



**EMMANUEL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

# **INFORMER NEWSLETTER 2025 VOL1**

**Your Connection to EBC's Activities and Events**



**Emmanuel Baptist Church - 1075 Shalimar Dr. W-S 27107**





## Message from the Editor

As we welcome 2025, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Lord for guiding us through the past year. Despite the challenges of 2024, God's grace and mercy have kept us strong and committed to serving our church family and community by delivering meaningful news. I extend my deepest thanks to every member of the Informer Staff for their hard work and dedication in making this publication possible.

In 2024, we experienced the loss of a cherished member of our church and Informer Staff, Mrs. Ollie Patricia Saddler. Her presence will be deeply missed. We are grateful to her husband and family for sharing her gifts with Emmanuel Baptist Church and our ministry.

As we move into this new year, I encourage each of us to center our lives around our walk with God, as guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2025, we renew our commitment to making a lasting impact on our church family, trusting God to reach out to the wider community.

Kathy Marshall

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## A Double Portion

On Sunday, December 22, 2024 the EBC Fine Arts Ministry presented a magnificent Christmas program during the 10 AM worship hour. As the Call to Worship was given by Rev. Joanne Morris, she promised that the congregation was going to get a double dose of blessings on that day.

The EBC Handbell Choir, attired in matching outfits of white blouses and red scarves, performed a beautiful rendition of "Prelude". Afterwards, the Mass choir, also dressed in holiday style with the women in red dresses and the men in black suits with red bow-ties, blessed the congregation with a moving performance of "Silent Night".

At this point in the service, Minister of Music, Reggie McCaskill presented Dr. Miller with a birthday gift from the Music & Fine Arts Ministry; he was followed by Dr. Edna West, who also presented a gift from the EBC Ministerial staff. Dr. Miller was, like baby Jesus, also born on Christmas Day.

The adult liturgical dancers, dressed in blue velvet dresses and striped stockings, performed a beautiful dance to the music of "O Night Divine". They were followed by the EBC Mime ministry as they stepped through a moving routine to "Power in the Name". The last performance of the program was given by the Mass choir as they sang "Precious Lamb of God" featuring two soloists. When they closed, the Spirit was definitely in the midst of the sanctuary.

Dr. Miller delivered that second dose with his sermon taken from Matthew 1:18-25, with the provocative title "Who Did the Baby Jesus Look Like? He preached that Jesus was the only baby born whose parents looked like Him. And he reminded us that we should all strive to look more like Him every day.

“By the power of God, by the power of God! Everything is moving by the power of God!” So sang longtime Deacon Jerry Dodd as he opened our devotional service for Emmanuel Baptist Church’s 110th anniversary on October 24, 2024. As we sang and reflected on our church’s spiritual journey, we paused to acknowledge the amazing power of God that has kept our congregation moving, due only to God’s blessings and faithfulness in allowing us to persevere!

Our anniversary theme was Sankofa: A legacy of faith honoring the past while embracing the future. What better way could we honor the past than by inviting our former pastor of thirty-six years, Dr. John Mendez, as our guest speaker. Rev. Mendez spoke eloquently from Psalm 23, describing God’s divine protection, guidance, mercy, and love as The Good Shepherd caring for His people, the sheep of His pasture. His message was so relevant in a time such as this when our nation is under siege with questionable leadership,

In the spirit of Sankofa, members of our congregation dressed in traditional African attire. The group Griot Soul, accompanied by drummers and led by the well-known Afrocentric dance teacher, Wayne Jones, set the stage for a lively, spiritual worship service. Historical facts about Emmanuel from its inception on Smith Street were given by long-standing members Deacon Jerry Dodd, his wife Deaconess Nancy Dodd, and our Associate Pastor Rev. Ann Dalton.

We thank our Anniversary Committee and its leaders, Dana Powers, Sonya Parham, and Michelle Lewis, who left no stone unturned in making this a wonderful celebration filled with memorable experiences. In the words of our pastor, Rev. Dr. Herbert Miller, II, we were truly blessed!

Angelene Mack Hampton

*Emmanuel*  
Baptist Church  
Celebrating  
110  
Years  
1914-2024



## EMPAYCT 2025

(Emmanuel Ministering and Preparing Active Young Christians Today)

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, the first EMPAYCT service of the new year took place. Dr. Raphael Green-Hughes opened the service with a warm welcome to the youth in attendance, expressing her gratitude for their presence. She invited everyone to take a notepad from their tables and write down one prayer they had made, one that they felt God had heard and answered. Afterward, she encouraged the youth to share their prayer requests with those at their tables. Several also took the opportunity to share personal stories of answered prayers with the larger group.

Dr. Raphael encouraged the youth to be bold for Christ and take an active role in the service by volunteering for the opening portions. Those who accepted the challenge to demonstrate boldness were invited to select an item from the table on stage. Afterward, everyone stood to recite Psalm 100:1-5 together. Following the offering and recognition of first-time visitors, Dr. Raphael shared a message from Ephesians Chapter 4, titled *New Year, New You*. She explained that Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus, offering them guidance on living a righteous life. Dr. Raphael urged the youth to "take off" their old selves and embrace a transformed version of themselves, emphasizing the importance of being mindful of their words. She highlighted four key characteristics that new believers in Christ should embody: Love, Kindness, Forgiveness, and Unity. Additionally, she provided five practical suggestions for staying connected to God: (1) Don't give the enemy any foothold, (2) Trust the Holy Spirit for guidance, (3) Maintain a strong relationship with God, (4) Always reflect on your salvation, and (5) Walk in your newness of life every day.

After the message, the youth were divided into two groups: K-5 and Middle/High School. MaCayla Shaw led the younger group into an adjacent room, where they had the opportunity to personalize magnets using markers, stickers, and various craft supplies. Meanwhile, Isaiah Chaney guided the older youth in creating their own Vision Boards for 2025. Two other representatives from the Young Adult Missionary Ministry were also present, offering support as needed. Over 25 youth participated in EMPAYCT that day, and as always, they enjoyed a tasty snack while wrapping up their projects.

# EMPAYCT 2025



## God's Hands and Feet

Growing up out of Emmanuel Baptist Church, one thing has become apparent to this writer: the community is definitely the heart of the church. Missionary work for the black church brings together the members regardless of ethnicity within the community in which it serves. Having just celebrated the 110th church anniversary where everyone witnessed the love and history that members have for Emmanuel. The missionary department has been relentless for its contributions throughout these many years because without this ministry and its members where would our community and church be today.

A name many of Emmanuel Baptist Church members have had the pleasure of hearing Reverend Dr. Herbert Miller II. mention time and time again for various reasons is the current Missionary Ministry President, Peaches Evans. She is not new to the church nor is the Missionary work the ministry continuously provides to the community on an ongoing basis. Having joined Emmanuel since 1997 as a single mother, she has been a faithful and dedicated member to Christ and the work that needs to be done for the uplifting of its kingdom. No work is too great or small but in order for it to be done it requires one thing, its members.

The Missionary Ministry works effortlessly and tirelessly to push the programs to the forefront on a constant basis. When asked what the ministry means to Peaches, she stated that it means being God's hands and feet. Being that representative for God on Earth as only one can be. Are you that one as well? This ministry comes up with historic programs for members and the community to enjoy and participate. She admitted that it was not of her own volition. She has a fantastic team and they listen and hear where the needs of the community needs exist. Members of the church are this greatest resource of missionary work for Emmanuel. It is there also that we find strength in each other. When so many tragic losses and disappointments surround us we rely on God, our family and friends to pull us through the days ahead.

Emmanuel sets the standard with its programs and events that it shares with its congregation and community. It's up to each and every member to fully participate and engage with the Missionary Ministry. Establishing more programs like the Souper Saturday's, Thanksgiving Basket of Blessings, or Hospice Missionary work takes a village. Emmanuel, you are the Missionary Ministry and you are that village.

by Sonja Carey

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## Laymen League Ministry

Pastor Sir Walter Lee Mack Sr. started the Laymen League Ministry with twelve men when the church was at the 16th Street location. Through outreach and with the growth in membership, the Laymen League currently serves the church and the community in a variety of ways.

The church motto is "The Church in the Heart of the Community and the Community in the Heart of the Church." The Laymen League attempts to make the church motto reflect in all of its activities. Just two months into the year 2025, the Laymen League led by President Melvin Little, Vice Chairman Lewis Hampton, Secretary Jimmy Boyd, Treasurer Glenn Wade, and Chaplain Reverend Terrance Evans recently sponsored the Super Bowl Party held at Emmanuel on February 9th, where the Philadelphia Eagles won over the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22. The Headliner kicked off activities for the year, which was followed by Skate Night/Community with the Emmanuel Baptist Church family.

The Laymen League Ministry has a number of other activities already planned for the year. Upcoming events appearing on the church calendar include the Men's Cook Off, Men's Health/Medical Fellowship, Men's Day service, Family Bowling Night, and as always our E.B. C. Golf Tournament, which will hopefully be back at the infamous Winston Lake Golf Course.

By Deacon RJ Clark

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### EBC Health Corner

By God's grace we are blessed to see another year! Many make resolutions to improve their lives in some way, although not all are successful. If improving your health is your goal the Emmanuel Health & Wellness Ministry is here to help! Your daily choices and habits impact current and future health. Healthy Lifestyle changes according to the World Health Organization is a way of living that lowers the risk of being seriously ill or dying early. Not all diseases are preventable, but many deaths, particularly those from heart disease and cancers, can be avoided. Making small changes in your daily routines can make a big difference in mental, physical, social wellbeing and overall health. The Health & Wellness Ministry's purpose is prevention, management, and education about diseases such as Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, etc.

The Wellness Programs for 2025 are:

Kidney Health Awareness 3/15/25

Red Dress Tea/Mother's Day Celebration (Collaboration with Women's Ministry) 5/10/25

Men's Health Awareness (Collaboration with Laymen League) 6/21/25

Self-Care Awareness 9/20/25

Cancer Awareness 10/18/25

Diabetes Awareness 11/15/25

\*Dates subject to change according to needs of the church

Another key function of the Health & Wellness Ministry is responding to medical emergencies and other health needs of our congregation. Health & Wellness, Safety & Security, and Ushers are the Emergency Response Team for the Church and have developed the following Emergency Response Guidelines to ensure timely care is provided. In cases of medical issues such as fainting, stroke, high blood pressure, low blood sugar, etc. quick access to the person(s) is necessary. As soon as it is safe, the person(s) will be moved from the sanctuary to a new location for continued care. If you are seated near the person (s) needing emergency assistance, try to prevent any head injury and alert a member of the Emergency Response Team (ERT). Once ERT arrives please move to allow access to the person (s) in need of care and share what was witnessed. The ERT will deliver any care needed, transportation such as a wheelchair, and contact 911. We thank everyone for following these guidelines for easy access and care during these critical times of need. As always, prayers are welcomed and appreciated!

The Health & Wellness Ministry has various functions, and not all require being medically trained. If you have a desire to share information about any type of health awareness or be a part of planning these events, this ministry is for you. Please contact Lisa B. Allen EBC Health & Wellness Ministry Chair or see any member of the ministry to get started. Everyone is graced with gifts and talents, and it pleases God when we use them to serve!

Submitted by Lisa B. Allen

## **Church Motto for Emmanuel Baptist Church**

**“The Church in the Heart of the Community; the Community in the Heart of the Church.”**

### **CHURCH VISION: THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION**

#### **THE GREAT INVITATION**

*“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28

As a church, we should invite the community and people into our space here at Emmanuel, but more importantly, into the Kingdom of God. When they come, hopefully, something will be said or done that will cause them to make a decision to follow Christ.

#### **THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...  
Love your neighbor as yourself.”* Matthew 22: 37-40

We should understand that love is an action word! People will come if we show love to people inside and outside of the church. People just want to be loved unconditionally and to have a place that they can call home. Our job is to love people, no matter who they are and where they come from. Our job is to welcome people into the body of Jesus Christ.

#### **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

*“Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”*  
Matthew 28:19-20

Everything that we do in the church should center around teaching others what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. When we examine the Great Commission, it tells us to go outside the four walls of the church into the community and world to tell others about our Savior who can save souls. As we minister to others, they too can progress to a level of maturity and spirituality to go out and win souls for Christ. The church grows when each member tells others about what Christ has done personally in their lives.

Excerpts from Pastor Miller’s sermon on February 2, 2025



## Dedicating this Informer to Patricia Sadler

It is with saddened hearts that the Emmanuel Baptist Church Informer Newsletter Staff acknowledges the passing of our Managing Editor, Mrs. Ollie Patricia Sadler, on November 11, 2024. As Managing Editor, Mrs. Sadler had the enormous job of overseeing everyone in our group and coordinating our articles into publications that glorify God while recognizing our members' accomplishments in the church and community. This all while staying within the confines of twelve pages. Her strength, pride, and courage were evident in the duration and quality of time she dedicated to this ministry. Ollie was an integral part of our ministry, displaying a passion for the Lord that was obvious in everything she did.

Ollie exuded the spirit of inclusiveness. As new members came on board the Informer Newsletter Staff, she quickly discovered how they would fit into our close-knit group. It was not unusual for her to sit alongside a beginning reporter, offering encouragement and inspiring confidence. We will forever cherish our friendship with Ollie. She always exhibited a strong faith in God. Her service to Emmanuel Baptist Church and community was always with love and had a great impact on others. Mrs. Sadler truly lived what it meant to be a practitioner of good works. For this reason, The Informer Newsletter Staff dedicates this issue of our publication to Mrs. Ollie Patricia Sadler.

Angelene Hampton, Deacon Gloria Millner, and Bonnie Moorman

## RUN WITH THE VISION

On the first Sunday in February, Pastor Miller unleashed his vision for Emmanuel Baptist Church in the foreseeable future. The Biblical reference for his sermon was Habakkuk 2:2-3. In this text, the prophet Habakkuk was frustrated and disgusted with the condition of his people, who had neglected the Torah. This resulted in chaos and upheaval propagated by the leadership in Israel. Turmoil, violence, injustice, and wickedness in high places were the law of the land. In this chapter, there is a dialogue where Habakkuk demands God's explanation about his next step. God tells Habakkuk to “Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it.”

Pastor Miller says that the world in which we live has some similarities to the world that Habakkuk lived in! Like Habakkuk, we question why a just God allows such evil to wreak havoc on our nation. Pastor Miller and other ministers from the Triad met in Durham, North Carolina, recently to discuss and strategize ways of clarifying our church vision as we deal with all of the negative changes in our society. Like the people in the Bible, when we look at the crowd, we see that the spirit is not right in them. However, we know as Christians that the righteous live by faith!

In explaining his vision, Pastor Miller emphasized our church motto: “The church in the heart of the community; the community in the heart of the church.” That means that we need to be out in the community telling a dying world about a living Savior who can save our souls. So our church motto encapsulates the essence of who we are as a church. We should live out our motto in everything we do.

According to Pastor Miller, our vision represents the long-term goals that will impact our church as we strive to achieve our mission. Our vision and mission are intrinsically linked to a Biblical Foundation with which long-term members are familiar. This Biblical Foundation has three parts: The Great Invitation, Matthew 11:28; The Great Commandment, Matthew 22:37-40; and The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20.

Pastor Miller made a point to emphasize that our vision will be tweaked as we continue to improve and enhance it. Our updated church logo, created by Trustee Reggie Hall, should appear on all of our future programs as well. Reverend Miller, as usual, did a superb job in rolling out the vision for our church. I hope that you will watch or rewatch it again as needed.

from Pastor Miller’s Sermon on February 2, 2025

## Life lessons from The Healing Pen

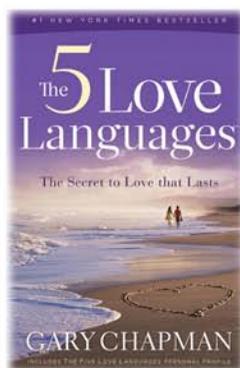
### 17 seconds.

I was reading one of my favorite books THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES by Gary Chapman and happened upon a sentence about listening. The average human waits about 17 seconds during listening to respond. Whether it is to defend themselves or to impart some sort of response, 17 seconds is the overall minimum amount of time we are willing to wait and simply listen. Wow. I'm quite sure many of us are poor listeners. Ready to oppose or deflect or even deny. Ready to impart wisdom and our definition of truth. It hurts to just be quiet. WE HAVE SO MUCH TO SAY. Can I challenge you to be a better listener? Can I challenge you to a new way of thinking about being a soft landing for someone's thoughts, emotions, ideas and waiting to see what they need versus what you would like to give.? Whew, this is going to be work. I was born a motor mouth. I have so much to say so trust me when I say I need to PRACTICE this. Learning to listen intently. Now I feel that I need to be clear, please don't miss the conversation or the sharing from a loved one because you are audibly counting out loud. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.... if you notice you are even counting at all you've missed the point. Wait for indicator that it's your time to speak like a question being asked to you. Of course, respond. Or when someone's lips have stopped moving perhaps you should speak to let them know that you are engaged. Or simply ask, would you like me to make suggestions or give advice or did you just want me to listen? It's ok to ask. That form of active listening makes you safe. Oh, the comfort of knowing that someone is listening and cares.

Here's to giving more than 17 seconds. Relax your nervous system, put on your listening ears, maintain eyes contact if this is a face-to-face encounter, and remember God is ultimately the only person who can do the big things. You are just a vessel. The art of listening is a beautiful gift you are delivering from God.

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger".

James 1:19



-Veronica Mignon  
The Healing Pen



# EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Emmanuel Baptist Church - 1075 Shalimar Dr. W-S 27107

# INFORMER NEWSLETTER 2025 VOL I

*EBC Ministries*

- Trustee Board .....
- UJIMA/CDC .....
- Usher Board .....
- Veteran's Ministry .....
- Wedding Ministry .....
- Women's Study Ministry .....
- Young Lions Ministry .....
- Youth Council .....
- Xodus Men Of Excellence (Men's) Ministry..



- Audio/Video, Sound Ministry .....
- Beautification .....
- Benjamin Mayes Academy .....
- Bereavement Ministry .....
- Blackboard Connect (Announcements)
- Board of Christian Education .....
- Circle of Faith Ministry .....
- Caregivers Ministry .....
- College Ministry .....
- Couples Ministry .....
- Deacon Ministry .....
- Deacon's Spouses .....

- Director of Music .....
- Handbell Choir .....
- Liturgical Dance (Adults) ..
- Liturgical Dance (Youth) ..
- Mass Choir .....
- Senior Choir .....
- Spiritual Choir .....
- Youth/Young Adult .....



- Howard Thurman Counseling ..
- Ikose W'aye / Infant Ministry ..
- Informer Newsletter .....
- Intercessory Prayer .....
- Kijana Church .....
- Kitchen Committee .....
- Missionary Department .....
- Health & Wellness Ministry .....
- Security & Parking .....
- Public Relations Committee ..
- S.W. Mack Scholarship .....
- Singles Ministry .....
- Social Action Ministry .....
- Sunday School Ministry .....
- Technology Ministry .....
- Travel Services Ministry .....
- Transportation Ministry .....

- Drama Ministry .....
- D. Everette Bible Class .....
- Evangelism Ministry .....
- Golden Delights( Senior) / Family Life Ministry
- Hospitality Committee .....
- Howard Thurman Counseling .....
- Ikose W'aye / Infant Ministry .....
- Informer Newsletter .....
- Intercessory Prayer .....
- Kijana Church .....
- Kitchen Committee .....
- Missionary Department .....

