



# SANKOFA



## A RETURN TO THE PAST

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SPRING 2020

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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.

### 2020 CENSUS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

The 2020 Census counts every person living in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and five US territories: Puerto Rico, American Samoa, The Commonwealth of Mariana Islands, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands. The US Constitution mandates that census be taken every 10 years, counting all people, citizens and noncitizens. This year's census marks the 24<sup>th</sup> time the population has been counted since 1790.

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you completed another survey from the Census Bureau. Each home will receive a written invitation to respond to a short questionnaire – online, by phone, or by postal mail. The US Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential; every employee takes an oath to protect personal information for life. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your response in any way that could identify you or anyone in your home.

A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community. The United States Census is so much more than a head count; it is a snapshot of America that determines how congressional seats are apportioned, how state and federal dollars are distributed, where businesses choose to ship products, and where they build new stores. To do all that properly, the count must be accurate. An accurate count of the population serves as the base for fair political representation and plays a vital role in many areas of public life.

Here are key areas where the information collected in the 2020 Census will help drive policymaking and shape the future of the United States:

- **Apportionment** - No state has permanent claim to their current number of assigned seats in the House of Representatives. Population counts determine how the 435 seats are split. The Census Bureau will publish apportionment population counts by December 31, affecting the 2022 House elections and the Electoral College for the 2024 presidential election.
- **Redistricting** – Congressional, state, and local district boundaries are drawn to ensure each person's voting power.
- **Planning** – Governments and nonprofit organizations use data to determine the need for new roads, hospitals, schools, and other public sector investments.
- **Money to States and Localities** – Census counts ensure funding for Medicaid, special education grants, the National School Lunch Program, Head Start, Medicare, and Pell grants.
- **Gaming Out Social Security** – An undercount in the census could impact forecasts about Social Security payouts.
- **A Base for Federal Surveys** – Census data is used to produce annual population and housing unit estimates. This helps to determine the numbers of housing units and people in certain categories agree with the Census Bureau's official estimates.

**ANTICIPATE BEING A PART OF THE 2020 CENSUS!**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

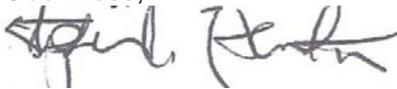
Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We are again in the spring season when we commemorate the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christ included all of us in God's plan for our salvation. It is the season for us to realize the importance of being included and not excluded. God's intent is for us to be included in our 2020 Census and counted as true citizens of this country.

This is also the season of growth and newness. Let us continue to strive as Christians to grow in our relationship with Christ. It is with this newness we can replenish our faith to be stronger disciples.

This quarterly newsletter includes our progress and growth with the ministries in our church family and the community. Our sincere gratitude is extended to those for their dedication in making sure this periodical is distributed in a timely manner. As always, we are grateful to our Media Ministry and office staff for this valuable and enlightening publication.

God Bless,



Pastor Hewlett



**THE MEANNG 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

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**DEACON MINISTRY**

Deacon Jacqueline Silver, Chair  
Deacon Wayne Thomas, Vice Chair

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." Romans 12:2 (NIV) "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." Psalm 105:4 (NIV)*

Spring is here! Spring is a time of renewal. Look at the budding trees, flowers and shrubs. Perhaps you have noticed many are already showing their bright colors peeking out behind the pretty green foliage. What a spectacle of red, yellow, purple, pink, and white! Think how beautiful the splashes of color will be in a few short days, and thank God for His mighty handiwork.

God replenishes the earth by sending the rain and the sunshine. God refreshes us by renewing and maintaining our minds and bodies from day to day. Having a renewed mind helps us seek God sincerely, and stay in the moment for each situation we face. If we seek, we will find God in the cheerful chirping of a bird's song; the happy giggles of a toddler at play; a loved one's smile; the puffy pillow shaped clouds in the sky; or maybe the million dollar grin on the face of one who has just gotten the job he or she had been praying so hard to receive.

God is always good, and God is always with us because God is present in our spirit. Praise and thank God for all God has done and shall do for us!



## THE LENTEN SEASON AND EASTER

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Sundays are not included in the forty-day count, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. For the year 2020, Lent began February 26 and will end on April 11 – the day before Easter.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter; the Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday. During Holy Week, Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday is observed to remember the time when Holy Communion was given at The Last Supper. The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ is commemorated on Good Friday. In many churches, a service is held with "The Seven Last Words of Christ."

Easter Sunday, also called Resurrection Sunday, is the glorious celebration of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. We celebrate Easter Sunday beginning with Sunrise Service. Easter has been referred to as a season of adoration and praise.

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### THE MEANING OF LITURGICAL COLORS

Liturgical is a word derived from "liturgy" meaning a form of public worship. The 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: **Advent** – purple, as the royal color of the coming Christ; **Christmas** – white, as 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

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Maundy Thursday** is observed during Holy Week on the Thursday before Easter. Also referred to as "Holy Thursday" or "Great Thursday" in some Christian denominations, Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before He was crucified. In contrast to joyful Easter celebrations when Christians worship their Resurrected Savior, Maundy Thursday services are typically more solemn occasions, marked by the shadow of Jesus' betrayal.

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### GOOD FRIDAY

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and Resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation.

On Good Friday, we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by Crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding His victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to Him by faith.

The cross is where we see the convergence of great suffering and God's forgiveness. We receive divine forgiveness, mercy, and peace because Jesus willingly took our divine punishment, the result of God's righteousness against sin. **Adapted from About.com Christianity.**

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

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

#### “Disciples - Grow, Proclaim, Serve!”

The mission of the Christian Education Ministry is to provide a variety of teaching/training opportunities that are biblically based so that disciples are encouraged, equipped and empowered for ministry in the church and community.

Our most recent learning opportunity was our Black History Celebration held on Saturday, February 22. This event sponsored by our Leader Development and Social Justice Ministries included panelists and a keynote speaker, South Carolina State Senator Mia S. McLeod. The theme was **“The 2020 Elections and Census: What Will They Mean For Us?”** The occasion was informative and well attended.

We welcome Audrey Anderson as Chair of our Children/Youth Ministry.

Learning is a continuous method of growth. Remember, **“A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.”**

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### CHURCH SCHOOL MINISTRY

We are seeking your support for additional children in our church school

Riverview's **2020 Vacation Bible School** will be held June 29 – July 3. The theme is: **“Champions in LIFE: Ready, Set, GO with GOD!”** The program will help participants find joy in knowing Jesus makes each one a winner and we are competing in life in order to reach the goal of the high calling of Jesus. They will enjoy learning about the struggles and accomplishments of black athletes in the Sports Spotlight, and how despite different kinds of challenges, they never gave up.

**Champions in LIFE: Ready, Set, GO with GOD**” uses African American culture, history, and contemporary events as a lens through

which to teach biblical truths and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this year, with an exciting sports theme. The overall Bible verse, a community favorite, is a reminder of how the body and spirit work together.

With CHAMPIONS OF LIFE participants will:

- Activate and exercise faith and fun!
- Be encouraged to set godly goals!
- Be inspired to reach for the prize!
- Believe that Jesus makes them champions!

Workers are needed. Let us know if you are interested in working with our youth and adults to help make the **2020 VBS** a memorable event. Audrey Anderson has agreed to work as one of the VBS coordinators.




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### CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY

Audrey Anderson, Chair

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

I am pleased to have been asked to serve as chair of your Children/Youth Ministry. The Ministry of Christian Education graciously welcomed me as a member of the team.

Some of the ideas we hope to implement are tea for teens, youth skate Saturdays, movie night at church, paint night, faith/fitness, and sponsor a child/youth. You will be hearing more about these events once we have them scheduled.

Let us not forget **Children's Day, June 14**. Fun activities will be included. We solicit your support for our children/youth; they are our future.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We are encouraging our church family to focus on the importance of **RECYCLING**. What is **RECYCLING**?

### RECYCLING IS

Recycling is...

A hungry animal,  
eating trash,

then spitting out brand new items.

It is putting an old bottle into a machine  
and watching it change into something new.

Recycling is...

renewing a soda can,  
a bottle

a stack of newspapers.

Breaking down today's trash  
and turning it into tomorrow's prized  
possessions.

It is looking at pictures of endangered animals  
and knowing you did the right thing.

Recycling is the future of waste disposal.

Victoria Tang, Grade 4  
Edward J. Patten Elementary School  
Perth Amboy, New Jersey  
2007 WINNING POEM



## MEDIA MINISTRY

Deacon William Jackson, Chair

The mission of the Media Ministry is to disseminate the message, mission, ministry of Jesus Christ to the congregation and community.

Communication is essential to the health of any church. It is important for our church family to be informed through various forms of media. Our aim is to continuously inform the disciples

of Riverview through our website, Facebook, Sunday bulletin announcements, Robocalls, Sankofa, and newspaper ads.

We are sincerely appreciative to all who helped to make this newsletter possible.

## EVANGELISM/DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Deacon Fennon Henderson, Chair

Rev. Dr. Audrey Fleming-Hawkins, Vice Chair

Trustee Barbara Haynes, Vice Chair

The mission of the Evangelism/Discipleship ministry is to provide an outreach service that spreads the good news of Jesus Christ and bring individuals to Him. It is also to nurture and teach new members and the congregation in their faith journey and provide a welcoming environment to visitors.

In 2019, this ministry developed and sponsored the Riverview Community Marketplace on the parking lot during the months from August through December. The purpose was to draw attention to our church and its activities.

We celebrated Unity Sunday on January 19. Several community organizations were publicly recognized and given certificates for attending our service. Many of these organizations provide valuable service to the Richmond community. Their faithful support is greatly appreciated. Rev. Kimberly Clark delivered a powerful message, "**Unity Takes U and I.**" Her Scriptural reference was Galatians 3:1-5, 23. Our combined choirs rendered inspirational music. They were accompanied by Rev. Harvey Tunnell, Director of Music, on the keyboard. and E. J. Eaton, on the drums. We are appreciative of our Hospitality Ministry for the delicious repast. We are also grateful to our office staff for the certificates and programs.

Our Men's Bible class has been reactivated; Deacon Wayne Thomas is the teacher.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## LEADER DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY

Deaconess Threnodiez Wade Baugh, Chair

## SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Trustee Kirk Jones, Chair

### THEME: "The 2020 Elections and Census: What will They Mean For Us?"

The Riverview Leader Development and Social Justice Ministries sponsored a public forum on Saturday, February 22. The focus was the 2020 national elections and the 2020 U S Census. This was one of our church's Black History Month celebrations.

Rev. Dr. LaVerne J. Briggs served as worship leader. We were blessed with music by our very own Servants of Praise, accompanied by Rev. Alvin Campbell. South Carolina State Senator Mia McLeod, goddaughter of Deacon Woodrow and Mary J. Jackson, was our keynote speaker. Mrs. Jackson gave a glowing introduction of her goddaughter's character. Senator McLeod spoke of her Civil Rights legacy and the responsibilities of holding political office.

The former mayor of Richmond, Deacon Rudolph McCollum, introduced our panelists. The community panel included Rev. Dr. Faith Harris, Rev. Ralph Hodge, Rev. Tyrone Nelson and Senator McLeod. Our pastor, Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Hewlett, served as moderator. Questions concerning the importance and impact for the elections and census were shared. The forum was engaging and informative. Census information, absentee ballot applications and other pertinent information were made available to attendees. Our youth ushers served and the Alpha Delta Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. provided the repast.

The gathering of Census data will begin in mid-March. Additional information can be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) The Virginia presidential primary election was held on March 3.

On Sunday, February 23, Sandra Allison presented "A Tribute to Our History" and gave a soul stirring interpretation of Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise." It was a perfect closing to a great month of **Black History activities**.

## OUR MISSION MINISTRY

Carolyn Washington, Chair

Joan T. Taylor, Vice Chair

Baptist General Convention of Virginia Women's Ministry Area-A District-1 Meeting met on February 12. Joan Taylor attended the meeting. Area A District A1 is sponsoring a Special Project: Shoe Size Rally.

The Shiloh Women's Division District-A is grateful to everyone who donated to the Shiloh winter hat/glove/sock drive. Items were taken to Boushall Middle School, where McKenzie Waters is a student.

The Missionaries will go to CARITAS to feed 200 men on Saturday, March 28 (4pm – 6pm). Each church is asked to send representatives.

The Shiloh Baptist Association of Virginia Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held at Metropolitan African American Baptist Church, Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Tickets: \$15.

### **Vera T. Johnson Food Bank/Community Outreach**

Thank you for your continued contributions to FeedMoore. Donations may be collected at your monthly ministry meetings. During 2020, food items will be delivered to FeedMore in March, June, September, and December.

Month	Food Items
March	Lean Canned Protein (tuna, salmon, or chicken in water)
April	Canned Fruits (in its own juice or water)
May	Whole Grains (pasta, brown rice, quinoa)
June	Lean Canned Protein (tuna, salmon, or chicken in water)

The **America for Christ Offering** was collected on Sunday, March 8. This offering supports mission (people sent to carry on religious work) in this country. Our Missionaries continue to send greeting cards to members that are sick and shut-in and suffer family loss. New Missionaries are always welcome.

**#MissionariesMatter**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. LaVerne J. Briggs, Co-Chair  
Sheila Thomas, Co-Chair

## WOMEN'S DAY 2020

Birdia Thomas, Chair

**Theme: "God's Empowered Women  
Empowering Women"**

**John 13:34**

Women's Day weekend was celebrated with great anticipation and enthusiasm.

On Saturday, March 14, (10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.), "The Empowered View." a Women's Day talk show, hosted by Joyce McCollum. Topics discussed included Heart Health and Healthy Eating (American Heart Association), Cancer Awareness (Susan G. Komen Foundation), Relationship Abuse (Carol Adams Foundation), and Exercise for All Ages, Olga Jeter. A light and healthy meal was served. Suggested attire was casual dress with pearls.

The Movie **Harriett** was shown at 12:00 noon. Everyone enjoyed seeing this God empowered woman setting her people free. Popcorn was served during the showing of the movie.

During our Sunday morning worship service, Reverend Lisa Janes delivered an inspiring message related to the theme. The title of her sermon was "The Diary of a Well-Watered Woman." Her Scriptural reference was John 4:4-30. Deacon Roz Johnson, 2019 Woman of the Year, read an original poem, "Empowering Black Women." The suggested attire was black with pearls.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Trustee Kirk Jones, Chair

## CENSUS QUOTES

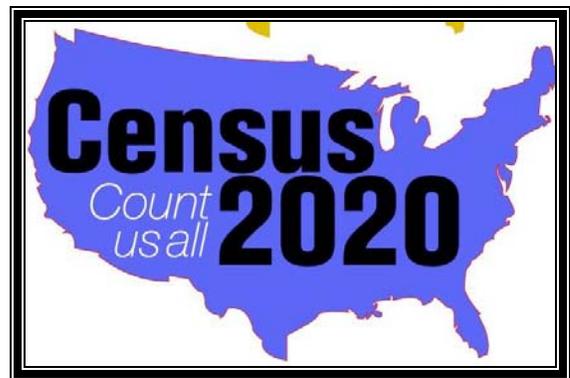
"I'm going to continue to do the work we're doing on voter suppression, supporting the work that's being done by Fair Count, ensuring a fair Census count." ~**Stacey Abrams**

"I hope all of you are going to fill out your census form when it comes in the mail next month. If you don't return the form the area you live in might get less government money and you wouldn't want that to happen, would you." ~**Andy Rooney**

"The government has become a mechanism for distributing largess, and your census form is your ticket." ~**Tom G. Palmer**

"The chief instrument of American statistics is the census, which should accomplish a two-fold object. It should serve the country by making a full and accurate exhibit of the elements of national life and strength, and it should serve the science of statistics by so exhibiting general results that they may be compared with similar data obtained by other nations." ~**James A. Garfield**

"Census data influences decisions made from Main Street to Wall Street, in Congress and with the Federal Reserve. Not to mention, the American people who look to, and trust, the data the government releases on our nation's unemployment, state of our economy, and health insurance coverage." ~**Blake Farenthold**



## AB GIRLS MINISTRY

Driana Arceneaux, President

AB GIRLS stands for American Baptist Girls in Relationship, Leadership, and Service. AB GIRLS is American Baptist Women's Ministries' ministry with girls.

We all know girls and boys are different, and at times, have very different needs. We also know sometimes youth are less inclined to speak up in mixed crowds, and often hold back from sharing their true feelings around the other gender.

Alongside traditional children's and youth ministry programs, a ministry with girls is a way for girls to have the opportunity to deal with tough questions honestly, to build close relationships with each other and caring adult women, and to build a program that will meet their particular needs as growing women of faith. - [info@abwministries.org](mailto:info@abwministries.org)

The AB GIRLS are looking for girls to join us. Come learn, grow, and let's build together.



### RIVERVIEW SENSATIONAL SENIORS

Stephanie Cason, Coordinator

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.

The Sensational Seniors continue to be on the move and involved. We are now in partnership with AARP Virginia, a nonprofit organization helping people over 50 improve their lives through information, education, and advocacy. Genea Luck, Associate State Director of Multicultural Outreach, is the facilitator and

resource person. Workshops have included The Caregiver over 50 and Theft and Fraud. Additional workshops on Estate Planning, Wills, and Medical Directives are planned.

In February, the Annual Valentine's Day luncheon was held at O'Charleys Restaurant.

During the month of April, the Seniors Ministry will be featured in the National AARP website and Facebook page. A trip is also planned this spring and we are looking forward to being involved with other senior projects.

Come and join our ministry. We meet monthly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. We are planning additional activities for the year.



## BUS MINISTRY

James Montague, Chair

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10).

Thank you to Deacon Fennon Henderson for his time, service, and dedication to the Bus Ministry. He has been a faithful driver for many years and his service to the ministry is greatly appreciated.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Drivers are needed to transport our members on Sundays and special outside services. Share your gift by volunteering your service once a month.

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 by Saturday.

**Thank you and God bless!!!**

**PRAYER PARTNER MINISTRY**

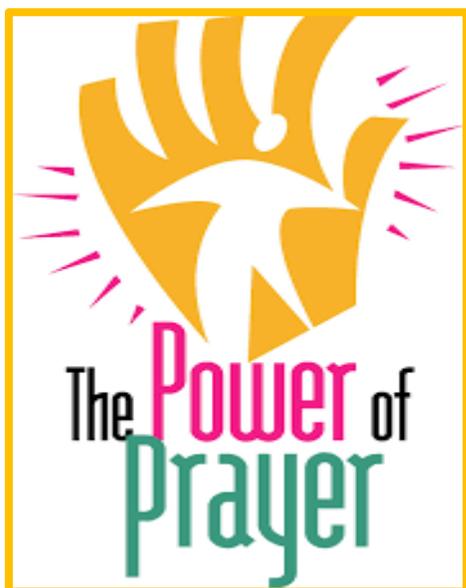
Deacon Ida B. McCollum, Chair  
Rev. Dr. LaVerne J. Briggs, Vice-Chair

***“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22 (NIV)***

**Meeting Life’s Challenges With An Attitude**

Do you really know how to deal successfully with difficulties? For anyone whose life is confused, disorganized, frustrated, or lacking in energy and vitality, the best thing to do is to get healed of such negatives and become filled with positive faith. Remember all the good God has done for you in the past and visualize all the good God will do for you in the future. This reflects an attitude of gratitude.

When challenges arise, we must allow our faith in God to help us go to God in prayer; cast our burden upon God and He will sustain us. We must rise above worry. Next time you find yourself bogged down in anxiety and worry, say to yourself, “I will think this thing through. I will take it apart. I will not be disturbed by it. I will look at worry coolly and logically, and worry will lose its power.” Every person has a unique problem, and it is a tough problem. That problem is life. We must face life with a positive attitude, believing God will lead us all the way. Pray without ceasing.

**FINANCE MINISTRY**

Deacon William Jackson, Chair

**ADOPT-A-PEW**

With the success of the Adopt-A-Pew Homecoming Appeal, we are excited to announce it again as our 2020 Homecoming Appeal.

All pew captains have been asked to generate a minimum of \$500 for their team. This can be accomplished by doing fundraisers or donations. The expectation is a minimum donation of \$100 per member, in addition to our regular tithes and offerings. This year's deadline is September 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon William Jackson.

Riverview is here for you and we need you to be here for Riverview.

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**GENEROSITY BENEFITS US**

**We become more Christ-like** - Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives. It doesn't come out of our altruism or philanthropy—it comes out of the transforming work of Christ in us. This grace is the action; our giving is the reaction. We give because He first gave to us.

**We gain freedom from materialism** - Another benefit of giving is freedom. The more things we own—the greater their total mass, and the more they grip us, setting us in orbit around them. Giving changes all that. We escape their gravity, entering a new orbit around our treasures in Heaven.

**We are infused with joy** - The more we give, the more we delight in our giving—and the more God delights in us. But more importantly, it pleases God. God delights in our cheerfulness in giving.

**We store up eternal rewards in Heaven** - God grants us rewards for generous giving. We are to want rewards because it pleases God to give them to us. Serve others, enjoy treasures in Heaven and sense the smile of God.

~Adapted



**2020 Women's Day Speaker  
Riverview Baptist Church**

**Reverend Lisa R. Janes**, a native of Richmond, Virginia, is the daughter of the late Burnett L. Janes.

Lisa was educated in the Richmond City Public Schools. At the age of 6 her lifelong dream was to become a visual artist; she received numerous art awards and recognitions in middle and high school. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1987 and a Master of Fine Arts in 1992 from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Lisa taught art at Luther Memorial School in Richmond and Charles City Elementary School. She has worked as a museum educator at the Valentine Museum and the Children's Museum of Richmond. She has also taught classes at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Elegba Folklore Society, and Stargate, an after school program that introduced the creative arts to children in the Richmond Public Schools.

Lisa was baptized at Riverview Baptist Church at the age of 15. She later joined First Union Baptist Church where she accepted her call to the ministry and was licensed in 2005. Rev. James graduated Cum Laude from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in 2008. Her internship at Faith Community Baptist Church led her to become a disciple there in 2008. She was ordained to the gospel ministry at Faith Community Baptist Church in 2010 where she served as Minister of Christian Education from 2011-2015, and became an Associate Pastor in 2012.

Rev. Janes is currently employed as a Circulation Supervisor at the William Smith Morton Library on the campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is presently working on an Instagram social media project, which is a return to her artist and teaching roots. This project named "**godintheskin**" is a blend of music, politics, social history, spirituality, and art. Her goal is to complete a book based on her experiences on Instagram and how it is shaping her faith journey. Future goals also include the publication of the curriculum she produced as Minister of Christian Education at Faith Community Baptist Church.

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### **WOMAN OF THE YEAR NAMED**

**Deaconess Brenda J. Cheeks** was named 2020 Woman of Year during the annual Women's Day Worship Service and celebration on Sunday, March 15.

Brenda is the eldest of nine children born to the late James and the late Mary Rose Jordan; she has six brothers and two sisters.

Brenda attended Richmond Public Schools and graduated from Maggie L. Walker High School in 1965. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Howard University in 1972. She taught in several Richmond Public Schools and was Teacher of the Year at Patrick Henry Elementary School in 2003. Deaconess Cheeks retired from Westover Hills Elementary School in 2008.

She has been a member of Riverview for more than fifty years. She was consecrated as a deaconess in 1980. Deaconess Cheeks has served as Church School Superintendent, Church School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, member of Friends and Fellowship Ministry, Christian Education Ministry, Youth Ministry, Pastor's Aid, and sang in the Women's Choir. Presently, she is a member of the Mission Ministry.

Our Woman of the Year is an avid reader and promotes healthy eating and physical fitness.

**CONGRATULATIONS to our 2020 Woman of the Year, Deaconess Brenda Jordan Cheeks!!!**



**Senator Mia S. McLeod**  
**Keynote Speaker**  
**2020 Black History Celebration**

**Mia S. McLeod** was born and raised in South Carolina, where she attended public schools along the infamous “Corridor of Shame.” With the support and guidance of her parents (a public school teacher and small business owner), she was able to get a quality education...something she believes all children deserve, regardless of where they happen to live or the resources their families may have.

During college, she served as a Page for then-Representative David Beasley, who later became Governor of South Carolina. This experience introduced her to the legislative process and South Carolina politics. After graduating, she worked at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce before she was accepted and enrolled at the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she later earned her Juris Doctorate.

During the mid-90s, when South Carolina was number one in the nation for domestic violence homicides, Mia successfully launched a statewide initiative for former SC Attorney General Charlie Condon that developed multidisciplinary protocols, curricula and training for law enforcement, solicitors and judges when investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cases of violence against women.

Mia was appointed by former Governor Jim Hodges to direct the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) and while serving, was recognized by the National Crime Victim Compensation Program for creating satellite offices in rural, underserved counties to help

broaden service outreach and access, ultimately easing the process for crime victims. Her innovative management practices brought national attention to South Carolina’s Crime Victim Compensation Program, which became a model for other states.

Mia has been a resident of Northeast Columbia for 19 years and is a community leader who has been recognized as one of South Carolina’s “Top 20 Under 40,” and more recently, in *Governing Magazine*, as a woman leader who is among a small group of women across the country to be selected to participate in Governing Women’s Inaugural Leadership Class. She has earned the distinction of “Liberty Fellow,” which is affiliated with the Aspen Global Leadership Network. She is also a New Deal Leader, SC Education Policy Fellow and SC Diversity Leader. In 2017, she was nominated and accepted into the prestigious Aspen Rodel Fellowship. Mia has also served her community as a member of the SC Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors and was an active participant on the small business, education, diversity, and public relations committees.

In 2010, Mia became the first woman to represent House District 79 and the only Democrat elected to the House that year in a “swing” district. She introduced a bill in 2016 that initiated a national conversation about why government should not interfere in women’s (or men’s) healthcare decisions. Subscribers, across South Carolina and the nation, rave about her no-nonsense communications.

Mia represented House District 79 for six years and was recently elected to the SC Senate, District 22 (Richland & Kershaw Counties), where she now serves on the Senate Judiciary, Transportation, Rules, Corrections & Penology, Family, and Veterans` Services Committees. She is the first woman and first African-American to represent Senate District 22 in the SC Senate.

Mia is the proud mother of two sons.



## A PRAYER IN SPRING

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;  
 And give us not to think so far away  
 As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
 All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh. give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
 Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by  
 night;  
 And make us happy in the happy bees,  
 That swarm dilating round the perfect  
 trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird  
 That suddenly above the bees is heard;  
 The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
 And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.

For this is love, and nothing else is love,  
 The which it is reserved for God above  
 To sanctify to what ends He will,  
 But which it only needs that we fulfill.

~Robert Frost



### SPRING

There is no time like Spring,  
 When life's alive in everything,  
 Before new nestlings sing,  
 Before cleft swallows speed their journey back  
 Along the trackless track –  
 God guides their wing,  
 He spreads their table that they nothing lack, –  
 Before the daisy grows a common flower  
 Before the sun has power  
 To scorch the world up in his noontide hour...

~Christina Rossetti

## THE DAFFODILS

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
 That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
 When all at once I saw a crowd,  
 A host of golden daffodils;  
 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
 Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
 And twinkle in the Milky Way,  
 They stretched in never-ending line  
 Along the margin of a bay:  
 Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
 Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
 Outdid the sparkling waves in glee;  
 A poet could not but be gay,  
 In such a jocund company;  
 I gazed – and gazed – but little thought  
 What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
 In vacant or in pensive mood,  
 They flash upon that inward eye  
 Which is the bliss of solitude;  
 And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
 And dances with the daffodils.

~William Wordsworth



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