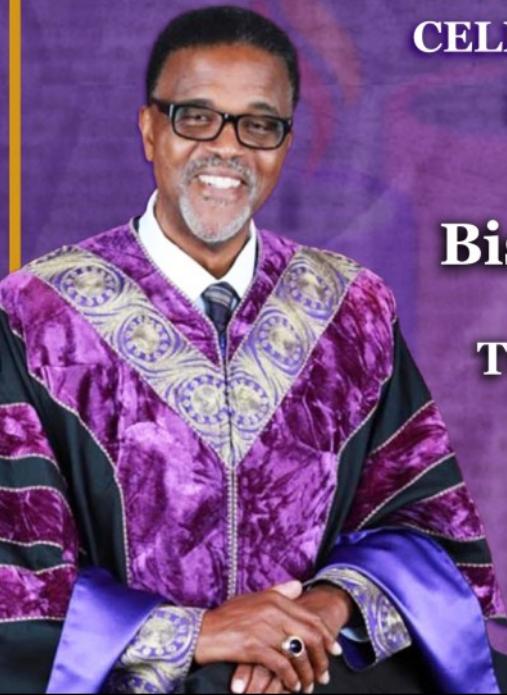


Sunday
Dec
07

Second Sunday of Advent

PEACE

CELEBRATING CHRIST'S TIME OF ARRIVAL



Guest Preacher
Bishop Gregory V. Eason
Presiding Prelate
Twentieth Episcopal District



Holy Communion



Celebrating
Alpha Phi Alpha's
Founders' Day

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District

Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District

The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

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WELCOME to BIG BETHEL

Atlanta's First Black Church

220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
T: 404.827.9707
www.bigbethelame.org

Worship Times:
10:00 am Traditional
2:00 pm Contemporary



**Pastor Jay and
Leading Lady Michelle Burks Augustine**

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Big Bethel AME Church

Dec
14

Christmas Jazz

Featuring

Marcus Johnson

Jazz Musician

SCAN ME

Ticket Price:
\$30



Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.biggbethelame.org

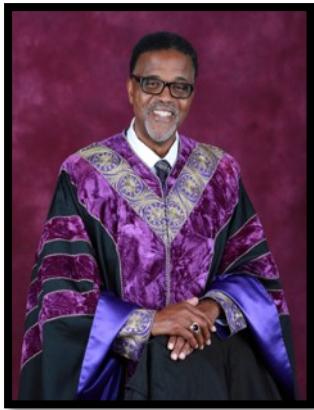
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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine Senior Pastor
Michelle Augustine Leading Lady



The Right Reverend Gregory Vaughn Eason, Sr.,

148th Elected and Consecrated Bishop

of the

African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Right Reverend Gregory Vaughn Eason, Sr., was born in Metter, GA., and is the son of Reverend William and Mrs. Geneva Washington Eason. He graduated from East Georgia State College in Swainsboro, Georgia in 1981 with an Associate of Arts Degree. He matriculated at Morris Brown College, in Atlanta, Georgia in 1983 (where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Political Science). He continued his education and was conferred the Master of Divinity degree from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA., in 1986. He received his Master of Theology degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA., in 1988, where his thesis was titled, "Suffering, Liberation and Violence: A Study of God's Presence in the History of Black America." Bishop Eason received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2011. His project dissertation was titled, "Radical Hospitality, Re-envisioning a Downtown Historic Congregation."

Bishop Eason's denominational service in the A.M.E. Church includes President, Connectional Council for the A.M.E. Church; Vice Chairperson, Trustee Board Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference; Chairperson, Search Committee for President/Dean, Turner Theological Seminary, ITC; Chairperson, Georgia Annual Conference Board of Examiners; and Chairperson, Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference Board of Examiners, where he was responsible for training new ministers for ordination in the A.M.E. Church.

Bishop Eason serves on the following boards: The World Methodist Evangelism Institute; Morris Brown College Trustee Board (Emeritus), and the Trustee Board of Turner Theological Seminary.

Bishop Eason's pastoral ministry in the 6th Episcopal District (Georgia) started at Saint Mark, Wadley and Hickman Tabernacle in Augusta, Ga (1984-1986); Saint James, Thomson (1986-1988); Saint James, Monticello (1988-1990); Saint Philip, Savannah (1990-2004); Flipper Temple, Atlanta (2004-2005); Big Bethel, Atlanta (2005-2013); Saint Paul, Atlanta (2013-2016) and Flipper Temple A.M.E. Church in Atlanta (2016-2024).

He has contributed to several publications and productions. Among his writings and published works are, "Looking at AIDS Through the Eyes of God" (A.M.E. Church Review, 1990); "Dreams and Nightmares" (A.M.E. Church Review, 1995); Evidence of Transformative Ministry (A.M.E. Church Review, 2012); "A Small Boy with a Big Fish," an article in the African American Study Bible, and a joint venture of The Congress of National Black Churches and Zondervan Publishing House. He has also served as a commentator for "This Far by Faith: African American Spiritual Journeys," a joint production of Blackside, Inc. and the Faith Project, which aired on PBS Television.

Bishop Eason has been bestowed many honors including being inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Board of Preachers at Morehouse College; a member of The International Society of Theta Phi, ITC; The Bishop Henry McNeal Turner Image Award for Outstanding Community Service and Hall of Fame, Turner Theological Seminary; and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

At the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in August 2024, he was elected and consecrated the 148th Bishop in the history of the A.M.E. Church. Bishop Eason currently serves as the Presiding Prelate of the 20th Episcopal District encompassing Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda and a portion of Mozambique. He presides over 7 annual conferences, 238 churches and 33 schools (primary, secondary and high schools). Bishop Eason was also nominated to serve as Chairperson of the International Health Commission of the A.M.E. Church.

Bishop Eason is the husband of Mrs. Linda Tyson Eason. They are the blessed parents of the late Carmen Jovonne Eason and Gregory Vaughn Eason, Jr. their daughter in love Kimberly Delk Eason and granddaughter Kimberly Eason, Jr. (Junie).



The Liturgy for the Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Presiding Liturgist

Worship Through Music.....All Worshipers

The Doxology.....AME Hymn #69.....All Worshipers (standing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Hymn of Praise.....AME Hymn # 120 Joy To The World.....The Reverend Gwen Senatle

**The Prayer of Invocation.....The Reverend Senatle
(prayer chant)**

**Worship In Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir
Sister Tamika Kelly, Director**

The Scripture Reading.....Isaiah 11:1-10.....Sister Ariel Nash

Minister: ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

People: ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

Minister: ³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

People: ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Minister ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

People: ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together; and a little child will lead them.

Minister: ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

People: ⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

Minister: ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

ALL: ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

**The Preface to the Decalogue.....AME Hymn #258.....Sister Nash
(In the Tune of Just As I Am)**

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.

***The Summary of the Decalogue.....Sister Nash**

***The Gloria Patri.....AME Hymn #627**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

**Welcome to Historic Sweet Auburn and Big Bethel.....The Philippian Ministry
(Everybody, Hug Somebody)**

The Announcements.....Sister Racquel Battle

**Alpha Phi Alpha Founder's Day.....Brother Chris Holmes, Area 1 Director
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

**The Pastor's Perspective.....The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor, Big Bethel AMEC**

Worship In Giving: Tithes & Offering.....The Reverend Charmain Purvis



The Choral Response.....All Things Come of Thee.....AME Hymn #644
"All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee." Amen

Worship In Music.....The Big Bethel Mass Choir

**The Proclaimed Word.....Bishop Gregory Vaughn Eason, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, 20th Episcopal District, AME Church**

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Special Requested Prayers.....The Reverend Dr. Monica C. Jones

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Pastor Jay Augustine

The General Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sin and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Hymn.....Brother Henry Goodgame

The Doxology.....All Worshipers (standing)

The Benediction.....Bishop Eason

♥ Please remember our sick and shut-in with calls and prayers. ♥

Sis. Patricia Coles (404) 254-4806

Rev. Betty Miley (770) 323-6841

Sis. Brenda Queen (404) 274-0705

Sis. Miriam Redding

Sis. Lillian Taylor (404) 284-6414

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
December 7 2025	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12

SERVING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Acolytes		Stewards	Dr. Stan Pritchett & Dr. Chris Parker
Choir	Big Bethel Mass Choir ~Sister Tamika Kelly, Director	Trustees	Brother Floyd Baxter
Philippians	Sister Racquel Battle <i>R.T. Bussey & Eva Watson Stewardess Ministry</i>	Ushers	Usherette Ministry #2
Stewardesses	Sister Teresa Robinson and Sister Sheila Henry Lee	AV Ministry	Sister Phyllislorena Smiley & Brother Brandon Collins

Finance Team | Sisters Linda Williams, & Juanita Aiken; Brothers Tony Jones, & Bro. Joe Patterson

Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District

Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell., Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District

The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor

Sister Ariel Nash, Special Assistant to the Senior Pastor

The Reverend Monica C. Jones Ph.D., Director of Christian Education & Chaplain for Big Bethel Village

The Reverend Jessica N. Buford, Thrive College & Young Adult Ministry Director

Itinerant Elders

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine

The Reverend Shrala Askins

The Reverend Jessica N. Buford

The Reverend Wilbert Hobbs

The Reverend Monica C. Jones Ph.D.

The Reverend Jacqueline Williams Rucker

The Reverend Dr. Lairalaine White

The Reverend Joyce C. Young

Superannuates

The Reverend George Davis

The Reverend Bessie Donaldson

Local Elders

The Reverend Betty Miley

The Reverend Evelyn Jones

The Reverend Charmain Purvis

The Reverend M. Gwen Senatle

Licentiates

Brother Maurice Eckstein

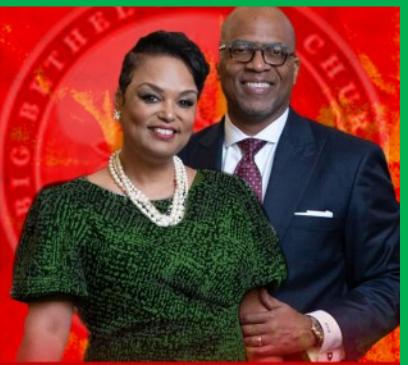
Sister Ariel Nash

Christmas on the Ave

Come on Home for Christmas

ALL DECEMBER, COHFC A LOVE OFFERING

This offering will be used to make a contribution, on behalf of Big Bethel, to organizations serving the less fortunate. There are several ways to donate: offering envelopes, the kiosk, and Cash App



**Sun
Nov. 30
&
Sun
Dec. 7**

The Giving Tree

Please select a gift request card from the tree for a child in foster care. We ask that gifts be brought to the church on Sunday, December 7th or December 14th
contact: Jacquelyn Jones 678-642-0562, or Tawanna Jones 678-662-7141

**Sun
Nov. 30
&
Sun
Dec. 7**

Poinsettias for loved ones

Our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated with poinsettias purchased by you for \$10.00, in memory/ honor of a loved one
Contact: Shelley Webster, shelley@shelleywebster.com

**Sun
Dec. 14**

Gifts of Warmth

Let us remember our unhoused brothers and sisters during the winter season with gifts of socks, knit hats, gloves, jackets, and other items of clothing. Please place your gifts in the designated boxes in the sanctuary.
contact: Gwen Langley 404-643-3640, or gloria Howard 678-485-8850

**Sun
Dec. 14**

Sick and Shut-in Caregivers' Recognition

Please come to the back of the sanctuary and select the name of one of our wonderful members to contact, i.e. call or send a card, during the Advent season.
contact: Jackie Washington 404-808-6485 or Carolyn Smith 678-641-8251

**Sun
Dec. 21**

COHFC Annual Concert 4:30 pm

Come, be inspired by glorious musical renditions from the music and arts ministry, and bring a guest with you. A fellowship reception will be held following the concert.

Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.bigbethelame.org



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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine
Senior Pastor
Michelle Augustine
Leading Lady

Christmas on the Ave
A Come on Home for Christmas Event

*“A Soulful
Christmas at
Big Bethel”*

Save the Date

Dec 21st

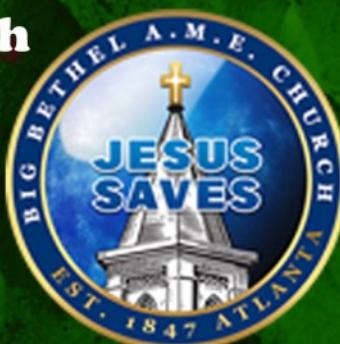
4:30 pm

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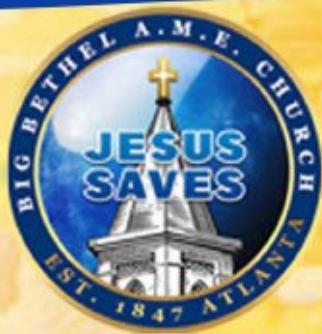


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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine Senior Pastor
Michelle Augustine Leading Lady

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR DRIVE-UP FOOD GIVEAWAY!



Big Bethel AME Church

&



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Magnolia (GA) Chapter

Location:

Big Bethel AME Church
206 Auburn Avenue

(Big Bethel AME Church/Magnolia Links, Inc. Food Pantry)

Date:

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Time:

1:00 pm-4:00 pm or While Supplies Last

**Drive around the front of the church to the location.
We will continue distributing until we run out of food -
come early!**

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Big Bethel AME Church
220 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.bigbethelame.org

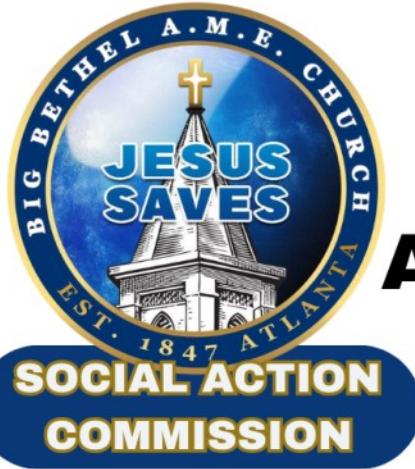
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Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine Senior Pastor
Michelle Augustine Leading Lady



Join the Community Assessment Team! *Shaping the Future of The Community*

The Commission on Social Action is launching a Community Needs Assessment for the Sweet Auburn neighborhood—and we need your voice, your insight, and your heart for service!

Big Bethel has long been a beacon of **justice, service, and hope**. As we prepare to expand our outreach, we want to make sure that every resource, every program, and every effort reflects what our community truly needs.

★ Why Are We Doing This?

To serve effectively, we must first listen.

- Our Community Needs Assessment will help Big Bethel:
- Understand the real needs of families in Sweet Auburn
- Prioritize food security, housing support, senior care, youth programs, and more
- Strengthen relationships with residents, businesses, and partner organizations
- Use our ministry resources wisely and strategically
- Ensure we are meeting people where they are—not where we assume they are

This is an opportunity to help Big Bethel shape a ministry that is data-informed, spirit-led, and community-rooted.

★ Ready to Make an Impact?

Sign up to join the Community Assessment Team and help Big Bethel shape impactful, justice-centered ministry for 2025 and beyond!

For more information or to join the team, contact:

✉ Rev. Dr. Lairalaine White

President, Commission on Social Action
Email: SocialAction@BigBethelAME.org

USE THIS
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP



“Give careful thought to the paths for your feet...” — Proverbs 4:26
(We walk the community to understand its needs and serve wisely.)

Pre-Legislative Session Town Hall Meeting

TIME: 6:00PM - MEET & GREET

TIME: 6:30PM - DISCUSSION

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2025

BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH,

220 AUBURN AVENUE.

ATLANTA, GA



DR. JONATHAN C. AUGUSTINE, PASTOR



DONNA LOWRY
MODERATOR



TERRY CUMMINGS
DISTRICT 39



BRYCE BERRY
DISTRICT 56



EL-MAHDI HOLLY
DISTRICT 116



ROBERT DAWSON
DISTRICT 65



ANGELA MOORE
DISTRICT 91

“ISSUES AND ACCESS”

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED®
NU LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER
DR. REBECCA DANIEL-DUGGER, PRESIDENT





THURSDAY
12/11/25

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Ben Hill United Methodist Church
2099 Fairburn Rd, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

Join NCBW-MAC and the 100 Black Men of South Metro Atlanta Chapter for a powerful dialogue with faith leaders to discuss the role of the church in voter engagement, advocacy, and ensuring every voice in our community is heard as we prepare for 2026 Mid-term elections.



THE BUCKHEAD/CASCADE CITY (GA)
CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PRESENTS
**KNOW THE
LAW.
OWN YOUR
POWER.**

Join the conversation on the Supreme Court's
landmark redistricting case
Louisiana v Callais.

Learn how to protect YOUR VOTE.

Big Bethel AME Church, 220 Auburn Ave
complimentary refreshments at 6 pm



Big Bethel AME Church's Reading Room is open!

Did you know that you can now come to the annex and sit comfortably in our reading room to browse over resources and materials in our Resource Center? If you are here early on Sunday, you may come from 8:00 to 8:45 or just after worship from 11:45 to 1:00. Also, you may come by on Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Our entrance is through the breezeway across from the church at the upper parking lot. We have freebies, publications from our pastor and bishops of the church, Disciplines and so much more!

Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Monica C. Jones Ph.D.,
Director of Christian Education, Chaplain for Big Bethel Village



*Wishing a Blessed and Happy Birthday to all our members
celebrating in the month of December!*



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Katherine Johnson	2 Gloria Robinzine Leslie Egbarin, Sr.	3 Nakeisha Smith	4 Nia Jones	5 Henry Walker III Breocia Brown	6 Marcus Simms
7 Chelsea Murry Curtis Knowlton II Henry Jackson	8 Camron Eppes Chaka Askin Ciera Robinson	9 Dr. Jacqueline Washington Roosevelt Snowden	10	11 Chavez Senatle Sheila Johnson	12 Alvin Francis Jacqueline Sims	13 Anthony Mitchell Nikita Shivers
14 Justiss Wooten	15 Tamara Hall	16 Gloria Pritchett Howard E. Wright Karla Frye	17 Isis Tillman Silas Walker	18	19 Joi Stinson Sarah Caldwell Yvonne Moore	20 David Lewis
21 Alexandria Brooks	22 Lisa Brooks Willie Palmer Stanley Pritchett, Jr.	23 Dawn Carty Sherman Pierson	24 Carlos King Crystal Brown Karen Fordham-Jordan Matty Sullivan Monique Brookes Nicolas McClarin	25 Marian Council	26 DeAnte Kent	27
28 Morgan Lilly Johnson	29 Zalaysia Franklin	30	31 Lafayette Tate Willie "Obadele" McClendon			



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Daily Morning Prayer Call (1-605-472-5512 Access Code:772576#).....	Monday - Saturday, 6:00 - 6:30 am
Church School.....	8:45 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:00 am
Contemporary Worship Service (THRIVE Next Shift)	2:00 pm
Big Bethel Village Worship By Phone 202-962-1123 673604#.....	3:00pm Sundays
Wednesday Virtual Bible Study (ID: 847 251 8679 Password: adultclass).....	12:00 noon and 6:00 pm
Love Feast.....	8:00 am Saturday before First Sunday
Holy Communion.....	First Sundays
Discipleship New Members Class.....	8:45 am 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays
Baptism.....	As Announced

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday.....	10:00 am—2:00 pm
Tuesday—Friday.....	10:00 am—4:30 pm

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Big Bethel Mass Choir	Wednesday @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 10:00am before First Sunday
Johnson-Schofield Men's Choir.....	2 Saturdays before Second Sunday
Babcock-Young Voices of Unity/Big Bethel Chorale.....	Wednesday @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 10:00am before Third Sunday
Bearden-Scott Youth Choir.....	2 Saturdays before Fourth Sunday
Big Bethel Praise Ensemble.....	2 Thursdays @7:00 pm and Saturday before Fourth Sunday



STAY CONNECTED

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@bigbethelamechurch **www.bigbethelame.org**
404 . 827 . 9707 **jesus.saves@bigbethelame.org**

Big Bethel AME Church
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