

# **COVID 19 CLOSINGS**



#### **BLEC (BROOKLAND LAKEVIEW EMPOWERMENT CENTER)**

Ø THE BLEC IS OPEN AND WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AND ON FRIDAY FROM 8:00 AM TO 12 NOON.

Ø ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE JB ADAMS SENIORS ARE HOLDING DEVOTION VIA TELECONFERENCE EACH TUESDAY FROM 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM ON THE FOLLOWING PHONE LINE: 1-515-604-9336

ACCESS CODE: 151473

#### Ø STEAM @ BLEC HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE Ø ALL GROUP ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED, BUT WE ARE STILL WORKING ON OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDING ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES, GRANTS, DETAIL CLEANING, INVENTORY AND OTHER PROJECTS

**CONFERENCE CENTER** 

Ø CAFÉ HOURS 11 AM - 2 PM MON-THURS. ONLY BEGINNING OCT. 6TH

#### **CREDIT UNION**

Ø THE LOBBY IS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC. CUSTOMERS WILL BE SERVICED THROUGH THE DRIVE-THRU ONLY

Ø THE DRIVE-THROUGH WINDOW IS AVAILABLE MONDAY - THURSDAY 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM AND FRIDAY FROM 10:00 AM. TO 5:00 PM

Ø LOAN APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED VIA THEIR WEBSITE (WWW.BROOKLANDFCU.ORG) Ø VIEW THIS FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ø ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27 WILL BE RESCHEDULED

#### **FOUNDATION**

Ø THE TUTORIAL PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERING VIRTUAL TUTORING SESSIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR. VISIT THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE FOR DETAILS. Ø SUPPORT THE COLOR PINK: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS. VISIT THE FOUNDATION'S <u>WEBSITE</u> FOR DETAILS. Ø THE BROOKLAND COMMUNITY FOOD BANK IS OPEN MONDAY'S 11AM-1PM (CLOSED ON ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS)

<u>NORTHEAST CAMPUS WORSHIP AND MINISTRY ACTIVITY</u> Ø WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE NE CAMPUS VIA STREAM ONLY AT 10:00 AM AND 6:00 PM, NO 9 AM SERVICE Ø BNE Bible Study via Facebook Live Wednesdays @ 7 pm

#### WELLNESS CENTER

Ø CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

#### WEST CAMPUS WORSHIP AND MINISTRY ACTIVITY

Ø SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION Ø WORSHIP SERVICES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT THE WEST CAMPUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. JOIN US VIA STREAMING ONLY @ 11:00 AM AND 7 PM. NO 8AM SERVICE Ø ALL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE Ø ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE IS CLOSED

Features





The Brookland Baptist Church is located at 1066 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia, SC 29169 and 1203 Summit Parkway, Columbia, SC 29229.

The mission of the Brookland Baptist Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through Evangelism, Education and Economic Empowerment.

# God is wanting me to stay here.' Why West Columbia pastor invests in church for 50 years

#### By David Travis Bland of The State

Pastor Charles Jackson Sr. delivered a message to the congregation of Brookland Baptist Church nearly every Sunday in the 1970s. "The true measure of the church is not determined by what it does for itself but by what it does for others." Five decades later, he still reminds worshipers at the West Columbia sanctuary of that message inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Feb. 1, Jackson reached his 50th year as the pastor of Brookland Baptist. In that half century, he's helped build the church's congregation into one of the Midlands' largest. The church has a sprawling campus that stretches thousands of square feet. Its mountainous sanctuary rises near Sunset Boulevard, a prominent West Columbia thoroughfare. The church, which employs more than 160 people, has another location in northeast Columbia.

The church's influence is so great that when most presidential candidates come through the area, <u>they stop at</u> <u>Brookland Baptist</u>. But the church's growth and prominence didn't get Jackson's weathered voice rolling when he talked to The State. Rather, his words come flying out when he talks about all the ways the church serves the community beyond the people who filled the pews before the pandemic and who today watch online. For 50 years, he's helped steer Brookland Baptist toward impacting the lives people other than on Sunday morning, Jackson said. Living up to that mission hasn't been without challenges, particularly as the church grew in the 1980s. Even now, the coronavirus has brought a new set of obstacles for Brookland Baptist. Jackson has another message that he's had posted on Brookland Baptist's bulletin many times over the decades. "The church that glorifies God and edifies humanity."

"When I came from seminary I didn't see any kind of statements like that in churches anywhere," Jackson

## The teenage preacher

When he was 2 years old, Jackson knew what he wanted to become, even though he couldn't quite say it. When grown folks asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, the young Jackson would say, "I want to be a *peacher*," he said, a story that his older sister likes to recall. Born in 1952, Jackson grew up in a devout family that attended Brookland Baptist. The church was on what Jackson described as the shortest street in Lexington County. Monticello Street in West Columbia was only two blocks long, dotted with a few houses and the old brick church. He gave his first sermon as a grade-school-aged kid. He preached about two Bible stories. One was the story of a boy who gave his meal of two fish and five loaves of bread to Jesus, who used the food to feed a crowd of 5,000 people. By age 10, he was licensed by a religious organization to preach. At 12 he was ordained. That year, he preached for five consecutive nights at a Summerville church, he remembered. Jackson looks back at those developmental years and laughs. He was passionate about preaching, but he was a child. What spiritual wisdom could he pass along as a 12-year-old?

His parents asked the same question when it became more obvious that their son's talk of being a "peacher" was turning into his calling. They were a loyal, church going family, but not even a distant cousin had been a preacher. His parents looked for guidance from Jackson's principal at Lakeview School, who was also a pastor at Trinity Baptist in Columbia. "He reminded my parents how God called Samuel when he was but a boy," Jackson said, referring to the Old Testament figure who was said to have heard the voice of God at 11 or 12 years old.

In February 1971, at 18 years old, Jackson became the pastor at Brookland Baptist. He may have stepped up to be a spiritual leader, but he still needed guidance. Some said he was too young to lead the church. "I didn't know much about what I was doing but I relied on the wisdom of the older deacons who knew me as a boy when growing up in Sunday school," he said. When he made mistakes, the deacons corrected Jackson and he listened. He went to Morehouse College's School of Religion in Atlanta in the early 1970s. The day after his Sunday sermons, he drove to the Georgia capital, stayed until Friday and drove back to West Columbia so he could preach at Brookland Baptist. After his graduation, he had opportunities to be the pastor of churches across the United States, where he could have earned a full-time income. But he stayed with the small West Columbia church and made ends meet by working as a hospital clinical pastor. Today, he's still amazed that he's the pastor of what he calls his "home church." "The older I get and I start thinking back on it," Jackson said, "I never understood myself why I wanted to stay at Brookland Baptist Church ... I really think God kept me."

## Old Brookland Baptist, new church

The 1980s were the most challenging time for him, Jackson said. A rift had slowly grown in the church as its membership grew. By 1984, Brookland Baptist had grown to the point that it needed Jackson to be a pastor full time. He had no hesitation about taking the position but it wasn't without sacrifice. He took a hefty pay cut when he left his career as a clinical pastor at a state mental hospital to dedicate himself to Brookland Baptist. Fewer than 184 people could fit into the church that year. An expansion over the next couple of years allowed the church to seat 260. With more people came a divide among members, Jackson said.

After Jackson graduated from Morehouse in the 1970s, only two members of Brookland Baptist had graduated college, he said. As the church grew in the 1980s, the new members were more educated and had higher paying jobs. The church was gaining a reputation that a parishioner had to be educated to attend, Jackson said. Older members of the church and its leadership began to feel alienated in their sanctuary. The church they'd helped sustain was forgetting them, some thought. Newer leaders felt their elders held them back from modernizing the church .

Members who had lived through Jim Crow and segregation were at odds with a growing membership who had shed some of the burdens of the past and benefited from opportunities previous generations never had. Dispelling the notion of an education requirement and making sure older and newer members and leaders respected each other was his hardest challenge as a pastor, Jackson said. But the church stayed together, and by the early 1990s, the congregation was trying to expand the sanctuary on the secluded road in Lexington County. The members hoped to build a house of worship that could hold more than 600 people.

They faced a problem, though. A person who owned property next to the church wouldn't sell the land. In talk after talk, she politely turned Jackson down when he'd ask about the church buying her lot. Carroll McGee, a white reverend and acquaintance who also worked in real estate, had an idea for Brookland Baptist after visiting a service, Jackson said. "He saw at that time what we did not see," Jackson said. "He said 'Brookland needs to be accessible and visible.""

McGee arranged a deal for Brookland Baptist to lease-to-own a former Piggly Wiggly on Sunset Boulevard, which the church couldn't previously afford. In 1992, Brookland moved off "the shortest street in Lexington County" into the old grocery store, which had room to sit over 700 worshipers, setting up the church to become one of the largest and most prominent in West Columbia.

The way it happened has compelled Jackson to stay with Brookland Baptist all these years. Anything he ever needed for the church, he received, Jackson said. With that, "I couldn't leave," he said. "God is wanting me to stay here."



## Evangelism, education and economic empowerment

Brookland Baptist celebrated the completion of its current, stunning sanctuary in 1999. But Jackson felt unsettled when he looked around the massive church. They hadn't built any community services, he believed. The construction of Brookland Baptist's campus was supposed to happen in three phases: building the church, then administrative officers, then community services. Jackson wanted community services built before administrative functions. In the decades since Brookland Baptist's home was built, the church has created an expansive campus of resources that anyone can utilize.

The first community services the church built were its banquet and conference room, a health and wellness center and child development center, which is essentially a Christian school. It also established a credit union where church members can get loans and other banking services. Brookland Baptist employs 166 people, according to Jackson. Before cut backs caused pandemic, it employed 193. The church even offers a lunch buffet. These community services, or ministries, help sustain the church and embody the mission of Brookland Baptist, which is to "proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism, education and economic empowerment," Jackson said.

Robert Wells has attended Brookland Baptist since he was born in 1985. Now, he's a trustee on the church's board and the Brookland-Cayce High School boys basketball coach. Wells said he's seen firsthand how Jackson is "a Godly man with a caring heart." "He naturally cares about everyone who he crosses," Wells said. As the church's leader, Jackson is busy but "he's always been one phone call away" when the basketball team or community needs help, Wells said. "His help with our community may not be seen but there's a lot he does behind doors to help," he said.

Columbia City Council member Tameika Isaac Devine also said that Jackson's contributions to West Columbia and beyond aren't done for personal recognition. "He's truly a servant leader and he serves from such a genuine place," she said. Devine and her husband sought a church to regularly attend when they were engaged. With their first visit to Brookland Baptist in 2003, they knew it would be their home church, she said. Jackson's humble leadership and focus on actions speaking louder than accolades has inspired Devine's public service, she said. He's also inspired her to care for herself so that she can care for others, she said. As a councilwoman, she carves out time to spend with her family. This gives her time to recharge, allowing her to be a better elected official, she said. Jackson taught her that as a public servant, "you can't give from a place of emptiness."

One way Jackson sought to give back to the community was by saving a building where he was taught some of his earliest lessons. The thunder that can burst from Jackson's voice came out when he talked about preserving the school where the principal supported the young pastor-in-the-making in the 1960s.

In the 2000s, Lakeview School, only about a mile from Brookland Baptist, faced the possibility of demolition. Lakeview was a school for children before integration and, though built within a racist system that oppressed Blacks, the school was seen by West Columbia's Black community as a place of opportunity, University of South Carolina history professor Bobby Donaldson told The State in December. The school closed because of desegregation in 1968. Jackson didn't want to see the school's history erased by bulldozers, and so he and the church rallied to purchase and revitalize Lakeview in 2007. The campus of the former school now houses a food bank, school tutoring programs, mentorship and athletic programs and a senior citizens resource center. Jackson's voice rose again when he said that 85 percent of the seniors who use the center aren't members of Brookland Baptist and that the church's sports teams had won four state championships in one year. The church also awards scholarships to high school seniors every year, he said. "I believe that the call of God upon my life is to build bridges," Jackson said. "I asked God for the venue that would bring people together" regardless of race, church membership, education, class and even political party.

Brookland Baptist completed its administrative buildings in the last year, Jackson said. For the first time in 50 years, he has his own personal office. He loves it, he said. But not as much as the rooms and corridors that serve the community.

# Marching on



On a Sunday in late January, Jackson stepped onto the pulpit with a burden heavy on his mind. He saw pews with only about 20 church members. Since the start of the pandemic, Brookland Baptist hadn't held in-person services. Only musicians and operations members attended so that the services could be live streamed. He was worried about the church, Jackson said. "All I have known for all of my life has been church on Sunday morning," he said. "I can't begin to tell you how much I miss the congregation."

He worried that members were losing their connection to the church in their absence from Sunday gatherings. He worried that people would forget the sense of community that came when they worshiped together. He worried about deeper problems beyond Brookland Baptist's walls. He was concerned with what appears to be a church "that's operating in the sundown of their years rather than the youthfulness of their lives."

"In some churches there are more funerals than baptisms," Jackson told the small crowd and the people watching online. "There's more and more of the world coming into the church and less and less of the church being experienced in the world," Jackson said.

He delved into to the book that had been with him since he was the boy who wanted to be a "peacher." He read from the Gospel of Matthew. "Upon this rock I will build my church." His voice rose with the grit of 50 years of preaching as he recalled the words of Jesus. "And the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." "When I read, 'The gates of Hell shall not prevail,' honest to goodness my spirits were lifted," Jackson preached.

"My church is going to be alright ... My church is going to be a church that's upright in an upside down world. My church is going to be a church with helping hands, embracing arms, compassionate hearts and loving spirits."

"Twenty years from now, 30 years from now, 40 years from now, the church is going to march on," he said toward the end of his sermon.

Belief has kept him marching for 50 years as the pastor of Brookland Baptist. But another element of the church has kept Pastor Jackson marching.

"God blessed the Brookland church and me with some of the best people of the Christian faith that you will find anywhere on the planet," he said.



# JOB FAIR

Øk

Taking Applications and Immediate Interviews in the Atrium of The Banquet & Conference Center

Full Time & Part Time Positions available

# BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

Maintenance Staff
 Security Officers

Security Officers

BROOKLAND ACADEMY

202

Teachers

MONDA

**BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER** 

Café/Banquet Servers

AVAILABLE *Dositions* 

- Banquet Setup
- Cooks

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1066 CHINCET DIVID WEST COLUMPIA SC 20160

# **COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

Beginning March 11, Lexington Medical Center will provide a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Brookland Baptist Church for those in Phase 1A and 1B.

# **Monday**-Friday

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

# **Sundays**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

# **Appointments are required.**





For more information or to register, visit LexMed.com/Vaccine or call (803) 739-3363.

Bennie Amaker Jennifer Boone Jessica M. Boone Aubury L. Bosket Anthony Brooks Jr Robert Caesar Kareem Daise Blaike A. Fisher Tylisa Hill Ashley Jackson Manuel Barboz Kassen Le Angelia McG Kevin McN Ronald Middl Samara M. Rich April Day Si Alvin Staley Nathan D. Ta Nikita Ussi	Griff S eil leton nor nmond lva y Jr aylor	Vanessa Abercrombie Sabrena Martinez Bartle Teaja Brown Vernel Edwarrds Michael Fanning Maria Hart Myosha Henicks Jessica Breaux	y	Michael A Jennings Jacob Johnson, Jr Sheila Lee Marie Singleton Eugene Webber Camiele White
Tylisa HillAlvin StaleyAshley JacksonNathan D. TaManuel BarbozRenell Riley Livit	/ Jr aylor	Jessica Breaux		
James Benson JrBrandi McCJames BranhamAlanti McG	ingston Coy Fill	Celeste H. Brown Ryann Carter Valencia Dawkins Caleb Fields Jennifer Ford-Cooper George Godfrey	5	Betty L. Goodwine Keisa Gunby Kimberly S. Hunter Thomas R. Mack, Jr Kim C. Mitchell Kelsea Price Joy L. Shuler-Guinyard
Ann DeAngelisMelika MinLesia DeloachAlisha MorgMarquita R GeterAaron PeavJacqueline GilbertRonald RichmMichael GillersonEarline SimmRamon GuitardMessiah SimmCalvin JacksonErnest StallweJason JamesRaynard TiscJeffrey JenningsTitus Washing	gan Vy nond nons nons orth dale gton	Wilbert K. Baker Carrie Bridges Glenn Coleman Shelbi Cooper Crystal Y. Davis Edward Davis, Jr Kendra Evans	6	Cedric Green Sr Melisa McClurkin Angela Moore James Quick, Jr Casey Robinson Latrina Smith April Wells
Rhonda Jennings Eric Johnson SrTawanda LawtorCarena Autmon Greta BeckettDesmond Hi Brenda G. Joh Henry Johnso Kristen Funderburk Shirley Wats LaTonya Greene	inds inson on Jr Kennedy	Ranva Gooden Ashford Norma Irvin Blocker Derrick Cain Alaina Coates Alvina Evans Dayontice Furtick Nathan Gilliard Kaitlyn N Gilmore Doretha Godfrey	7	Victoria Anne Goldsmith Kassim Hosendove Amber Hughes Walter Jackson Gwendolyn Johnson Pamela Johnson Ernest T. Reynolds Marcella Sample Andrea Renee Thompson







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Raymond Bordley Tonya Conner D. Natkki Dawkins Geraldine Etheridge Najjar Faustin	Alexander Ford Whitney Jackson Anthony Robertson Sylvia Thomas LaTasha Williams	Anita Blount Ella Bookert Saudia Brownlee Michael Claxton		Marion Miller , Jr. Samuel Quatttlebaum LaDonia Shuler Mae F. Sims
Felicia C. Baker Kenneth Burton Michelle Copeland Tami Daugherty Janice M. Gordon Esther Legette Shonda Lewis Franklin Mack Lewis McLauren	Aaliyah Renee Moore Kimberly Drayton Peterson Felicia Roberson Talesha Robinson Brandon Rollerson Barbara T. Smith Constance Suber Wendi Williams	Ervin Esau Veronica Everett Josephus Howard Marvell Mendenhall	4	Tre'Vaughn Thomas Caylen Walker Jasmine Walker
		Alexis Adams Randy Bell, Jr		Debra Johnson Dorothea Lewis
Aliza Boone Precious V. Bryant	Joes Jones Kimberly N. McGill	Grover Bostic	16	Bobbie Louden
Jerry Burch	Cheryl McRae	April Daniels	N	Kerstin Mackey
Rosetta Eaddy Janice E. Harris	George Rice Jr Darius Suber	Betty DeWalt Steven L. Gilbert		Ebony Payne Betty Session
Marvin Howard	Tyrick Wilson	Steven L. Onbert		Detty Session
Isacc T. Benn	Lisa G. Lewis	Degeneration de Deve all Devi		Lucius Cariet III
Shelander Black	Sherry Middleton	Rosemounda Percell Butle Drayon Holmes		Irving Smith III LeToya Singleton Walker
Dinah Alexis Brooker	Jean Moody	Sharon Kennedy		John Wright
Margaret Chaplin Reginald Dalton	Nicole M. Osborne Betty Owens	Frank Reeves	IV	
Leilah Hill	Sheltric Peterson			D I
Reginald Howell	Sherry K. Rivers	Donovan Bailey Ronald C. Bethea, Jr		Dwayne Jones Lloyd E. Julius
Keirsten Hoyle B. Noelle Jones	Rabiyah Sims Louis T. Sutton, Sr.	Brittney T. Brown		Faye Mathis
Shannon Ali	Barbara Kearse	Christopher Brown		Tauteuna Oliver
Angel B. Coleman	Chris McConnell	Dione Burton Howard Davis	17	Candace Sharee Parson JoJuan M. Pradubsri
David Corley, Jr Julie Geiger	Debra M. McCoy Ezell Parker II	Elnora J. Dean		Janie L. Story
Chelsea Gilmore	Barbara Watson	Rena P. Dixon	11	Khadijah Sutton
Cynthia A.M. Jackson Jaelin Johnson	Almetrice Weldon Jessica Wilson	Jeremy Jenkins Kathy Jenkins		Itia J. Taylor Sonia D. Thomas
Justis Johnson		Deontae' Johnson		Tony Thomas
Johnnie Barnett	Anthony Jamison			
Joyce Baskett	Adrianne Dixon Jenkins	Johnny E. Brown		Sequoya McDaniels
Iris Dudley Nathan Etheredge, Sr	Kaia Leathers Kareem Mitchell	Michael Drayton Haley Green		Tracy Middleton Walter Nelson
Delawese Fulton	Susie Padgett-Anderson	Jemia Jefferson	40	Sarafina Robinson
Johnny Gilliard Charnet Hall	Gary A. Rice Dewaii L. Tate	Kaylah S. Johnson Dena Woods-Jude		Ashley Simmons
James Jackson	Ashley Williams	Desiree Leach		Pamela Small Shirley Toland
Patricia James	Jessica Woods			<i>y</i>

# Birthdays

Amanda Adams Kelly Adams Alice Benson Anthony Brown Sandra Delaney Johnson

Anthony Brown Ashley Butler Precious Caesar Marcy Cannon Ralph Deas Victoria Dozier Courtney Gantt Constance Glover Averyl Harth Victoria Louis Jean Cecil Banks, Jr Kristal Gary Titus P. Gibbs Ron Graham Marguerite Hailstock **Robin Jackson** 

Sandra Jackson Rick Abercrombie Terrance Acox Dallas A. Bess Mimmie Carter Eric K. Coleman Katherine Davis Shanti Dickerson Mae Fields Fulks Barbara Gantt

Renita Armstrong Raheem Askia Larry Blake Tori Bright Linda A. Davis Vernon Davis Shannon Fields Lois Franklin Stephanie Frison Taylor Henry

Katherine Albert Kamel Chevry Betty L. Gaines Murphy Holloway Lorenza Alfred Jackson

James Nelson Jessica Perkins Louise Singleton Ramiya Starks Diane Jones Asia Kelley Frederick Ladson Matthew F. McCray Rachel B. Porter Sherron Reese Josetta Smalls Hillard S. Tate Antoinette Walker **Connie Woods** Lataya N. Keitt Sharonda McCoy Oscar McKnight Myrtis Randall Kia Smith Frank Streater III Ciera C. Walker

Mary Ann Jones

Dwight A. Mims

Bruce W. Gardner Sammie Grant III Dawna Keith Jemetia L. Mealing Michael Montague, JR Brandon Jamal Sanders Ronnie Settles Tabbetha Turnbow Anthony Weston Terence Young

Mozell Jones Quadarius McMillan Barbara McQueen Tonisha Pearson Barry Riley Velvet Riley Cabatha Rogers Bruc Smith Teah Smith

Oneita Jackson Henretta Montgomery KeAndre Peavy Kennedy Polk Jordanne Thomas Michael Bines Tinita Branch Jana Coleman Elaine Dunbar Ponzella Edwards Krystal Gadson Ivory Gleaton William Hammond Nancy Herring Marion Jackson

Larry K. Bennon Eloise E. Black Joseph Boyd April Burgess Karen Chin Leah Melissa Godbold DeJuaha A. Harris Sophie Hunter

Terrance Ashford Cedric E. Barnes, Jr Jesse Brigg IV Donna Naomi Brown Victoria Edmonds Sharon Fields Wanda Gardner Carolyn Grant

Jane Agard Audrey Wilson Alston Aisha Budden Kenyatta Cunningham Johnny King Anthony Mivens

Patricia Belton Arnold Benson Sharon Carree Fred Daniels, Jr Essie Dantzler Star Dantzler Ebony L. Gaymon Ashley Harringtton Zakiya Harrison Jaree Jacobs

Jazzmine Bamberg Shirley Benn Michael A. Bethea Sadarious Butler Regina Gayle Butler Crystal Gibson Bernard Holmes Christopher Hughes Larry H. Jackson Demetrius Johnson Ayana L. Jones Tameka Lane Allan Manning Shehenia Mitchell Lueveretia Moore Barbara Scarborough Venette Shuler Anthony Stokes Dequnn Thomas Gail Vereen Anginette Yarborough

Carlos A. Jones Romeo S. Nembhard Tyrone Lamar Satterfield Miriam A. Sneed William Willie Stephens Thomas D. Williams Teresa Y. Wilson Enoch Wisdom

Peggie Grant Ania Hill Kevin Hogan Lawrence Reed Daja Mon'e Scott Destiny Stewart Olanda Watts Kennedy Williams

Chanta Jones Samuel Patricia A. Smith Shanika Smith-Opiyo Khari Taylor Arika White Shauna Williams

Latrina Crum Jeffrey Equivilyn McMicheal Vickie Moody Sherman Porterfield Nadia Pryor Dwayne E. Randolph Curtis Richardson , Jr Ferron Thomas Myia Thomas Tricia Washington

Franklin D. Jones Danielle Lloyd Angela D. McCray Robert A. Myers Helen Pleasant Sarah F. Riley Sean Spain Myles Thomas Rebecca Washington Judy Wiggins John H. Williams, Jr





Your Deacon and the Pastoral Staff are concerned and care about every member in our Church "Family." When there is a sickness, surgery or death in your family, Please contact your Deacon and the Pastoral Office (Angela Taylor) at (803)744-7908

through the church membership database.
If you find any errors in the listings or if you have recently moved or changed your phone number, please contact the Church Office at the West Campus at (803) 796-7525 or the Northeast Campus at (803) 753-0610.







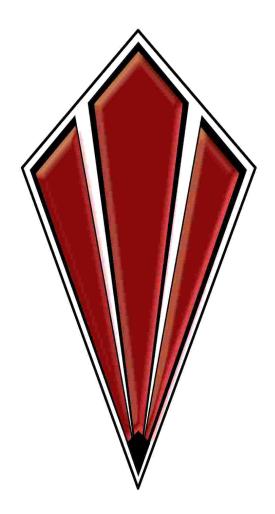
# Congratulations to our March 2021 NMO Graduates:

## West Campus

Cyrus Bennett Edna Chandler Trinitee Davenport Kimberly Hanton Lesly James Walter James Talbitha Mason Gabrielle Morgan Shamille Rice

## Northeast Campus

Evelyn Dingle-Griffin Michael Griffin Logan Kelly Anjeliqua McNair Keith McNair Kennedi McNair Casey Perry Astrid Prieto Kenny Waters



New members, we look forward to your service in ministry as we endeavor to fulfill the mission of Brookland Baptist Church! Our next joint Virtual New Members Orientation session will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2021 via Zoom from 9AM to 11AM. For more information, please contact Pamela Felder, BNE NMO Coordinator via email at <u>brooklandnenmo@gmail.com</u>.



T<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Women of Excellence<sup>O</sup> Oratorical Contest

Host: Winnical Brown Opening Prayer – Gabrille Morgan



**Production Manager:** Nelson Addison **Dramatic Reading** – Micah Washington



YWE Oratorical Contest Coordinator: Sheral Bowman
YWE Leaders: - Norma Brown & Sherry Rivers
Committee: Vanessa Hodges, Gail Singleton, Janice Williams, Johanna D. Bridgett
Speech Advisors: Sheral Bowman, Suzette Childress, Gail Singleton, Norma Brown, Linda Coulter, Earline
Simmons, Melinda Lynn, Janice Williams, Glendora Williams, Pam Green, Jona' Hodges, Vanessa Hughes, Linda
Butler, Angel Malone, Rhonda Midgette, Sandra Grant, Sherry Rivers

# 5th thru 8th GradeLeft to Right - 1st Harlynn Dawkins \* 2nd Jayda S. Bridgett \* 3rd Alayna Minder







## Runner-Ups – Lyrica Fludd, LeeAnn Johnson, McKensie Gaymon

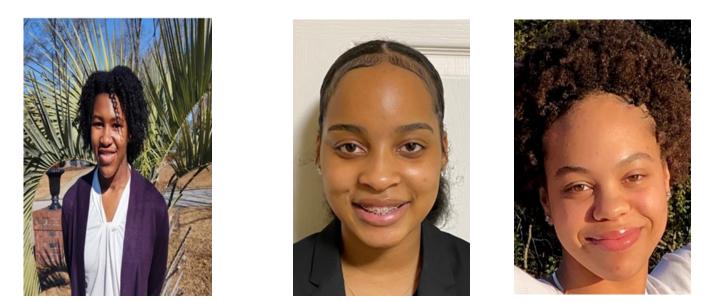








# Left to Right – <u>1<sup>st</sup> Amber Burton \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Aisha Budden \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Ashley Hubbard</u>



Runner-Ups from left to right – Jayme Tillman-Bridgett, Sania White, AnneKatherine Johnson Tyra Jefferson & Makayla Washington (not photo'd)



# **GIVING BACK DURING THE PANDEMIC** *Burton Obtained Two-\$2,000 Grants for the Soup Kitchen & Food Bank*

Since March 2020, Amber Burton has performed approximately seventy-five hours of extraordinary community service. Along with assistance of church members, teens and youth advisors, Amber coordinated a Black Lives #IMatter virtual event on July 25, 2021. More than 100 teens across South Carolina came together to express concerns regarding the state of the country. Bringing teens of all races, genders, and political affiliations to have a civil conversation was super important when civility is almost nonexistent. The panel consisted of Pastors, the City Mayor, politicians, activisms, and representatives from law enforcement, education, and mental health fields. Amber was responsible for logistics, interviewed and selected panel speakers as well as served as one of the moderators.

November 2020: Amber and her sister Nia assisted with packing and



distributing 200 toiletry bags and toys to children. Amber assisted with a second activity to distribute 200 turkeys, fruit and vegetable baskets. These events for families in need were sponsored by United Ministries through the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Camden, S.C.- Reverend Warren Bolton, Pastor.

December 2020: Dreher High School girls' varsity basketball team sponsored a blanket and sock drive through Resurrection Lunch on Lawn Ministry for the homeless. Amber used personal funds to purchase items to donate and purchased additional blankets to provide to the homeless at Finley Park. Amber and Nia distributed those blankets and toiletry bags to the homeless on Christmas morning along with their friends.





This event was sponsored by Word of God Church in Columbia, S.C. - Reverend Eric Warren Davis, Pastor.

As Amber participated with various organizations, she wanted to give more, especially through her church. She decided to sponsor a food drive to serve people who had faced harsher sides of this pandemic. To have a successful food drive, she needed a plethora of food and supplies. Due to Covid-19 and its restrictions, it was difficult to collect enough food safely with limited contact. Instead of asking for drop-off donations, she and her mother, Carolyn Burton explored the idea of applying for a grant. They began planning the event in December 2020 with Ms. Louden, Food Bank Coordinator and Mr. Wood, Soup Kitchen Coordinator regarding logistics. Her mother was able to obtain grants on Amber's behalf through Foresters Insurance Company to purchase 4,435 pounds of food. Amber publicized the event on the radio, shared flyers with family, friends, church members, and the community. Although Amber had \$4,000, she wanted to be a good Steward with God's money and bargain shop first at the BI-LO grocery stores that were going out of business.

# **SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY**

The food was purchased from the Chef's store, Walmart, Food Lion, and BI-LO. Church members and Foresters' volunteers came to assist on February 13, 2021. Each person was assigned various tasks from unloading and sorting the food to packing the soup and sandwich meals to serve walk-ins and placing in vans for delivery. Amber and her friend Emonnie Cheeks unboxed, sorted, organized, restocked shelves, refrigerator, and freezer with food to be available for the cooks when needed. Nia help to unload food, package and serve meals.



# **FOOD BANK MINISTRY**

A few items were purchased from the BI-LO but final selections were completed with the assistance of Mr. Darrel Miller at the Piggly Wiggly on Devine Street. Boxes to place food in was ordered online and tape was purchased from Walmart. Members from the church and Foresters' came out to assist on February 27, 2021. Amber ensured food items were unloaded, sorted, organized and ready to fill boxes. Volunteers assembled the boxes and placed them in an assembly line to be filled with food. The food boxes were labeled and stacked accordingly and ready for distribution to the community on March 1, 2021



This project was meaningful to others because it satisfied a need by providing 500 meals and 100 food boxes, with 20 boxes given to the homeless through Resurrection Lunch on Lawn Ministry. The impact of community service is phenomenal! Amber and Nia are grateful to help others. Amber is appreciative that Ms. Louden and Mr. Wood allowed her to partner with them to coordinate a food drive of this magnitude. She plans to pursue another grant to help women shelters and their children. Special thanks to Piggly Wiggly and Two Men & A Truck for delivering most of the food to the church as a charitable contribution.

Amber: An honor student in the National Honor Society, 2020 Palmetto Girls State, Urban League Gifted, and active in various sports; Basketball Captain (3-time MVP, All-State and All-Star North/South Carolina teams): Been active here at Brookland as 2019 -20 Youth & Teen's Day Committee-Secretary, Junior Ushers-Director, Praise Dance Team, VIBE Teen Church, Young Women of Excellence, Girl Scouts, other charitable events and has written Christmas/Easter plays for the youth department: President of the Community, Helping, Assisting, Motivating, Promising, Students Leadership Program through Eastminster Presbyterian Church and NAACP member. Nia is a freshman at N. C. Agricultural and Technical State University majoring in Biology and achieved the

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# MONDAYS & THURSDAYS 6:00PM-7:30PM

To register, complete Student Access Form at brooklandfoundation.org For more information, please contact Cassandra Conyers-Rush at 803.318.3479 or by email at foundation@brookland.cc



# FOOD GIVEAWAY

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY STARTING MARCH 20, 2021 FOR LEXINGTON COUNTY RESIDENTS

> 9:00A.M TO 12:00 P.M. 1218 BATCHELOR STREET WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169



BROOKLAND COMMUNITY FOOD BANK FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY, ENDING HUNGER.

FOOD ITEMS WILL VARY FROM MONTH TO MONTH







Brookland Foundation 803.744.7914 www.BrooklandFoundation.org foundation@brookland.cc



# Love, Loyalty and Leadership 1971-2021

"WHOEVER WANTS TO BE GREAT MUST BECOME A SERVANT." (MATTHEW 20:26)

NANA.

TO OUR SERVANT LEADER WHO IS COMMITTED TO "BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BELIEVERS."

CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.