



19th Annual

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Canton High School Auditorium
634 Finney Road | Canton, MS

AUGUST 28, 2022

5PM

**LIFETIME MUSIC
AWARD HONOREES**

**MAYOR'S AWARD
RECIPIENT**



Rev. Jessie
PRIMER, JR.

Gerald
NICHOLS

Evelyn
JONES

~Musical Guests~

JEAN ELLIS & THE GB SINGERS * DOXAMUZIQ * JESSICA POSTON
DR. JESSIE & YURIC PRIMER * ELIZABETH BRISTER * OTHA BROWN



Uplifting Voices **THROUGH SONG AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Harnessing the full potential of a car isn't always an easy task. Converging a vehicle's power, beauty and harmony takes careful attention, dedication to one's craft, and imagination. The same formula is needed to harness the power of song, and the potential of a community.

That's why we're proud to once again support the Canton Gospel Music Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration.

Much like the craftsmanship on display at our Canton facility, Nissan is proud to support the dedication, commitment, and collaboration on display at this celebration. We appreciate the work you've done and the investments you've made in the future of Canton, and are proud to help uplift many more voices to come.

Find out more at nissan-canton.com



In Loving Memory
Of



Momma Lilly
CROSS
Passed 9/17/2021

Mrs. Willie Mae
SCOTT
Passed 12/29/2021

*In Loving Remembrance of two of our active
members who departed this life since our last
in-person program.*

Gone But Never Forgotten!



Canton Gospel Music Association

P. O. Box 1791, Canton, MS 39046
(601) 918-7809
CantonGospelMusic@gmail.com
www.CantonGospelMusic.com



Cynthia Palmer
Founder/President

Minister Jearlean Bacon Jones
Vice President

Erma Cole
Secretary

Patricia Parker
Assistant Secretary

Claude Nichols
LaJesca Woodard
Financial Team

Nathaniel Cole
Chaplain

Rev. James Sims
Scholarship Chairman

Pastor John Woodard, Jr.
Music Director

Randy Abron
Calvin April
Veda Archie
Bertha Archie
Sherida Banks
Daisy Ellis
Jeffery Lockett
Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes
Georgia Sims
Vernon Smith
Professor Samuel Whisenton

Junior Members
Chase Banks
Abigail (Abbi) Woodard
John M. (Tre) Woodard, III

In Memoriam
Anna Allen
Momma Lilly Cross
Evang. Marcell Maxwell
Mable Ross
Willie Mae Scott
Princeton Simmons
Lee Starling
Lawrence Williamson
Bro. John Woods

August 28, 2022

Welcome Christian Friends:

Once again, it is a blessing and a joy to greet you in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the members of the Canton Gospel Music Association, we are grateful that you took the time to come and share this evening with us. I am so excited that we can gather in person after two years of meeting on ZOOM to celebrate our 19th Annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration.

We welcome you this evening as we "Salute Madison County's Best" through music. Congratulations to **Rev. Jessie Primer, Jr., Mr. Gerald Nichols and Mrs. Evelyn Jones**, tonight's honorees. Tonight, you will get to hear from some of our scholarship students whom we have supported over the years. These students will eventually serve their churches, schools and community as full-fledged musicians. Madison County is tremendously blessed!

A special thanks to each member of the Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA), our sponsors, our guests and all of you who have supported us each year.

One of the highlights of the evening is the awarding of music scholarships to pay for music lessons for up and coming musicians. To date, we have awarded **\$30,800.00** to **179** students. To God Be The Glory!!!

May God Bless each of you tonight and if we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon us. We look forward to our 20th year annual program in 2023 if it's God's will.

A Servant's Heart,

Cynthia Goodloe Palmer
Founder/President



"Saluting Madison County's Best"

Dr. William Truly, Jr.
MAYOR

Debra Brown
CITY CLERK

The City of Canton
One people, one voice, one goal

ALDERMEN:
Markee Blount
Rodriquez Brown
Fred Esco, Jr.
Monica Gilkey
Les A. Penn
Tim C. Taylor
Lafayette E. Wales



August 22, 2022

Congratulations to Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer and the Canton Gospel Music Association on your 19th Annual Canton Gospel Music Celebration and Scholarship Awards. As an active supporter of gospel music, your organization strives to increase community access to rich cultural resources that foster creativity, promote self-expression, celebrate diversity and strengthen the environment. You're influential in the preservation of gospel music not only in Canton, but across national lines. Under your leadership, patrons, artists, and the entire community are able to discover new avenues of intercultural communication through the art of music and dance while providing scholarships to children who might not otherwise have this opportunity. Over the last eighteen years, your program has grown into one of the top community events in our city, and we are forever grateful for your contribution.

As Mayor of the City of Canton, I salute and commend you on your profound accomplishments. Ms. Palmer, I thank you for spearheading this magnificent event and choosing Canton as recipients of your hospitality. God bless you and the Canton Gospel Music Association.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Truly, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Sincerely,

William Truly, Jr., M.D.
Mayor of the City of Canton

P.O. Box 1605 • 226 East Peace Street • Canton, MS 39046
601/859-4331 • Fax: 601/859-4379

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

19th Annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration
August 28, 2022 | 5:00 PM

MINISTRY IN SONG **Mr. Otha Brown**
Chief of Police, Canton, MS

OPENING PRAYER **Rev. Dr. Jonathan T. Phillips, Jr.**
Pastor, Mt. Zion M.B. Church, Canton, MS

WELCOME & OCCASION **Minister Jearlean Bacon Jones**
CGMA Vice-President

INTRODUCTION OF HOSTS **Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes**
CGMA Member

HOSTS **Ms. Cynthia Allen**, *Song Writer, Recording Artist, Producer*
Dr. Quentin Ransburg, Minister of Music, Pilgrim Rest MB Church, Madison, MS

GUEST ARTIST **Ms. Jessica Poston**
Music Education Graduate School Student, Alabama State University

STUDENT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP INTRODUCTION **Mrs. Erma Jean Olive Cole**, *CGMA Secretary*
Ms. Abigail "Abby" Woodard & Mr. John "Tre" Woodard, III, *CGMA Junior Members*

STUDENT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Victoria Garrett **"Lift Every Voice and Sing"**
Layla Garrett **"Waltz In A Minor" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"**
Kingston Riley **"God Has Smiled On Me"**
Wesley Dinkins, Jr. **"I Shall Wear A Crown"**
LeeAndrea Chandler **"Christ Is All"**
Kaleb Bullock *(Soloist, Ms. Kanasha Rankin, mother)* **"Moonlight Sonata" & "I Need You Now"**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION **Mrs. Daisy Ellis**, *CGMA Member*
Mrs. Patricia Parker, CGMA Assistant Secretary
Christine Morales, Rebecca Morales & Zola Jones are unable to attend but will receive a scholarship.

ADULT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

Ms. Jentyria Jackson **Musician at Crossroads Church of God, Farmhaven, MS**

GUEST ARTIST **"THANK YOU"** **Jean Ellis & The G.B. Singers**
Written and Arranged by Jean Ellis, Founder/Director; Members: Shenica Ellis, Albert Johnson, Genisha Smith

THE MAYOR'S AWARD **Presented by Dr. William Truly**
Recipient: MRS. EVELYN JONES, WMGO Radio

GUEST ARTIST **DoxaMuziq**
Members: Sherida Banks, Shelby Greer, Keymyria Thomas, April Whitney, Jazmine Harvey, Whittie Sanders, Wilson Bell,

19th Annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration
August 28, 2022 | 5:00 PM

TRIBUTE & INTRODUCTION OF HONOREE

Mr. Jeffery Lockett, *CGMA Member*
Mr. Greg Richards, *Musician, Recording Artist*
Mr. Claude Nichols, *CGMA Financial Team Member, Brother of Honoree*

Remarks by Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

MR. GERALD NICHOLS, *Arranger, Musician, Producer, Songwriter*

MUSICAL TRIBUTE **“The BAND”**

Mr. Greg Richards, Mr. Eric Richards, Mr. Donnell Williams, Mr. Tony Reaves & Mr. Michael Thomas

TRIBUTE & INTRODUCTION OF HONOREE

Ms. Veronica Smith, *CGMA Member, Former Velma Jackson High School Band Member*
Mr. Edward Dunigan, *Canton High School Assistant Principal, Former Canton High School Band Member*
Mr. Randy Abron, *CGMA Member, Former Canton High School Band Member*

Remarks by Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

REV. JESSIE PRIMER, JR., *Arranger, Musician, Producer, Songwriter, Yuric Records, Inc.*

MUSICAL TRIBUTE **Dr. Jessie Primer, III**

Department Chair, Humanities/Visual and Performing Arts/Assistant Professor of Music, Tougaloo College
Mr. Yuric Primer
Musician, Recording Artist

TRIBUTE & INTRODUCTION OF SURPRISE HONOREE

Mr. Harry Watson, *Director of Choral Music, Hinds Community College, Utica Campus*
Pastor John Woodard, Jr., *CGMA Musical Director*

Remarks by Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

DR. QUENTIN RANSBURG, *Musician, Recording Artist, Choir Director, Minister of Music*

MUSICAL TRIBUTE **Evangelist Elizabeth (LIBBY) Brister**

Recording Artist

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED MEMBERS **Mrs. LaJesca Woodard**

(Mrs. Willie Mae Scott & Mr. Lee Starling) *CGMA Financial Team Member*

RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS & GUESTS **Ms. Georgia Sims**, *CGMA Member*

Ms. Veda Archie, CGMA Member

EXPRESSION OF THANKS **Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer**

CGMA Founder/President

C
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DIAMOND



GOLD



**MRS. DORIS
LUCILLE
NICHOLS
SMITH**



**Southern
Initiative
Algebra
Project**



SILVER



**CONGRESSMAN
BENNIE
THOMPSON**



**Dr. FLONZIE
BROWN
WRIGHT**

THE ARK OF SAFETY MINISTRY

PATRON

MR. PAT KASSEE

MEDIA



Canton Gospel Music Association

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Nathaniel Cole	<i>Chaplain</i>
Claude Nichols	<i>Financial Team</i>
LaJesca Woodard	<i>Financial Team</i>
Rev. James Sims	<i>Scholarship Chairperson</i>
Pastor John Woodard, Jr.	<i>Musical Director</i>

Randy Abron / Veda Archie / Calvin April / Bertha Archie / Chase Banks / Sherida Banks
Daisy Ellis / Jeffery Lockett / Georgia Sims / Vernon Smith / Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes /
Professor Samuel Whisenton / Abigail (Abby) Woodard / John M. (Tre) Woodard, III

In Memoriam:

Anna Allen / Momma Lilly Cross / Minister Marcell Maxwell / Mable Ross
Willie Mae Scott / Princeton Simmons / Lee Starling / Lawrence Williamson / Bro. John Woods

*Thank
You!*

Superintendent:	Mr. Gary Hannah, Canton Public School District
Musical Director:	Pastor John Woodard, Jr.
Sound:	Mr. Carl Fleming
House Band:	Mr. Greg Richards (Bass), Mr. Tony Richards (Drums), Mr. Tony Reeves (Keyboard), Mr. Michael Thomas (Lead Guitar), Mr. Donnell Williams (Organ)
Awards:	Discount Trophy
Photography:	Mr. Jay Deville Johnson
Videographer:	Pastor Edward Harden, Ministry Logistics
Backstage Producer:	Rev. James Sims
Printing:	Assistants: Mr. Justin Sims, Ms. Sherida Banks, Mr. Demitri Jenkins
Flowers/Decorator:	Dallas Printing
Souvenir Book Layout/Design	Mrs. Belinda & Ms. Colibri Jenkins, BJ's Special Occasions
Special Thanks:	Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer
	The Ark of Safety Ministry, Pastor John M. Woodard, Jr.
	Lacy's Insurance, Rev. Leroy Lacy
	Love & Unity Music Ministries, Rev. David Jackson
	All Program Participants, Co-Sponsors and Attendees!



Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

~ *GERALD NICHOLS* ~

Gerald Nichols' Musical Journey

Gerald Nichols was born the sixth of seven children to Claude “Bubba” Nichols, a former original member of the world famous Canton Spirituals, and Katie Levy Nichols. He is the brother of Linda Nichols, Claude Nichols, Jr., Gloria-Nichols Banks, Tony Nichols, Michael Nichols and Gregory Nichols, Sr. He’s the husband of Marquita Nichols and father of Jady and Joelle Nichols.

A product of Canton Public Schools, Gerald graduated from Canton High School in 1988 and attended Alcorn State University and Hinds Community College where he majored in Music, which was a natural decision since he has been a lover of music for as long as he can remember. He became fascinated with the guitar when the Canton Spirituals would practice in his family’s living room and that fascination became a passion.

Gerald learned to play the bass guitar at the age of eight and taught himself how to play the lead guitar not long after that. This eventually led to him entering into a recording studio for the first time at the age of fourteen and, after immediately falling in love with every aspect of the process, he has been writing, arranging, producing and recording music in some shape, form, or fashion since that day.

When Gerald’s father retired from singing with the Canton Spirituals and began singing with the Friendly Echoes, he started riding with his dad to practice out of curiosity. He enjoyed the practices and more specifically the originality and creativity they garnered. He eventually began playing for the group and after just a few months of him being with them, they recorded an album which he enjoyed tremendously. Gerald also enjoyed traveling—going new places, meeting new people. By the time he graduated high school he had already visited nearly half of the fifty states.

Some of the groups and artists Gerald has played for over the years are: The Friendly Echoes, Alcorn State University Interfaith Choir, Hinds Community College Interfaith Choir, The Canton Gospel Soul Children, The Madison County Male Choir, Leonard Williams, Vergia Dishmon, Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Dorothy Norwood, Lamar Campbell, Darius Brooks, Dr. Yvonne Capehart and Sister Keeper Ministries, The Petals of Christ, Jekalyn Carr and The Jackson Southernaires, just to name a few.

Gerald has played on recordings for The Friendly Echoes, The Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale, New Horizon Inspirational Choir, Carolyn Traylor, Dathan Thigpen & Holy Nation, Slim and The Supreme Angels, Anderson United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir, New Mt. Calvary Christian Center Sanctuary Choir, The Anointed Brothers in Christ, The Canton Southernaires, Steven Harper and The Praise Ministry, Willis Pittman and the Burden Lifters, Mama Mosie Burks, The Jackson Southernaires and many more.

Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

~ *GERALD NICHOLS* ~

Gerald Nichols' Musical Journey

He has recorded and (or) produced local artists such as The Anointed Brothers in Christ, Ashford Sanders, Steven Harper and The Praise Ministry, New Mt. Calvary Christian Center Sanctuary Choir, Gloria Collier Warren, The Canton Southernaires, Wilmon Holmes, Min. Roosevelt Mitchell, The General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi Youth Choir and a host of others.

Gerald's father "Bubba" had a profound impact on his musical journey. The fact that Bubba sang with the Canton Spirituals gave the young apprentice the perfect platform to absorb as much knowledge as he could hold; and he held on to a lot of it and applied it in his musicianship. Bubba could also be found singing around the house, whether it be a song he knew or a song he made up on the spot. Additionally, he was a very good harmonica player and would sing and play his instrument and wow the crowd—no matter how large or small.

When Gerald played on Dathan Thigpen's live recording, not only did he get to meet his "guitar hero", but he also had the privilege to play alongside him. That hero being none other than the "Prophesying Guitarist" Jonathan Dubose, Jr. who has played for countless gospel legends and newbie's alike. Opportunities like this don't come very often and Gerald considers it a great honor for spending time with and learning from Mr. DuBose.

He has written numerous songs throughout the years and several have been recorded by local artists in the Mississippi area. These songs are as follows:

- ◆ **"Jesus Can"** and **"You Are There"** as heard on Debra Robinson's CD, "Inspired"
- ◆ **"Keep Your Head Up High"** and **"We Thank You for Your Love"** as heard on New Horizon Sanctuary Choir's CD, "That I May Know Him"
- ◆ **"We Need Your Spirit"**, **"Jesus, That's His Name"**, **"God Is A Spirit"**, **"Thankful"**, and **"Empower Us"** as heard on The Anointed Brothers in Christ's CD, "Knowing God's Purpose"
- ◆ **"All the Praise"** as heard on Ashford Sanders' CD, "Eye of the Storm"
- ◆ **"Holy"** as heard on Pastor Terrell Brinson's CD, "It Came To Pass"



Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

~ REV. JESSIE PRIMER, JR. ~

Retired Band Director

Jessie Primer, Jr. is a native of Canton, MS and was born on July 16, 1948. His educational music career started at Rogers High School in 1967. Primer began playing the Bb Tenor Trombone under the directorship of Mr. Emmit Burns and Charlie Harris. He began studying music at Alcorn State University in 1968. He graduated with a Bachelor Of Science in instrumental music. Primer graduated from Alcorn State University in 1972 and landed a job in his hometown Canton Ms. He took an old house that Professor High lived in and turned it into a band hall. The Nichols Middle School Band was born. The student's were small and young, but the sound that came from the instruments was unbelievable.

Primer later was asked to take the Canton High School Band program and make some improvements. He requested that the school board hire Mrs. Daisy (Jean) Jackson Ellis to take charge of the Nichols Middle School Band program. His request was granted. He later moved to Canton High School as head Director of the music department. He went to work increasing musical skills, increasing the size of the band. His favorite number of members were a two-hundred-twenty-five piece band. He had no assistance, just late nights and hard teaching, and training. The Baby Boom Band was formed. This was a high school band that performed, traveled and won awards in many cities and states. Example JSU had a double engagement and couldn't perform but one. So they ask to send the Canton High Marching Band to Texas Southern University in their place. Canton High School Band

Uniforms were designed by Jessie Primer, Jr. They were the same color as Jackson State University. People couldn't tell them apart. At graduation, the Canton High School band program produced more scholarships than all athletics put together. Primer's goal was to send as many children to college on a band scholarship as he could.

Band Directors Produced Under Primer:

1. Dr. Edward (Tiny) Jackson Department Chair, Texas Southern University, Houston, MS
2. Charles Bradly, Director Of Bands, Jim Hill High School, Jackson MS
3. Dr. Jessie Primer, III, Department Chair, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS
4. Kimble Funchess, Director Of Bands, Yazoo City Schools, Yazoo, MS
5. Edward Dungan, Instrumental Music, Canton Public Schools, Canton, MS
6. Henry Clay Rodgers, Instrumental Music, Jackson MS
7. David Chambers, Instrumental Music and Director Of Bands
8. MarQuis Smith, Director Of Bands Canton High School, Canton MS

Mr. Primer was training Mr. Smith to lead the Canton High School Music Department upon retirement. Rev. Primer retired in 2007 from the Canton School District serving children for thirty-one years.



The Mayor's Award Recipient



~ Mrs. Evelyn Jones ~

Evelyn Jackson Jones, a native of Canton, Mississippi, was born to Willie Lee and the late Levi Jackson, Sr. She is married to her husband of 42 years, Roscoe M. Jones, and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Porsha Breanna Jordan (Quincy). She has also been blessed with two beautiful granddaughters, Preslei Elise and Hartlei Elle Jordan.

Evelyn is a faithful member of the Liberty Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Isiac Jackson, Jr., where she has served in many leadership positions. Evelyn attended Canton Public Schools and graduated in 1977 from Canton High School and attended Jackson State University where she majored in Business Finance with hopes of landing a career in the banking industry. However, her career path took a detour when she was hired as office/traffic manager of WMGO Radio in 1981. After 2 years, a well-known DJ, who we all knew and loved, the late Mr. John Woodard, Sr., had a vision to air gospel music on WMGO radio weekdays in addition to weekends. He insisted and persuaded Evelyn to use her God-given talent and minister to the WMGO listening audience by bringing uplifting gospel music into the homes of the Canton Madison County community.

Evelyn celebrates 41 years at WMGO radio!



~ MUSICAL GUESTS ~



Jessica Poston is the daughter of Bobby and Rena Poston, she is a Canton, MS native, and a graduate of Canton High School. After receiving her diploma she decided to further education at Alcorn State University to study music performance, then later transferred to the Historic Tougaloo College; where she received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Vocal Music Performance. While at Tougaloo she became apart of Opera Workshop, The Mixed Ensemble and The Tougaloo College Concert Choir. She has performed background vocals for Tremaine Hawkins (of the Hawkins Family), sang in the chorus with Mississippi Symphony Orchestra for a production of “Treemonisha”, and you can hear her voice in some of the vocal recordings at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

Jessica is a member of Pine Grove M.B. Church and has been singing/performing since the age of 4. Her love for the fine arts has allowed her to meet new people, travel the country, and establish her own customization business that creates personalized gifts called Innovations by J. Renè. She is also currently in Graduate school studying Music Education at Alabama State University; after graduation she plans to teach music while continuing to use her gifts to inspire & promote positive change.



Daisy J. Ellis aka “Jean Ellis”, has written 23 songs that are registered in BMI and US Copyright Office. In December 2021, after consulting with God, she decided to record a project with some of the songs she’s written. After considering many individuals she’s worked with, God sent two (2) along with her daughter that makes up the vocal blend that is phenomenal, and they are: Shenica Ellis: Soprano/Soloist, Genisha Smith: Alto/Soloist, and Albert Johnson: Musician/Tenor/Soloist.

She gave them the name G (for Gifted) B (for Blessed) Singers. In February 2022 they began working on selections for the project which will be release in September 2022. The project is an EP titled “Thank You”. There are six (6) songs included this project: Thank You, Jesus is All, Sweetest Name I Know, I’m Blessed, My Passion and So Good.

We extend special thanks to the awesome production team, Canton Gospel Music Association and Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Founder, for allowing us to debut on their annual awards ceremony.



Evangelist Elizabeth (Libby) Brister is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and the wife of Pastor LaCharles Brister, They have four handsome boys, Jordan, Jared, Jeremiah, and Jonathan. She is also the daughter of Dr. Charles and Sis. Easter Miller.

In August 2016, She accepted her call in the ministry as an Evangelist. God was preparing her through different ministries at her home church, New Birth Fellowship, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Miller. She is also the First Lady of Rock Hill in Braxton, MS where her husband is the esteemed Pastor since September 2016. Evangelist Brister is the founder of Spiritual Awakening Ministry (2019). This ministry was create to enlighten, empower, and encourage women, to become better WOMEN, WIVES, and MOTHERS.

On July 29, 2022, she released her first single of many “LORD RESCUE ME” among her family and friends at her home church. And is the founder of EB4 Ministry. Libby loves God with all her heart and her favorite song is “The Blood Will Never Lose its Power” of Jesus, she would not be the woman



Dr. Jessie & Yuric Primer of

God she is today. She strives daily to be



Chief Otha Brown

used by God.

~ MUSICAL GUESTS ~



LENELLE SMITH//DOXAMUZIQ

C. Lenelle Smith (born February 20, 2022) is an American urban contemporary gospel artist, songwriter and musician, whose background singers are called DOXAMUZIQ. The Jackson-based vocal ensemble is known for their exuberant brand of contemporary arrangements of gospel classics.

Named after the Greek phrase for "the glory; to appear," DOXA features the talents of educators, worship leaders, entrepreneurs, and fellow independent artists. Smith's musical approach and delivery is heavily influenced by the vocal pedagogy of Donald Lawrence, the musical discipline of Richard Smallwood, and the artistic styling of Kirk Franklin.

*DOXA can be found performing for concerts, youth events and conferences, weddings, local award shows, private parties, and provide background vocals for studio albums and theatre productions. In Fall 2022, DOXA will release their debut album *doxology: vol 1* which will include their singles *Seen Him Work* and *Yahweh [Who You Are]*"*

We are just a family-oriented group of talented individuals who are constantly LEARNING, GROWING, and DEVELOPING TOGETHER, while keeping our focus on God, as the core and foundation."-C. Lenelle Smith

~ ABOUT THE HOSTS ~



Cynthia Allen is a local Gospel recording artist in Canton, MS. She is the daughter of the Mary F. Horn and the late Tommie Lee Horn. She attended Velma Jackson High School and continued her education at "Thee" Tougaloo College, in Tougaloo, Mississippi. She is an active member of Sharon Chapel A.M.E Zion Church in Sharon, Mississippi.

Cynthia has been singing since the age of 5 years old and felt the unction to produce her First Gospel Album, "Something Between Us". This album was a personal walk through her life and the need to foster a deeper relationship with God. Her second album was birthed after a serious illness attack that pushed her faith to "Only Believe" God in all things.

Now Cynthia works at her church and speaks at local churches about using the Word of God to walk out your faith. What she would like you to know is that she loves God and His people.



Dr. Quentin Ransburg, the son of Annie and the late Milton Ransburg, Jr., is a native of Canton, Mississippi. He graduated from Saint Joseph High School and received his Bachelor of Arts from Mississippi State University, Master of Public Administration from Belhaven University, a Specialist, and Doctorate in Education from William Carey.

He has been employed with the Mississippi Department of Education for 23 years, working in multiple offices across the agency. Currently, he serves as Human Resources Manager supporting the agency, schools, and districts across Mississippi.

Over the past 37 years, he has served as musician for many churches across Madison County. Dr. Ransburg is a member of the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Madison, MS, under the leadership of Reverend Matthew L. Canada, where he serves as Minister of Music. He is also a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

~CGMA PAST MUSICAL GUESTS~
2004—2021

- 2004 Mosie Burks, Canton Southernaires, Greg Patterson, Harry Watson, Cynthia Allen, Ashford Sanders, Priestly Chapel Adult Choir, Canton Gospel Chorus, Canton Praise Dancers, Canton Gospel Music Association Mass Choir
- 2005 Darius Brooks, Sherry Tate, Rembert Washington Memorial Choir, Rev. Clyde Tate, Young Men of Faith, Makarios Anointed Praise Dancers, Madison County Male Choir, The Watson Family & Friends, Canton Gospel Music Association Mass Choir
- 2006 Evelyn Turrentine Agee, The Brothers In Christ, Daughters of Miriam Praise Dancers, Claudeana Roberts, Canton United Male Chorus
- 2007 David Curry & The Curry Family, New Jerusalem COGIC Choir, Mt. Zion Johnson/Jubilee Choir, Nola Joe Starling Ratliff, Kermit Johnson, Anointed Praise Dancers, Anointed Brothers In Christ
- 2008 Paul Porter, The Sensational Voices of Effectual Praise, UNITY, Ark Angels, David Curry & Friends, Hattie Peyton, Canton Gospel Music Association Mass Choir
- 2009 Jerry Smith & The Children of Israel, Chandra Wise, Delores Brown, Rashad Hughes, Earl Tyler, Gloria Collier, Earl Tyler, Lee Chapel Male Chorus, Pilgrim Rest Mime Ministry, Sharon Chapel AME Zion Inspirational Choir, Chandra Wise and New Jerusalem Mass Choir
- 2010 Maurette Brown Clark, Stan Jones, Ed Hightower, Anointed Voiceless Praisers, Jemarcus Parker, 1st Stokes Chapel Male Chorus, Pastor Lelar Brooks
- 2011 Evangelist Beverly Crawford, Lee Chapel Children's Choir, Velma Jackson High School Choir, The Angels of Destiny, The Canton Gospel Music Association Mass Choir
- 2012 Bishop Rance Allen, Paul Porter, The Bob Tones, The Sons of Judah, Genesis
- 2013 Tramaine Hawkins, Paul Porter, The Jackson Family, Kelly Olive, Gregory Williams
- 2014 The Mississippi Mass Choir, The Sons of Judah Mime Ministry
- 2015 Lamar Campbell, The Expressions of Faith, Canton Gospel Music Association Mass Choir, Nissan Gospel Choir
- 2016 Doug Williams, Makarios Worship Center Praise Team, Chandler Greenwood, G.I.F.T.S. (*God's Inspired Faithful True Servants*)
- 2017 Dathan Thigpen, The Brothers In Christ, Canton Community Fellowship Choir, Rev. Clyde Tate, Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale
- 2018 Lannie Spann McBride, David Curry & The Greater Four Washington, Weldon Boddie, Jackson Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America Mass Choir, The Otto Sisters, Edd Hightower
- 2019 Evangelist Beverly Crawford, Sherida Banks, Shelby Greer, Justin Jackson, Phiona McDonald, Tyler Richards, Gabriella Steele, Wendalyn Towner
- 2020 Ashford Sanders, Gloria "GG" Warren
- 2021 Minister Chris Lewis, Music from Madison County Recoding Artists

~ CGMA PAST HONOREES ~
2004—2021

- 2004** Momma Lilly Cross, Bro. John Woodard, Sr., Professor Samuel Whisenton
- 2005** Christine Lee, Randolph Watson, James Harris
- 2006** Calvin April, The Canton Southernaires, Theo "Pig" Thompson, Horace Robinson
- 2007** The Northside Community Choir, The Madison County Baptist Association Youth Choir, Climertine Morgan, The Holy Child Jesus Singers,
- 2008** *Song Writers:* Cynthia Allen, Alvin April, Otha "Jaybird" Brown, Momma Lilly Cross, Margelit Fields, Dewey Henry, Sr., Tony Davis, Rev. Clora Handy, James Harris, Desiree Hart, BJ Hunter, Rev. Kermit Johnson, Renee Johnson, Kelly Jones, Rev. Vorneal Lipsey, Sr., Claude "Bubba" Nichols, Sr., Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Greg Richards, Rev. Eugene Rivers, Claudgeana Roberts, Ashford Sanders, Theo "Pig" Thompson, Earl Tyler, Dwayne Watkins, Harvey Watkins, Jr., Harvey Watkins, Sr., Harry Watson, Randolph Watson, Pastor John Woodard, Jr.
- 2009** *Past and Present Musicians:* Randy Abron, Minister Jonathan Anderson, Bertha Archie, Veda Archie, Regina Blackmon, Marcus Brooks, Jimmie Brown, Angie Gowdy Clay, Erma Cole, Henry Doyle, Edward Dunnigan, Daisy Ellis, Delores Goodloe, Roosevelt Greenwood, Elaine Harden, James Harris, Sarah Hughes Kennedy, Rev. David Jackson, Barbara Jones, Essie Jones, John Jones, Christine Lee, Jamaal Luckett, Joey McCoy, Keith McMillian, Climentine Lewis Morgan, Doris Myers, Claude Nichols, Gerald Nichols, Quentin Ransburg, Greg Richards, Tony Richards, Rev. Eugene Rivers, Mable Ross, Horace Robinson, Ondre' Smith, Doris Nichols Smith, Dwayne Watkins, Elsie Watkins, Harry Watson, Randolph Watson, Reginald White, Greg Williams, Pastor John Woodard, Jr., Flonzie Goodloe Wright
- 2010** *Pastors who have been pastoring 30 years or more:* Rev. Eddie Brown, Rev. Willie Brown, Rev. Floyd Chambers, Elder Willie Clemons, Elder James Fleming, Rev. Carl Fleming, Rev. Calvin Garner, Rev. J.C. Hicks, Elder Roosevelt Greenwood, Sr., Rev. W.L Johnson, Sr., Rev. Bennie Luckett, Rev. Benjamin Small, Rev. J.C. Smith, Rev. Marcus Stewart, Rev. Willie Travis, Rev. J.P. Walker, Rev. Isaiah Allen
- 2011** *High School Choir Directors/Music Leaders:* Elaine Johnson (Canton High), Greta Bass (Canton Academy), Max Lyall (Madison Central), Shannon Watt (Madison Ridgeland), Lisa Clark (Ridgeland High), Libby Walden (St. Andrews), Lisa Lee (St. Joseph), Debbie Lewis (Tri-County Academy), Nancy Bateman (The Veritas School), Daisy Ellis (Velma Jackson) *The Songbirds of the South;* (Bennie Allen, Jr., Rev. Dr. W. L. Johnson, Sr., Rev. Vorneal Lipsey, Sr., Minister Vorneal Lipsey, Jr., Lee Floyd Johnson, Sr., Lee Floyd Johnson, Jr., Rev. Billy Joe Smith, Johnny Johnson, Rev. Kermit Johnson, John Jones, Jr., Harvey Watkins, Jr., Patrick Chambers, Michael Roper, Elton Anderson
- 2012** Elsie M. Conway Watkins, *Young Adult Musicians:* Khiry Bell, Fernandez Harris, Justin Jackson, Jentyria Jackson, Calvin Johnson, III, Leandrew Johnson, Dylan Rivers
- 2013** Erma Cole, Billy Joe Wells, Bertha Archie
- 2014** Harry Watson, Veda Archie, Pastor John Woodard, Jr.
- 2015** Daisy Ellis, James Harris, Mable Ross, Sister Thea Bowman
- 2016** Rev. David Jackson, Roderick Nash, Greg Richards, Tony Richards
- 2017** The Brothers In Christ, Canton Community Fellowship Choir, Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale, Rev. Clyde Tate
- 2018** Weldon Boddie, Ed Hightower, Myrtle and Bernadette Otto
- 2019** Canton Gospel Music Association Members
- 2020** Humble Jerusalem Sanctuary Choir, CHOSEN, Deonte' Day, Ida Van Buren-Robinson, Kenneth "Reb" Anderson, Mary Grove MB Church Male Chorus, Jeremy Middleton, Young Brothers In Christ Mime Ministry, Mt. Zion Band, Zion Chapel AME Zion Buds & Youth Choir, Rev. Michael O'Brien, Dr. Alonzo Williams, Dr. Roosevelt Greenwood
- 2021** Harvey Watkins, Jr., Merlin Lucious, Dwayne Watkins

**2022
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
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Canton Gospel Music Association

Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, President/Founder

Minister Jearlean Bacon Jones, Vice President

Mrs. Erma Cole, Secretary

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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Doris Lucille Nichols Smith

Retired Music Teacher

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Canton, MS

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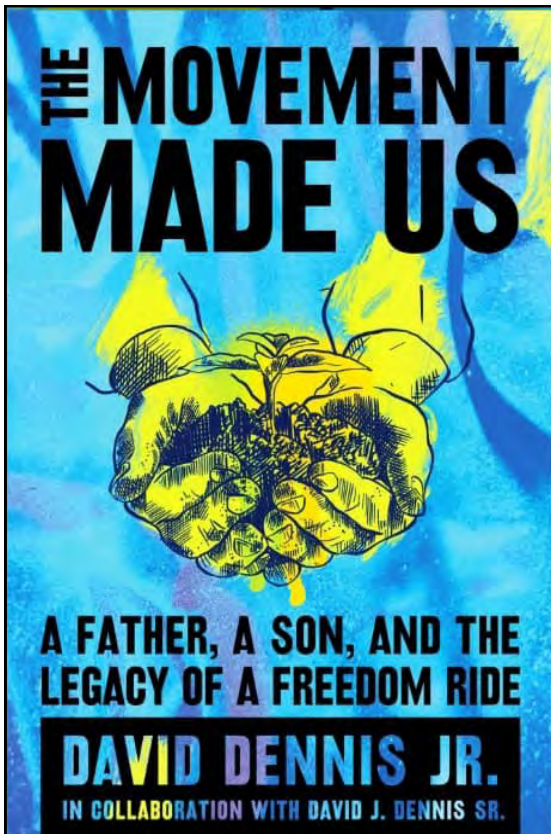


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&
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

David J. Dennis, Director
Southern Initiative Algebra Project
P.O. Box 50111
Summerville, SC 29485



“After many years of working closely with my son to tell the story of my first three years in the Civil Rights Movement, I am happy to announce that our book, “The Movement Made Us” is available at your local bookstores”, David J. Dennis, Sr. You may also order by clicking on the link below:

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The Movement Made Us: A Father, a Son, and the Legacy of a Freedom Ride
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UAW Region 8

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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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Congratulations Cynthia!

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With Much Love,



**Mom
Dr. Flonzie Brown
Wright**

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**Brother Edward Jr. (deceased),
Mom Flonzie and Brother Darrell!**

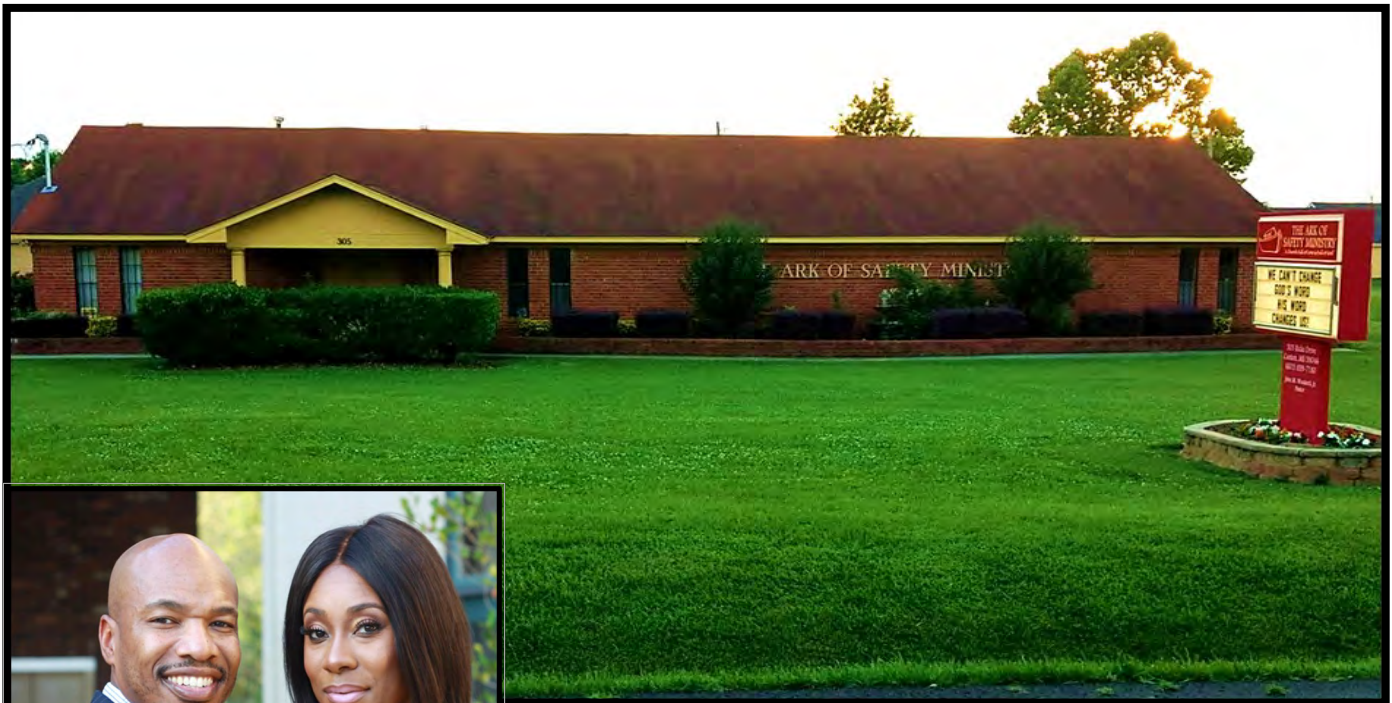


*In all thy ways acknowledge him and
he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6*

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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**2022
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD
OF
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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Cynthia Goodloe Palmer

Founder/President

Cynthia was born in Los Angeles, California and is the daughter of Flonzie Brown Goodloe Wright and the late Edward Goodloe, Sr. She was raised in Canton, MS and attended Holy Child Jesus School and Canton High School for 1 year. After her family relocated to Jackson, she attended Brinkley Jr. High School and Callaway High School, where she excelled in all areas. Cynthia was chosen as "Miss Callaway High School", the first black female "Student Body President" and a member of the Hall of Fame and was listed in "Who's Who among High School Students", among many other honors. She attended Tougaloo College and majored in Business Communications.

Music has been a passion of Cynthia's from a very early age. She is a member of The Voices of Faith, Choir, Inc., former member of the Johnson Jubilee Singers, a founding member of both the Northside Community Choir and the Canton Community Fellowship Choir (The Ship) and the New Heights Sanctuary Choir. Throughout her career, Cynthia has received wide acclaim while participating in various local, state, national and international events. Cynthia has toured in 35 of the 50 United States and in such places as Anchorage & Fairbanks Alaska, Toronto and Canada, Bermuda, Trinidad & Tobago West Indies, London, England, Germany, France, San Palo and Brazil and Amsterdam Holland. In 1997 & 2002, Cynthia traveled to Cape Town, Umtata, Johannesburg, Pretoria and SOUTH AFRICA, conducting workshops and singing for over 10,000 persons.

Cynthia toured in London, England, where she performed at the famous Royal Albert Hall and at the Lincoln Center in New York along side Grammy award winner, Kirk Whalum. In 2003, Cynthia was featured on the "Bobby Jones Gospel Show" on The Word Network as one of 25 new artists. She is a 3-time award winner at the Mississippi Gospel Music Awards as a 2003 and 2004 winner of the "Album of the Year by a Local Artist" and "Song of the Year by a Local Artist" in 2003 for her CD, "Just Enough Faith To Try" and in 2004 for "Album of the Year", "Heaven Is the Place to Be." Most recently, she was honored by the Woman to Woman Magazine and once again by the Mississippi Gospel Music Awards in 2019 featuring Women In Gospel.

Cynthia has participated on concerts featuring such artists as Mary Mary, Byron Cage, Pastor Shirley Caesar, Richard Smallwood, Bishop Paul Morton, Bishop Rance Allen, Bishop Marvin Sapp, The Canton Spirituals, Lee Williams & The Spiritual QC's, and The Williams Brothers, just to name a few.

She has recorded and Self Produced 5 CD's, including "Just Enough Faith To Try", "Anointed Psalms of Praise", A Soulful Christmas", "Heaven Is The Place To Be" and "The Best of Cynthia Goodloe Palmer." She also produced the highly successful CD entitled "Gospel Praises Volume I" for MESSAGE MAGAZINE, the oldest black religious magazine in the country. In 2005, she served as Executive Producer for "The Gospel at Colonus" opera presented by the Mississippi Opera, where they had a sellout crowd.

After relocating to Mississippi in 2000, Cynthia founded the CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION in April 2004. In addition, she produced the Canton Gospel Fest Homecoming (July 4th) from 2011-2017, held on the



Min. Jearlean Jones

Vice -President

Minister Jearlean Jones was born in Cook County, Illinois to Pearl Lee Bacon and the late Lee Ervin Bacon Sr., and was raised in Sharon, MS, where she currently now resides. At the age of 4 her mother Pearl noticed the joy and excitement when Jearlean listened to gospel music and how she expressed herself by singing and clapping her hands. This prompted her mother to make her first choir robe and place her in The Christ Everlasting Church Children's Choir in Chicago, IL. Her mother Pearl decided to move back to Sharon, MS.

Jearlean is a 1991 graduate of the Velma Jackson High School in Camden MS. and a 2011 graduate of Virginia College in Jackson, MS. where she received an Associate's degree in Healthcare Reimbursement.

At the age of 15, Jearlean's cousin, the late Earnestine Collins, took her by the hand and taught her how to direct the choir. God opened her ears to discern vocal parts in song. By the age of 18 she became the choir director for Pleasant Green M.B. Church in Sharon MS.

She is a member of New Season Christian Fellowship Church in Canton, MS. Her heart burns with love, passion and adoration for God. She represents Jesus everywhere she goes, and she is not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. She also serves faithfully in many areas of the ministry, always striving for excellence to help build God's kingdom. God has anointed her to operate in the gift of preaching and teaching His Word.

Jearlean is the wife of Edward Jones, mother of Alexis (Clemon) Banks and Jeremy Jones. She is the grandmother of Clemon Lee Banks, Jr. She joined the Canton Gospel Music Association in 2005 and has served faithfully. Jearlean currently serves as the Vice President.

Her favorite text is "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalms 34:1.



Erma Jean Cole

Secretary

Erma Jean Olive Cole—*I will bless the Lord at all time, and his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Erma is the daughter of late Rev. James & Lillie M. Olive, born and raised in Camden, MS. Brothers and sisters: Robert Sutherland (deceased), David Lee Randall (deceased), Andy, Roger (deceased), James Jr., Dexter Olive, Mary Johnson, Verdell Turner and Diane Olive Johnson. Erma is married to Nathaniel Cole, and they have two children: Kimberly and Christopher Cole, grandchildren, Allyson J. and Tanner Cole.*

Erma singing career begin when as a child under my father's leadership, we were the Olive Family Church Singers. In 1979, she took music lessons and begin to play the piano under Mrs. Ann Nichols in Canton, MS. She has served as a musician at Zion Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church, St. John M. B. Church, Mt. Pilgrim M. B. Church, Middleton Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, St. Luke M. B. Church and is currently the musician of Mt. Olive M. B. Church and St. Paul M. B Church on Stumpbridge Road. She thanks God for my mother and father for their never-ending love. They always demanded that their children put God first and to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, and soul.

Erma thanks God for a special man and soul mate, her Husband, Mr. Nathaniel Cole, who's been by her side and has supported her through the years and even now.

Erma is a graduate of Velma Jackson High School "Class of 1982." Erma is employed with the Canton Public School District and has been with the district for 35 years.

Erma is a member of the Canton Southernairs of Canton, MS., and enjoys singing praises to God. Her constant prayer is and favorite scripture is Psalms 51:10; Create in me a Clean heart oh God and renew a right spirit within me.

Erma joined the Canton Gospel Music Association in 2004 and is a founding member.

***"To know love, open your heart to Jesus.
To show love, open you heart to others."***



Patricia Parker

Patricia Wilson Parker is the wife of Mr. James L. Parker, Jr, and they have been married for 45 years strong!! Together they have three handsome sons, James Roderick, Jeffery and Jamarcus. She is the proud grandma of 13 and enjoys spending time with them all.

In her local church, which is Lee Chapel AME Zion Church, Patricia serves as a choir member, Sunday School teacher, and the Quarterly Conference secretary. On a district level, she serves as the District Director of YAMS (Young Adult Missionary Society) ages 22-40 on the Jackson-Panola District, under the leadership of Pastor and Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. Moses E. Thompson.

One of her greatest accomplishments was receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Belhaven University in 2012, where she graduated with high honors. This goes to show, if you are led by God, Patricia believes if she can do it, you can do it too!! She always encourages others to stay focused and keep God first, good things will come to you.

Her motto for life is Never Give Up on your Dreams; God never gives up on us. What brings Patricia joy is meeting and greeting people, no matter what age. She likes to make others smile as often as she can. Patricia has been a member of the Canton Gospel Music Association since its beginning and sincerely hope this organization continues to enrich the lives of young people all over Madison County.

God bless you all!!!



Claude Nichols

Financial Team

Claude Nichols was born and raised in Canton, MS to the late Claude “Bubba” Nichols, Sr. and the late Katie Levy Nichols. He graduated from Canton High School in 1977 and graduated from Tougaloo College in 1981, where he majored in Vocal Music.

Claude is a member of the New Heights S. D. A. Church where Elder Ennis V. Johnson, Sr., is the senior pastor. He serves as the drummer for the Sanctuary Choir, Pathfinder Staff Member, member of the Adventist Community Service Disaster Response Team, member of the Pathfinder Field Training (PFT) and is the Assistant Media Ministry Director. Claude is a founding member of the Canton Gospel Music Association.

Claude is a former member of the Madison County Baptist Association Youth Choir, the Voices Of Faith, Inc., the Canton Community Fellowship Choir (The Ship), and played drums for the Canton Gospel Soul Children and the Thea Bowman Memorial Children’s Choir. He also played drums for the Greater Mt. Levi Young Adult Choir and First Baptist Church in Kosciusko, MS. Claude worked for Target in the Revere Logistics and Replenishment Specialist in the Logistics Department, where he retired in 2019. Claude returned to Target in 2021 in the Dry Grocery and Reverse Logistics Department. He loves to camp and hike every chance he gets.

Claude’s favorite text is Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."



LaJesca Woodard

Financial Team

LaJesca Woodard is the wife of Pastor John M. Woodard, Jr. and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ingram, Jr. and the late Jesse Loving. LaJesca and Pastor John have three beautiful children, John Milton, III (aka Tre'), Abigail Leatrice (aka Abbi) and James Andrew (Andy).

LaJesca is a 2001 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Madison and a 2005 cum laude graduate of Tougaloo College, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. LaJesca was formerly employed with Madison County School District for seven year. She served as the 6th grade math, 7th grade math and advanced pre-algebra teacher at Northeast Madison Middle School for five years and two years as one of the Algebra I instructors at Rosa Scott School in Madison.

She is now self-employed as a realtor with Keller Williams Realty located in Flowood, MS.



Nathaniel Cole

Chaplain

Nathaniel Cole is the son of the late Mr. Elijah & Ree Alma Cole. He was reared with five brothers and four sisters: Henry & Elijah, Jr. (deceased), Earnest, George, William, Velma (deceased), Evelyn, Lou Ella and Patricia.

Nathaniel is a 1970 graduate of Velma Jackson High School and attended Holmes Jr. College. He is a member of Mt. Olive M. B. Church where he serves as a deacon, a member of the Adult Choir and is President of the Male Chorus. He has been a member of the Canton Soul Stirrers, Washington-Pierce Community Choir and is an associate member of the Cypress Grove M. B. Church Male Chorus in Pickens, MS. He has been a member of the Canton Southernairs for over 30 years. He joined the Canton Gospel Music Association in 2006.

Nathaniel's hobbies are gardening, fishing and hunting. He has worked for the IDI Corporation, Utico, Madison County School District and Yates a Nissan supplier. Nathaniel loves spending time with his family and loves to travel. His favorite scripture is Psalms 100.

Nathaniel is married to Mrs. Erma Jean Olive-Cole. They have two children: Kimberly Shina and Christopher Cole and grandchildren the love of their life, Allyson J. and Tanner Cole.



Rev. James Sims

**Scholarship
Chairman**

Rev. James Sims, the tenth child of the late Deacon J.B. and Juanita Sims, is married to the former Jeraline Flowers. They are the parents of eight children – Surena, James, Jr., Antoine, Jeremy, Theresa, Maurice, Emmitt and Tamara. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 14 and in 1976 accepted the calling of the Ministry and was ordained in 1978. He is a member of Mount Zion Cobbsville M.B. Church where he taught the Men's Sunday School Class and organized the Youth Choir. James organized the Greater Love Men's Ministry, working with them a year and a half to help them unify and learn more about God. He recently founded Greater Tabernacle Ministries in 2013.

James is a graduate of Rogers High School and continued his education at Nationwide Business College, Career Academy and Belhaven College. He was the Chairman of the Madison County Democratic Party for 16 years, and after his tenure as chairman, he held the position of Treasurer. He retired from Delphi Packard Electric after 30 years of service.

James was the Youth Coordinator for the city of Canton and past President of True Blue Booster Club for Canton High School. a community organizer with UAW, Program Director for the 100 Black Men of Canton, the Coordinator for the Pittsburg Steelers Fan Club Canton Chapter. As a member of the Canton Gospel Music Association, he is the backstage Producer and Scholarship Chairman.

Of Rev. Sims many accomplishments and titles, his proudest is being a Child of God, a husband, a father and a pastor. of the Greater Tabernacle Ministries for (9) nine years



Pastor John Woodard, Jr.

**Musical
Director**

Pastor John Woodard, Jr. - *Over the past 30 years, Pastor John Woodard Jr., affectionately known as “John-John”, has been a Canton area musician dedicated to serving God and His people through the ministry of music. Pastor John is the fourth of seven children of John M. Woodard, Sr. “Brother John Woods” and Elect Lady Gloria L. Woodard, both deceased. He was baptized at the young age of 5 at Sabbath Day Pentecostal where he first learned about the meaning of holiness.*

Soon after, in 1982, his mom began pastoring the United Believers’ Teaching Center, where John actively started learning about musicianship. At the age of 8, and with the assistance of his grandmother who helped him keep tempo, John began playing drums. Over time, he continued developing his interests for other instruments and eventually assumed the role of Minister of Music at the Ark of Safety Ministry, in which capacity he served until God promoted him into the pastorate.

Pastor John has always known that his primary purpose and passion is to serve God, and under the tutelage and encouragement of his parents and grandparents he also learned how to be of service to his community. In 1993, John was inspired by the Holy Spirit to form a community choir named after his grandmother, Rembert Washington and in 2000 they released an album entitled “I Can See So Much”.

Even with his demanding role as pastor, he has continued to dedicate his service and gifts to the Lord by helping whomever he could, lift up the Name of the Lord in song. Pastor John has continued the legacy of his mother and grandmother by serving as Pastor of the Ark of Safety Ministry, Founder and Director of the Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale, and giving of his time to numerous churches of varying denominations, groups, soloists and choirs. In addition to the church he now pastors, he is very proud to have had the opportunity to serve as either a musician, clinician, or singer for: St. James M.B.C., Greater St. Matthew M.B.C, St. Paul AMEZ Church, Greater Sims AMEZ Church, Zion Chapel AMEZ, St. Paul M.B.C, Greater Faith Calvary Pentecostal Church, South Liberty M.B.C., Mt. Able M.B.C., Priestly Chapel M.B.C.,



Randy Abron

Randy Abron was born in Canton, MS and attended Canton Public Schools where he graduated from Canton High School. He attended American College where he studied as a Nursing Assistant and attended Jackson State University where he studied Computer Programming.

Randy has always been interested in music. Some of his favorite singers/musicians who has influenced Randy are David Curry, Lannie Spann McBride, John P. Kee, Paul Porter and most notably Evangelist Shirley Caesar. In fact, when Evangelist Caesar came to Canton in 2003, Randy was one of the soloist from the audience that came on stage to sing "Jesus, I Love Calling Your Name."

Randy plays the following instruments: Keyboard, piano, organ, drums and trombone, which he played as a member of the Canton High School Band.

Randy has played for the following choirs, groups and churches to name a few: Greater Faith Calvary Pentecostal Church, New Bethel, Cedar Grove, Southern Hill, Greater Mt. Levi, Sharpsburg, Liberty Hill AME Zion, Free Union AME Zion, St. Peter MB Church, the Gospel All Stars of Kansas City, MO, the True Tones of Kansas City, MO, JB Mance and the Soul Consolators of Jackson, MS, and the Mighty Soul Travelers of Durant, MS, just to name a few.

Randy has one daughter, LaSha 'Bre.



Calvin April is a Song Writer and Lead Singer for the gospel group, *The Pilgrim Wonders of Toledo, Ohio* is the only child born to Mrs. Annie Nichols April of Chicago, IL. Calvin was born in Canton, MS and educated in the public schools of Madison County, MS and the Chicago Public Schools.

Calvin started out singing as a little boy at his home church, Mt. Pisgah M.B. Church. His professional career began when he was a teenager with the Canton Spirituals. While living in Chicago, IL, Calvin became one of the founders and singers for the gospel group "The Chefs of Calvary." In 1962, the group signed a contract with TRU-Sound Records of Englewood, NJ and recording two (2) albums which yielded 2 hit singles, "Save me Jesus" and "Standing on Calvary."

A versatile person, Calvin has recorded thirteen (13) albums to date. He has also been very instrumental in encouraging and inspiring young artists to develop their talents in the field of gospel music. Calvin has served in various positions in the gospel music workshops and talent search conventions.

"The Time is Now" album, written and produced by Calvin stayed on the Billboard Top Ten Charts for 16 months and has become a gospel classic. It is still selling today. Calvin and the Pilgrim Wonders were voted one of the five (5) Traditional Quartet Groups of the year of 1985 by the Gospel Music Workshop of America. Calvin's CD entitled "Wake Up America", was another great hit.

Calvin is a founding member of the Canton Gospel Music Association and was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 by the organization. Calvin is a member of Canton United Methodist Church in Canton, MS., where he is a member of the Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, United Men, and the Male Chorus.

Calvin is happily married to his wonderful wife of 44 years, Mrs. Lonnie Hamlin-April and they are the proud parents of 3 wonderful children; Carmen, Candace and Calvin!



Bertha Archie

Mrs. Bertha Archie was married to the late Mr. Hurley Raymond Archie of 51 years, until God called him home, April 2010. She is the mother of seven children, Patricia Ann Douglas (deceased), Larry Dale Douglas (deceased), Darlene Archie, Robert Archie, Hurley Archie, Alvin Archie, and Brenda Archie-Johnson, She has 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Archie graduated from Cameron Street High School in 1951 where she was a majorette in the marching band. She continued that tradition for over 43rd years serving as a chaperone and band booster club member for the Canton Public High School Band where in the past she could be seen marching with the band in parades and football games. She is one of the founding members of the Canton High School Band booster club and has been very instrumental in raising funds for the band uniforms throughout the years. Mrs. Archie's passion is singing and playing the piano and her love for music extended throughout her family. Most of her children played an instrument in the Canton High School band and most of her grandchildren are musicians also. Mrs. Archie is a:

- Current Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. (Madison County Chapter) Mother of the Year (2013)
- Current member/Ambassador of the Canton Chambers of Commerce – 16 years
- Current Founding Member of the Canton Gospel Music Association – 10 years
- Current Member of the South Liberty Willing Workers Society – Served as secretary for 30 years
- Founder/Pianist of the South Liberty M.B. Church Beginner's Choir – 32 years
- Current member of South Liberty M.B. Church – 81 years – longest membership in the church
- Current Deaconess of South Liberty M.B. Church – 44 years
- Current Sunday School Teacher at South Liberty M.B. Church – 37 years
- Founder/Pianist of the Royal Ambassadors Boys Choirs @ South Liberty M.B. Church – 21 years
- Served as church Custodian for South Liberty M.B. Church – 9 years
- Current Volunteer/Foster Grandparent at the Community Pride Head start under the administration of President Barack Obama – 3 years
- Employed as an Upholster for Madison Furniture Industries – 28 years, Retired
- Employed at MYL Clinic – 14 years, Retired
- Substitute Teacher for Canton Public High School – 10 years, Retired



Veda Greene Archie

Veda Grochelle Greene Archie, a native Cantonian, is the daughter of Mr. Wallace Eugene and Mrs. Gracie (Slaughter) Greene, both of whom are deceased. Veda is the mother of six beautiful children.

Her musical journey began in the summer of 1972. To this day, she remembers the sweet smell of “cha-cha,” in which her parents were canning on the day that Werlein’s delivered her piano. Mrs. Frances (Hutchins) Whiteurst agreed to teach Veda to play the piano to give her a “jumpstart” for when she would study later in August when school began with Sister Vera Marie, the nun and principal of Holy Child Elementary. She was well-prepared – so much so – that she moved quite swiftly through the John W. Schaum Pre-A piano course book and Sister was quite amazed at her sight-reading ability. Later, Veda would be inspired and taught by Ms. Elaine (McKenzie) Harden and Ms. Carolyn Evans. They were very efficient, understanding and patient instructors who motivated her to be all that she could be.

As a student at Holy Child Jesus Catholic School, participating in extracurricular activities was limited. But Veda took an interest in and enjoyed the activities offered by the school. They would include: taking piano lessons, singing in the high school choir, and participating in the forensic speech competition.

Having grown up in Mount Able Missionary Baptist Church, Veda promised her grandfather, the late Deacon Asa Slaughter, Sr. – who was then the superintendent of the Sunday school – that when she learned to play that she would play for the Sunday school. She kept her promise and became the musician for the Sunday school, the junior choir, co-organized and played for the young adult choir which was later transformed as the “Voices of Praise.”

Veda is eternally grateful to her home church for allowing her the opportunity to develop and utilize her talent. In addition to Mount Able, she has served as musician for the following churches: Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness, U.S.A.; Holy Child Jesus Catholic Church, (special services); Zion Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Liberty Missionary Baptist Church; Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and Mary Magdalene Missionary Baptist Church. Currently, Veda serves as the musician



Sherida Banks is a proud native of Canton, Mississippi. She was the youngest member to join the Canton Gospel Music Association when she joined in 2010. In this organization, Sherida has networked with some great people, as well as sung behind some of the greatest gospel artists of all times including Bishop Rance Allen, Evangelist Beverly Crawford, Lamar Campbell, Maurette Brown Clark, Paul Porter to name a few. She was voted as “Soloist of the Year” in 2016 and was awarded the “Sister Thea Bowman Music Scholarship” from the Canton Gospel Music Association in 2017.

Sherida attended Madison County schools where she graduated from Germantown High School class of 2017 with honors. She is a former graduate of Hinds Community College where she received two years of college experience. At Hinds Community College, Sherida was involved in numerous of clubs and activities, such as the former president of I.D.E.A.L. Women, SGA senator, Utica Gospel and Choral choir member, Miss Hinds Pageant contestant, and a Resident Assistant, just to name a few.

Sherida is a recent graduated from Thee Jackson State University with a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education. Sherida apprise to get her masters in Curriculum instruction while working in the educational field. Some of her hobbies are singing, dancing, and as well as public speaking. Sherida says, “The Canton Gospel Music Association has been more than a blessing to me, and I would like to express my gratitude towards Cynthia and my CGMA family! Thank you for the many years of service and scholarships that you have so graciously given back to the Madison County Community!”

Sherida’s inspirations are her mother, Ms. Latasha Woodruff and her grandmother, the late Mrs. Willie Mae Scott. Sherida is currently serving on the praise and worship team at We Are One Methodist Church. She has been a member of Doxa Muziq out of Jackson Mississippi since 2019 where she sings soprano. Sherida love for music has taken her on platform where she could never imagine. One of her favorite saying is With God all things are possible. Sherida says her love for music came from her late grandmother Willie Mae Scott who was her pioneer and inspiration in her life



Daisy Ellis

Daisy Ellis is the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. A. L. Jackson, Sr. and Lucille George Jackson of Canton, MS. At the age of 12, Mrs. Ellis' music career began at the churches pastored by her father as church pianist with her mother as organist. She graduated from Canton Public High School in 1971 and received a music scholarship to Alcorn State University where she earned her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Music Education. At Alcorn, she was a member of the ASU Band of Distinction, the ASU Concert Choir and was director and musician for the ASU Gospel Choir.

Her professional career began in 1976 as Assistant Music Therapist at Hudspeth Retardation Center in Pearl, Ms. In 1980-1990 she became Band Director of Nichols Middle School in Canton, Ms. In 1990 she started at Velma Jackson High School in Camden, MS. as Assistant Band and Choir Director. In 2001 Northeast Madison Middle School was established and Mrs. Ellis became Band and Choir Director. Due to the brief illness and death of her father, she retired in 2005.

In 2006, Mrs. Ellis was the Choir Director at Canton High School and returned to Velma Jackson High and Northeast Madison Middle School as choir director in 2008. Mrs. Ellis retired at the end of the 2015-16 school term. In 2011, Mrs. Ellis started VJHS Alumni Choir with 119 active members from across the USA.

During her career Mrs. Ellis has received various honors and awards: Most Talented in High School; Student Conductor (Band and Choir); Best All Around in High School; Proclamation from the State of Mississippi for Outstanding Achievements; Who's Who in America's High School Teachers; Trustmark Bank for Outstanding Achievements; "Choir Director of the Year" Lifetime Achievement Award" 2015, Musician of the Year 2009 and 2011" by the Canton Gospel Music Association and Outstanding and invaluable service Award from Congressman Bennie Thompson in 2019.

Mrs. Ellis has served as musician for the following churches: New Friendship M. B. Church - Walnut Grove, MS, Galilee M. B. Church -Carthage, MS, Christian Triumph M. B. Church-Morton, MS, Mt. Zion Cobbsville



Jeffery Lockett

Jeffery Lockett was born in Canton, MS to Mr. Roosevelt & Ruth Lockett. He is a 1978 graduate of Holy Child Jesus School and he also attended Holmes Community College and Thee Jackson State University where he majored in Mass Communication.

He is a faithful member of Makarios Worship Center located in Canton, MS under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Leon Collier and First Lady Yolanda Collier since 2009. At Makarios, Jeffery serves in different capacities such as trustee, sound & media operator, and a part of the Ministry of David praise team.

Jeffery is a member and president of the Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale which has been together for 25 years under the leadership of founder & director, Pastor John M. Woodard, Jr. Jeffery currently works as a radio announcer at WMGO-1370AM in Canton, MS and has been there for the past 20 plus years. Jeffery is also employed with the Madison County Chancery Clerk as a deputy clerk and as a passport program manager for the past 20 years.

Jeffery has been married to Mary, his “high school sweetheart”, for 37 years and counting! To this union, they have been blessed with 2 children, Jamaal & Monica. They are also blessed with 4 wonderful grandchildren: Jaden, Kaleb, Jason & Jacey.

The main thing Jeffery wants you to know is “with God, ALL things are POSSIBLE”!! **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!**



Georgia Sims

Georgia Sims is a native Cantonian, comes from a singing family of (13). She is the eleventh child of The Late Deacon J.B. Sims, Sr. & the late Mother Wilda Juanita Wales Sims. Georgia has a handsome son, Felix Augustus, a beautiful daughter-in-law Jill, a gorgeous granddaughter Quiana, two incredible lovely grandsons, Kaiden & Jordan. They currently reside in Seattle, Washington.

Each year the entire Sims' Family has a musical event, *SIMS NITE.*" Georgia actively participates in this event. She is a member of the Mt. Zion Cobbsville Missionary Baptist Church, where she grew up singing in her church choir for a number of years. Currently, Georgia teaches Sunday School, Church Announcement Clerk, actively involved in the Senior Mission, and her passion-helping the Youth as well as Sick & Shut-Ins and those in need. She is also the Director of Christian Education.

Georgia is a graduate of Rogers High School. She received her Bachelor's & Master's Degrees from Jackson State University. She sang with her High School choir as well as JSU's choir. She enjoys volunteering for the Choose to Grow mentoring program, which consists of males (ATEAAM), and females (ESTEEM), where she was named "Volunteer of the Year" for 2013 & 2014. Georgia actively supports her sister's Foundation, The JSD Foundation and is the site coordinator for Porter Middle School in Canton, MS.

Georgia has been employed by the following: Magnolia Federal Bank (Teller); Canton Public Schools (Tutor); City of Canton (Program Director); Lextron Corporation (Human Resource Specialist); Madison County Schools (Substitute Teacher) to name a few. Most recently, she was a PS Academic Tutor. She will be the Site Coordinator in the Madison County School system at the Shirley Simmons Middle School.

Georgia has been a member of CGMA for (15) fifteen years, and those years have been wonderful. Each year its exciting to support the Youth with scholarships for their music lessons. One of her favorite guests



Vernon Smith

Vernon Smith was born to OT and Bernice Smith. He is the 5th child of 7 children born to this union. Vernon graduated from Rogers High School. Vernon is married to Joyce Mayberry Smith and they have 2 children, Janeki and Jayla Smith.

Vernon is a quiet and honorable man. He listens a lot and talks very little and says, “That is a secret to staying out of trouble.” He spends much of his time working with his cars and trucks. Vernon loves talking with his 2 girls and a niece that's he helped raise since she was little.

Vernon is member of the Mt. Able Missionary Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon. He is a member of the Brother's In Christ, where he serves as President. They were honored with a “Lifetime Music Achievement Award” from the Canton Gospel Music Association in 2017 and have received “Group of the Year” Award from the organization.

Vernon is a Professional Truck Drive for over 25 years, where he has put many, many miles up and down the highway listening to gospel music. He is also a certified welder, who uses his talent in welding on a lot of projects, at home and for other people.

Vernon is a member of the Canton Gospel Music Association and enjoys “making a joyful noise to the Lord.” He has been blessed to sing God's praises and will continue to give God praise for his many blessings.



Veronica Smith

Veronica Smith is a member of Canton SDA Church and currently serves as Women Ministry Leader. She is the first born child of Henry and Vera Johnson and is the mother of three children, Lamonica (Rod), Gregory (Chimez) and Grace. Veronica is the grandmother of five God sent grandchildren; Keith, Kenneth, Kayden, Kamon and Zuri. Eldest sister to Rena (Bob), Reginald (LaToya), Denise (Tyrone), Shari and Dominique and is supported by a grand pool of family and friends that she loves.

Veronica is a graduate of Velma Ware Jackson High School and later graduated from Tougaloo College with B. A. degree in Economics and Business Administration. She enjoys helping people, community involvement, abstract art, creative crafting, reading, writing and singing.

Veronica is a Community Servant, Music Enthusiast. Published Author and Art Admirer. Her mission is to live a life pleasing to God and fulfill the purpose she was born to achieve, which is to love God with all of her heart, soul and mind and to love her neighbor as herself.

Veronica is happy to be a member of the Canton Gospel Music Association!



Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes

Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes was born in Madison County to David Rucker & Cora (Harry) Rucker Washington, both of whom are deceased. She is the mother of Shekeiria (Chevy) Mannie, Leigh Johnne' (Kathryn Burgess) Stokes, JacQualyn Stokes, Brianna White and Christopher Sumler and is the proud grandmother of Jordan A. and Carter J. Mannie.

Minister Anderson is a 1983 graduate of Canton Public High School and 1991 graduate of Moore Career College. She is a member of the Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale under the guidance of Pastor John Woodard Jr., where she serves as the Vice-President. She enjoys singing and ministering and enjoys the opportunities of co-coordinating weddings and events as GOD allows through her own venture of Nine Twenty Six.

She is a member of the Pilgrim Branch M.B. Church of Brandon, MS, under the leadership of Pastor Robert Moore, M.D and was recently ordained. She serves as the Minister of Music, a member of the ministerial staff and one of the Adult Sunday School teachers.



Samuel Whisenton

Professor Samuel Whisenton was born in Canton, MS on November 30, Mr. Whisenton is the son of the late Mrs. Gussie Jones and Mr. Samuel Whisenton, Sr. He has 4 children, four grandchildren and on great grandson.

Mr. Whisenton attended Cameron Street High School and Alcorn State University where he received a B.S. Degree in Chemistry and Math in 1952. He has done further studying at Tuskegee Institute, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Cornell University and Wake Forest University, where he received his Physics certification.

Professor Samuel Whisenton's love for music started as a pastime when he was a young boy as he experimented with the keyboard. During his first year of teaching, he organized and became the choir director of the Amite County training School in Gloster, MS and later The Velma Jackson High School Choir. He respectfully earned the name "Professor Whisenton", not only for his educating the children in the classroom but also for him educating them about Christ through music. He's played for numerous churches in Canton and the surrounding area. Professor Whisenton enjoyed 39 years of teaching, 33 of those years were spent in Madison County, mostly at Velma Jackson. He also served 30 years as Minister of Music at the Mt. Zion MB Church in Canton and former Director of Music for the Mississippi Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

One of the biggest accomplishments and highlights of his life was the time he spent as Director of the Madison County Baptist Association Youth Choir, under the leadership of the late Dr. N. B. Jackson.

~ JUNIOR MEMBERS ~



*Chase
Banks*



*Abigail (Abbi)
Woodard*



*John (Tre)
Woodard, III*

Chase Banks is a Sophomore at Clinton High School where he plays defensive end on the football team. He is a member of the student counsel and the school president of Future Business Leaders of America. His plans are to go to college and major in Psychology and learn about Naturupathic healing.

His favorite saying is "With Christ you're never alone." His hobbies are working out, playing his games and reading. Chase favorite scripture is Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty, I will say of the Lord, "He Is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." Chase has been a member of the Canton Gospel Music Association for five years. He would like to express his gratitude towards Ms. Cynthia and the CGMA family for all that they do for our youth.

Abigail "Abbi" Leatrice Woodard has been a High (all A's) honor roll student since Kindergarten. In Kindergarten, she received an award for being an 800 point accelerated reader club. "Abbi" has placed 1st place in the school and district reading fair (kindergarten) and has had perfect attendance each school year. She is currently in the fifth grade at Madison Avenue Upper Elementary School.

John Milton "Tre" Woodard, III, has been an A/B honor roll student since Kindergarten. He has placed 1st place in school and district reading fairs (2th, 4th, and 5th grade), had perfect attendance every school and was inducted into the Elementary National Honors Society in 2018. Currently, Tre is in the 9th grade and he attends Rosa Scott High School.

"Tre" is a Junior usher and sings in the Children's Choir at The Ark of Safety Ministry.



*In Loving Remembrance
of our deceased
Canton Gospel Music Association
Members.*



Anna Allen



Momma Lilly Cross



Evang. M. Maxwell



Mable Ross



Willie Mae Scott



John Woodard, Sr.



Lawrence Williamson



Princeston Simmons



Lee Starling

Rest In Peace!

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**2005-2022
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION**

**MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP
HALL OF FAME**



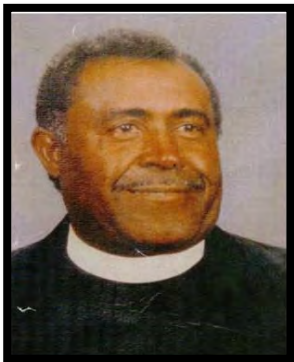
Mr. George Barnes Music Scholarship

Mr. George Monroe Barnes was a faithful church and choir member of the Mt. Zion MB Church. He was a co-founder and director of the Mt. Zion Jubilee Choir, a member of The Voices of Faith Choir, Madison County Baptist Association Youth Choir, a founding member of the Canton Community Fellowship Choir, Madison County Male Choir and the Canton Gospel Soul Children. George graduated from Canton High School and Jackson State University and received his Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees, graduating with honors each time. He was a member of the Canton High and Jackson State University Marching Bands, playing the trumpet and French horn.



Sister Thea Bowman Music Scholarship

Sister Thea Bowman was the first African American Franciscan Sister of the Perpetual Adoration of the Catholic Church. Gifted with a brilliant mind, beautiful voice and a dynamic personality, she became a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer sharing the joy of the Gospel and her rich cultural heritage throughout the nation to millions from Nigeria to Kenya to Canada to the Virgin Islands and Hawaii, among other places. She featured her beloved Holy Child Singers of Canton in an historic album recording, titled, "The Voice of Negro America", was instrumental in the publication of the first Catholic hymnal directed to the Black community, recorded "Songs of My People" and "Round the Glory Manger" and established the "Hallelujah Singers." After her passing, The Holy Child Jesus Children's Choir of Canton was renamed "The Thea Bowman Memorial Children's Choir" by her musical director, Mr. Harry Watson to continue her musical legacy.



Rev. Curtis Brown Music Scholarship

Rev. Curtis Brown became involved in music at an early age, travelling with his father to different A. M. E. Zion Churches and participating in youth programs. He was called into the gospel ministry and pastored the Sims Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church of Canton, MS and the St. Peter A. M. E. Zion Church of Meridian, MS. Rev. Brown was the organizer of The Brown's Community Choir. His experience in music began under the leadership of Bro. Cleo Powell. Rev. Brown loved music up until his passing. He was very well known for singing, "Search Me Lord", "I Know the Lord Will Make a Way", "I'll May It Somehow", and "Blessings Keep Coming My Way". His musical legacy continues today through his daughter, Recording Artist, Delores Brown. Rev. Brown was an inspiration to all and his music ministry was anointed.



Mr. James Harris Music Scholarship

Mr. James Harris was a graduate of Canton High School and graduated from Alcorn State University receiving the Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Education. He served in the University Band where he was featured as their star twirler. He was an accomplished conductor, clinician, arranger and instrumentalist. He was the founder of the Northside Community Choir and wrote and arranged many songs which was recorded on their first album including "Make It To The City" and "Stairway To Heaven." Mr. Harris was the Assistant to the Director of Bands, Director and Founder & Choreographer of the famous "Prancing Tigerettes" at Canton High School. Before his passing, he was the Min-

Mrs. Desiree Hart Music Scholarship



Mrs. Desiree Spencer Hart has devoted her life to serving the Lord and others through praise and song. Her musical talents permeate the boundaries of Canton, Madison County and the State Of Mississippi. Mrs. Hart is a pioneer in gospel recording, being one of the first to record gospel music with Malaco Music. She recorded “Move to the Sky” and “By the Grace” under the Hart Records label and was accompanied by Flonzie Brown-Wright and members of the Voices of Faith Choir provided background vocals. Since then, Mrs. Hart has continued to spread God’s Word through her song ministry. She is an active and dedicated member of First Stokes Chapel M. B. Church gives God the glory, the honor and the praise.

Mr. Phillip Horn Music Scholarship



Mr. Phillip Horn was a faithful church and choir member of the Mt. Zion MB Church. He was a co-founder and director of the Mt. Zion Jubilee Choir, co-founder of the Canton Community Fellowship Choir (The Ship), and a member of Madison County Male Choir. As a member of the Voices of Faith Choir, Mr. Horn was a featured soloist on the song “Use Me Dear Lord”, written by Mr. Randolph Watson. He graduated from Canton High School and Mississippi Valley State University and received his degree in Music. As a phenomenal soloist, he was in great demand at home and abroad to sing praises to God at many events and was anointed as he used his gift for God’s Glory.

Mr. Claude “Bubba” Nichols Music Scholarship



Mr. Claude C. Nichols, Sr., better known as “Bubba Nichols”, started singing at an early age in life. He first joined the Canton Southernaires musical group. Later, he joined the award winning Canton Spirituals, whom he sang with for over 20 years. In the early 80’s, he joined The Friendly Echoes of Lexington, MS, where he sang until his passing. Mr. Nichols wrote several popular songs for the Canton Spirituals and was one of the lead singers. His songs included “WHAT LOVE”, “SMOOTHNG UP THE ROUGH WAY”, and “THAT’S MY TRAIN FARE HOME”, among others. Mr. Nichols can still be heard on radio stations today singing lead on these songs. His musical legacy has been passed on to members of his immediate family.

Mrs. Doris Lucille Nichols Smith Music Scholarship



Mrs. Doris Lucille Nichols Smith earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Jackson State University and a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Her teaching career included 4 years in Canton at Rogers Elementary and Rogers High School and continued in Chicago at Colman Elementary and concluded after 38 years at DuSable H.S. in 2003. Her church work as a musician began at her home church, St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church at age 13. In college, Mrs. Smith served as musician for the evening services of Cade Chapel MB Church in Jackson. In Chicago, she served as Director of Music for St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church for over 40 years. Mrs. Smith served as accompanist for the Chicago District Choir of the A.M.E. Zion Church and is a member of the

Mrs. Tommie Travis Music Scholarship

Mrs. Tommie Lee Travis was a member of Pine Grove M. B. Church from 1931-2005. She was an outstanding musician at Pilgrim Rest M. B. Church for 2 years, under the leadership of Rev. A. P. Owens, Pleasant Gift M. B. Church, under the leadership of Rev. G. H. Hines and Rev. Reed), Mary Grove M. B. Church, (under the leadership of Rev. D. D. Smith), Madison County Women's Association for 2 years, the Walnut Hill Baptist Church for 31 years under Pastor Rev. L. R. Perry and Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church for 50 years under Rev. L. R. Perry and Rev. Robert Kelly. Mrs. Travis was a dedicated and faithful musician serving Madison County.



Mrs. Rembert Washington Music Scholarship

Mrs. Rembert Washington was very active in organizing community, church, and civic organizations. She prayed and asked God to teach her to play and if he did that for her, she would use that talent for him for the rest of her life. Her musical gifts were well used in the service of the Lord as she played for anyone--soloists, choirs, groups, those singing on key, off key, and even those who sang in those unforgivable keys. Mrs. Washington played for revivals, funerals, and other church events and sometimes when there was no musician present, she would get on that piano and play for the service without a charge. She served as musician for many churches throughout the city of Canton, Madison, and Leake County by which she touched many lives. Mrs. Washington was a great inspiration to her family, the community, and the state. Her musical legacy truly lives on today in The Rembert Washington Memorial Choral, a community choir founded in 1997, under the leadership of her grandson, Pastor John Woodard, Jr.



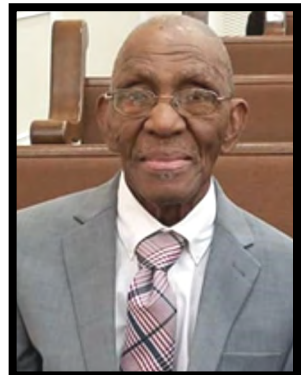
Mr. Randolph Watson Music Scholarship

Mr. Vincent Randolph Watson is a Songwriter, Musician, Producer and Choir Director. He is the Founder of The Voices of Faith Choir, Inc., which was organized in 1960, co-founder along with the late Canton native Phillip Horn of The Canton Community Fellowship Choir, in 1979 and founder of The Canton Gospel Soul Children" in 1990. A graduate of Tougaloo College, he realized that his ministry was a spiritual one and was far reaching. Awards & accolades were numerous, coveted TV appearances throughout the United States, spirit filled and award winning albums, coordinating music for a movie, and working with over 100 choirs, were some of the highlights of his career. It is no doubt that Mr. Watson's name is synonymous with great gospel music in Mississippi and throughout. There are very few artists from Mississippi who have gone on to enjoy success that have not been affected directly or indirectly by his musical genius.



Professor Samuel Whisenton Music Scholarship

Professor Samuel H. Whisenton's love for music started as a pastime when he was a young boy as he experimented with the keyboard. After graduating from Alcorn State University, during his first year of teaching, he organized and became the choir director of the Amite County Training School and later The Velma Jackson High School Choir. He earned the name, "Professor Whisenton", not only for his educating the children in the classroom but also for educating them about Christ through music. He's played for numerous churches in Canton and the surrounding area and enjoyed 39 years of teaching, 33 of those years were spent in Madison County. Mr. Whisenton served 30 years as Minister of Music at the Mt.



Pastor John Woodard, Jr. Music Scholarship



Over the past 31 plus years, **Pastor John Woodard Jr.**, affectionately known as “John-John”, has been a Canton area musician dedicated to serving God and His people through the ministry of music. At the age of 8, and with the assistance of his grandmother, the late Mrs. Rembert Washington, who helped him keep tempo, he began playing drums. Over time, Pastor Woodard continued developing his interests for other instruments and eventually assumed the role of Minister of Music at the Ark of Safety Ministry, pastored by his mother, the late Elect Lady Pastor Gloria Woodard. He currently serves as the Pastor. In 1993, Pastor Woodard was inspired by the Holy Spirit to form a community choir named after his grandmother, and in 2000, they released an album entitled, “I Can See So Much”. He is very humbled to have had the opportunity to serve as either a musician, clinician, or singer for most of the churches in Madison County. Pastor Woodard serves as Musical Director for the Canton Gospel Music Association and is a founding member.

Mrs. Flonzie Brown Wright Music Scholarship



Mrs. Flonzie Brown Wright was inspired by her late mother, Mrs. Little P. Brown, to take music lessons at the Holy Child Jesus Catholic School at age 9. At age 10, she began playing for the Asbury Methodist Church Youth Choir and evening services. Mrs. Wright began playing for the Mt. Zion M. B. Church BTU, Sunday School and later she began playing for church service at age 12 and served intermittently for approximately 35 years as pianist and organist. She played for the Youth Choir, Senior Choir, Johnson Inspirational Choir and was the co-founder of the Mt. Zion Male Chorus. Mrs. Wright was the founder of The Dahmer Singers for Freedom, a group of young musical voices, named after Civil Rights Activist, the late Mr. Vernon Dahmer. Her musical background provided her the opportunity to share her gifts of playing the piano and organ, singing, teaching and rearranging songs for a number of churches and community choirs. Mrs. Wright was a Counselor for the Northside Community Choir.



**2005-2022
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION**

**MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2022 Music Scholarship Recipients



LeeAndrea Chandler
\$100



Christine Morales
\$100



Layla Garrett
\$100



Rebecca Morales
\$100



Kaleb Bullock
\$100



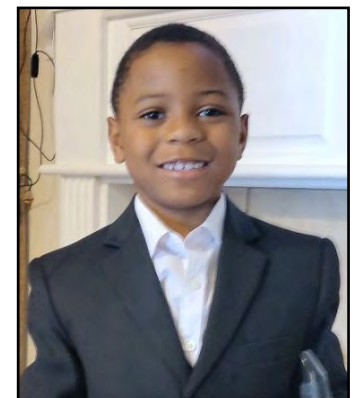
Victoria Garrett
\$100



Zola Jones
\$100



Wesley Dinkins, Jr.
\$100



Kingston Wiley
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2021 Music Scholarship Recipients



Javian Doyle
\$1000



Isaiah Smith
\$1000



Jeremiah Smith
\$100



Madison Smith
\$100



Wesley Dinkins
\$100



Moryah Smith
\$100



Morgan Smith
\$100



LeeAndrea Chandler
\$100



Zola Jones
\$100



Layla Garrett
\$100



Victoria Garrett
\$100



Mary Brown
\$100



Christine Morales
\$100

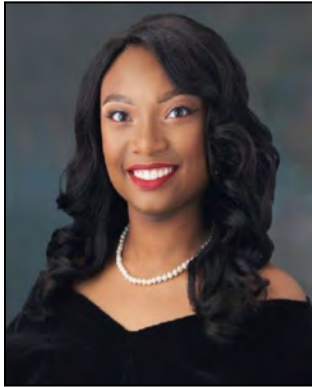


Rebecca Morales
\$100



Khamori Ratliff
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2020 Music Scholarship Recipients



Kaitlin Myricks
\$1000



Michael Brooks
\$1000



Silana Lacy
\$100



Siela Lacy
\$100



Siona Lacy
\$100



Gabrielle C. Garrett
\$100



Sadie Luckett
\$100



Layla Garrett
\$100



Victoria Garrett
\$100



Joetta Sanders
\$100



Aaliyah Dawson
\$100



Keston Townsend
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2019 Music Scholarship Recipients



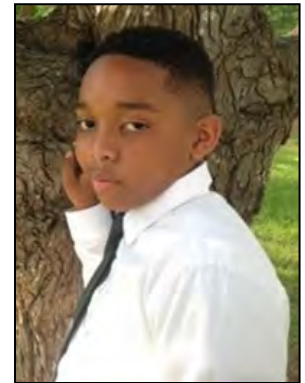
Wendolyn Towner
\$1000



Keston Townsend
\$100



Gabrielle C. McElroy
\$100



Jordan Whitehead
\$100



Lessie Newman
\$100



Kaleb Bullock
\$100



Layla Garrett
\$100



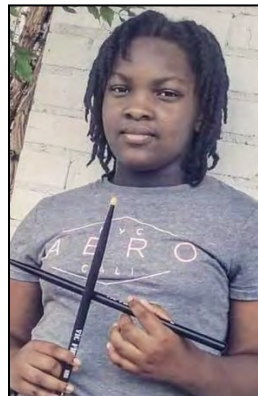
Sadie Luckett
\$100



Tierra Smothers
\$100



Lailah Griffin
\$100



Sarrayah Griffin
\$100



Christian Dismuke
\$100

Aailyah Dawson
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2018 Music Scholarship Recipients



Inesha Jackson
\$500



Malcolm Walker
\$500



Aaliyah Dawson
\$100



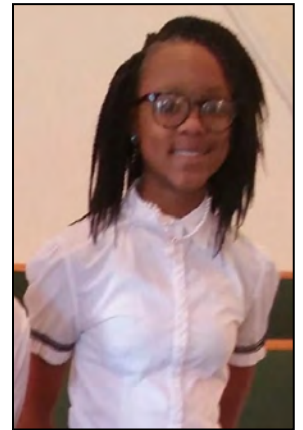
Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Aubrey Chambers
\$100



Meckel Primer
\$100



Makayla Francis
\$100

Isaiah Smith
\$100



Malcolm Walker at Velma Jackson



Inesha Jackson at Canton High

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2017 Music Scholarship Recipients



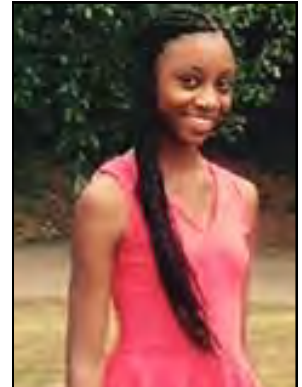
Sherida Banks
\$500



Greg Tyler Richards
\$500



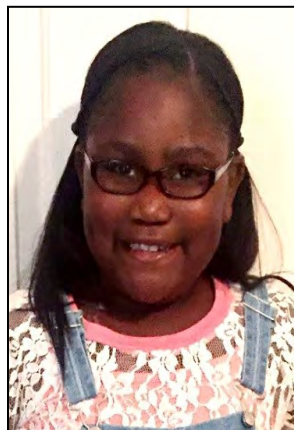
Dylan Chambers
\$100



Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Jayla Smith
\$100



Leila Slaughter
\$100



Tyrione Scott
\$100



Inesha Jackson
\$100



Kaleb Bullock
\$100



Myeshia Smith
\$100



Cortez Dunigan *\$100*
Makalya Francis *\$100*

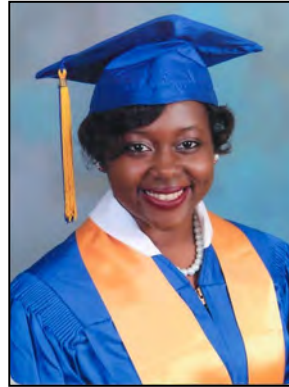
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2016 Music Scholarship Recipients



Collin Fortenberry
\$500



Chandler Greenwood
\$500



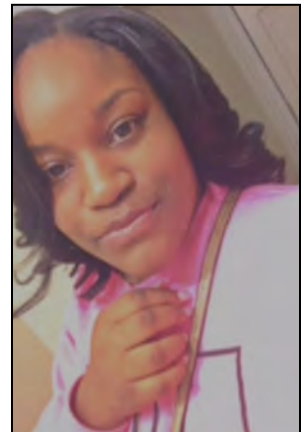
Kayla Olive
\$500



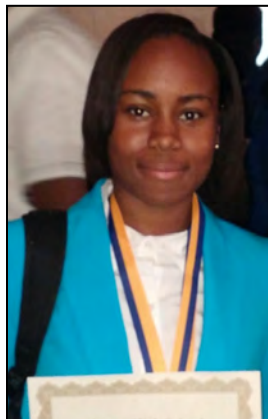
Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Matthew Jordan
\$100



Paige May
\$100



Inesha Jackson
\$100



Mariah Harris
\$100



Leila Slaughter
\$100



Austin Ratliff
\$100



Lessie Newman
\$100

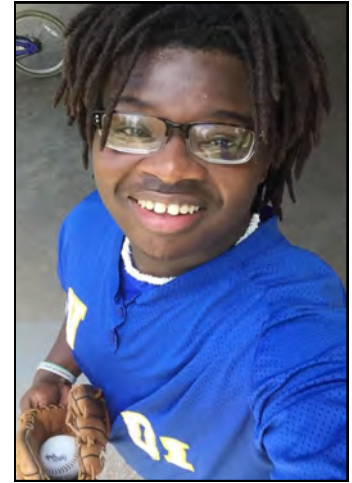
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2015 Music Scholarship Recipients



Karl Phillips
\$500



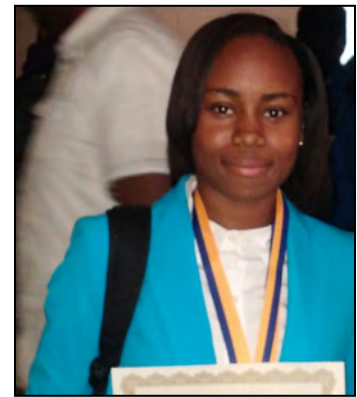
Shelby Greer
\$500



Shemar Brooks
\$100

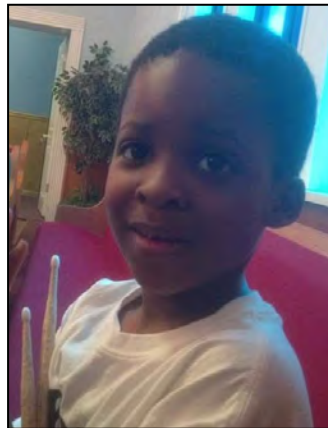


Wendalyn Towner
\$100



Inesha Jackson
\$100

Isaiah Smith
\$100



Kindall Miller
\$100



William Dean, III
\$100



Austin Ratliff
\$100



Lessie Newman
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2014 Music Scholarship Recipients



Amran Luckett
\$500



Gabriella Steele
\$500



Ricki' Anna Ollie
\$100



Inesha Jackson
\$100



Isaiah Smith
\$100



Nicholas Jackson
\$100

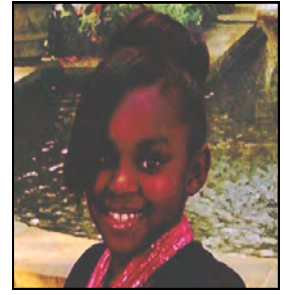
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2013 Music Scholarship Recipients



Caydon Jones



Hitoshi Hudson



Asiyon Hudson



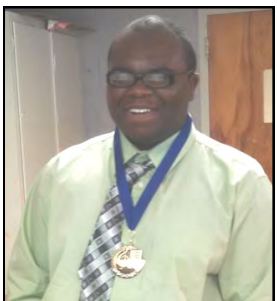
Joshua Veals
\$100



Ja'Kelia Williams
\$100



De'Maya Smith
\$100



Malik Travis
\$100



T'Kez Davis
\$100



Layla Garrett
\$100



Kanya Fleming
\$100



Patrick Chatelain
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2012 Music Scholarship Recipients



Christopher Lewis



Dylan Rivers

Dejohnessa Dixon
\$100

Henry Young
\$100

Justin Adams
\$100

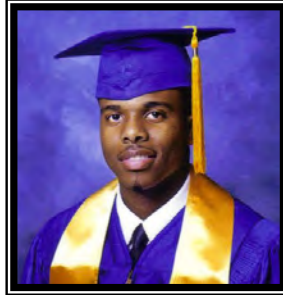


*Members of the
 Canton Gospel Music Association
 presented a check to
ASHFORD SANDERS
 as he departed Canton for
 Atlanta, GA
 to begin taping for
SUNDAY'S BEST*

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2011 Music Scholarship Recipients



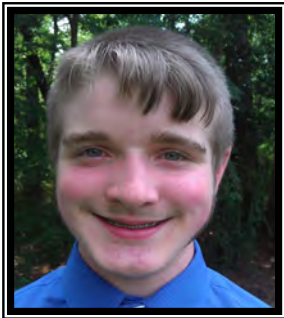
Clarence Pace, III



Frederick Brown



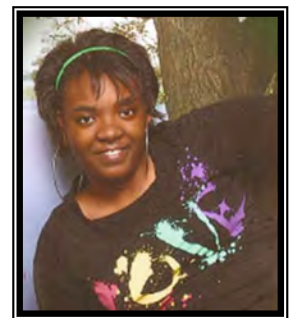
Gabrielle Maye



Luke Remsburg



Maurice Van Jackson, Jr.



Jerrica Adams



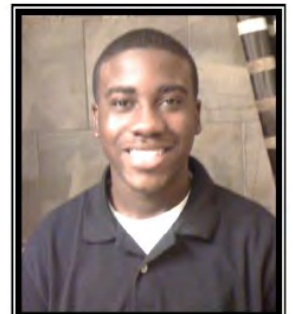
Jasmine Lacey

\$100



Brandon Champion

\$100



Douglas J. Stanley

\$100



Shunterrius Hobson



Brittany Day (not pictured)

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2010 Music Scholarship Recipients



Christopher Fields



Jamarcus Parker



H'Alecia Archie



Rodravius Brown
\$100



Stephanie Griffin
Stafford Griffin



NaTasha Henson
\$100



Jeremiah Jackson
\$100



Shiloh Remsburg
\$100



Dylan Rivers
\$100



Khayla Wilks
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2009 Music Scholarship Recipients



Gloria "GG" Collier



Rashad Hughes



Tamara Jackson



Alexis Jones
\$100



Sharday Young
\$100



Allyah Champion
\$100



Tamara Jackson

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2008 Music Scholarship Recipients



Derrick Bess



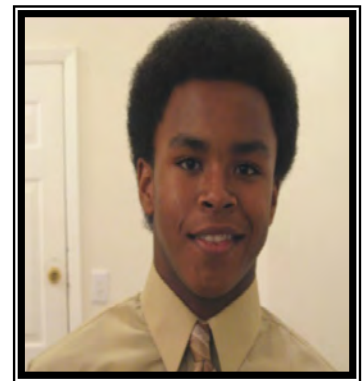
Frensha Slaughter



Rolisha Ratliff



Sha'Maya Readus



Deon Kiner



Khiry Bell

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2007 Music Scholarship Recipients



Justin Jackson
\$500



Tuerica Clanton
\$500



Dylan Rivers
\$100



- \$100 Jentyria Grant**
- \$100 Jimmie Brown**
- \$100 Shamaya Reavus**
- \$100 Nick Walker**
- \$100 Dondre Blackmon**
- \$100 Marissa Thompson**
- \$100 Nicole Williams**
- \$100 Jason Saunders**
- (all students not in attendance)*

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2006 Music Scholarship Recipients



- \$100 Justin Hull**
- \$100 Alora Delon Taylor**
- \$100 Fredeteria Carson**
- \$100 Justin Johnson**
- \$100 Miyah Smith**
- \$100 Adrian Sumler**
- \$100 Verlincia Alexander**
- \$100 Frensha Slaughter**
- \$100 Raven Grant**

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2005 Music Scholarship Recipients



Phiona McDonald
\$250



Lorenzo Olive
\$250

**2022
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

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CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the scholarship winners in today's gospel music celebration.
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Saturday at 11am.

PASTOR Michael Mickens

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- ◆ Please contact the Church (601) 859-7364 or visit us on Facebook for more information.
- ◆ Looking forward to worshipping with each of you and your families in this season of renewal.
#The Church That Cares #Heart For The City #Happy Sabbath

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**“God is looking for true worshipers that will
worship Him in spirit and in truth”**

**Congratulations
to
Rev. James Sims,
CGMA
Scholarship Chairman**

**Saluting the
Canton Gospel Music Association
For 19 years of service
to our community!!!**



Pastor & First Lady James C. Sims, Sr.

**Sunday School—9:00 AM
Worship Service—10:00 AM**

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

1:00 PM

Church Address:

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Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Moses E.
Thompson



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Rev. Jerry & First Lady Joyce Lonie

Mt. Zion Cobbsville M. B. Church

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TELEPHONE (601) 859-5692
MT.ZIONCOBBSVILLE@ATT.NET

Deacon Bobby Hicks, *Chairman*

Sis. Brenda Perry, *Church Secretary*

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Sis. Georgia Sims
FOR BEING HONORED
AT THE
19TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS &
GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION.

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Nichols**

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Apostle Dr. John E. Williams, Sr. Pastor

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DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE:
Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

PRAYER MEETING:
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Ennis V. Johnson, Sr.
&

First Lady

Rita Johnson

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from
Daisy Ellis**

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Canton Gospel Music Association,
CONGRATULATIONS on the continued effort
to support our youth through music.



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Paparazzi Independent Consultant

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Mr. Gregory Richards - Bass Guitar
Mr. Cedrick Wiley - Saxophone*

*Mrs. Tammy R. Jackson Music Laboratory
5538 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39206
Suite 104*



*Jerry Lousteau and the WMGO Staff,
congratulates*

Evelyn Jones

As the Mayor's Award Recipient

at the

19th Annual

*Canton Gospel Music Celebration &
Scholarship Awards,*



- *Canton & Madison County News*
- *Uplifting Music Mix of Gospel, Oldies, & More*
- *Positive Coverage for Local Schools, Churches,
& Community Groups*

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"THE BAND"



**Thank You,
Thank You,
Thank You!**

*Cynthia
Goodloe Palmer*









SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 27, 2023

20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION

AND

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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