Women’s Emphasis Month / Youth Church Recap

The Women of Big Bethel were excited about August being Women’s Emphasis Month!
The theme for the month was “Women of Redemption: Sharing God’s Goodness”
The women showed up en mass to support all of the events that were scheduled for the month.

Women’s Emphasis Month featured Wednesday bible Studies being women based and discussed topics that taught by special women teachers for the month. The first event of the month was the Young Ladies High Tea which the young ladies had an awesome time attending and having lots of fun. The Girl Scouts had a Career Day workshop that the women took part in also. The much anticipated Women’s Retreat at St. Philips was a phenomenal success. Over 100 women took part in the fellowship and the workshops that were presented. A wonderful experience of bonding and unification took place over those two days and each lady walked away with something to reflect upon. Women’s Emphasis Month culminated on Sunday, August 25th with two wonderful speakers for the day—at 7:45 Service was Rev. Toni Belin-Ingram and at 11:00 Service was Retired Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry.

In September on the 2nd Sunday, Youth Church was reintroduced here at Big Bethel. The speaker for the first service was Rev. Ali Holness. The youth are arranged in 3 different groups by age and they each have a teacher who has a project for them that pertains to the theme of the month. The theme for last month was “Homecoming”. The theme for October will be “Reflection”. Youth Sunday will be held each 2nd and 3rd Sunday going forward.
October 1, 2013

Hello Big Bethel Family, Visitors and Friends:

As for me and my house!!!

God is good all the time and all the time God is good. As we went through the months of August and September, we celebrated Women’s Emphasis and Stewardship Months. God’s spirit was truly present as we received blessings from Women’s Bible Study, Women’s Tea and Women’s Retreat - the Women’s Retreat hosted 100 attendees! The entire Big Bethel family was blessed through the presence of Rev. Toni Belin Ingram and Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry as they preached God’s word on Women’s Day worship services on August 25, 2013. Our Multi-Media Ministry had a great kickoff as we began our live streaming on September 1, 2013. PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!!! We also began a Social Media Ministry which enables us to reach out to our internet worshippers during service. Also, during the month of September, we reintroduced the “College Sunday” and “Youth Church” ministries. God truly blessed us finished the Summer and began the Fall timeframe.

Now, let us prepare the 166th Church Anniversary Celebration during the month of October. God has done, is doing and will do great things at Big Bethel as we celebrate the power of God. Pastor needs your prayers and support that God will continue to bless all the ministries at Big Bethel.

We will serve the Lord!!!

Sincerely,

Rev. John Foster, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor
Happening Around Big Bethel

A Beacon of Hope on Auburn Ave Where Jesus Saves
Happening Around Big Bethel

Bethel Towers Mortgage Burning
First and foremost, Big Bethel AME Church, the oldest African American congregation in the city of Atlanta, has been a house of worship and refuge for believers in our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Throughout its 165 years plus history, Big Bethel has been an important community institution that has served as leader, innovator, advocate and convener.

Historical records indicate that the congregation, variously Old Bethel, Bethel, the African Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle and finally Big Bethel, was formed prior to the incorporation of Atlanta on December 28, 1847. However, the roots of the congregation of Big Bethel emanated from the population of Terminus, GA that incorporated under the name of Marthasville in 1843. Thus, the first colored church in Marthasville was established, and it was Methodist. In 1847, the City officials determined that the township of Marthasville was destined to become the railroad center of the South; thus, the name Marthasville was changed to Atlanta.

After the Civil War, the congregation became associated with the AME Church -- the first independent denomination in the country. Bishop Payne sent Rev. James Lynch to organize the AME Church throughout the South. While passing through Atlanta, he met Brother Joseph Woods, a member of Bethel Tabernacle. One year later in 1866, Rev. Joseph Woods was appointed as the first pastor of Big Bethel AME Church.

Big Bethel rapidly grew to become a center of the community as well as a focal point for social action. In 1879, the Gate City Colored School, the first public school for African Americans in the City, was funded in the basement of big Bethel. It later moved to a building on Houston Street. In 1881, Morris Brown College, the only college in Georgia started solely by African Americans, held classes in the basement of Big Bethel before moving to its campus.

For years, the church was used for community gatherings because it was the largest meeting space in the African American community. Big Bethel was know as “Sweet Auburn’s City Hall.” In 1911, President William H. Taft spoke from the pulpit of Big Bethel. Heaven bound, an internationally acclaimed and celebrated morality play, was first performed in 1930, and continues to open to packed houses after 80+ years. In 1990, Big Bethel again became apart of history when Nelson Mandela spoke here. Big Bethel has been designated a historic landmark. The edifice itself is an architectural phenomenon. The existing building was rebuilt in 1922 after being destroyed by fire in 1920 and erected with a lighted cross in the steeple with the message, “Jesus Saves.” All walls, except the west wall (the wall next to the organ) are original. The stained glass windows in the balcony feature the founders of the AME Church, Bishop Allen and other outstanding early church leaders, Bishop Henry M. Turner and Bishop Joseph S. Flipper. Under the administration of a number of Bethel’s former pastors, several renovation projects have been completed — all of which have been essential for upkeep and beautification of our magnificent structure.
THE GIRL SCOUT TROOP OF BIG BETHEL A.M.E.
CHURCH CORDIALLY INVITES GIRLS AND PARENTS TO ITS:

“WELCOME BACK/INTRODUCTION TO GIRL SCOUTING”

WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
FROM 12:30 PM TO 3 P.M.
WHERE: THE CROWN ROOM

TROOP 3533 HAS ALL LEVELS OF GIRL SCOUTING FROM KINDERGARTEN TO HIGH SCHOOL, AND DEFINITELY HAS A PLACE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER. PLEASE JOIN US AND LEARN HOW GIRL SCOUTS MAKE GIRLS GROW STRONGER.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
NI-COLE HARRIS ON
NN1688@COMCAST.NET OR
CHERYL TAYLOR ON
CT23PESGIRL@GMAIL.COM

THEME:
“COVERING ALL CHILDREN WITH PRAYER”
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013
INTERFAITH INTERGENERATIONAL INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE
12 NOON - 1:00 PM
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRAYER.
PLACE: BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH

TRINITY TABLE
10.27.13 11AM

JOIN IN OUR ANNUAL FALL FEEDING AT TRINITY TABLE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN SERVE OR MAKE A DONATION PLEASE CONTACT MARTINIQUE MIX AT (404) 827-9707 EXT*103 OR MARMIXGDESIGNS@BIGBETHELAME.ORG

166th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
“Great is Our God, Generations of Bethelites Praise Him”

PHILIP SKERRETT, JR.
ORGAN CONCERT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013
5PM

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST:
LORI ANN CHRISTIAN, SOPRANO
OLIVER N. GREENE, JR., BARITONE

PHILIP V. SKERRETT, JR.
BIG BETHEL’S RENOWNED SENIOR ORGANIST
166th Church Anniversary

“Great is Our God, Generations of Bethelites Praise Him”

Big Bethel 166. We are asking all members to support the anniversary by pledging and giving a birthday gift of $1 per year. A total of $166 to defray operational and debt expenses. Additionally, we are also asking for a ‘Love Offering’ of $30,000 to be given for Morris Brown College to help pay for bankruptcy expenses.

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10.27.13 10AM Service

Preacher: Bishop James Levert Davis

Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District
Day One - Ephesians 4:16
From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Day Two - Matthew 16:18
And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Day Three - Nehemiah 4:6
So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Day Four - Psalm 100:5
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Day Five - 1 Corinthians 3:9
For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

Day Six - Psalm 119:89-90
Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

Day Seven - Hebrews 11:6
And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Day Eight - Psalm 119:105
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Day Nine - Psalm 119:105
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Day Ten - James 3:1
Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Day Eleven - Ephesians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Day Twelve - Luke 5:26
And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”

Day Thirteen - Psalm 105:8
He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

Day Fourteen - Hebrews 11:3
By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Day Fifteen - Leviticus 6:13
Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

Day Sixteen - Hebrews 6:19
We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

Day Seventeen - Luke 21:33
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Day Eighteen - John 10:35
If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—

Day Nineteen - John 1:1
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Day Twenty - Matthew 28:20
Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Day Twenty - 1 Timothy 3:16
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Day Twenty - 2 Corinthians 3:19
If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Day Twenty - Hebrews 11:3
By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Day Twenty - Mark 13:31
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Day Twenty - Acts 17:28
For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’

Day Twenty - 1 Corinthians 15:19
If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Day Twenty - Matthew 24:35
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Day Twenty - 6:8
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

Day Twenty - Psalm 81:10
I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Day Twenty - Matthew 11:12
Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Day Twenty - Psalm 51:12
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Day Twenty - Mark 13:31
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Day Twenty-One - 2 Kings 22:2
And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Devotionals taken from http://www.openbible.info/topics/church_anniversary
Member of the Month…..

One of the most amazing things we see at the Saturday School is the growth of the children and youth in their academic, social and cultural areas. One such person that has exhibited such an awesome growth is Joshua Browning. A young man who, at first some 2 years ago, seemed a little reluctant about the Saturday Life Enrichment Initiative, but as he kept attending Wednesday Bible Study and getting involved and interacting with others, he developed a love for learning, serving and growing into what he believes God created him to be. Since becoming a member of Big Bethel, his influence has reached his family and many of the children from the community. He is truly a “drum major for his peers” and a role model. Joshua has become a leader in his own right. He is a motivator and always willing to help create interesting and innovative things that children and youth both enjoy and learn from, be it a puppet show, kick-ball, assisting with reading lab, especially assisting with reading scripture during devotions, of which he leads on many occasions. His involvement at church as he has grown is well rounded in that he participates in the choir, serves as an acolyte, and recently ushering with the male usher board. His academic skills have truly been enhanced and is evident as we watch Joshua mature into the person that God will be pleased with in His service. Our hats off and heart embrace Joshua, his accomplishments, and eyes have not seen nor ear heard what God has in store for him.
IT'S HERE!....IT'S HERE!
The NEW Video Ministry is up and running! The screens are in, the cam­eras and projectors are operational and we are streaming LIVE on the web!

→→(www.ustream.tv/channel/bigbethelamechurch)←←
TWITTER: #LiveatBigBethel

HEAVEN BOUND TICKETS
Tickets may be purchased from Regina McFarland, Martha Thomas and Grace Terrell McCoy at the 7:45AM Worship Service and from Price Michaels and Amos McCrary at the 11:00AM Worship Service. Tickets can be also purchased online at: http://bigbethelheavenbound-es2.eventbrite.com

DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Donations AND volunteers are needed for The Clothing Closet Ministry on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:15 pm until 3:30 PM. This ministry provides clothing assistance to any individual (man, woman or child) in need. All clothing MUST be new or cleaned prior to donating. Donations are accepted on Mondays from 11AM-4PM, you may call (404) 827-9707 ext 102 for assistance with donations. Volunteers are needed Please see Rev. Brownlee for further details.

HEAVEN BOUND VOLUNTEERS
Become a part of history. Come to work with Heaven Bound, one of the longest running musical production in North America. There is a need for Heaven Bound volunteers in wardrobe fittings, ushers, singers for the Celestial Choir and Spotlight operators. Contact Grace Terrell-McCoy @ (404) 344-5340 or email @ gracegtm@aol.com. Hope you will assist us in making this 83rd production the best ever.

GIRL SCOUTS
The Girl Scout Troop of Big Bethel A.M.E. Church cordially invites girls and parents to its: “Welcome Back/Introduction to Girl Scouting”
WHEN: Saturday, October 19th from 12:30 pm to 3 p.m.
WHERE: The Crown Room
Troop 3533 has all levels of Girl Scouting from kindergarten to high school, and definitely has a place for your daughter! Please join us and learn how Girl Scouts make Girls Grow Strong.
For additional information contact:
Ni-Col Harris @ nnh68@comcast.net or Cheryl Taylor @ ct72spelgirl@gmail.com

PARKING DECALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 2:00PM-8:00PM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

GED/ADULT LITERACY PROJECT VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers are needed for the GED/Adult Literacy Project at Trinity House Big Bethel. If you are interested in serving please respond by email: vept@comcast.net, phone (404) 932-7155, the church office at (404) 827-9707 or contact a member of the Bethel Trinity Partnership Ministry Team. Classes are held Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm (2 hour sessions) or 1 hour tutoring sessions during the week.

YOUTH CHURCH
Youth Church will be on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month during the 11:00AM Worship service. Volunteer assistance is needed for chaperones and teachers during each service. Snacks are being provided and individual and/or ministry sponsors are requested. Contact the Church office for additional information. Thanks you for your support of this most valuable ministry.

CALLING ALL VETERANS
Veterans Day is fast approaching. We want to recognize and lift up our veterans at our Veterans Day Worship Service on November 10, 2013 at Big Bethel AME Church. If you served in the United States Military, please register by completing the yellow card, “Calling All Veterans”. Please drop the card in the Tithes & Offering Basket, or give it to an Usher. Chairpersons for this program are: Arthur Maddox and Keith Halford.

Want photos of your activities and participants featured in the “Happening Around Big Bethel” Section? Submit all photos by 3:00pm on the Monday afternoon prior to the first Sunday service of the upcoming month. All photos are not guaranteed to be in the section but a fair representation will be seen of each group.

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The Beacon Newsletter of Big Bethel AME Church shares information with our congregants. It also promotes membership to our visitors and spiritual community. Our newsletter strives to communicate various facets of our ministries, activities, members, and denomination. As an integral part of the Office of the Senior Pastor, the Beacon will make every effort to print exactly what members want to read.

**Articles can be emailed to:**
jesus.saves@bigbethelame.org.

**Issues will be released monthly.** We welcome your feedback and remain a Beacon of hope on Auburn Avenue where ‘Jesus Saves.’