't about
Any of those things at all.

It's about the birth of Jesus,
And his true divinity.
It's about the birth of the Savior,
Who came to redeem humanity.

So stop worrying about those sales,
And getting caught up in distractions
Let's focus on what's important,
And be responsible for our actions.

Jesus is the reason for the
season we hold so dear.
So let's keep the focus on God
As we celebrate Christmas this year.

~Kelly Roper~



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Deaconess Julie Randall

Below is the letter **Deaconess Randall** received from the President of Strayer University:

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your outstanding academic achievement during the Summer Quarter 2017. Your scholastic performance placed you on the distinguished Honor Roll. This honor is limited to those eligible students who achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.5 to 3.74.

We understand the many challenges students face on their educational journeys. Therefore, we recognize that this high level of performance demanded your sacrifice, perseverance, and dedication. It demonstrates your high level of commitment and your ability to go "above and beyond" to achieve your educational goals. You should be very proud of your success.

You have clearly demonstrated your academic abilities; however, I would like to ask you to tackle an additional, and no less important, challenge. I urge you not only to continue to set your standards high while pursuing your degree, but also to share your passion and enthusiasm for academic excellence by encouraging and motivating others in the pursuit of their educational goals, whether your classmates, family or friends. Make your success an example for others.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Strayer University, I appreciate and applaud you for achieving this honor. We take great pride in our students' accomplishments and are committed to support you on your continued path to success.

Brian W. Jones, J.D.
President, Strayer University

WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU, DEACONESS JULIE RANDALL

On Sunday, November 12, the Astoria Beneficial Club, Inc. celebrated its 116th Anniversary at the Grace Center here in Richmond. The following members of our church were honored: **Deacon Fennon Henderson** and **Trustee Kirk Jones** received the Presidential Awards; **Charlie Garner** was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service.

CONGRATULATIONS

MEDIA MINISTRY

Deacon William Jackson, Chair
(Recorder & Photographer)

Driana Arceneaux, Youth Reporter
Gary Clark, Sr., Photographer
Deacon Fennon Henderson, Photographer
Deacon Ida B. McCollum, Editor
Ronald T. McCollum, Website
Jacqueline Pollard, Recorder
Deaconess Julie Randall
(Facebook Administrator)
Deacon Jacqueline Silver, Editor
Yolanda B. Taylor, Editor

Mary J. Jackson, Chair
Christian Education Ministry
(Editor)

