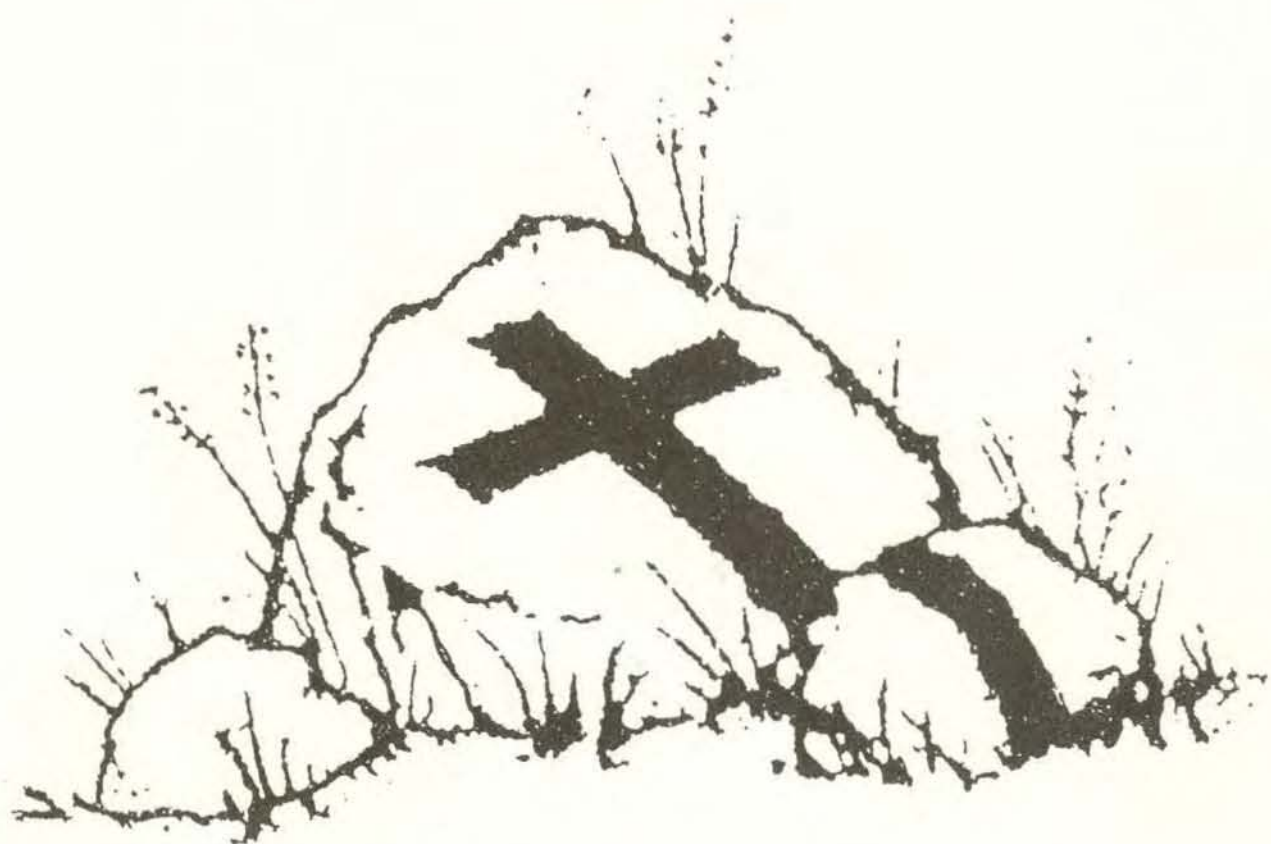


# Bethel A.M.E. Church



*..that foundation  
is Jesus Christ.*

**1863-1999**

**136<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

To The Family  
of  
Carrie Alice Lee Pope and Cecil Pope

March 14, 1999

In Appreciation of Your family  
for  
136 Years of Dedicated Service and Commitment  
to  
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

It is with Honor and Admiration  
that  
We Acknowledge  
Their Unselfish Contributions on this our  
136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1863-1999



Bethel A.M.E. Church  
401 East Park Avenue  
Champaign, Illinois

Reverend Charles B. Jackson, Pastor



The African Methodist Episcopal Church

## THE MISSION & PURPOSE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Mission of the AME Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. Each local church of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society out of which the AME Church evolved.



## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son Our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day He arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



*Fourth Episcopal District*

# *AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

*Robert Thomas, Jr., Presiding Bishop*



BISHOP ROBERT THOMAS, JR.  
PRESIDING PRELATE  
Fourth Episcopal District



MOTHER BEVERLY A. THOMAS  
EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR  
Fourth Episcopal District

Greetings and best wishes to Rev. and Mrs. Charles B. Jackson and all the members of Bethel A. M. E. Church, Champaign, Illinois on your 136th Anniversary Celebration.

**Bishop Robert and Mother Beverly Thomas**

# AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dr. Cornelius Hayes, Presiding Elder



Dr. & Mrs. Cornelius Hayes  
P.E. North District

## **GREETINGS AND GOD BLESS YOU**

**Rev. and Mrs. Charles B. Jackson and the members of Bethel A. M. E. Church,  
Champaign, Illinois on your 136th Anniversary Celebration.**

**Dr. & Mrs. Cornelius Hayes**





Rev. and Mrs Jackson

**Greetings:**

Mrs. Jackson and I express congratulations to the 136th Church Anniversary Committee for their faithful, courageous and hard work for a successful anniversary.

“Our prayers will always be elevated to God in believing that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us” (Philipians 4:13). The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is privileged to have Reverend and Mrs. James R. Daniel. Sr., of St. John AME Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, our special guest on this 136th Church Anniversary.

Reverend Charles B. Jackson.





*Bethel AME Church  
136 years of Faith,  
Love and Tradition*

*The history of a person, an institution or state is a record of the outward deeds, with a background often unexpressed, of hid longings, aspirations, and struggles; of his failures and triumphs, his defeats or approximation of success; which reveal character, and enable posterity to view retrospectively and objectively the record; and evaluate his worth in terms of religious and spiritual values, and at the same time consider the contribution he has made to his time and generation. So it is with a church.*

*\*The history of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church may not be one of brilliant achievement viewed from material standards, but when all factors are taken into consideration its luster remains undimmed. Founded in an early period of the Civil War, in a pioneer community built upon virgin prairie lands in a young commonwealth; organized by a handful of Freedmen - just released from the chains of slavery, and a few other Negroes; with only a few of their group to draw upon; with an economic handicap inherent in a situation of a settlement of*

*impecunious emigrants, with little work - at small wages, and their own personal struggle for existence and to eke out a competence for the proverbial "rainy day"; with a little financial assistance from their white neighbors, who too were struggling to erect churches, schools, and a college, and create businesses; with little or no educational background upon which to draw, its founders with almost prophetic vision, laid a most enduring foundation for a building that was to be a sacred heritage to posterity in succeeding generations, serving them with ever increasing usefulness and effectiveness; and erected an enduring monument to typify their struggles, aspirations and achievements. To their vision, consecration, and dedication of self to a great cause; and to their singleness of purpose and practical sense that prompted them to translate their dreams into objective reality; we are today, their beneficiaries, deeply indebted for this priceless legacy.*

At a church conference and get together held at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, July 14, 1938, a discussion arose on the early history of the church. As a result of the discussion, Rev. Thomas H. Stoner, Pastor, appointed a committee on Church History for the purpose of research and to secure facts concerning the early history of the church.



*\*The personnel of this committee was Mrs. Luana Riley, Mrs. Florence Louis Mileum, Mrs. Clara Anderson Allen, Mrs. Mary Blackburn Jones, and Mr. Albert R. Lee, Chairman. The members of this committee, with but one exception were citizens of this community, and had resided here for a number of years. They were able to call upon their own memories, and relate the traditions that had come down to them from their parents.*

*\*The committee checked facts, interpreted and evaluated all data obtained, reached conclusions and agreements which they presented to constitute the history of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.*

#### EARLY HISTORY

*\*Early church records before 1800 were not found, if kept, nor was the committee able to secure conference minutes of earlier years. This can be explained easily as Bethel AME Church is older than the Illinois Annual Conference. The Quarterly Conference Journal in 1891, stated the Church was 28 years old, which would place its origin in 1863.*

*\*From diverse accounts given by early settlers, along with newspaper stories, excerpts from chronicled history of Champaign County, the church organization known as Bethel AME Church came into being during the year 1863*

*\*Lothrop's History of Champaign County, states that the first church was built in 1864, at a cost of \$600.00.*

*\*In 1877, the property at the southeast corner of Park and Fourth Streets was purchased and the frame building at 405 E. Park Avenue was moved to 402 E. Park Avenue, making both building and ground the property of Bethel A.M.E. Church. During the ministry of Rev. Charles Holmes, 1880-1881, the first parsonage was built in the back of the church on Fourth Street.*

*\*Records show that on June 6, 1892 an abstract for property was signed by the following trustees: Robert English, L.H. Walden, Clay Brown, John Moss and General Cass Lee.*

*\*A Church meeting was held October 5, 1892 to incorporate the church and take action on building a new church and the following were named trustees to the new church: William Lee, L.H. Walden, Clay Brown, John Moss and General C. Lee.*

*\*The corporate name of the Church was to be "The African Methodist Episcopal Church of Champaign, Illinois."*

*\*Building the new church began in early June 1892 and was completed in January 1893, at which time the church was dedicated. A Corner Stone laying by Lone Star Lodge No. 18, F & A.M. featured the early stages of building.*

*\*The new church was a brick building with beautiful stained glass windows. There was an auditorium, a lecture room;*



a choir room that was often called the Baraca Room because the Baraca Class, which has an enrollment of 100 at one time. Bethel was the first church in the Twin Cities to have a Baraca-Philathea affiliation with the National Baraca-Philathea Bible Study Group.

\*The growth of the membership of the church has been gradual but steady. We have no figures of the membership from its beginning but it must have been small as the number of Negroes here was small. In 1888 the membership was sixty-two (62.) The membership in October 1938 was approximately 270.

\*On November 6, 1895 the church voted to finish the inside of the church. At this time the pews were installed, the altar rail installed, a new furnace and one hundred folding chairs for the lecture room. October 13, 1911, under the leadership of Rev. George W. Jones the following trustees were elected: Archie Penny, A.R. Lee, P.J. Carey, B.J. Woodruff, and George Pope. The church decided to make extensive repairs and a loan of \$1500.00 was acquired.

\*August 19, 1919 under the leadership of Rev. R.H. Hackley and Trustees B.J. Woodruff, Clay Brown, R.J. Green, F.J. Jordan, Woodward Thomas, and Cecil Nicholson rebuilding of the parsonage was begun.

\*In 1925, during the second pastorate of Rev. George W. Jones, Mrs. Sarah Watson a staunch member of Bethel passed away and bequeathed to the

Trustees of Bethel A.M.E. Church the property of her late husband, Henry M. Watson, who also was a member of Bethel, their property at 1020 W. Main Street, Urbana. The will provided that the proceeds of the sale, after deducting burial expenses, should be given to the trustees for the purpose of liquidating the mortgage of the church. The will was carried out and Bethel was freed from its mortgage debt.

\*Bethel had always had a special interest in the youth of the church and the community. The church obtained a recreation lot in the 100 block on Ells Avenue in Champaign and equipped it with volley ball, croquet, and tennis. The church also maintained a Reading Center located in the 100 block on East University Avenue in Champaign.

\*Bethel has always been blessed musically. At various times the Sunday School boasted of excellent orchestras, and for years the church never had to leave the membership to find a pianist or an organist. Bethel has had a choir since 1893. In 1915 a new pipe organ was installed. The first choir robes were purchased in 1917 for \$4.00 each. In 1922 the choir was well organized with officers and various committees, working together to make Bethel A.M.E. Choir the finest in the Community and the district.

\*In 1946, under the leadership of Rev. John W. Wright, the church agreed to purchase a Mollier pipe organ at the cost of \$3000.00. Within three months all



money was collected and the organ was paid for in full.

\*The "New Bethel" was fast becoming old and in need of extensive repairs. In 1948, the Helping Hand Club served meals in the basement for a Sunday School Convention and a Church Conference, their profit was \$190.00. Rev. Elsie Taborn, who was pastor at that time asked them how they would like to use the money. The Helping Hand Club wanted the money to be the starter for the building fund for a new church. Rev. Taborn appointed a committee to bring in a report on remodeling the church and a plan for financing a new building. Rev. Taborn's health began to fail and Bethel's leadership passed on to Rev. Andrew R. Parks. The task of building a "New Bethel" fell to Rev. Parks, who actively engaged in the problems of the new building until his death in 1957. Before his death he appointed a planning committee to make plans for the new building. First the committee purchased the property adjacent to the church for the sum of \$6000.00. After Rev. Parks' death, Rev. Charles M. Curry assumed the leadership and continued the building program.

\*On April 6, 1958 ground was broken and construction began in the fall of 1958 and was completed in 1959. We marched from "Old Bethel" into our present edifice on Easter, April 12, 1959.

\*In 1969 under Rev. W.R. Stewart's leadership a church conference was held

and the church voted to buy the property at 405 E. Park Avenue. Plans were made to improve the property and was almost completely remodeled. This was done under the pastorate of Rev. H.H. Walker.

\*On February 8, 1976 under the leadership of Rev. C. E. Carr, Bethel had a Mortgage Liquidation Service with Bishop H.T. Primm officiating. Rev. C.E. Carr appointed a planning committee to draw plans for a new parsonage to be constructed on the property at 405 E. Park Avenue. Construction began in August 1977.

\*Under the capable leadership of Rev. A.C. Wright, Jr. construction of the parsonage was completed and furnished by December 23, 1977. Rev. Wright and his family took occupancy on December 23, 1977 and held an open house January 12, 1978. The parsonage was dedicated by Bishop H.N. Robinson, presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District on November 23, 1980.

\*During the leadership of Rev. A.C. Wright the church underwent several improvements; central air conditioning, new roof, new furnishings in dining room and Sunday School, painting of interior and exterior of church.

\*Under the pastorate of Rev. John Q. Owens, the parsonage was remodeled and the cross in the sanctuary was purchased.

\*During the leadership of Rev. Alfred E. Johnson the pews were refinished and cushioned, kneeling pads were donated



for the altar, the kitchen remodeled, the lower level retiled, storm windows installed, and Pew Bibles and Hymnals purchased.

\*Some of the projects undertaken in the "New Bethel" include the purchase of the Piano under the pastorate of Rev. Blaine Ramsey; the Hammond Organ was purchased under the pastorate of Rev. H.H. Walker.

\*Donations have been made to the church. Many were made in loving memory of departed loved ones.

\*Under the present pastorate of Rev. Charles B. Jackson, the organ was donated in memory of Brother Paul Lawrence Pope by his family. New Hymnals have been purchased. The Church has become computerized and the membership is growing.

\*We can look back and be proud of our Bethel Family and the progress made. Let us continue to move onward and upward, so that the future generations will be proud of us, follow in our footsteps and fully enjoy the Blessings and Glory of God our Heavenly Father.

## PASTORS SERVING BETHEL 1863-1998

### Reverends: (First Church)

|              |               |            |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Knight       | W.J. Davis    | E.P. Moore |
| J.W. Jackson | C. Holmes     | Rinchart   |
| R. Holley    | H. Depugh     | Campbell   |
| Derrick      | A.A. Burleigh | H. Lackey  |

### Reverends: (Second Church)

|              |               |               |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| H. Lackey    | G.W. Jones    | C.O. Mitchell |
| P.M. Lewis   | H. Simons     | I.S. Stone    |
| J.E. Woods   | H.W. Jameson  | G.T. Shaw     |
| F.T. Harvey  | E.G. Jackson  | M.C. Wright   |
| P.C. Cooper  | R. H. Hackley | T.M. Stoner   |
| B.F. Arnett  | J.A. Sherman  | J.W. Wiley    |
| Christbrugh  | E. King       | S. Henderson  |
| L.P. Christy | C.W. Jones    | J. Wright     |
| J.H. Jackson | J.H. Smith    | E. Taborn     |
| A.T. Jackson | C.E. Brooks   | A.R. Parks    |
|              |               | C.M. Curry    |

### Reverends: (Present Church)

|             |              |                 |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| C.M. Curry  | C. Carr      | S.A. Jackson    |
| B. Ramsey   | A.C. Wright  | J. Nettles, Jr. |
| W. Stewart  | J.O. Owens   | C.B. Jackson    |
| W.N. Guy    | A.E. Johnson |                 |
| H.H. Walker | H.H. Walker  |                 |



*CONGRATULATIONS*

TO

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ON YOUR

**136 CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**



From

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Rev. Alfred E. Johnson, Pastor





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*on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

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*on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

# Congratulations

## *Bethel AME Church*

for commemorating your  
*136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
of praising God.

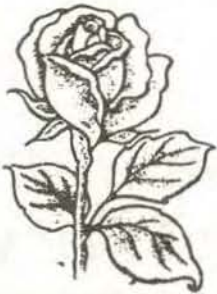
We wish you continued success and eternal spiritual growth.



"All True Soul"



God isn't Alarmed when we hit Rock Bottom,  
He made the Rock.



*Shirbie L. Faulkner, Chairperson*

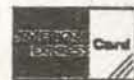
There is no spot where God is not.

# RICK ORR

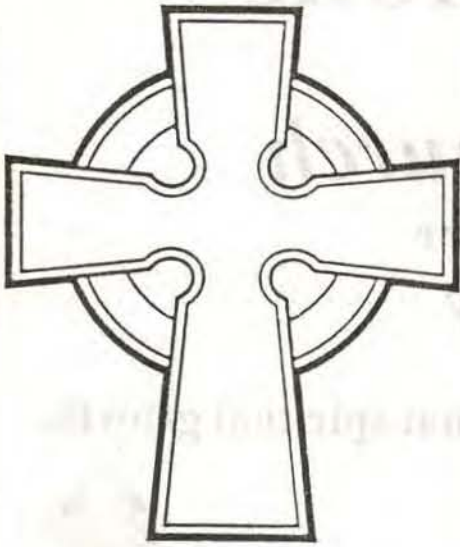
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***Bethel AME Church  
136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

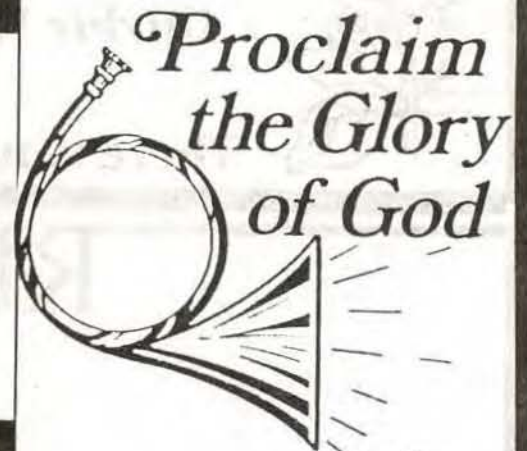
*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do  
good unto all men, especially unto them  
who are of the household of faith.*

*Galatians 6:10*



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# Best Wishes

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Judith A. Isom

## BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH SCHOOL

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of Heaven." *Matthew 19:14*

### Church School Staff

#### Officers

Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Pastor  
David H. Session, Superintendent  
Dennis Matthews, Asst. Superintendent  
Clarice Sneed, Treasure  
Delander Hunter, Secretary  
Jenell Hendrix, Asst. Secretary  
Noel Winfrey, Asst. Secretary  
Rev. O. G. Munroe, Musician  
Carletta Donaldson, Musician

#### Teachers

Janice Bradley    Jerry Davis III    Carletta Donaldson  
Davie J. Hill    Candice Horton    Jeanette Donaldson  
Delilah Lewis    Debrae' Lomax    Abdul El Jamal  
Bernice Pope    George Pope    Jackie Matthews  
Clarice Sneed    Wendy H. Black    Halestine Session  
Ludwig J. Warner, Sr.



*Train a Child in the way he should go,  
When he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*



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## Congratulations

# Bethel A.M.E. Church

on your 136<sup>th</sup> Year



# In Loving Memory

Mrs. Dorothy Thompson

1908-1983

Mother of Judy Zackery, MV "Skip" Thompson and John Thompson

Mrs. Jaunita Mosley

1933-1997

Mother of Kenneth Mosley (deceased) Norris, Gregory, and Robert Mosley, Terry Figueroa-Carter and Patricia Thompson

Mr. Kenneth Johnson

Good Friend



Mr. Al Conner

Good Friend



Ebony Thompson

1984-1999

Our beloved dog and companion of fifteen years

MAY GOD BLESS THEM ALL

John and Patricia Thompson

To Florence Ransom—our daughter, mother,  
mother-in-law, grandmother, and great-  
grandmother



With gratitude and love from your appreciative  
family—Mabel Jones, Linda Siddall,  
Terry & Rose Ransom,  
Amatullah Robinson, & Zachary Robinson



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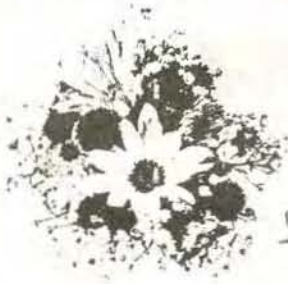
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*on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Congratulations for Enduring 136 Years**

**"GOD IS AS DEPENDENT ON YOU AS YOU ARE ON HIM!"**

*Mahalia Jackson*

*O give thanks to the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.  
O give thanks to the God of gods; for His mercy endureth for ever.  
O give thanks unto the Lord of lords; for His mercy endureth for ever.  
To Him who alone doeth great wonders; for His mercy endureth for ever.  
To Him that by wisdom made the heavens; for His mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 136:1-5*

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**Sister Patricia L. Nettles, President**  
**Reverend Charles B. Jackson, Pastor**



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**Congratulations**

***Bethel AME Church***

***on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***



## **My Connection to Bethel AME Church**

**Carrie Luetta Pope Banks**

My connection to Bethel AME Church can be found close to the beginning of the congregation. Bethel AME Church predates the Illinois Annual Conference, so the Conference has no record of Bethel before 1880. From the history of Champaign County, it was determined that Bethel was organized in 1863. Where does my connection begin?

My grandfather, General Cass Lee was born in Missouri in 1857. He came to Urbana, Illinois in 1864. My grandmother, Luetta Smith, the daughter of Jethro and Carolyn Smith was born in 1864 in Urbana, Illinois. They both belonged to Bethel AME Church and were subsequently married at Bethel. Rev. Charles Homes, who was the minister of Bethel AME Church performed the ceremony. My grandparents had two children, a daughter, Carrie Alice Lee, my mother and a son William Lee. Both of my grandparents were very active in the church. Records show in June 1892 an abstract was signed by the following Trustees: Robert English, L.H. Walden, who was my mother's uncle, Clay Brown, John Moss, and my Grandfather General Cass Lee. Then on October 5, 1892 a meeting was held to incorporate the Church and to take action to build a new facility. The following were named Trustees to the new church: William Lee, my mother's brother, L.H. Walden, an uncle of my mother, Clay Brown, John Moss and General Cass Lee, my grandfather. My grandfather was also a Steward, Sunday School Superintendent, a charter member of the Baraca Class, and was with Lone Star Lodge #18 F & AM when they laid the Corner Stone of the new church. My grandmother, Luetta Smith Lee was also active in the various clubs of the church.

I also have a similar connection on my father's side. My grandfather, George W. Pope was born in Missouri in and came to Champaign County when he was a small boy. He lived in Sidney, Illinois for a while. It was there that he met his wife, my grandmother. Her name was Sarah Allen. They were married March 19, 1885. To this union, two children were born, Mary Kathryn Pope, my aunt and Cecil Pope, my father. The family moved to Champaign when my father was school age. They also became members of Bethel AME Church. At a church meeting held October 13, 1911, it was voted to empower Trustees to borrow approximately \$1,400.00 to make improvements to the building. Trustees elected were Archie Penney, Albert R. Lee, my uncle, P.J. Carvey, B.J. Woodruff, a cousin, and George W. Pope, my grandfather. Reverend George W. Jones was pastor. My grandfather, George W. Pope served on the Trustee Board for many years. He was also a Class Leader and a Steward. My grandmother Pope was also active in the various clubs of the church.

The Bethel AME Church Choir, in 1908 or 1909, accepted Earnest Harlan Scott as Director and Albert R. Lee as President. E. Harlan Scott was my mother's cousin and A.R. Lee was my mother's uncle. A.R. Lee played a major roll in the choir and the church as a whole. He was also very influential in the AME Connection. Both he and E. Harlan Scott held their positions until their deaths. When E. Harlan Scott died in 1922, my father, Cecil Pope became the Director. At that time, my aunt, Kathryn Pope Means was the organist.

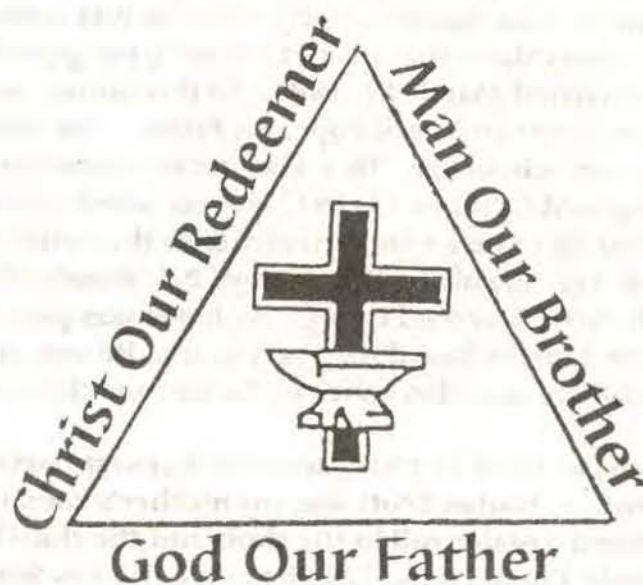


When she resigned, my father became organist, Director and Minister of Music. Cecil Pope held this position until he became ill in the mid sixties. Under my father's direction and the presidency of A.R. Lee, Bethel's Senior Choir rose to great musical and organizational heights. The choir sang all types of music including hymns, spirituals, gospel songs, anthems, and cantatas. We sang not only at Bethel but in the surrounding towns and at many conferences.

My mother, Carrie Alice Lee Pope, was also in the music department. She not only sang in the choir, but she was one of the assistant directors. She was active in the Missionary, Sunday School, the Willing Workers, and the conference level Missionary Society. She and my father had six children. We all joined Bethel at an early age and worked in the church. My brother George L. Pope is a Trustee, a Sunday School Teacher and a former Steward, Director of the Lay Organization and has worked in different parts or capacities of the AME Connection. My brother Cecil A. Pope was in the choir at Bethel. My Brother Paul L. Pope was in the Gospel Choir (his heart.) He also served as a Steward and a Trustee. My Sisters Sarah Pope Potter and Esther Pope Scroggins were both in the choir. Esther also taught Sunday School.

I personally, have worked with the Missionary, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, YPD and, of course, the choir. I met Nathaniel Banks and his family at Bethel, as they also attended this congregation. Nathaniel and I were married June 2, 1946. We had three wonderful children and they were brought up in Bethel AME Church.

As you can see, my connection to Bethel AME goes back a long way. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church will always be special to me.





JOE A. STOVALL  
Agent

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# Happy Anniversary

## Bethel AME Church

### on your 136<sup>th</sup> Year

# *Congratulations* *Bethel A. M. E. Church*



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# Happy Anniversary

## Bethel AME Church

### on your 136<sup>th</sup> Year



# *Congratulations*

*Bethel A.M.E. Church*

*on your*

*136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Continued Success as You go Forward*

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*Happy Anniversary*

**Bethel AME Church**

*on your 136<sup>th</sup> Year*

**BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Congratulations on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

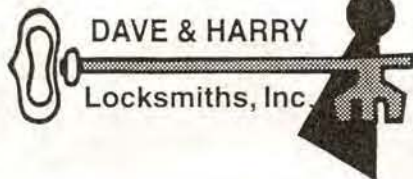


*We are the World, We are the Children  
We are the Gifts of God  
We are the Future, We are the Hope for Tomorrow  
Continue to Lead Us, Continue to Guide Us  
Continue as you have in the past  
To Follow the Word which says:  
Train up a Child in the Way He should go,  
and when He is Old, He will Not Depart from It.*

*Proverbs 22:6*



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of  
**Lou Anna Riley Women's Missionary Society**  
Sister Nafisah Freeman, YPD President  
Sister Malinda Jackson, YPD Director  
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*We wish you success*

**Bethel AME Church**

*in your 136<sup>th</sup> Year*

# In Loving Memory



of my

*Parents and Brothers*

Cecil Pope - Father

CARRIE ALICE LEE POPE - MOTHER

Cecil A. Pope - BROTHER and Paul L. Pope - BROTHER

# Nathaniel Banks

*In Loving Memory of My Husband  
Our Father and Our Grandfather*



*Carrie B. Banks - Wife*

*Nathaniel C. Banks - Son*

*Deborah K. Banks - Daughter*

*Lisha A. Banks - Daughter-in-Law*

*David D. Banks - Son*

*Grandsons*

*Frank E. Banks*

*Maruwa J. Banks*

*Samuel Ben-Nathan Banks*

We love you and miss you very much - But we have Beautiful Memories

# In Loving Memory

of my

*Aunt and Niece*



MARY KATHRYN POPE MEANS - AUNT

ELLEN JOYCE SCROGGINS - NIECE





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Congratulations

Bethel AME Church

on your 136<sup>th</sup> Year



*Congratulations*

*Bethel A. M. E. Church*

*136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

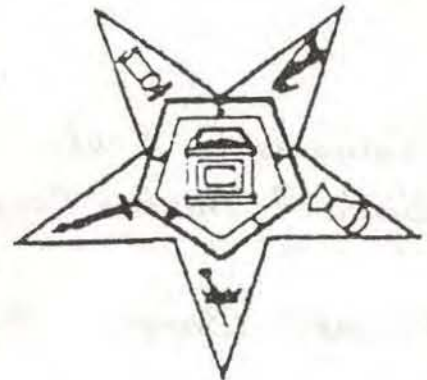
*Deborah Chapter #27 O*

*Worthy Matron: Sis. Joann Pelmore E P*

*Worthy Patron: Bro. Julian Jenkins S H*

*Associate Matron: Sis. Diane Mitchell A*

*Associate Patron: Bro. Henry Womble*



Best Wishes

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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tmh-law.com

**Bethel AME Church**

on your 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**DUC HOOKERS GOLF CLUB**



ADAIR, EDDIE  
BLACKMON, 'BEAR' WM.  
CLARK, LONNIE  
COLBERT, CHARLES  
CROCKETT, FRED  
DUNLAP, ROGER  
ELLIS, JOHN  
HEMPHILL, 'BO' JAMES  
HURSEY, PAUL  
LAYE, JIM  
McNARY, LAWSON  
OLIVER, CLIFF  
OMO-OSAGIE, PATRICK  
PARSONS, LAMONTE  
PATTERSONS, DEXTER  
RANSOM, PAT  
RAWLS, HENRY  
RUSSELL, DUKE  
SMITH, DUANE  
THOMPSON, JOHN  
WHITNEY, CARL

**CONGRATULATIONS BETHEL:  
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!**

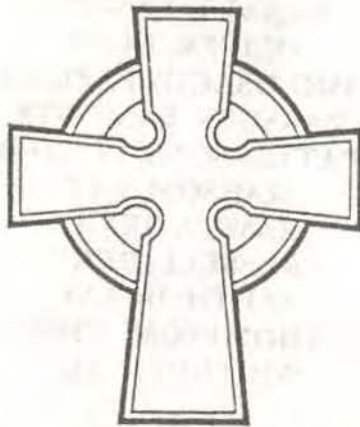


**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Bethel A.M.E. Church**

on your

**136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

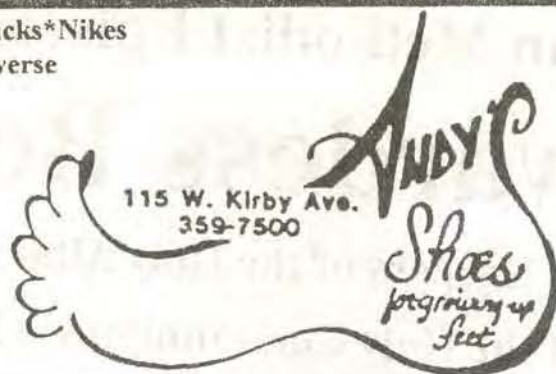


**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise: be  
thankful unto him, and bless his name.**

***Psalm 100:4***

**Florence Ransom**

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## Happy 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bethel A.M.E. Church

May the Lord continue to bless Bethel into the new millennium  
Bethel A.M.E. Church Usher Board  
"I had rather be a Doorkeeper in the house of my Lord"



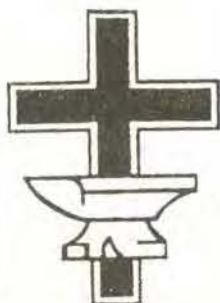
IN MEMORY

OF

Speedie & Elizabeth McDowell  
and

Charlie K. & Flora Hill

from Speedie and Annie McDowell



## I Am Content

I do not ask to understand all that the great minds know.  
I ask but one small steady light to guide me as I go;  
One sturdy strand of faith that holds and will not let me fall;  
One firm conviction in my heart to rout temptation's call.  
I do not ask to understand the power that reigns above -  
I am content that in my heart I know his boundless love

*James Hemphill, Jr.*



# Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church's Stewardess Board

Keepers of the Holy Altar

Preparers of the Holy Communion and Holy Baptism

offers our

## SALUTATIONS & PRAYERS

on this our

# 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**F**or in the one spirit  
we were all baptized  
into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13



The Table  
of the Lord

## Congratulations & Best Wishes Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

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# Congratulations & Best Wishes

on this your

## 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A fighting church is in rebellion against  
Christ's commandment to Love One Another!

*Kimberly & Whitney Keaton*



# Congratulations

## Bethel A.M.E. Church

### 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

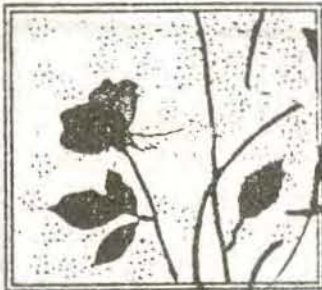
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Odell, Beverly,

Connie, Suellen



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*Blossom  
Basket*



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# Congratulations & Best Wishes

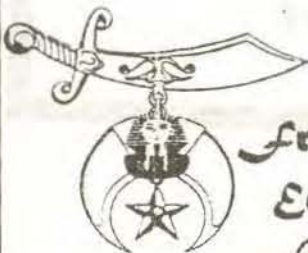
on your

## 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

From the Nobles of Sudan Temple #93

Edward J. Butler, Illustrious Potentate

Desert of Champaign, Oasis of Illinois





### WHERE, WHEN & WHY I PRAY

**Where** - Every where or any where I might be.

**When** - Every time I feel the spirit"

**Why** - First of all I thank God for many blessings. I pray for the strength to serve, for a purpose in my life, for courage to face all things with patience and for forgiveness of my short comings.

Florence Ransom

### WHERE, WHEN, AND WHY I PRAY

**WHERE** - My preference is a quite room all alone. **WHEN** - I have an early morning devotional period almost everyday but I don't stick to that alone also. When ever I feel the need to talk to someone who's always there to listen. **WHY**- Is for guidance to help me become more Christ-like and willing to accept others as they are and not what I think the should be.

Chairperson Sis. Shirbie L. Faulkner

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Minnie Ruth Bracy**  
**May 28, 1915 - January 30, 1986**

**Melvin "Mutt" Banks**  
**January 22, 1923 - February 28, 1999**

**Kenneth O. Stratton, Sr.**  
**December 18, 1927 - October 21, 1991**





*In Memoriam*

*Marguerita Chism Johnson*

*Bernard Evert Johnson*

*Francis Earl Johnson*

The Lord bless you and keep you on your  
136th Anniversary.

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**Congratulations & Best Wishes**

*Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church*

*on this your*

**136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Daughter of Isis**

**Sudan Court #19**

**Desert of Champaign, Oasis of Illinois**

*Illustrious Commandress - Dt. Diane A. Mitchell*

*1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commandress - Dt. Eunice N. Rivers*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commandress - Dt. Joann M. Pelmore*





CONGRATULATIONS

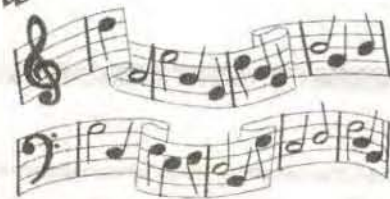
*Bethel A.M.E. Church*

*On the Celebration of the  
Founding of the African Methodist Episcopal  
Church in 1787 by Richard Allen - 212 years ago  
and Bethel's founding in 1863.*



*Bethel has been in God's Corner  
Praising the Lord*

*for  
136 Years*



*Bethel A.M.E. Church Choir  
and*

*Bethel's Youth Choir*

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever; with my mouth will I  
make known thy faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 89:1*



*O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of  
triumph. Psalm 47:1*



**Congratulations**  
**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
on your



**136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**The Urban League of Champaign County**  
**Tracy Parsons**

President

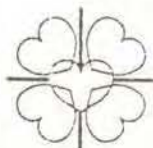
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Champaign, Illinois 61820

217-356-1364  
Fax 217-356-1310

email: tparsons@prairienet.org

**Congratulations**  
**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
on your

**136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**



*You Can't Beat God Giving*

**Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lewis, Sr.**

**Congratulations**  
**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
on your

**136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

*May God Continue to Bless You Bethel*

**Mrs. Ruth A. Latham**

**Congratulations**  
**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
on your

**136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

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## *Congratulations and Best Wishes*

**Bobby & Brandon Black**

**Robert E. & Loretta J. Black**

**Leroy Bowdrey**

**La Keith Brooks**

**Marvin & Yasmin Brown**

**Andrea Cooks**

**Lola Mae Faulkner**

**Angel Freeman**

**Leroy Gaston**

**Deloris & Denita Gladney**

**Mildred Barnes Griggs**

**Beth Hicks**

**Katheryn B. Humphrey**

**Katrell Hunter**

**H. Melvin Isom**

**Julian Jenkins**

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**Mr. & Mrs. Leon Lomax**

**Mr. & Mrs. LeeRoy McCall**

**Nichelle & Malik McCall**

**Cliff Peete**

**Mary E. Purdie**

**Linda Randall**

**Stella Robinson**

**Sam's Café**

**David & Halestine Session**

**John Schumacher**

## WHERE, WHEN & WHY I PRAY

**WHERE:** Where ever the spirit comes upon me!!!

**WHEN:** Every morning, every day, every night!!!

**WHY:** To strive to be like Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!!!

Brother Cliff J. Peete

I pray to thank the Lord for the good things  
he has done for me and my family from day to day.

Patricia A. Roberts

I pray all the time, especially before a test!

Saran Donahoo

I pray anywhere, any time.

I pray the minute Jesus comes into my mind.

I pray to thank Him for all the blessings he's given me.

I'll keep praying until the he meets me.

Marilyn A. Starks

I pray to thank my heavenly Father for all the blessings and love  
he has bestowed up me. I pray through every step of everyday.

Diane A. Mitchell



## WHERE, WHEN & WHY I PRAY

I pray as I open my eyes, as I climb out of bed. I pray as I take each step through my house. I pray before I eat and I thank Him after I'm done. At the end of my day, I fall to my knees and again, I pray. I give thanks to my precious Lord for taking time to listen to my prayers.

Mrs. Iola Cook

IT  
TAKES  
WORK TO  
BECOME A  
FAMILY AND  
EVEN MORE TO  
STAY THAT WAY,  
BEING AND STAYING  
A FAMILY IS GETTING  
HARDER EVERYDAY. IN  
TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN  
EVERYONE WANTS TO GO THEIR  
OWN WAY. STAYING A CLOSE FAMILY  
CAN ONLY HAPPEN IF WE PRAY. WHEN  
EACH OF OUR FAMILIES SHOW THAT THEY  
REALLY CARE, ONLY GOOD THINGS HAPPEN,  
AND WE EACH WILL STAY FREE FROM FEAR. THERE  
IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS! THIS WILL ALWAYS BE,  
WHERE THERE IS REAL LOVE! CHRIST WILL KEEP SATAN  
FROM YOU AND ME. IF MY LOVE IS REAL, AND YOUR LOVE  
IS TRUE, THEN NOTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN COME BETWEEN  
ME AND YOU. BEING AND STAYING A FAMILY TAKES LOTS OF TIME,  
BUT WITH CHRIST LEADING US, ALL THINGS WILL BE FINE. KEEP  
EACH OF YOUR FAMILIES BEFORE GOD IN PRAYER, AND WHEN SOME-  
THING GOES WRONG, REMEMBER TO KEEP THEM THERE. SATAN IS GOING  
TO TEST  
EACH OF  
US, AND  
HE'S NEVER  
GOING TO  
LEAVE US  
ALONE, BUT  
IF WE KEEP  
GOD'S LOVE  
ALL AROUND US  
OUR FAMILIES WILL STAY FREE FROM SATAN'S STORMS.

Old Bethel A.M.E. Church  
1863

