

# TOGETHER IN FAITH

Growing the Church from the Inside Out

## From the Desk of Rev. Pemberton



*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Dear Friends,

As the warmth of summer settles in and the days grow longer, I pray this season finds you with renewed strength, time for rest, and opportunities for reflection. The months of July and August often bring a welcome pause—whether it's through family gatherings, travel, or simply slowing down to appreciate the blessings around us.

In this season of sunshine and growth, may we also be reminded of the spiritual growth taking place in our lives and communities. God continues to move among us, even in moments of stillness. I encourage you to take time this summer to reconnect—with Him, with others, and with your purpose.

In the pages ahead, you'll find updates, opportunities, and words of encouragement to carry you through these months. May this newsletter inspire you to remain rooted in faith, active in love, and open to the new things God is doing.

Wishing you peace, protection, and joy this summer,

Grace and blessings,  
Jonathan L. Pemberton

### Sacred Rest

A Gift for Rest

### Boots on the Ground

Women's Ministry  
Planning

### Vacation Bible School

Celebrating Heritage

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# The Sacred Gift of Summer Rest



*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” – Matthew 11:28 (NIV)*

As summer stretches across the calendar and daylight lingers just a little longer, many people begin to slow their pace. Whether through time off, family vacations, or a quieter work schedule, this season naturally invites rest. But beyond physical stillness, summer can also call us into a deeper kind of rest—Sabbath rest, a spiritual rhythm woven into the heart of our faith.

In the creation story, God modeled rest for us on the seventh day, not because He was tired, but because He wanted us to understand the holiness and necessity of stepping away. In Exodus, Sabbath becomes a commandment. In the Gospels, Jesus models a lifestyle of stepping aside for solitude and prayer. Rest is not weakness. It is worship.

Sabbath isn't just about doing nothing. It's about making space—for God, for renewal, and for perspective. When we rest, we acknowledge that we are not in control of everything and that the world will not fall apart if we pause. In a culture that celebrates hustle and productivity, Sabbath invites us to remember that our worth is not measured by how much we do, but by whose we are.

This summer, consider how you might practice sacred rest:

- Take a tech-free day to reconnect with loved ones and nature.
- Use a quiet moment to journal or reflect on what God has been teaching you.
- Worship in stillness—not out of obligation, but from a place of gratitude and peace.

Let this be a season where we rest not just for recovery, but for renewal. May we lean into the stillness with faith, trusting that in our resting, God is still at work.



# GMBC Women's Ministry Gathered for Fellowship and "Boots on the Ground' Fun!

written by Deaconess Barbara Ford

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, the women came together for a joyful and productive meeting. The gathering focused on the exciting preparation for our upcoming Women's Day Weekend, scheduled for Oct 2nd through Oct 5th, 2025. This highly anticipated event promises to be a time of spiritual enrichment, uplifting fellowship, and community celebration.

As the meeting concluded, the atmosphere shifted from planning to praise as everyone was treated to a lively session of "Boots on the Ground Line Dancing." With moves and grooves filling the room, the spirit of unity and joy was obvious. In a beautiful display of faith, all the women present were dancing and praising God, truly embodying the spirit of Exodus 15:20. Adding to the festive occasion, we were delighted to be joined by several women from churches within our community.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to such a wonderful experience.

Stay tuned for more details on our Women's Day Weekend as we continue to prepare for this blessed occasion!





# A Joyous Baptism: Welcoming Carter Morris into the Family of Faith

On Sunday, June 15, 2025, the Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church family rejoiced as Carter Morris, the cherished grandson of Deacon Carlton Morris and Deaconess Debbie Morris, was baptized in a spirit-filled service that celebrated his public commitment to Christ.

Surrounded by family, friends, and fellow believers, Carter's baptism was a powerful testament to God's faithfulness across generations. With words of encouragement and Scripture, Pastor Jonathan Pemberton led the congregation in recognizing the significance of this moment—not only in Carter's life, but in the life of the church as well.

For Deacon and Deaconess Morris, the day was deeply meaningful—a reflection of the legacy of faith they have nurtured in their family and in our church. Their steadfast service and spiritual leadership made this occasion all the more special, as they witnessed their grandson take this sacred step.

We give thanks for Carter's decision to follow Christ and pray that God will continue to guide and grow him in faith, wisdom, and purpose. As a church family, we are committed to walking with him, encouraging him, and reminding him of God's unwavering love.

Congratulations, Carter! We celebrate your baptism and welcome you with open arms into the family of faith.

*"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead... even so we also should walk in newness of life." – Romans 6:4 (KJV)*





# Celebrating Life, Fellowship, and Another Year Around the Sun!

At Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, we believe every birthday is a reason to rejoice! For over a year now, our monthly birthday celebrations have grown into a cherished time of fellowship, laughter, and community. It's a tradition that continues to bring our members together in love and joy.

We're excited to honor all those born in July and August with two special celebrations:

## 🎉 July Birthday Celebration

📅 Sunday, July 20, 2025

🎈 Birthday Captains: Katrice Howell and Hazel Williams

## 🎉 August Birthday Celebration

📅 Sunday, August 24, 2025

🎈 Birthday Captains: Barbara Ford and Booker Harris

These monthly gatherings are a chance to reflect on God's goodness and the gift of life, while enjoying food, fun, and fellowship with our church family. Whether it's your birthday month or not, everyone is welcome to come celebrate and lift up those marking another year of grace.

To all our July and August celebrants—Happy Birthday! We pray this year brings you joy, health, and countless blessings. May your year be filled with purpose, peace, and the sweet presence of the Lord. Thank you to all who make these gatherings a cherished part of our church family life.



# Vacation Bible School 2025: Celebrating Our Heritage, Empowering the Next Generation, Strengthening Our Faith



This summer, Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church was filled with joy, learning, and spiritual renewal as we hosted Vacation Bible School 2025 from Monday, June 16 through Friday, June 20. With the theme “Celebrating Our Heritage, Empowering the Next Generation, Strengthening Our Faith,” this year’s VBS brought together children, youth, and adults for a week of dynamic worship, engaging lessons, and heartfelt fellowship.

Rooted in 2 Corinthians 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight”, our VBS experience honored the richness of our Black heritage, the strength of our faith, and the power of community. Each evening, our church family gathered at 1510 Washington Avenue in Tuskegee to dive deeper into God’s Word through age-appropriate Bible studies, uplifting music, creative crafts, and interactive activities.

A special highlight of the week was that VBS coincided with Juneteenth, offering a timely opportunity to reflect on the legacy of freedom and the importance of passing on faith, knowledge, and strength to the next generation. Our curriculum wove together cultural awareness and biblical truth, encouraging participants to celebrate where we've come from while preparing for where God is leading us.

We’re grateful for the leadership of Dawn Calhoun and the entire VBS team, as well as our teachers, volunteers, kitchen crew, and church family members who helped make each night a success. A light meal was served nightly, making it not only a time for spiritual nourishment but also one of shared conversation and connection. From the youngest child to the oldest adult, lives were touched, faith was strengthened, and hearts were inspired to keep walking by faith. We are most excited for the four young people that gave their life to Christ at the conclusion of our week!

Thank you to everyone who attended and served—Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church continues to grow stronger because of you!







# Together in Faith, Together in Giving



We thank each of you for your faithful giving and continued support of Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church. Your generosity makes a lasting impact on our ministry and community. Remember our special offerings held:

- Dollar March Offering – We will continue our Dollar March Offering every Sunday. Every dollar counts and helps support the ongoing work of the church.
- 3rd Sunday Special Offering – The third Sunday of each month is designated for our HVAC Project. We ask all members and friends to give generously as we work toward improving the comfort and upkeep of our sanctuary.
- Undergraduate Scholarship Funds – Our church is fortunate to have two scholarship funds that provide scholarships for undergraduates matriculating at universities and colleges. The Raymond Harvey Memorial Education Fund and The Elvin T. Miles Memorial Scholarship contributions help support the educational goals of our youth and encourage excellence in their academic journey.

Please continue to be a blessing to our ministry and give your best. We are truly grateful for what you have done and all you continue to do. May God richly bless you!



## July Birthdays

- 1 William Flennoy III
- 3 Sarah Stringer
- 8 Hazel Williams
- 9 Larry Ivey
- 14 Cephas Holmes
- 21 Katrice Howell
- 25 Reginal Buchanan
- 31 Patricia Garrett

## August Birthdays

- 1 William Morris
- 10 Anne Alexander
- 12 De'Ajuha Malloy
- 15 Leola Steward
- 18 Robert Davis Sr.
- 20 Barbara Ford
- 21 Tyrell Williams
- 24 Ashley Millon
- 26 Jere Armstead
- 28 Gwen Little
- 28 Kenneth Howell
- 29 Booker Harris
- 31 Elaine Harrington

# Happy Birthday!!!!



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