

*“For to us a child is born, to us
a son is given, and the
government will be on his
shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.”*
Psalm 28:7



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DEC 2025 -
JAN 2026
ISSUE #6

"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 (NKJV)



Family,

Marking the start of the Christian year, advent is a Christian season of expectant waiting and preparation for Christmas. This holy season **should** focus our attention on celebrating Jesus' birth and preparing for His second coming. The reality is that advertising for Christmas seems to start earlier each year. Though officially the day after Thanksgiving, Black Friday sales started in mid-October. With endless opportunities to shop, buy, and sell, it is easy to lose our way during the Advent-Christmas season. This holy season reminds us to make room for Jesus!

Marked by the four Sundays before Christmas, Advent points us to Jesus Christ! He is the One in whom we place our hope, grants us peace that passes human understand, makes our joy FULL, and whose love led Him to die on a rugged cross as payment for the sins of the whole world! During this beautiful and holy season, I pray that you will STOP, STUDY, and SEEK! Stop rushing to the point that you miss opportunities for prayer, worship, and service. Study the word of God! You will be awestruck as you discern the arc of God's love for us in creation, throughout history, and in giving us the greatest give that we could ever receive (no, it is NOT a gaming system, new car, or engagement ring)--SALVATION! Seek the Lord through praise, worship, and service!

The Son of God was born in a stable because there was no room for his pregnant mother in what we would call a hotel. We might be tempted to judge the innkeeper harshly but the truth is that our lives are often way too crowded. We are focused on so many things that we find ourselves crowding Jesus OUT! School, work, family, friends, travel, shopping, wrapping, giving, and our many opportunities to celebrate the season can take a toll on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Today, take a moment to make room for Jesus.

Make room for Him in your heart, in your mind, in your conversation, in your giving! As you appreciate the beauty of the holiday decorations around you, the stable where Jesus was born was not so! When you gaze at the lights and ornaments on your Christmas tree, remember that Christ was crucified on an old, rugged cross (a tree) so that you and I could be reconnected to God, live the abundant life now, and experience eternity in God's presence when this life ends. And, if for some reason there are no gifts for you to unwrap this year OR you don't get what you REALLY wanted, remember that God has already given you and I the BEST gift ever--His love--when He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ--the Light of the World and the "reason for the season."

Tim and I extend our blessings for a joyous Christmas and a purpose-filled New Year to each of you.

Pastor A





Be an Advent Angel

Help us brighten someone's Christmas by sowing into the Ministry of Kindness (Benevolence) Fund in December!



Healthy & Whole

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): More Than the Winter Blues

As the days get shorter and there is less daylight, you may start to feel sad. While many people experience the “winter blues,” some people may have a type of depression called seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

The first step is to determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.

Do you have mild symptoms that have lasted less than 2 weeks?



- Feeling down but still able to take care of yourself and others
- Having some trouble sleeping
- Having less energy than usual but still able to do your job, schoolwork, or housework

These activities can make you feel better:



- Doing something you enjoy
- Going outside in the sunlight
- Spending time with family and friends
- Eating healthy and avoiding foods with lots of sugar

If these activities do not help or your symptoms are getting worse, talk to a health care provider.

Do you have more severe symptoms that have lasted more than 2 weeks?



- Social withdrawal
- Oversleeping
- Gaining weight
- Craving foods with lots of sugar like cakes, candies, and cookies

Seek professional help:



- Light therapy
- Psychotherapy (talk therapy)
- Medications
- Vitamin D supplements

For help finding treatment, visit [nimh.nih.gov/findhelp](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp).

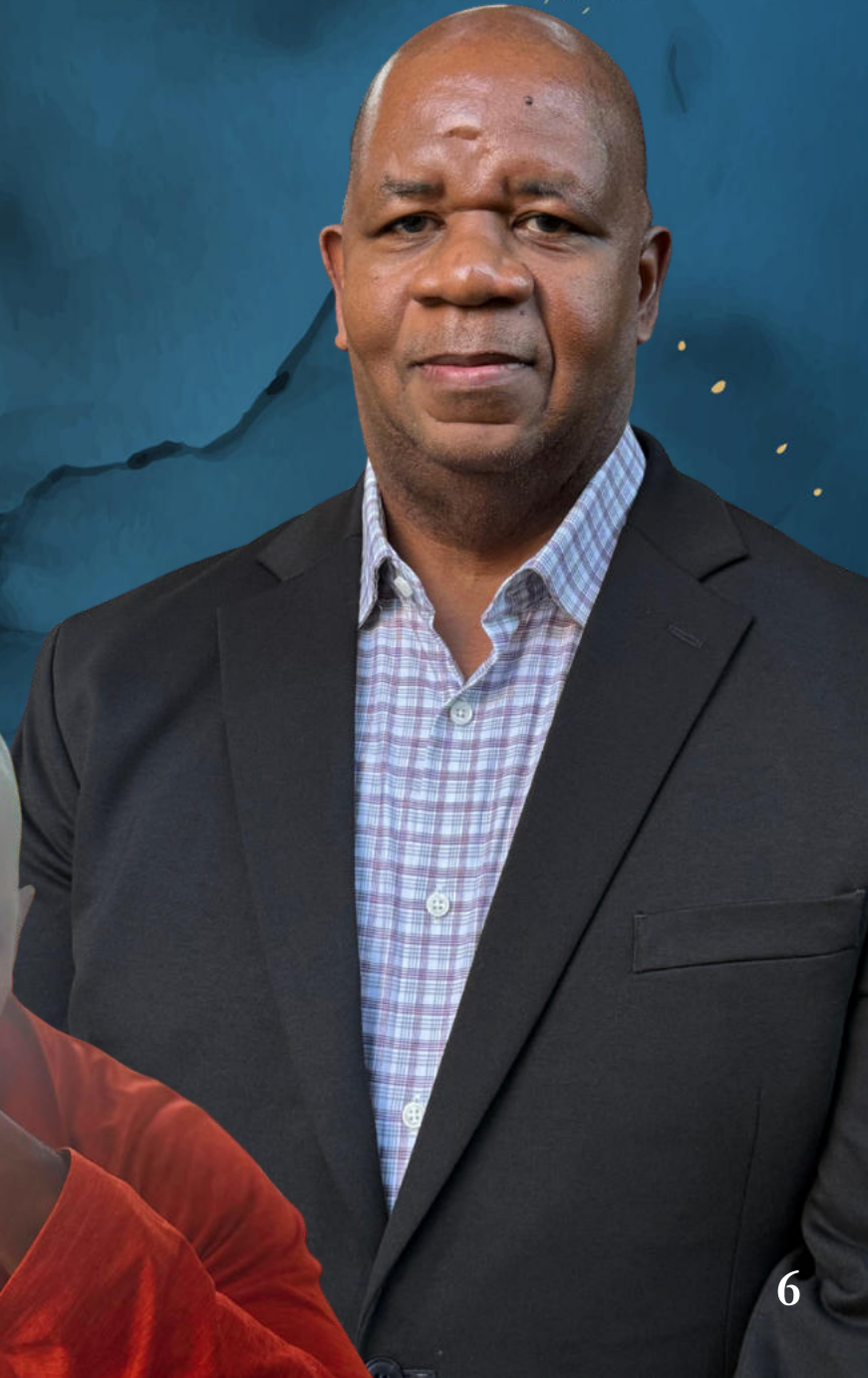
If you or someone you know is in immediate distress or is thinking about hurting themselves, call or text the **988** Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat at [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).



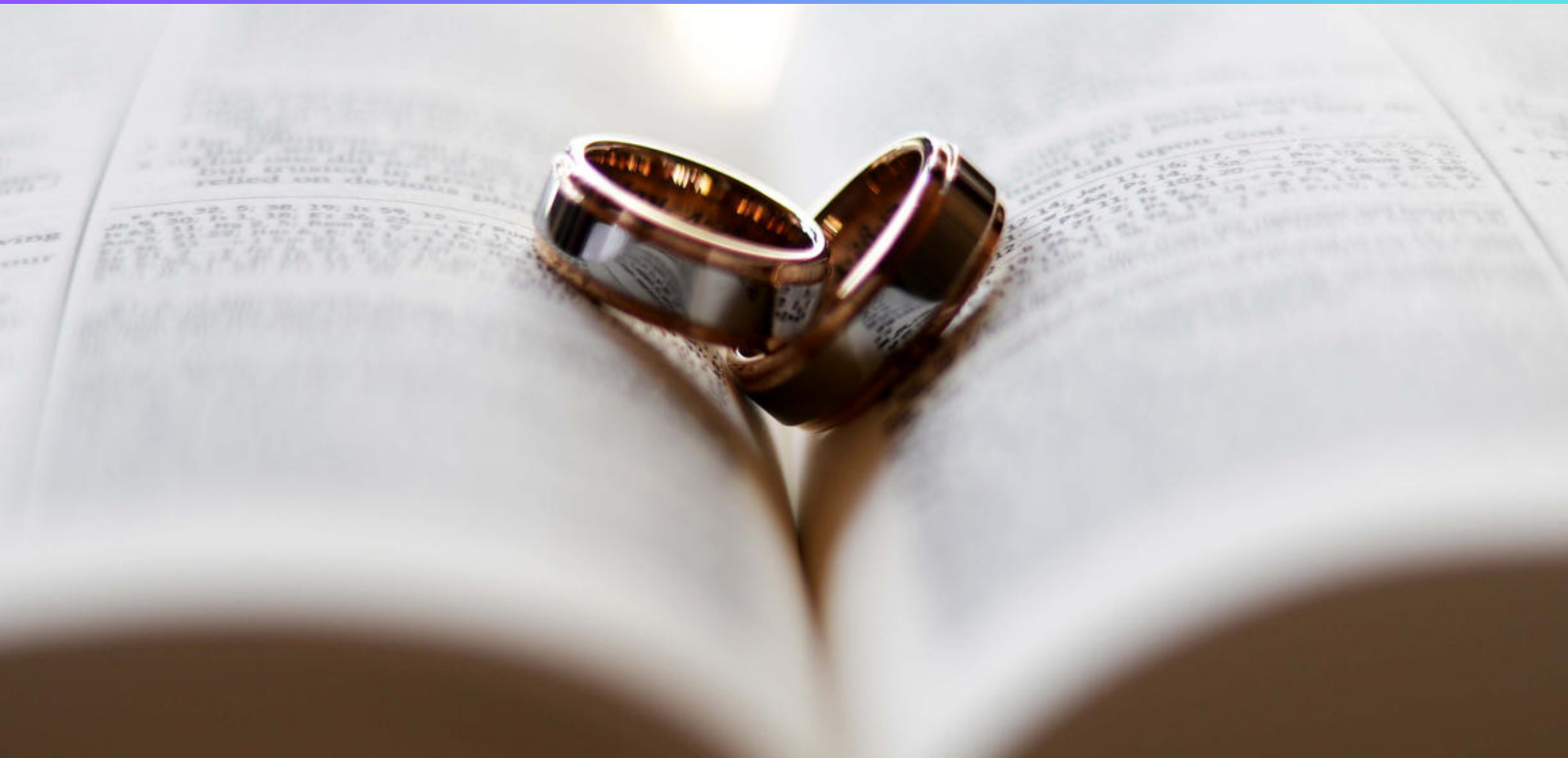
*Celebrating a
Birthday
in
December*

Monét Robinson - 1st
Peter Kong-Quee - 1st
Marguerite Stewart - 7th
Jan Youmans - 8th
Valrie Kong-Quee - 9th
Terrence Walters - 14th
Ava Pernell - 16th
Shamir Pressley - 17th
Spencer Hammonds - 17th
Nehemiah Abney - 20th
Timothy Johnson - 22nd
Michele Martin - 22nd
Thomas Green - 23rd
Glenn Seeley - 24th
Barbara Walker - 25th
Kyle Abney, Sr. - 25th
Tristen Sutherland - 26th
DeShawn Richardson - 27th
Betty Wrights - 29th
Logan Isaiah McCray - 30th

Solid Rock wishes
Mr. Timothy K. Johnson
a
Blessed 60th Birthday
12/22



December Anniversaries



Peter & Valrie Kong-Quee - December 3

Julian & Ruth Parker - December 18

Brandon & Shamir Pressley - December 19

Warren & Vernell Nesbitt - December 25

Jarrod & Lakisha Cheek - December 26

Anniversary Blessings to *Mr. and Mrs. Warren (Vernell) Nesbitt*



*Celebrating fifty-six (56) years
of Christian marriage!*

Sun

WEEKLY AT THE ROCK

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.

- <https://zoom.us/j/815284169>
- Meeting ID 815 284 169
- Dial in number (301) 715-8592

Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:45 a.m.

- In-Person and via YouTube Live Stream (solidrockamezion.org)

Nursery Ministry

- Ministry and care for children up to age 5 is available on Sundays. The Nursery is located on the 2nd floor.

Tuesday Night Prayer @ 6:00 p.m.

- Dial in number 978-990-5450
- Passcode/Access Code 364755!

Tuesday Night Virtual Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

- <https://zoom.us/j/584607510>
- Meeting ID 584 607 510
- Dial in (929) 436-2866

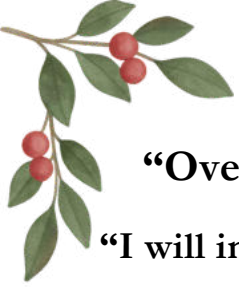
Wednesdays @ 7 a.m. - Join Pastor A for "The Dwelling: Mid-Week Encouragement and Prayer."

- Dial +1 (301) 298-1561 and enter 630958# when prompted.
- Send Praise Reports and Prayers requests to Pastor A @ (301) 741-0325.

Thursday Night Prayer Call at 8:30 – 8:45 p.m.

- Dial in number 978-990-5450
- Passcode/Access Code 364755





CLASS LEADER'S CORNER

“Overcoming Depression, Disappointments, Loneliness, and Sadness”

“I will instruct thee and teach thee the way which thou shalt go I will teach thee with mine eyes.” Psalms 32:8 (KJV)

“Behold, God is my helper:” Psalms 54:4a (KJV)

“Casting all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you.” First Peter 5:7 (KJV)

The Christmas season is often seen as a wonderful time filled with love, joy, happiness, and fellowship. But that is not true for everyone. Those who have lost a loved one face serious health challenges, financial strain, broken relationships, or struggle with mental health issues, the season often brings feelings of depression, loneliness, and sadness. How does one face the reality of a season that is not so “merry and bright”?

First, we must “lean on God,” go to Him in prayer, and ask Him for help. Our God is always available and ready to help with our problems and concerns. When we pray, our focus is on God not our problem(s). When we give our problems and concerns to God, He takes charge of our situation. Remember, our God is Sovereign. He can do anything. “But, with God ALL things are possible.” Matthew 19:26c (KJV)

Second, we must focus on the “wisdom of God” which is revealed to us through the Scriptures. In God’s word, we find wisdom, inspiration, encouragement, peace of mind, guidance, comfort, hope, strength, healing, and confidence. No matter what we face, Scripture is relevant and true. As we enter this holy season, we must find a Scripture that is relevant to our concern, study and pray the word of God. In fact, copy the verse on a piece of paper, sticky note, or an index card and read it throughout the day.

Finally, we must rest on God’s promises! One verse of “God Will Take Care of You” reminds us that “All you need He will provide; nothing you ask for will be denied.” Regardless of the season and especially when we find ourselves struggling, we can rest in knowing God is always available, ready, and able to take care of each of us!

PRAYER:

Father God, please grant comfort and peace of mind to those of us who are coping with depression, disappointments, loneliness, and sadness during this blessed and holy season.

Refresh our spirits, fill us with joy, and help us to cherish this special time of the year.

Thank You for listening to and answering our prayers. AMEN!





CLASS LEADERS' CORNER ADVENT 2025

*Recommended Scriptures, Words of Encouragement,
Prayer, and Activities for the Family*

WEEK 1: HOPE

November 30 – December 6, 2025
Scriptures: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7

COMMENTS:

Thank God for sending His Son Jesus Christ to bring us HOPE! Our lives would be in a constant state of disarray and brokenness, dreams would be shattered, and we would not be able to cope with life! Hope inspires us to hold on in anticipation and expectation, because something good will happen in our lives. God can bring good out of the most challenging times. A modern songwriter says, "I am expecting great things. Eyes have not seen. I choose to believe great things." Let us maintain our hope in God—He is great and can do anything except fail!

PRAYER:

Father God of Hope, thank You for bringing us Hope through the Birth of your Son Jesus Christ. Teach us and help us to remember that through the Scriptures endurance, encouragement, and faith will help us to live with Hope. AMEN

ACTIVITIES:

1. Pray for our Sick and Shut-In during the Advent season.
2. Donate to Solid Rock's Advent Angels Fund to ensure families in need and members who live alone are blessed on Christmas Day.



WEEK 2: PEACE

December 7-13, 2025

Scriptures: Psalms 72:17-19, Romans 15:3

COMMENTS:

Peace is not the absence of trials, tribulations, or even conflict. It is a sense of inner calm based on the belief that God will work good from every situation. God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to give us the kind of peace that surpasses all human understanding even during the most demanding situations.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us now and always go to God in prayer. He will transform our anxieties, hurts, and problems into peace. The hymnwriter says, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!" God is our Peace!

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for the peace your Son, Jesus promised us; deep, lasting, abiding peace. Please daily grant us peace in our lives. Help us to live at peace with everyone. Amen!

ACTIVITIES:

1. Pray for our children, youth, college students, young adults, and senior members.
2. Donate canned goods or other non-perishable items to a local Food Bank.
3. Donate blankets to a shelter or program serving unhoused people.



WEEK 3: JOY

December 14-20, 2025

Scriptures: Luke 2:10-11, 26-35

COMMENTS:

As we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming, let us strive to accept God's will with joy. Let us try to think of every wonderful thing the Lord has done for us and celebrate that the Lord is always with us. Jesus is our true joy. Verse 3 of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" says "Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the JOY of living, Ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother- All who live in love are thine; Teach how to love each other, Lift us to the JOY Divine."

Solid Rock, let us live a life of JOY by walking, praying, and giving thanks to God every day.

PRAYER:

Father God, help us to remember the good news that Jesus' Birth has the power to bring us JOY this Christmas season and always. Fill our hearts with JOY this Advent season as we reflect on the "Good News of Jesus' Birth!" In Jesus precious name. AMEN

ACTIVITIES:

1. Pray for our Ministerial Staff and Family (Pastor A., Rev. Opal Stewart, Rev. Simone Ferguson).
2. Pray for our President, Vice President, National, World, and Local Leaders.
3. Pray for traveling mercies for ourselves, families, and friends during this holiday season.



WEEK 4: LOVE

December 21-27, 2025

Scripture: John 3:16-18

COMMENTS:

Advent is a season of LOVE. God loved the world so much that He gave us His only Son. The Psalmist says in Psalms 106:1, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His LOVE endures forever.” The promises of God’s unfailing, everlasting LOVE are found throughout the scriptures. Nothing will separate us from the LOVE of God. His love sustains us in every aspect of our lives.

Dating back to 1859, the words “Jesus Loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so” is sung by small children, senior adults, and everyone in between. We cherish these words and respond with “Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!”

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending your gift of LOVE to us that first Christmas. Teach us to LOVE You with ALL of our hearts and with ALL of our souls and minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Teach and help us to LOVE and do good for those who despise us. Thank You Father God for Your unconditional LOVE. AMEN

ACTIVITIES:

1. Pray that God will heal our land from crime, gun violence, racism, hatred, and other ills facing our communities, cities, states, nation, and the world.
2. Call, text, or email family members, friends, or co-workers and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
3. Pray for our First Responders, Paramedics, Doctors, Nurses, and Fire Fighters.



COMING SOON

- **December 13:** Steward Board, Trustee Board, Budget and Finance Committee Meeting @ 10:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- **December 14:** Winter Meeting Briefing (Immediately following Morning Worship)
- **December 20:** Youth Choir Rehearsal (Time TBA)
- **December 23:** Church Office **CLOSES**
- **December 25:** Christmas Day
- **December 27-30:** Winter Meeting of the Christian Education Department (Baltimore, MD)
- **December 27:** Children's Choir Rehearsal (Time TBA)
- **December 28:** Ugly Sweater Sunday
- **December 31:** Watch Night @ The Rock
- **January 3:** Family Communion @ 10:45 a.m.
- **January 4-11:** Spiritual Emphasis Week
- **January 6:** Church Office **REOPENS**
- **January 14-16:** South Atlantic Episcopal District (SAED) Winter Convocation (Rock Hill, SC)
- **January 16:** Pastor A's 33rd Ministerial Anniversary
- **January 17:** SAED First Check Up Meeting (Joint)
- **January 18:** Zion remembers Victoria Richardson (Youth Missionary founder)
- **January 25:** Zion remembers Marie L. Clinton (Founder, Buds of Promise Juvenile Missionary Society)
- **March 6-8:** Plug-In/Women's Weekend @ The Rock

JANUARY



- Robert Markham - 1st**
Albert Miller - 1st
Mykaila Warlock - 2nd
Christopher Bruce - 6th
Carolyn Carson - 6th
Harry Dean Robinson - 7th
Oliver Burnett - 9th
Cynthia Seals - 11th
Montavious Beasley - 14th
Lois Burnett - 17th
Phyllis Brown - 20th
Angela Russell - 21st
Warren Nesbitt - 22nd
Zynea Johnson - 29th
Dylcia Sherald - 31st

January Anniversaries



Mr. and Mrs. George (Annie) Jackson - 5th

Mr. and Mrs. Kordell (Haley) Mitchell - 29th

PRAY FOR THE SICK

“I am the Lord, who heals you.”

Exodus 15:26

Mr. and Mrs. Joe (Georgetta) Armstrong - (Parents of Ms.
Cynthia Jones)

Ms. Linda Bess

Miss Alayna Brown

Rev. Geneva Cherry

Mrs. Reva Goins - (Friend of Solid Rock)

Mr. James Howard - (husband of Mrs. Regina Howard)

Mrs. Vernell Nesbitt

Mr. and Mrs. Willie (Maxine) Pugh

Mrs. Reatha Stevens - (mother of Mr. Ronald Stevens)

Ms. Kaye Toote-Wallace


Ms. Rhonda Williams

Mrs. Barbara Windham

Mrs. Retha Woodall

Pray mightily for those struggling with addiction, mental health challenges, brokenness in family relationships, the unhoused, and those in spiritual bondage.

PRAYING THE LORD'S COMFORT FOR THE BEREAVED AMONG US



Blessed are those who mourn, for
they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

Mrs. Martha H. Greene & Family

Mr. Jarrod (Lakisha) Cheek & Family

Mr. Peter (Valrie) Kong-Quee & Family

Mrs. JoAnn Wright & Family

Mr. George (Annie) Jackson & Family

*Dr. Montina (Jerome) Jackson, Dr. Sharita
Golphin (Jeremy) Reese & the Moss Families*

Mrs. Cheryl Weems & Family



OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Caregivers everywhere

Mrs. Sara Mickens-Rivers

Rev. Opal Stewart

Master Justice Thompkins

**Those who recently accepted
Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior**

**The Breakthru House staff and
residents**

**Christians being persecuted
for the faith around the world!**

The Body of Christ

The A.M.E. Zion Church

Bishop and Mrs. Leake

**Presiding Elder John Paul &
Mrs. Crystal Allen Ruth**

**Pastor A and Timothy
Johnson**

One another

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE



Individual members of Solid Rock who were unable to participate in an on-site photo session should submit a RECENT photo by **January 5, 2026**.

Please make sure your photo is taken:

1. From the waist up (head shot)
2. In a well-lit, uncluttered space.
3. With a white or neutral background.
4. Using a digital camera (best option) or cell phone.

Photos must be in JPG format and sent to solidrockamezion@gmail.com!

A spotlight is positioned in the top left corner, casting a bright beam of light across the top of the page.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
FOR TEENS

UNLOCKED[®]

DAILY READINGS FOR TEENS

FOR DAILY INSPIRATION

<https://unlocked.org>

LUNCH AND LEARN!

HOSTED BY
VARICK'S CHILDREN
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PASTOR A



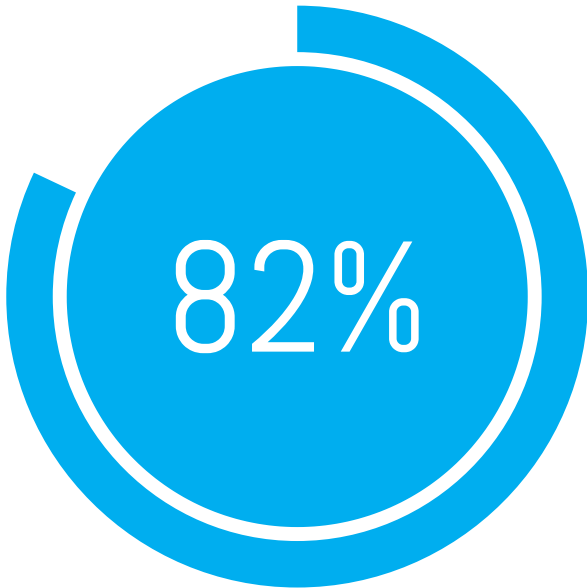
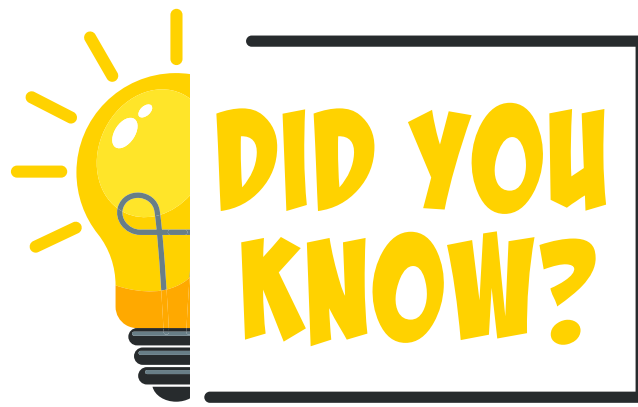
LUNCH @ CICI'S PIZZA AND A SEAT AT DAVID: THE MOVIE
WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 11 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

12 AND UNDER - \$5 | AGE 13 + - \$20

(Children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent or
guardian over 21 years of age)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO FOLLOW

*We look forward to celebrating with Solid Rock's
children!*



...of people are likely to attend church if invited by a family member or friend.

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?

The Bible was written by over 40 authors on three continents over 1,500 years. It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek and became the world's best-selling book.

The Bible was first printed by Gutenberg.

The longest word in Scripture is Mahershalalhashbaz and the shortest verse is John 11:35 ("Jesus wept").





**HELP
WANTED**

The SOLID team is looking for contributing writers! Contact the Church Office or email Pastor Johnson directly at PastorA@campusofsolidrock.org to discuss opportunities to strengthen our monthly e-publication.

**Rev. Alyce R. Walker Johnson, Publisher
Mrs. Monét Robinson, Editor**

A man and a woman are standing outdoors in front of a large tree trunk. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. The woman, on the right, is wearing a blue suit and has her arm around the man's shoulder. They are both smiling. The background shows a large tree trunk and some bare branches.

Oh, what a year it has been!

Thank you for opening your hearts to us, praying for and with us, and partnering with us to advance the Kingdom of God.

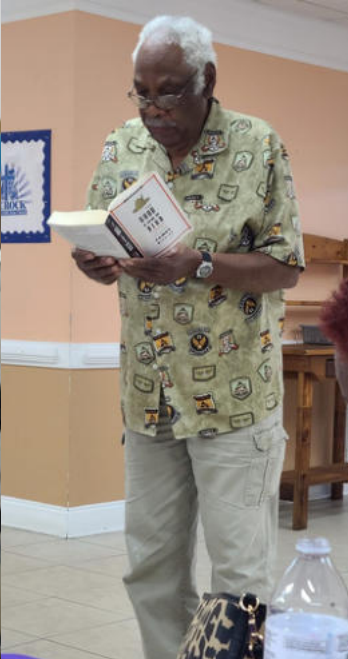
We believe that **HEALTHY** things **GROW** and growing things **CHANGE!** We all know that change is a **CHALLENGE** and every challenge helps us to **TRUST GOD** all the more!

God has shown Himself in the midst of changes and challenges, and we are confident that He has only begun to reveal His plan for this season at The Rock! Our latter days will be greater than our former! Let's GO!

#Year1Done

#TheRockRocks

Pastor A & Timothy K







OFFICIAL BOARD LEADERSHIP (2025-2026)

Mr. Willis Barber, Pastor's Steward and Chair,
Steward Board

Ms. Dana Gordon, Chair, Board of Trustees

Mrs. Cheryl Weems, Leader of Leaders, Board
of Class Leaders

Mrs. Retha Woodall, President Emerita,
Deaconess Board

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Ms. Robin Byrd, Benevolence Steward

Mrs. Martha H. Greene, Executive Assistant to
the Senior Pastor,

Director, Christian Education and Quarterly
Conference Secretary

Mr. George Jackson, Director of Security

Dr. Sharita Golphin Reese, Co-Director, Social
Media, AV, and Technology

Ms. Angie Ivery, President, Lay Council

Dr. Montina Jackson, Director, Evangelism and
Outreach

Mr. Timothy K. Johnson, Co-Director,
Social Media, AV, and Technology

Ms. Cynthia Jones, Church Treasurer

Mr. Julian Parker, Pastor's Counsel

Mr. Ronald Stevens, Director of Music

Mrs. Barbara Walker, President, Stewardess
Board

Mrs. Betty Wrights, President, WHOMS

CLERGY

Rev. Simone Ferguson, Associate Minister
(ON LEAVE)

Rev. Opal Stewart, Associate Minister
(Superannuated)

Rev. Alyce R. Walker Johnson

Senior Pastor & Chief Servant

4065 Snapfinger Road | Lithonia, GA 30038

(770) 981-3303

www.solidrockamezion.org

MONTHLY @ THE ROCK

- **Solid Rock Nursery convenes each Sunday**
- **Children Church – Ministry for children ages 6-12 on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays**
- **2nd Sunday of each month the Buds of Promise Juvenile Missionary Society (ages 6-12) meet in Room 205. For information contact Ms. Simone Beasley, Local Buds of Promise Supt.**
- **4th Sunday of each month the Youth Ministry convenes at 10:45 am**
- **4th Monday – Evangelism Outreach *Virtual Gathering with Breakthru House* at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Next session is Monday, November 24 2025 - Meeting ID 853 6513 4042 Passcode 807758 Dial in Number (929) 436-2866**
- **Parent Body Missionary Society (ages forty-one plus) meets the 2nd Thursday of each month via zoom! Zoom ID 816 8002 2101: Passcode missions. For information contact Mrs. Betty Wrights, President or Mrs. Patricia Markham, Secretary.**
- **Mass Choir Rehearsal – 11:00 a.m. on the Saturday before 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.**
- **Children and Youth Choir Rehearsal Immediately following Morning Worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month.**
- **Men of Zion Choir Rehearsal – 10:00 am on the Saturday before the 4th Sunday of each month**