

Canton Gospel Music Celebration & Scholarship Awards

2023 Award Honorees & Musical Guests



Cynthia Allen



Percy Bennett



Lamar Campbell



Ashford Sanders



Musical Guests



Gloria "GG" Warren



**The Canton
Southernaires**



Marva Smith



John Henry

The Mayor's Award

103

YEARS OLD

Special Guest



C G M A Musician Honorees



**Cong. Bennie
Thompson**



**Jonathan
Anderson**



**Steven
Harper**



**Pat
Kessee**



**Greg
Richards**



**Tony
Richards**



**Louis
Wright**



Greater Faith Calvary Pentecostal Church Church

305 N. Railroad St.

Canton, MS 39046

**SUN
AUG
27
5PM**

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED

Sponsored by The Canton Gospel Music Association

DIAMOND



Uplifting Voices **THROUGH SONG AND SCHOLARSHIPS**



Empowering Communities & Partners

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 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 nissanmanufacturing.com



In Loving Memory Of



*Mrs. Christine
LEE*



*Mrs. Doris
MYERS*

*In Loving Remembrance
of two of
our musicians of
Madison County
who departed this life since our
program last year.*

We Will Never Forget You!



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
Veda Archie
Daisy Ellis
Jeffery Luckett
Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes
Georgia Sims

Honorary Members
Calvin April
Bertha Archie
Professor Samuel Whisenton

Junior Members
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 27, 2023

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 Annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration.

We welcome you this evening as we "Salute Madison County's Best" through music. Congratulations to Cynthia Allen, Percy Bennett, Minister Lamar Campbell, Ashford Sanders, Minister Jonathan Anderson, Minister Steven Harper, Pat Kessee, Greg Richards, Tony Richards and Louis Wright, tonight's honorees.

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 anniversary of the founding of the Canton Gospel Music Association in 2024, if it's God's will.

A Servant's Heart,

Cynthia Goodloe Palmer
Founder/President

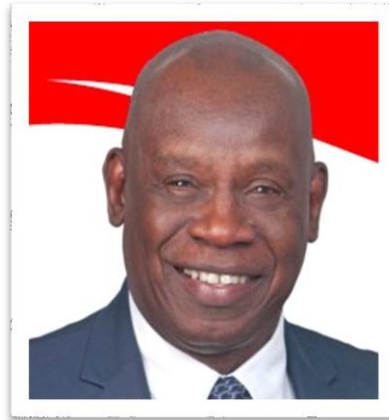


"Saluting Madison County's Best"

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, 2023

Congratulations to Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer and the Canton Gospel Music Association on your 20th 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Truly, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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 Annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration
August 27, 2023 | 5:00 PM

OPENING PRAYER **Elder Sylvester L. Hamlin, Pastor**
Greater Faith Calvary Pentecostal Church

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

HOSTS **Mrs. LaJesca Woodard, Financial Team, CGMA**
Mr. Harry L. Watson, Director of Choral Programs, Hinds Community College, Utica MS Campus

GUEST ARTIST **Evangelist Marva N. Smith, Recording Artist, Songwriter, Producer**
Jackson, MS

THE MAYOR'S AWARD **Presented by Dr. William Truly, Jr., Mayor, City of Canton**
.. **RECIPIENT: Mr. John "The Baptist" Henry**

SPECIAL GREETING **Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, 2nd Congressional District**

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

GRADE SCHOOL RECIPIENTS: *Jaleah Chandler, LeeAndrea Chandler, Wesley Dinkins, Jr., Layla Garrett, Victoria Garrett, Jeremiah Smith, Jorden Whitehead & Kingston Wiley.*

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECIPIENTS: *McKenzi Denton, Kaler Hill, Erin Nichols & Madison Word (video)*

PIANO SOLO *"The Goodness of God"* **Ms. Lailah Slaughter, Scholarship Recipient**

CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREES **Minister Jonathan Anderson,**
Minister Steven Harper, Mr. Pat Kessee, Mr. Greg Richards, Mr. Tony Richards, Mr. Louis Wright

GUEST ARTIST **Minister Gloria "GG" Warren, Recording Artist, Songwriter**
Sandusky, OH

AWARD HONOREE & MUSICAL GUEST **Mr. Percy Bennett, Manager, The Canton Southernaires**
Musical Selection Accompanied by The Canton Southernaires, Recording Artists

AWARD HONOREE & MUSICAL GUEST **Ms. Cynthia Allen, Recording Artist, Songwriter**
Canton, MS

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED MUSICIANS **Mrs. Christine Lee and Mrs. Doris Myers**

AWARD HONOREE & MUSICAL GUEST **Minister Lamar Campbell, Songwriter, Recording Artist**
Producer, Musician, Indianapolis, IN

NEW MINISTERS RECOGNITION **Pastor John Woodard, Jr., Musical Director, CGMA**

RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS/THANKS **Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Founder/President, CGMA**

AWARD HONOREE & MUSICAL GUEST **Mr. Ashford Sanders, Sunday Best Finalist, Actor**
Songwriter, Producer, Musician, Atlanta, GA

BENEDICTION **Rev. Jacqueline Rucker Stokes, CGMA**

C O S P O N S O R S

DIAMOND



GOLD



Doris Lucille Nichols Smith

Cynthia Goodloe Palmer

SILVER

BankPlus



Wayne & Dava McKnight

Congressman Bennie Thompson

The Ark of Safety Ministry

Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright

MEDIA



The Isaac Lindsey Network

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



The Mayor's Award Recipient

~ John Wesley Henry ~

Mr. John Wesley Henry, affectionately known in his community by many as “John the Baptist”, was born on September 30, 1919 in Madison County to Mr. Dewey S. Henry and Mrs. Hattie Brown Henry. Ever since he was a young boy, John Henry loved music and even more than music, he loved to sing. It was at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, in Canton, Mississippi, where he would have his first opportunity to try out his voice. After a group of men at the church realized that he could sing, they put him in the Mt. Olive Church Choir. Not yet a teenager, Mr. Henry was signing with the Adult Male Choir. He was the only child in the choir surrounded by a “bunch of old men.”

Mr. Henry’s love for signing continued to widen as the four other men started a singing group known as “The Traveling Stars.” The members included Doc Fleming, Percy Anderson, Joe Thomas, and himself. They traveled to various churches and venues across the city and the county signing about the goodness of the Lord. One Sunday afternoon, they had the chance to sing at the 4-H Club. A lady by the name of Ms. Crooney was so impressed with their singing, she convinced them to change their name from The Traveling Stars to “The 4 Jubilees.”

After many years of singing together, The 4 Jubilees started facing turbulent times. Over the years, the original four members passed. While the group was able to quickly find replacements, it was still hard on the original group to keep the commitment that was started by The 4 Jubilees. Finally, the last of 3 of The 4 Jubilees passed away leaving only one original member, Mr. John Wesley Henry. Not having The 4 Jubilees by his side to carry on the love of music, he did not allow that to stop his dream. He continued to press forward with his talent.

Mr. Henry enlisted in the United States Army in December 1942 at Camp Shelby. He received his basic training in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It was there that he trained to drive trucks. After receiving his basic training, his next stops were New York, NY and then Europe. One of his key duty assignments during the war included driving trucks delivering and picking up supplies for the troops. Soldier Henry left the service at the end of 1945 after serving three years and six months. He received an Honorable Discharge through Camp Shelby in 1945.

In April 1947, Mr. Henry married Ms. Catherine Griffin and to this union, 12 children were born. He worked various jobs in the Madison County area to provide for his family.

Mr. Henry continued his musical dream by joining The Canton Southernairs, which was founded and organized in 1950 by the late Mr. Anthony J. Jeffery. The group upon being organized, the founding members were; the late Bro. Claude Nichols, Bro. Clem Boyd, the late Bro. Robert Brown, Bro. Alphonza Harris, and Bro. Hubert Thomas. Other members soon joined including Rev. Eugene “The Mississippi Midget” Rivers, Mr. Willie B. Lee, and Rev. Anderson.

As a member of The Canton Southernairs, Mr. Henry and the group have sung at many churches in Canton and surrounding areas. They have participated on building fund programs, goodwill programs and many other musical programs singing God’s praises. They have also participated on programs that were given in their honor. The Canton Southernairs were known and are known for having such great harmony among their voices that they could sing without music.

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Mayor's Award Recipient

~ JOHN WESLEY HENRY ~

Mr. Roy Davis, Mr. Christopher Cole, Mr. Jerry Simpson, Mr. Randy Abron, Mr. Rudolph Lindsey, Mr. Murrell Robinson, Mr. Robert Rivers, Mr. Gregory Richards, and Mr. Tony Richards. Along with Mr. Henry, current members are: Mr. Percy Bennett, Mrs. Erma J. Cole, Mr. Nathaniel Cole, Mr. Dewey Henry, Mr. Dexter Olive and Mr. Dexter Johnson.

During Mr. Henry's years of singing God's praises with the Canton Southernaires, they traveled to various states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, South Carolina, Oklahoma and Wisconsin. Locally, the group has performed on The Mississippi Gulf Coast, The Mississippi Delta and many more outstanding towns throughout the state of Mississippi. The Canton Southernaires are one of the First Gospel Groups to ever sing at the Mississippi Delta Blues Fest.

In 1975, the group recorded and released their first record as a 45 which featured "It T'will be Glory" and "He's My Rock." In 2004 and 2005, The Canton Southernaires were nominated and honored as the "Quartet of the Year" sponsored by the Canton Gospel Music Association. In 2006, they were the honored and were the recipients of the "Lifetime Music Achievement Award" presented by the Canton Gospel Music Association at their annual Canton Gospel Music Celebration. That day they shared the stage with the award-winning Minister Evelyn Turrntine-Agee. In addition, The Canton Southernaires were also the recipients of "The Most Outstanding Traditional Gospel Singing Group" that have appeared and sung in concert in Mobile, Alabama. Finally in 2010, the Southernairs released their first CD titled "Down Through the Years."

Mr. Henry is a member of the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Canton, MS, where he faithfully served as a Deacon. He is a great outdoorsman and enjoys spending time outdoors perfecting his craft of hunting, fishing, and watching the game of baseball. At the age of 103 years, he has been blessed to witness 4 generations of offspring, which includes 12 children, 95 grandchildren, 67 great grandchildren and roughly 50 great-great grandchildren who lovingly calls him Daddy and Granddaddy.



Music Achievement Award Honoree

~ Cynthia D. Allen ~

Cynthia D. Allen is the daughter of the late Mr. Tommie Lee Horn and Mrs. Mary F. Horn. She grew up in the Sharon, Mississippi community and cultivated her love for music there. She is a member of the Sharon Chapel AME Zion Church in Sharon, MS. Her Mother, Mary F. Horn is an extraordinary, gospel singer and she taught her daughter how to develop her talents for God. Upon completing high school, she attended Tougaloo College where her singing began to blossom as an active member of the Tougaloo College Gospel Choir under the late, Timothy Haynes. She began feel an overwhelming desire to minister in song.

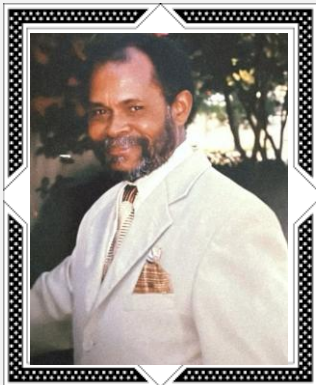
It was during these years that her faith in God was tested by divorce, sickness and financial despair. She noticed that God used her activeness at her local church to speak to her Spirit. And it was LOUD! God gave her music in her sleep. Initially, He sent her melodies in her spirit and then, the lyrics would follow. That gave birth to her first CD project entitled, "Something Between Us". Following that project, she was afforded an opportunity to tour overseas with the Deloris Rawlins Tour Group where she sang in Italy, Sicily and some parts of Spain.

Continuing her work at our local church produced her second CD entitled, "Only Believe" produced by Minister Steven Harper. It boasts songs as "There is no Failure" and "Help Me Lift Him". The title track "Only Believe" is a dedication to the finished work of the cross. It is this work that moves to group our faith by "Only Believing" God's word is true.

God is such efficient God that He reaches into us and births talents that were dormant. She continues the work for God in speaking engagements, Women's Ministries and volunteerism. Her living mantra is Mark 9:23 NKJV - Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree

~ Percy Bennett ~

Mr. Percy Bennett was born on October 23, 1943 to the late Mattilena Bennett and John Phillip. Mr. Bennett is a veteran of the US Army and a graduate of Hinds Community College, with a degree in Automotive Mechanics. He started singing at a young age alongside his brother, Willie Bennett, where they would often sing the song "I Can See So Much." They later joined The Canton Southernaires and the rest is history.

Mr. Bennett is a member of King David Lodge where he holds the title of Wishmaster and Grand Treasurer. He is the loving husband to Mrs. Betty Bennett, who he loves dearly for 43 years. He is also a devoted father of 4 children (one is deceased), grandfather, and great grandfather. He is the oldest of 8, 6 brothers (3 have passed away) and 1 sister. Percy never misses an opportunity to remind everyone that he comes into contact with, about the goodness of the Lord and how he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him.

The Canton Southernairs, which was founded and organized in 1950 by the late Mr. Anthony J. Jeffery. The group upon being organized, the founding members were; the late Bro. Claude Nichols, Bro. Clem Boyd, the late Bro. Robert Brown, Bro. Alphonza Harris, and Bro. Hubert Thomas. Other members soon joined including Rev. Eugene "The Mississippi Midget" Rivers, Mr. Willie B. Lee, and Rev. Anderson. In 1974, after years of joining and becoming a member of the group, Mr. Percy Bennett was appointed as the group's manager and is still currently serving as the manager. During his tenure as manager, Mr. Bennett has seen the group go through some good times as well as hard struggles, but they kept the faith.

As a member of The Canton Southernairs, Mr. Bennett and the group have sung at many churches in Canton and surrounding areas. They have participated on building fund programs, goodwill programs and many other musical programs singing God's praises. They have also participated on programs that were given in their honor. The Canton Southernairs were known and are known for having such great harmony among their voices that they could sing without music.

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Lifetime Music Achievement Award Honoree ~ Minister Lamar Campbell ~

Minister Lamar Campbell, the Founder of Lamar Campbell & Spirit of Praise, founded in 1995, has recorded six Stellar nominated CDs and has seen their name value rise via collaborations with CeCe Winans, soul music icon Aaron Neville and even southern gospel legend Bill Gaither.

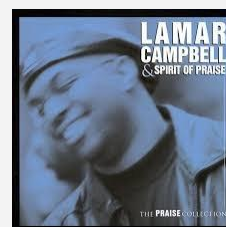
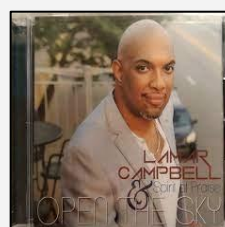
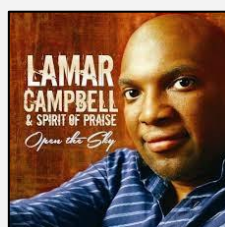
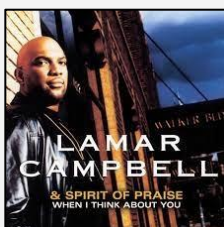
Born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana, Lamar was active in the church and musically gifted from an early age. At age eight, he began playing the piano in his home church. By age fifteen, he accepted his first position as musical director for another church. After graduating high school, Lamar felt a call to music ministry and studied music at the Jordan Music College at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Shortly thereafter, during the late '80s, he founded his first group simply known as Lamar Campbell & Praise. That ensemble released a major-label album. It performed moderately well, nationally, yielding a radio single titled, "This Debt of Love I Owe," and made the act a significant name in Indianapolis and the surrounding areas. Lamar was later led to form Lamar Campbell & Spirit of Praise and became the first artist signed to EMI Gospel (now known as Motown Gospel).

Lamar has released the following CD's on the EMI label titled, "Lamar Campbell & Spirit of Praise", "I Need Your Spirit", "When I Think About You", "Confessions of a Worshipper", "The Praise Collection", "From the Heart", "New Song, New Sound – Live" and "Open the Sky." These projects produced chart topping songs such as "He Won't Let You Down", "It's All About the Love", "Closer", and "More Than Anything", to name a few.

Lamar is committed to delivering music that helps put people in relationship with Jesus Christ. During the coronavirus pandemic and time of protest for police violence, LC&SOP felt a strong urge to remind people through song that our God is greater than any circumstance we can face. This project, "He's More Than That" is a collection of songs from Lamar's playlist to encourage and inspire during these uncertain times.

Recently, Lamar Campbell's song, "More Than Anything" was named by ROOT MAGAZINE as one of the top 100 gospel songs of all times. Lamar simply says, To God Be The Glory!!!



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Music Achievement Award Honoree



CONTACT

Faith Management



Phone

910-644-1824
919-924-2313



E-mail

VERYL920@AOL.COM

You Tube Clips Ashford Sanders

<https://youtu.be/Cb0Ginb-Rgg>

Remake of Winans "Million Did Not Make It"

<https://youtu.be/D3HQA7b0RyY>

Raw Footage of Millions

<https://youtu.be/ZzyoigS6j0o>

<https://youtu.be/q76CtvGII3E>

ASHFORD

SANDERS

GOSPEL ARTIST

"STRAIGHT OUTTA HEAVEN"

The macrocosm of Gospel is being hit by a celestial tornado, a fresh sound as Ashford sings with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This melodic breeze picks up and invites gospel aficionados and newcomers to join his tidal wave. From church arenas, TV screens to concert hall, Ashford Sanders has been seizing the public by the ear with his unique vocal imprint. More than a gospel singer, The Mississippi native vows to be a vessel spreading the beauty of fellowship through music.

"MAKING THAT BRAND"

Born in the whirl of music, his musical pilgrimage started before school benches; as he recalls, his family would hear melodies before his first onomatopoeias. When he was given his first keyboard at the age of 5, playing music became natural, a sign of a God given gift, which he promptly gave back by playing for his Baptist church when he turned 10 years. As he learned the grasp of music, he wrapped his craft around The Canton Spirituals, known pioneers in traditional gospel. His career took a significant turn when he met Doug Williams from the well-known Williams Brothers. They both a cornerstone) with the release on "The Blackberry record presents wedding songs" also 'Songs Mama Use to Sing". The year 2012 underlines Ashford's global shift when he joined the hit TV show BET Sunday Best, and gracefully reaching the top 5. Kim Burrell was amazed by his genuine delivery, calling him "anointed" while Kirk Franklin cajoled the audience into "Doing the Ashford", creating a dance phenomenon. In 2015, Ashford eventually convulsed the web with a footage showcasing his ability to galvanize an expected audience with his candid falsettos. This musical moment amassed 10 millions views on Facebook, and opened many doors.

"THE ULTIMATE PATH TO GOSPEL" With a huge following up his sleeves and a brand new album in sight, Ashford Sanders intends to become an atemporal brand and a timeless experience. With the Holy Ghost and music engraved on his soul, he's ready to tantalize inquiring souls while revamping Gospel music his way. He is ready to take on his calling not only as a singer but writer, producer, TV Host and more. He is also very passionate about his work in taking care of the needy. With great hope, Ashford aims to fulfill his purpose in life by winning as many souls over to Christ as he can through his gifts.

For Bookings: Contact Faith Management 910-644-1824

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREE

~ Dr. Jonathan Anderson ~

Dr. Jonathan Anderson is a native of Madison County, Mississippi. He is one of three siblings and the only son of Dr. Johnny and Evangelist Jannifer Anderson. From the tender age of five, Jonathan began taking a valued interest in working in the music department of his father's church, New Jerusalem COGIC, Canton. The music ministry has afforded him an opportunity to play with Canton's greatest musicians and some of Gospel music's most renowned artist including: Darius Brooks, Paul Porter, Bishop Rance Allen, Maurette Brown-Clark, and Evangelist Beverly

Crawford. Dr. Anderson served Madison County for nearly twenty years before relocating his family to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2017. Dr. Anderson is also the founder of the group, "The EnPsalmable."

Ministry would not continue to be his sole passion in the Church. In May of 2008, Jonathan accepted his call into the gospel ministry. From that moment forward, Pastor made the commitment to exemplify the righteousness the father requires while encouraging the sinner and believer to become the true worshipper the father seeks. Ps. 1:1-6, John 4:23-24.

Pastor Anderson is a church planter, and in 2018 following a three day, water only fast, God gave him The Desired Nation, a movement that's desperate for His representation, manifestation, and demonstration. God has shown himself kind to Desired Nation Church

Professionally, Dr. Anderson serves in the field of education. Currently, he serves as Director of Student Services for Biloxi Public School District supporting teachers, administrators, students, and parents.

Jonathan is married to the former Renada Corella Brown, and they are the proud parents of Darion, Thaddeus, Raelyn, and Nathaniel.



CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREE

~ Minister Steven Harper ~

Steven Harper has been around music all of his life. With his mother, Barbara Harper, being a part of the premier choirs of Jackson, Jerry Smith and the Children of Israel and later the Mississippi Mass Choir. Steven was reared by the best in Mississippi. He watched the greats, only to eventually have the desire to develop his gift and share what God had placed in him.

Steven started playing piano at church when he was 16 years old after only playing seriously for 1 year. Eventually, he would attend Alcorn State University and become the Musical Director for the Interfaith Gospel Choir.

After graduating, Steven became Minister of Music at New Mt. Calvary Christian Center. This would also be his connection to the Canton community. Through the growing friendship of fellow musicians, Greg Richards, Tony Richards and Gerald Nichols, Steven then had the opportunity to play for Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Pastor John Woodard and the Rembert Washington Memorial Choir, and was the musical director for the solo project of Cynthia Allen, titled "Only Believe." Steven considers himself blessed to be able to play on the platform with and for various artist at the Canton Gospel Music Association Annual Awards and events and services in the Canton community. Steven is just glad to be able to serve.

Steven is married to the beautiful, Mrs. Tina Harper and the father of the Clark Sisters, Tianna Faith, Talia Grace and Tiara Joy. He is the son of "the voice", Barbara Harper and the Bishop Rex Houston. He currently serves at the New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, MS under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Young, Pastor and President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.



CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREE

~ Pat Kessee ~

Pat Kessee was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. For as long as he can remember, he has always been involved in church music ministry. His exposure began as a child from what he learned through his mother's serving as the Director of Christian Education and from her being one of three music directors for over 30 years at the First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park in Dallas (TX). He is also the son of a pastor, the Rev. Dr. Lee Kessee, of Los Angeles (CA).

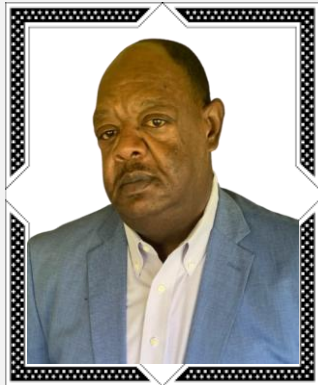
Upon arriving in Mississippi in 1988, Pat began his collegiate studies under the tutelage of world-renowned teacher, scholar, musician, and composer, Dr. Robert Morris, at THEE Jackson State University. In his third year of study, he transferred to Tougaloo College and completed his bachelor's degree with emphases in Piano, Music Theory, and Voice under the training of esteemed conductor, director, teacher, and musician, Larry Robinson (Harlem Boys' Choir).

Over his musical career, he has provided accompaniment for many recording artists, including Shirley Murdock, Eartha Kitt, The Winans, Maurette Brown Clark, Tremaine Hawkins, and Derrick Brinkley... this list goes on, and on. An avid practitioner and music enthusiast, he is featured as a soloist for "Say the Word," from the Gospel Music Workshop of America "Live in Atlanta" recording. He has had the privilege of recording with gospel legends such as James Cleveland, Daryl Coley, Robert Fryson (known for the gospel ballad "God Is"), Kurt Carr, Lillian Lilly, Rodena Preston, and his good friend, Margaret Doroux.

He currently serves as the Minister of Worship at Cade Chapel in Jackson, MS.. Over his many years in ministry, he has served as Minister of Music at Anderson South (Jackson, MS), St. Paul CME (Canton, MS), and Ark of Safety (Canton, MS); he was also the Lead Musician and Band Leader at Anderson UMC (Jackson, MS).

Pat is happily married to Marquise Loving Kessee, and he is a proud and loving father and Grandpa to 6 daughters and one grandson. Pat is a faithful and dedicated musician of over 42 years.

Pat's favorite scripture is Romans 8:28, he wholeheartedly believes that ALL things work together for good for those who are called according to God's purpose.



CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREE

~ Greg Richards ~

Greg Richards was born on February 15, 1975 to Mr. Emeal and Mrs. Annie Richards. He attended the Canton Public School District Schools. He has been married to Mary Richards for 26 years and they have two children, Tyler and Kathryn.

Greg has been playing bass since the tender age of 5 and has been holding the foundation of the groove down every since. He began playing piano at the age of 17, but of course playing bass is his first love. He has played for various churches in the Tri-County area. He has had the honor to travel with many, such as Leonard Williams, Vergia Dishmon, and Dwayne Watkins and the Original Canton Spirituals to name a few. He was a part of the founding musicians of the Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale, The Madison County Male Choir, and recording musicians for Velma Jackson High School Choir under the direction of Ms. Daisy Ellis.

Recently, Greg played for the MS Baptist Convention Adult Choir in July. He was a part of the band who previously won "Band of the Year" presented by the Canton Gospel Music Association. He was honored to accompany Prophetess Juanita Bynum and Prophetess Yvonne Capehart.

In his career, he has accompanied the following artists/organizations: Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness USA, Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Canton Gospel Music Association, Lamar Campbell, Bishop Rance Allen, Evangelist Beverly Crawford, Paul Porter, The Late Paul and Jan Crouch of TBN, Maurette Brown Clark, Darius Brooks, Kathy Taylor, Lannie Spann McBride, Lillian Waldo Lilly, Harvey Watkins, Jr., The Late Harvey Watkins, Sr., The Canton Southernaires, The Canton Gospel Soul Children, Debra Robinson, Rev. Marvin Sapp, Momma Mosie Burks, Evelyn Turrentine Agee, The Sister Thea Bowman Memorial Choir, Ashford Sanders, Cynthia Allen, Steve Harper and the Praise Ministry, Minister Vorneal Lipsey, Momma Lilly Cross and The Canton Gospel Chorus, Rev. Clyde Tate, Rev. Eugene Rivers, Gloria "GG" Collier Warren, The Anointed Brothers in Christ, Evangelist Margelet Clemons, Terrell Brinson & Grateful, Gerald Thompson, Evangelist Dorothy Norwood, and others.

His first tour was with Geneva Jones in eighth grade. He is currently a member of New Mt. Calvary Christian Center in Jackson, MS, where Apostle John Williams serves as Senior Pastor.



CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREE

~ Tony Richards ~

Eric "Tony" Richards was born on May 27, 1976 to Mr. Emeal and the late Mrs. Annie Richards. He attended the Canton Public School District Schools. He has been married to Laletrice "Gen" Richards for 25 years and have two children, Lyric & Eric. Eric has been playing drums since the tender age of 4 and has been "in the pocket" every since. He has played for various churches in the Tri-County area. He has had the honor to travel with many such as Leonard Williams, Vergia Dishmon, Dwayne Watkins and the Original Canton Spirituals. He was a part of the founding musicians of the Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale, The Madison County Male

Choir & recording musicians for Velma Jackson High School Choir under the direction of Ms. Daisy Ellis. He was a part of the band who previously won "Band of the Year" presented by the Canton Gospel Music Association. He was honored to play at the Sister keeper's Conference in Birmingham, Alabama where he accompanied Prophetess Juanita Bynum and Prophetess Yvonne Capehart.

In his career, he has accompanied the following artists/organizations: Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness USA, Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Canton Gospel Music Association, Lamar Campbell, Bishop Rance Allen, Tramaine Hawkins, Evangelist Beverly Crawford, Paul Porter, The Late Paul and Jan Crouch of TBN, Maurette Brown Clark, Darius Brooks, Kathy Taylor, Lannie Spann McBride, Lillian Waldo Lilly, Harvey Watkins, Jr., The Late Harvey Watkins, Sr., The Canton Southernaires, The Canton Gospel Soul Children, Debra Robinson, Willis Pittman and the Burden Lifters, The Violinaires, Rev. Marvin Sapp, Momma Mosie Burks, Evelyn Turrentine Agee, The Sister Thea Bowman Memorial Choir, Ashford Sanders, Cynthia Allen, Steve Harper and the Praise Ministry, Minister Vorneal Lipsey, Momma Lilly Cross and The Canton Gospel Chorus, Rev. Clyde Tate, Rev. Eugene Rivers, The Anointed Brothers in Christ, Terrell Brinson & Grateful, Evangelist Dorothy Norwood, Gerald Thompson and many, many more. His first tour was with Geneva Jones in eighth grade.



CGMA MUSICIAN AWARD HONOREE

~ Louis Wright ~

Louis is a product of the Jackson Public School District where he graduated from Provine High School. He then went on to attend THEE Jackson State University finishing with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree in Marketing. He is the proud father of 2 beautiful princess daughters, Danielle (28) and Jaidyn Nia (15).

Louis first discovered his love for gospel music while attending his great grandfather's church, Davis Temple COGIC. He began playing seriously at the age of 15. He's played for College Hill MB Church, Blacks Chapel MB Church, Greater Tree of Life MB Church, New Lake COCHUSA, New Dimensions Ministries, Murray Chapel COGIC (Decatur, MS), Stronger Hope Baptist Church, Anderson UMC, Ark of Safety Ministries (Canton, MS), Crossroads MB Church and Liberal Trinity COGIC before relocating to TX where he now plays for The Church Without Walls under the pastorship of Ralph Douglas West.

Louis also had the distinct privilege of playing for several national artists including Evangelist Beatrice Gardiner, Ashford Sanders, Rhonda Chambers Davis, Karen Clark Sheard, Bishop Marvin Sapp, Bishop Rance Allen, Evangelist Beverly Crawford, Maurette Brown Clark, Rhonda McLemore (wife of Shawn McLemore) and Earnest Pugh.

He lives his imperfect life on the scripture found at Romans 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.



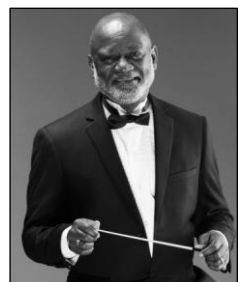
~ SPECIAL GUEST ~

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson is an elected member of the United States House of Representatives from Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District. Congressman Thompson claimed his seat in the House on April 20, 1993. He is a native of Bolton, Mississippi, and considers it an honor to walk the path Mississippi civil rights icons paved decades ago. Congressman Thompson understands the challenges many families in Mississippi face each and every day. Serving his 15th term in the United States House of Representatives, Congressman Thompson has spent his entire career fighting to improve the lives of all people. He is the longest-serving African American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation.

He began his grassroots political activism being a civil rights champion through the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a student at Tougaloo College. He organized voter registration drives for African Americans throughout the Mississippi Delta on behalf of the organization before graduating and following in the footsteps of his mother by becoming a schoolteacher. Congressman Bennie G. Thompson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tougaloo College in Political Science and a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration from Jackson State University. From 1969 to 1972, Thompson served as alderman in his hometown, before serving as the city's mayor from 1973 to 1980. Thompson was a founding member of the Mississippi Association of Black Mayors and was elected as a Hinds County supervisor from 1980 until 1993.

Most recently, Congressman Thompson received the Chairman's Award during the 2023 NAACP Image Award. The honor recognizes Thompson's advocacy for civil rights. Congressman Thompson is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity (Gamma Rho – Tougaloo College) and a lifetime member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Bolton, Mississippi. He has been married to his college sweetheart, London Johnson of Mound Bayou, Mississippi for 54 years. The couple has one daughter, one granddaughter, and one grandson. Thompson is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys gardening, reading, and listening to the blues.



~ CO-HOST ~

Harry Watson

Harry L. Watson is a Professor of Music at Hinds Community College, Utica Campus. Mr. Watson is a native of Learned, Mississippi and currently resides in Madison. He completed his undergraduate studies at Utica Junior College where he participated in the college concert choir under the leadership of Dr. Bobby G. Cooper. He then transferred to Tougaloo College, where he received the Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music Performance. At Tougaloo, Mr. Watson participated in the Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Ariel Lovelace. He also organized his own choral group called The Majestics. This group received many accolades throughout the state, and because of their musical talent, they were asked to sing at the Celebration of Life services given for Fannie Lou Hamer. Mr. Watson received his Master of Arts in Music Education from Jackson State University. Mr. Watson began his teaching career as a senior music major, teaching music part-time in the private school sector with the Catholic Schools System in Jackson and Canton, Mississippi.

While teaching at Holy Child Jesus Catholic School, Mr. Watson founded the Thea Bowman Memorial Children's Choir, named after Sr. Thea Bowman, a renowned Catholic Nun from Canton. The choir has done several recordings and toured the North and Eastern states. Mr. Watson joined the Canton Public Schools District as a General Music Teacher and Choral Director. During his tenure there, he created a musical alliance with New York's Carnegie Hall, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and all the 4th and 5th graders of Canton Public Schools. This program included a musical curriculum for elementary students which included instruments, along with an annual participatory concert with the orchestra. Mr. Watson also served as the Choral Director for Canton High School. In addition to his musical responsibilities, Mr. Watson also served as Assistant State Test Coordinator for the Canton Public Schools District.

Currently, Mr. Watson is serving as the Director of Choral Programs. He is also a 5-Star Advisor for the Alpha Beta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Mr. Watson serves as Minister of Music for his membership church, New Heights Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Jackson, MS, Priestley Chapel Baptist Church and the Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness USA, both of Canton, MS. Serving as the Director of Choral Programs for Hinds Community College, Mr. Watson's vision for the future is to continue the rich Legacy created by the legendary Dr. Cooper. This vision includes a continuance of the revived Jubilee Singers, and Concert Choir as they perform throughout the country and abroad. Also to create new musical opportunities and experiences to help students develop into productive and respectable citizens in today's society.

~ MUSICAL GUESTS ~



Minister Gloria “GG” Warren is a native of Canton, MS. She was born on September 6, 1991 to Pastor Simon and Co-Pastor Cheryl Collier (Living Water Ministry). As a young child, she had a natural gift of writing, singing, and arranging songs. She always dreamed of one day recording her own music.

Gloria attended the Canton Public School system from grade school all the way to graduation. The birth of her music career began at Canton Public High School when she became a member of the Drama Club - under the supervision of Mrs. Mary Wells. She was recognized for her singing ability and shortly thereafter became part of the cast for acting and singing rolls in Canton High School's plays. She also sang for special programs during the school year.

Gloria graduated from Canton Public High School in the Spring of 2009 with Honors and was awarded a \$500 “Rembert Washington Music Scholarship” from the Canton Gospel Music Association which was a full circle moment of honor for Gloria because Mrs. Rembert Washington was her late maternal Great-Grandmother. Shortly after graduation, in the Fall of 2009, Gloria studied Sociology at Jackson State University. During that time, she had begun recording music for her debut album entitled, “My Life” which was produced by Mr. Gerald Nichols of Calvary Records. In between classes, Gloria would drive to the studio which was located only 10 minutes from JSU's campus to record her vocal sessions.

The very first song Gloria recorded in the studio was “Hell is Real;” a song inspired by Gloria to be a pathway for her generation to understand the importance of salvation and to have a glimpse of eternity without Jesus. “Hell is Real” was released in the Summer of 2009 and was played on WMGO 1370 AM located here in the City of Lights, Canton, MS and on 95.5 Hallelujah FM Homegrown Sunday program to highlight Jackson, MS's local recording artists.

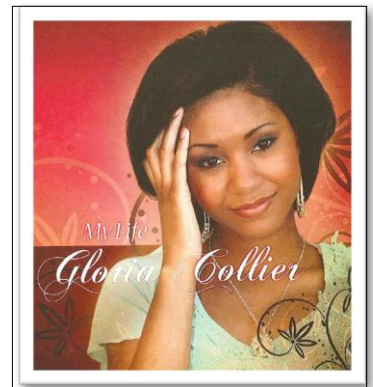
In the Summer of 2010, Gloria released her debut album with “My Life” and “Shining” being her additional singles that also received a lot of air-play through WMGO and 95.5 Hallelujah FM. In 2011, Gloria switched majors and began studying Cosmetology at Magnolia College of Cosmetology where she received her Cosmetology credentials and became a licensed Cosmetologist in the State of OH.

In February of 2012, Gloria married the love of her life, Elder Bryson Warren. They have been married for 11 years. They are the proud parents of four children, three boys; (Amari, Malachi, Nathan), and one daughter Eva. They reside in the city of Sandusky, OH. Gloria is also an Elder at Grace United Church in Port Clinton, OH.

In 2020, Gloria became certified as a Christian Relationship Coach and shortly thereafter, she founded and launched a Ministry known as The Eloquent Wife®; an online ministry that has crossed barriers in over 50+ countries. The mission God has given Gloria is to serve wives and women alike to help them find the beauty within their marriage again by overcoming many of the issues and pitfalls that can destroy marriages.

Being musical at the core, Gloria has been able to incorporate music into The Eloquent Wife® and has released 2 singles entitled, “Never Ever Give Up” and “Sweep Me Away” encouraging married couples to fight for and to keep their sacred union strong through love songs inspired by Scriptures in the Word of God.

Gloria is excited to be recording new music in the near future.



~ MUSICAL GUESTS



Evangelist Marva Smith - Born in the Nations Capital of Washington, D.C. and raised in the southern charm of Mississippi, Evangelist Marva has always been humble yet passionate about what she does and also patient as she waited on the Lord to show her the assignment he had for her life. The result was "God is Keeping Me" with the Mississippi Mass Choir. As primary lead singer and song writer for her family quartet group The Expressions of Faith, she continues to travel the world singing the praises. Of our Mighty God. Armed with a Prayer Warriors spirit as well as an on time word in her soul, she serves in the office of Minister at the Light of the World Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Dr. Lenell McGee, Jr. Although having a busy schedule which includes being a daughter, sister, mother, and a new grandmother as well as evangelizing, working and being totally active in her home church, she still takes the time to listen to the voice of the Lord which has only strengthened her resolve to be open and available for whatever He has in store for her. She truly believes that if you are faithful to God over a few things, He will definitely make you ruler over many!

The Canton Southernaires



Current members are:

Mr. Percy Bennett, Mrs. Erma J. Cole , Mr. Nathaniel Cole , Mr. Dewey Henry
Mr. John Henry, Mr. Dexter Olive , Mr. Dexter Johnson



~PAST MUSICAL GUESTS~

2004—2022

- 2004 Mosie Burks, Canton Southernaires, Greg Patterson, Harry Watson, Cynthia Allen, Ashford Sanders, Priestly Chapel Adult Choir, Canton Gospel Chorus, Canton Praise Dancers, CGMA 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, CGMA Mass Choir
- 2006 Evelyn Turrentine Agee, The Brothers In Christ, Daughters of Miriam Praise Dancers, Claudgeana 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, CGMA 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, CGMA 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 (*VIRTUAL*)
- 2021 Minister Chris Lewis, (*VIRTUAL*)
- 2022 Daisy Ellis & The GB Singers, Doxamuziq, Jessica Posten, Dr. Jessie & Yuric Primer, Elizabeth Brister

~ PAST HONOREES ~
2004—2022

- 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, Climentine 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. Clara 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:* 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, and Dwayne Watkins of The Canton Spirituals
- 2022** Evelyn Jones, Gerald Nichols, Rev. Jessie Primer, Jr.

**2023
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION**

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Doris Lucille Nichols Smith

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*Love,
Cynthia*



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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MISSISSIPPI SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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With Much Love,



**Mom
Dr. Flonzie Brown
Wright**

*FBW & Associates
Jackson, MS*



**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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On a successful
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Sunday Worship Service-10:30am,
First Sundays 9:00am**

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**2023
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS**

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." She was honored by the Woman to Woman Magazine for her work with Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and once again by the Mississippi Gospel Music Awards in 2019 honoring 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.



Min. Jearlean Jones

Vice -President

Minister Jearlean Jones was born in Cook County, Illinois to Pearl Lee Bacon and to the late Lee Ervin Bacon Sr., and was raised in Sharon, MS, where she currently 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 sing, preach and to serve. She's always willing to help others when called upon. She also serves as a volunteer with the Better Tomorrow Foundation.

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 and Ashanti Nichols.

Erma singing career begin when as a child under her father's leadership, they 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 her 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 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.

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 your heart to others."***



Patricia Parker

Asst. Secretary

Patricia Wilson Parker is the wife of Mr. James L. Parker, Jr, and they have been married for 46 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. She has 2 additions to her family, her great grand boys.

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 Life Members 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 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

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



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 also played for Rev. Willie Morganfield and Geneva Jones.

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 45 years, Mrs. Lonnie Hamlin-April, and they are the proud the proud parents of 3 wonderful children; Carmen, Candace and Calvin!



Bertha Archie
Honorary Member

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



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 at the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Moreover, she is the former pianist for



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 M. B. Church-Canton, MS, Priestly Chapel M. B. Church, Canton, MS. She presently serves as Minister of Music at Emmanuel M. B. Church and the Middleton Grove AME Zion Church in Canton, MS, Music Consultant and mentor at Greenwood Chapel UM Church in Carthage, MS, Lynch Chapel UM Church in Forest, MS and Gallman Chapel AME Zion Church in Crystal Springs, MS.



Jeffery Luckett was born in Canton, MS to Mr. Roosevelt & Ruth Luckett. 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 26 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 21 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 21 years.

Jeffery has been married to Mary, his “high school sweetheart”, for 38 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 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 In His Steps Ministry.

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 is the Site Coordinator for In His Steps Ministry in Canton, MS. 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



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.



Professor Samuel Whisenton

Honorary Member

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 Sate 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.



Abigail Woodard

Junior Member



John Woodard, III

Junior Member

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 6th grade at Madison Middle 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 10th grade and he attends Madison Central 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



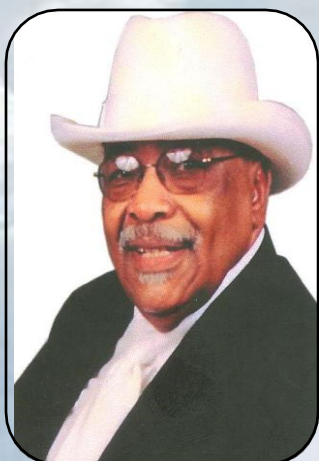
Evang. M. Maxwell



Mable Ross



Willie Mae Scott



John Woodard, Sr.



Lawrence Williamson



Princeton Simmons



Lee Starling

Rest In Peace!

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

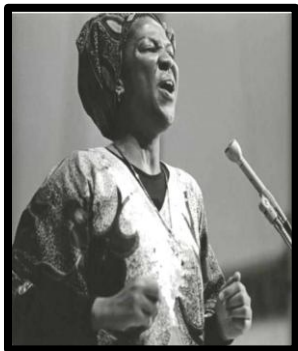
**2005-2023
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION**

**MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP
HALL OF FAME**



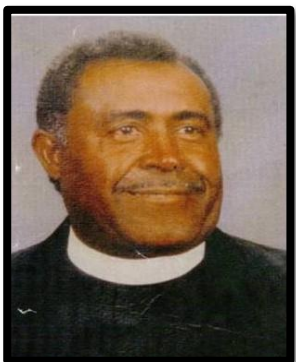
Mr. George Barnes Music Scholarship

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.



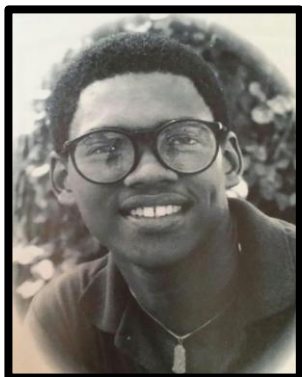
Mr. James Harris Music Scholarship

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 National Association of Negro Musicians and Gospel Music Workshop of America.

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. Zion MB Church and former Director of Music for the Mississippi Baptist





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



**2005-2023
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION**

**MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2023 Music Scholarship Recipients



McKenzi Denton
\$1000.00



Kaler Hill
\$1000.00



Erin Nichols
\$1000.00



Madison Word
\$1000.00



Jaleah Chandler
\$100



LeeAndrea Chandler
\$100



Wesley Dinkins, Jr.
\$100



Layla Garrett
\$100



Victoria Garrett
\$100



Jeremiah Smith
\$100



Jorden Whitehead
\$100



Kingston Wiley
\$100

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

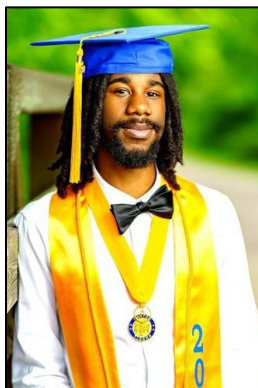


Kingston Wiley

\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2021 Music Scholarship Recipients



Javian Doyle
\$1000.00



Isaiah Smith
\$1000.00



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
\$1000.00



Michael Brooks
\$1000.00



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
\$1000.00



Keston Townsend
\$100



Gabrielle C. McElroy
\$100



Jorden 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



Aailah Dawson
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2018 Music Scholarship Recipients



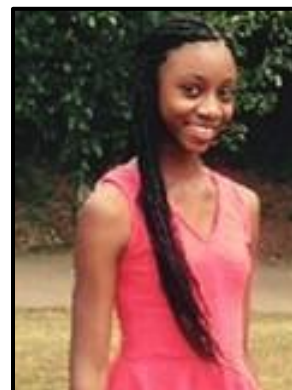
Inesha Jackson
\$500



Malcolm Walker
\$500



Aaliyah Dawson
\$100



Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Aubrey Chambers
\$100



Isaiah Smith
\$100



Meckel Primer
\$100



Makayla Francis
\$100



Malcolm Walker at Velma Jackson



Inesha Jackson at Canton High

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2017 Music Scholarship Recipients



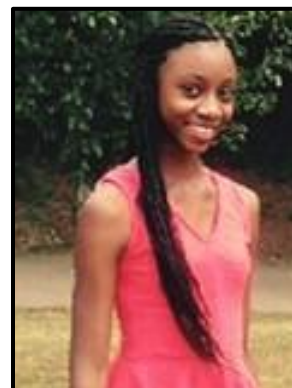
Sherida Banks
\$500



Greg Tyler Richards
\$500



Dylan Chambers
\$100



Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Jayla Smith
\$100



Isaiah 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



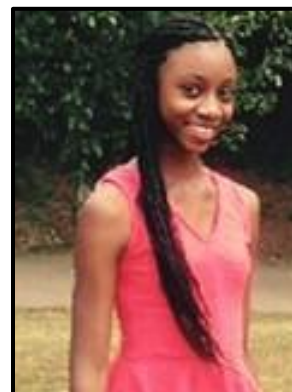
Collin Fortenberry
\$500



Chandler Greenwood
\$500



Kayla Olive
\$500



Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Kindell Miller
\$100



Isaiah Smith
\$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



Wendolyn Towner
\$100



Isaiah Smith
\$100



Inesha Jackson
\$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



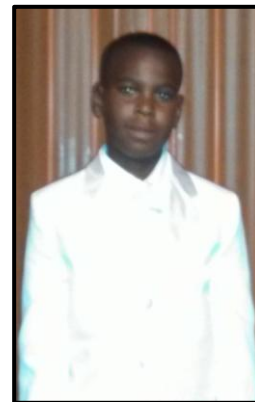
Inesha Jackson

\$100



Isaiah Smith

\$100



Nicholas Jackson

\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2013 Music Scholarship Recipients



Caydon Jones
\$100



Hitoshi Hudson
\$100



Asiyon Hudson
\$100



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
\$500



Dylan Rivers
\$500

Dejohnnessa Dixon
\$100

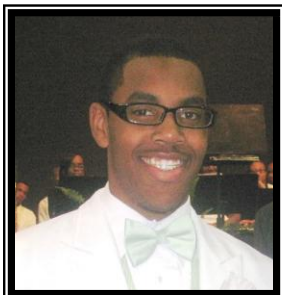
Henry Young
\$100

Justin Adams
\$100

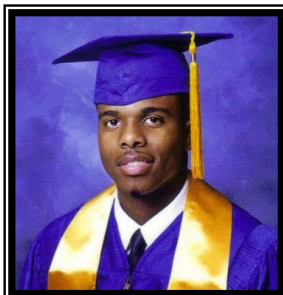


*Members of the
Canton Gospel Music Association
presented a check to
ASHFORD SANDERS
as he departed Canton for
Atlanta, GA
to begin taping for
SUNDAY'S BEST*

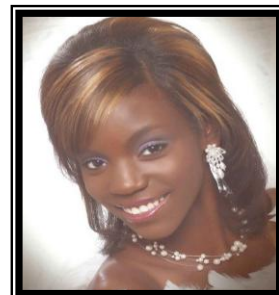
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2011 Music Scholarship Recipients



Clarence Pace, III
\$500



Frederick Brown
\$500



Gabrielle Maye
\$100



Luke Remsburg
\$100



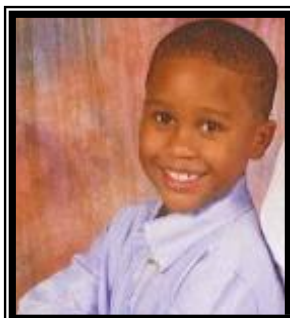
Maurice Van Jackson, Jr.
\$100



Jerrica Adams
\$100



Jasmine Lacey
\$100



Brandon Champion
\$100



Douglas J. Stanley
\$100



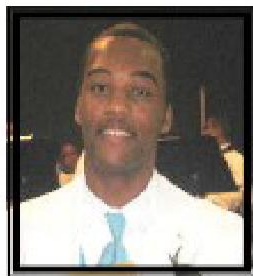
Shunterrius Hobson
\$100



Brittany Day (not pictured)
\$100

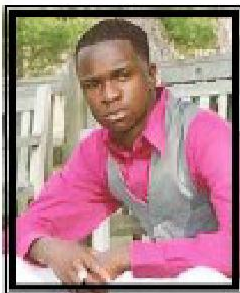
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2010 Music Scholarship Recipients



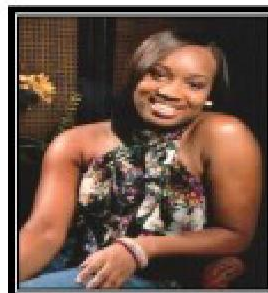
Christopher Fields

\$500



Jamarcus Parker

\$500



H'Alecia Archie

\$500



Rodravius Brown

\$100



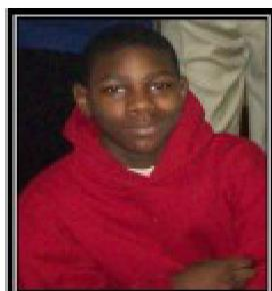
**Stephanie Griffin
Stafford Griffin**

\$100 each



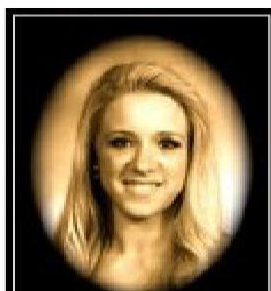
NaTasha Henson

\$100



Jeremiah Jackson

\$100



Shiloh Remsburg

\$100



Dylan Rivers

\$100



Khayla Wilks

\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2015 Music Scholarship Recipients



Karl Phillips
\$500



Shelby Greer
\$500



Shemar Brooks
\$500



Wendalyn Towner
\$100



Isaiah Smith
\$100



Inesha Jackson
\$100



Kindall Miller
\$100



William Dean, III
\$100



Austin Ratliff
\$100



Lessie Newman
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2009 Music Scholarship Recipients



Gloria "GG" Collier
\$500



Rashad Hughes
\$500



Tamara Jackson
\$100



Alexis Jones
\$100



Sharday Young
\$100



Allyah Champion
\$100



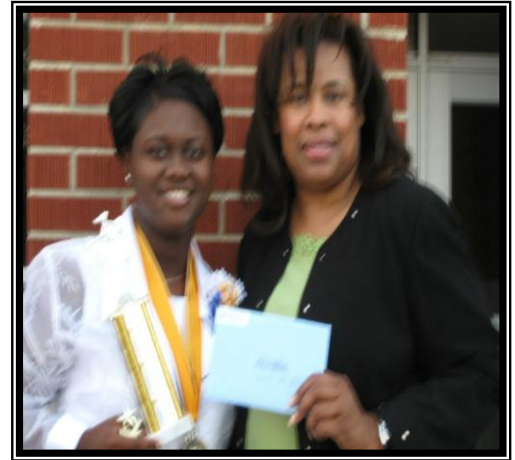
Tamara Jackson
\$100

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

2008 Music Scholarship Recipients



Derrick Bess
\$500



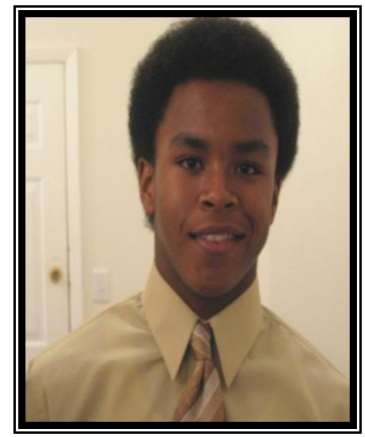
Frensha Slaughter
\$500



Rolisha Ratliff
\$250



Sha'Maya Readus
\$100



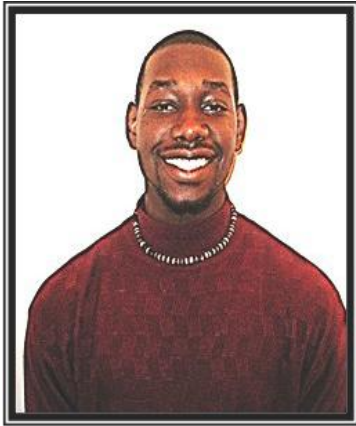
Deon Kiner
\$100



Khiry Bell
\$100

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

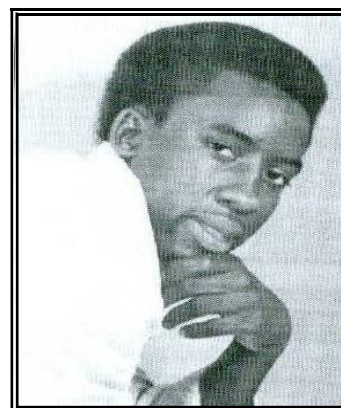


\$100 Justin Hull
\$100 Alora Delon Taylor
\$100 Fredeteria Carson
\$100 Justin Johnson
\$100 Miyah Smith
\$100 Adrian Sumler
\$100 Verlincia Alexander
\$100 Frensha Slaughter
\$100 Raven Grant

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2005 Music Scholarship Recipients



Phiona McDonald



Lorenzo Olive

2023
CANTON GOSPEL
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

ADVERTISEMENTS

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

"A Special Salute"

to our dad,

"John The Baptist"

for being nominated and chosen to
receive such an prestigious award,
"The Mayor's Award."



We love you and will always cherish
you for being the best dad ever.

Your Children!

**Congratulations
Greg & Tony!**

**I am so proud of
both of you.
Continue to
serve the Lord
through your
music ministry!**



**Love,
Dad
Emeal Richards**



Congratulations

TO OUR HONOREE

Dr. Jonathan J. Anderson

"If life was a B3 Organ, light and darkness would be the keys. The chords that you skillfy play would be the melody that creates the harmony."



Your Heartbeats

RENADA DARION THADDEUS RAE LYN NATHANIEL

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

To my loving and supportive Husband,
Percy Bennett!.

You are truly loved and you are the strength of my life.
I know that God really made you just for me. For the last
4 years you have been right by my side, taking care of
me and being the best husband I could ask for.

I love you and I am so proud of you!!!!

Love,



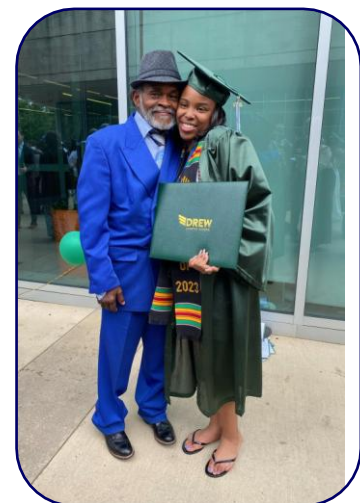
*We are so proud of you
Dad!!
We Love You!
-Barbara, Tammy, and
Darron*





**Granddaddy,
We are so proud of you!
We couldn't have asked for a
better grandfather. You're always
there for us and we thank you for
introducing us to God!
We Love You So Much!!!!**

congratulations



Cynthia



We want you to know that you are special to us in more ways than one. You have the character of Esther. Esther was a normal young lady who was strong and rose to the throne of power as a Queen surrounded by God's favor.

You are anointed, talented, straight forward to-the-point, funny, wise, unique, smart, loving, strong, a gospel singer, beautiful, a song writer, a scholar, a wonderful friend and one who loves God and a believer of His Word.

WE LOVE YOU BECAUSE:

- You love your family and will do what you can for us
- You are a woman of God and not afraid to say it or let your light shine
- You believe in yourself and you fight harder when people try to put you down

You always know when to bow out graciously because not everyone deserves an answer. That's why MATTHEW 7:6 is one of your favorite verses in the bible. *"Do not give what is holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you in pieces."*

We leave you with ISAIAH 40:30-31: *"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

You never give up and never lose hope because you are never alone. We are always on each side of you or a step behind; but if you need us to, we will step in front and lead you where you need to go.

WE LOVE YOU,

*Madear, Mozell, Viola, Annie, Doris, Aunt Joy, Ollie, Sheila, Ralph and in loving memory of those who prayed for you:
Joe & Viola Watkins, Papa Tommie, Tee Emmo,
Boss Man (Joe, Jr.) and Uncle Emmitt*

Congratulations!

Congratulations Pat Kessee & Canton Gospel Music Celebration

**Your family at
Pat Kessee Bonding &
Wristwatch Monitoring**



Agents:

Pat Kessee

Marquise Kessee

Ally Kessee

Autumn Kessee

Ashley Alman

Buck Alman

*If you or a loved one are in need, give us a call...
We'll be there for you!*



**2023 CGMA Musician Honoree
Pat Kessee, Minister of Worship**

**ON YOUR YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE
TO MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY.**

**REV. REGINALD M. BUCKLEY
AND THE CADE CHAPEL FAMILY**

Canton Gospel Music Celebration & Scholarship Awards

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 CGMA Musician Honorees!!



We send our love and
support to our brother, friend,
& Minister of Worship

Pat Kessee

Cade Chapel
Band & Praise Team



CONGRATULATIONS!!



Pat Kessee

2023 CGMA Musician Honoree
On over 42 years of anointed
Music Ministry.

Psalm 33: 1-3

Rejoice in the LORD, O righteous ones; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.

Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to Him with ten strings.

Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.

Ephesians 5:19

...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...

WE LOVE YOU!!

Marquise, the Girlzz, and MJ

THE CANTON SOUTHERNAIRS



Congratulates and Salutes Our Own
Mr. Percy Bennett,
Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award
and



Mr. John W. Henry,
Recipient of the Mayor's Award

and the
Canton Gospel Music Association
On Your 20th Music Celebration
& Scholarship Awards Program!



We pray that God will anoint and bless each hand/heart
of this great organization
that you are doing for this  *for the blessed work*
community.

Congratulations
To
Louis Wright, Jr.
On being honored as
a former
Canton Gospel Music Musician



Denise and Louis Wright, Sr.
Nikís Danielle Robinson
Jaidyn Nia Wright



New Jerusalem
Church Of God In Christ

Congratulation Pastor *Johnathan Anderson*



Pastor

Dr. Johnny L. Anderson Ph. D.

First Lady

Jannifer G. Anderson



116 N. Harvey Watkins Sr Dr.
Canton, MS 49046



New Jerusalem Church Of God In Christ

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the scholarship award recipients on today's gospel music celebration. Your worship ministry gifts are a rich blessing to the body of Christ.



Pastor Christopher & Sis. Toni Hughes

Canton Seventh-Day Adventist Church

**927 George Washington Street
Canton, MS 39046**

Saturday Morning Services

9:30 am: Sabbath School

11:00 am Divine Worship Service

WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US!

Congratulations From



Canton United Methodist Church

Rev. Kevin A. Carter, Senior Pastor

3808 North Liberty Street
Canton, MS 39046

Office Number: (601) 859-6009

Fax (601) 859-6029

Email: Cantonummc1998@att.net

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

GREATER FAITH CALVARY



Salutes
CGMA In It's 20th Year Scholarship
Celebration



Pastor Sylvester & Lady Kimberly Hamblin

FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS
Living & Active

HEBREWS 4:12



Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship Service 11:15am
Tuesday Bible Class 7pm
Daily Prayer 5:30am



@GREATER FAITH
305 N. Railroad St - Canton, MS 39046
601-859-4997



LIVE

@greater faith

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Greater Sims African Methodist Episcopal Zion
Church*

*949 George Washington Sr. Drive
Canton, MS*

Rev. Bonnie Travis - Pastor



Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday night prayer - 6:30 p.m.
Bible class - 7:00 p.m.

**Congraatulation to the
Canton Gospel Music Celebration Award Honorees**

Greater Tabernacle Ministries



**“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 20 years of service
to our community!!!**



Pastor & First Lady James C. Sims, Sr.

Sunday School—9:00 AM

Worship Service—10:00 AM

**2460 Terry Road
Jackson, MS 39204**

**Best Wishes to the
Canton Gospel Music Association
on your
Annual Gospel Music Celebration
&
Scholarship Awards!**



Harvey Chapel M. B. Church

**725 Old Jackson Road
Canton, MS 39046 * (601) 859-8811**

**Rev. Darryl J Moore & First Lady Terra F. Moore
Shelby Moore, Madison Moore**

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Humble Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
420 Hwy 16 West
Canton, MS 39046*



*Then David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites
to appoint their relatives the singers, with in-
struments of music, harps, lyres, loud-
sounding cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.*

1 Chronicles 15:16

*Congratulations to the Canton Gospel Music
Association on its  Annual Celebration
and Scholarship Awards*

*Humble Jerusalem Church Family and
Pastor & First Lady Ronald Middleton*



Living Water Ministry 1765 Hwy 22
Canton, MS 39046



Pastors Simon & Cheryl Collier

Best Wishes

to our daughter, Elder Gloria (Gigi) Warren and The Canton Gospel Music Association.

Contact Us

lwministry12@gmail.com
livingwaterministrycanton.com



Gloria (Gigi) Warren



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the Students of Love & Unity Music Ministry

Jaleah Chandler, LeeAndrea Chandler, Kingston Wiley
Layla Garrett, Victoria Garrett, Jorden Whitehead,
Jeremiah Smith, and Wesley Dinkins Jr.



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Sunday School - 9:00 am

Worship Service - 10:00 am

5th Sundays - 8:00 am

Wednesday:

Bible Study - 6:30 pm



Rev. Dr. Leon Collier & Co-Pastor Yolanda Collier

Makarios Worship Center
528 Hart Road
Canton, MS 39046
Ph. 601-667-1211

Makarios_wc@outlook.com



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Mt. Calvary M. B. Church

170 Robinson Road

Canton, MS 39046

Pastor Rev. Dr. Leroy Lacy

***Where Friends meet Friends and
Sinners meet Christ***



Congratulations!!

to

Canton Gospel Music Association

Wishing you continued Success in

“Saluting Madison County’s Best”

Keep up the Great Work

**Mt. Calvary M. B. Church
Rev. Dr. Leroy Lacy, Pastor**



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39046
601.859.1133
Church
601.859.2371
Pastor's
Home

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church



Rev. James E. Williams—Pastor
Dea. Albert Jones, Jr., Chairman
Dea. Dexter Olive, Asst. Chairman

Board: Dea. Nathaniel Cole Dea. Dewey Henry
Dea. Sherman Davis, Sr. Dea. Sam Davis

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Mr. John Henry**
who is the recipient of
The Mayor's Award
presented by
Mr. William Truly!



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Sis. Ruth Williams - 1st Lady
Deacon Albert Jones, Jr. - Administration Chairman
Sis. Evelyn Henry - Clerk
&
Mt. Olive M. B. Church Membership

THEME: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psa. 122:1

MOTTO: It is amazing what can be accomplished in Christ when no one is concerned in being seen or getting the credit.

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FIRST LADY MARSHAU PHILLIPS

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AT 10 A.M.



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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

WE OFFER WORDS OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

honorees of the

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC
CELEBRATION &

recipients of the

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Come, let us sing for joy to the
Lord; let us shout aloud to the
Rock of our salvation. Let us
come before Him with
thanksgiving and extol him
with music and song.
Psalm 95: 1-2



MT. ZION A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Pastor, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church,
Supply Pastor, Green Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, and
The Augusta District Presiding Elder
REV. LELAR H. JOHNSON



GREEN GROVE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH



Mt. Zion Cobbsville M. B. Church

294 TITHELO ROAD * CANTON, MS 39046

TELEPHONE (601) 859-5692

MT.ZIONCOBBSVILLE@ATT.NET



Deacon Bobby Hicks, *Chairman*

Sis. Brenda Perry, *Church Secretary*

**BEST WISHES
TO THE
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
AS YOU CELEBRATE YOUR ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
&
GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION..**

WE SALUTE OUR MEMBER, SIS. GEORGIA SIMS!

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

101 James Avenue

Canton, MS 39046

Pastor Frederick B. Walker, Pastor

(601) 859-2829 (office) * (601) 859-9212 (fax)

Email: newbethelbap001@bellsouth.net

Congratulations Deacon Percy “Butch” Bennett,

On your

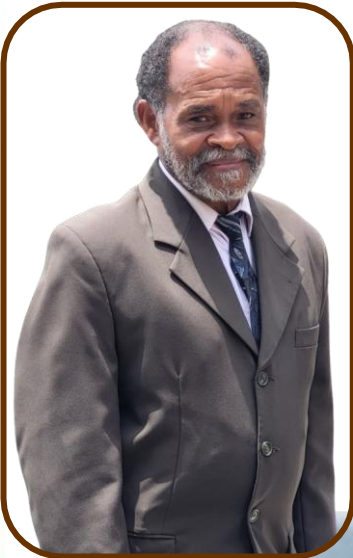
Lifetime Achievement Award.

Your musical talent has touched the hearts and souls of so many people. We pray that God’s Holy Spirit will continue to guide and inspire you.

With love,

Pastor Frederick B. Walker

and the entire New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.





Congratulations

Claude Nichols & Cynthia Goodloe Palmer



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

Dr. Ennis V. Johnson, Sr.
&
First Lady Rita Johnson



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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

New Season Christian Fellowship Church

335 Cameron Street Canton, MS. 39046

"A Church with a New Revelation, Headed in a New Direction."



"New Season Family salutes Canton Gospel Music Association's Honorees for this year Awards Celebration. God bless you."

****You are welcome to come worship with us.****



Intercessory Prayer Every Sunday 8:45a.m.

Worship Service-Every Sunday 9:00a.m.

Bible Study Every Wednesday 6:30p.m.



Overseer Bruce D. Landing Sr. & First Lady Vanessa Landing



Congratulations
To
Canton Gospel Music Association
On your
Annual Gospel Music Celebration
&
Scholarship Awards



Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Jackson, Mississippi

Pastor Samuel H. Boyd, SR., D. Min., PhD

“Serving God and Community since 1865”

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulation and Best Wishes

To
ANNUAL CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION
&
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

From
Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church
3920 Highway 43 North
Canton, MS 39046



PLEASANT GREEN
MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

Brother Otis L. Davis, Pastor

Brother Larry Ware, Chairman of Deacon Ministry
Brother James Smith, Jr., Chairman of Trustee Ministry
Sister Violet Fleming, Church Secretary

Sunday School: 8:00 am
Worship Service: 9:30 am
Worship Service: FIFTH Sunday @8:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesday @ 7:20 pm
Prayer Meeting: Friday @ 7:00



Best Wishes

Canton Gospel Music Association

The Pastor, Officers and Members of the Priestley Chapel Missionary Baptist Church rejoice with you on this glorious Day of Praise and Worship through music and the arts. Surely the Lord has been good to you. Your Scholarship Awards have been a blessing to many across the years. Keep up the good work.



Bro. William White, Deacon Chairman

Sis. Angela Carson, Church Secretary

Bro. Madrow Smith, Trustee Chairman

Rev. Robert E. McCallum, Pastor



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations!

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC

***Pastor Alfred L. Johnson, Sr. &
Members of Sharon Chapel***

A.M. E. Zion Church

1777 Sharon Rd, Canton, MS 39046

(601) 859-6077

**Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**

FACEBOOK:

Sharon Chapel AME Zion Church

INSTAGRAM: sharonchapel

TWITTER: sharonchapel15



Sharon Community Church

114 Church Ln

Canton, MS. 39046

Sharoncommunitychurchms@gmail.com

Church Motto: "We Believe".



"Congratulations to all of the Canton Gospel Music Association's Recipients and Honorees."

COME WORSHIP WITH US IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Intercessory Prayer Sunday mornings @ 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.

Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Wednesday nights

****On the 1st Wednesday of each month is a Wednesday Night LIVE Service****

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Senior Pastor, Dr. Paul Harvey Fleming & First Lady, Dr. Matilda Fleming



SHARON
COMMUNITY CHURCH

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



*Congratulations to
Mrs. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer
and the Canton Gospel Music Association
for your Servant's Heart* 

"To God be the Glory, Celebrating the Greatness of God!"



*Zion Chapel
African Methodist
Episcopal Zion Church
361 Robinson Road
Canton, MS. 39046
Church Phone #: 601-859-5609
Rev. Dr. Floyd E. Chambers
Pastor*

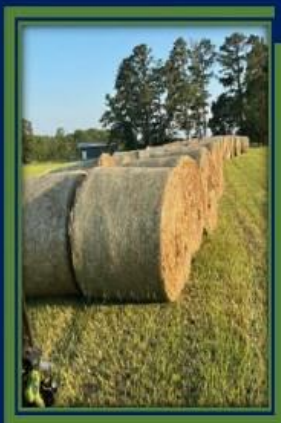


*And my God
will supply every
need of yours, according
to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:19**



Congratulations

Gospel Music Association



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Pastor Rev. Dr. J C Smith and Family

**Thank you Sister Thea,
For all you have done!**

Nola Starling- Ratliff



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**Cantonian Club #3 of
Canton, Mississippi
Congratulates
Canton Gospel Music Association
on your
Annual Awards Ceremony!**



“Home Is Where The Heart Is”

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Vice President, Isadore Harris
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BEST WISHES

From
G. A. Carmichael

G. A. Carmichael is a 330 Community Health Center nonprofit agent providing primary care services in Madison, Yazoo, Leake, Leflore, and Humphreys Counties. The community we serve receives accessible, affordable, quality health care Monday through Friday with extended hours every Wednesday. Our vision is to be recognized by the communities and the patients we serve as the preferred Medical Home.



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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

"A Special Salute"

Montgomery McGraw, PLLC
Attorney At Law

**C.R. "Bob" Montgomery
Attorney**

**151 W. Peace Street
P.O. Box 1039
Canton, MS 39046**

**Ph: 601-859-3616
Fax: 601-859-3622
Cell: 942-1567**

bmontgomery@montgomerymcgraw.com

[Www.montgomerymcgraw.com](http://www.montgomerymcgraw.com)

**Congratulations to
Ms. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer
&
The Canton Gospel Music Association!**



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*Jerry Lousteau
and the
WMGO Staff
congratulates
All Honorees and Musical Guests
at the Annual
Canton Gospel Music Celebration
&*



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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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Best Wishes
to
Cynthia Goodloe Palmer
and the
Canton Gospel Music Association



*We salute you for providing
music scholarships
to the students of
Madison County.*

Keep up the GREAT work!!

**Isadore and Dorothy
Harris**



Bettina's Soulfood Kitchen

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769-572-7987

bettinasoulfoodkitchen@gmail.com

HOURS:

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Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 11am –3pm



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



WHITEHEAD

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Funeral services can only be made at the funeral home.		Benefits are available, not tied to any specific funeral home.
Benefits dependent on individual funeral home. Rights vary.		Provides two additional forms for all policyholders (owners).

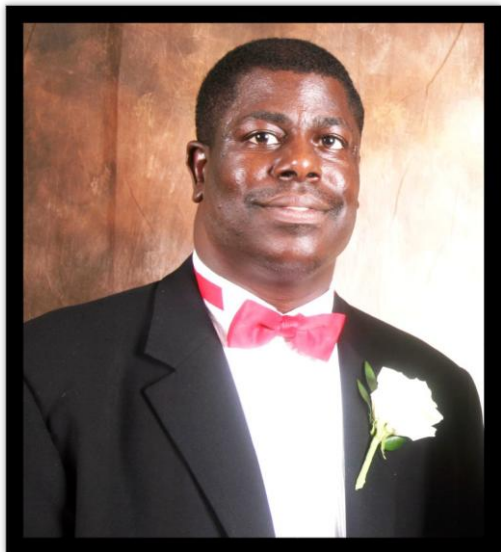


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CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Randy Abron

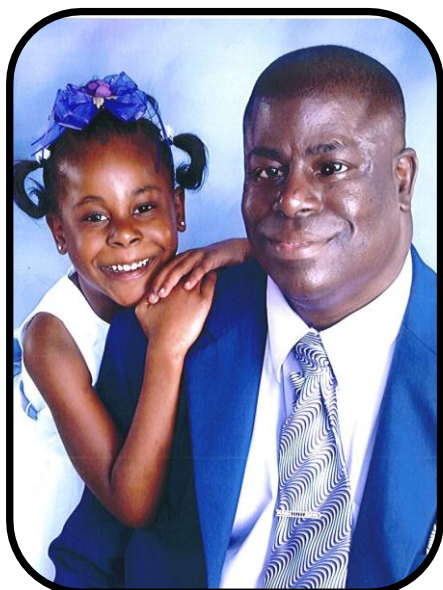
Musician and Recording Artist

**Share your music,
Live your dream.
Where there is music,
There is life.**

**I Belong to the
MUSIC
MINISTRY!**



**Randy and daughter
LaSha'Bre.**



**Congratulations
from
Daisy Ellis**

**TO ALL
2023 HONOREES
&
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD RECIPIENTS!**



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



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Offical Floral Designer for the Canton Gospel
Music Awards Celebration

CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We Salute
The Canton Gospel Music Celebration and
Scholarship Awards



The Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge
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Jurisdiction of Mississippi

The Honorable Maurice F. Lucas, Sr.
Grand Master





CONNECTING THE DOTS FOUNDATION, INC

P. O. Box 8204

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39284

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FAX (601) 353-5832

Congratulations to Cynthia Palmer & ALL Award Recipients of the Gospel Music Awards.

**Connecting the Dots Foundation, Inc.
Connects People and Resources from Africa to America.
We Exist to Uplift Community.
Dr. Marilyn Johnson-Luckett, Founder/CEO**



- ♦ *Dr. Luckett visiting Africa*
- ♦ *Dr. Luckett was presented the Presidents Lifetime Achievement Award representing President Joe Biden!*

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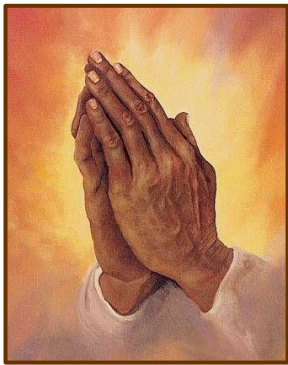
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MISSISSIPPI'S OWN

MIZ TIFFANY

Author | Music Artist | Actress
Model | Motivational Speaker | Host
Radio Personality



Tiffany "Miz Tiffany" Coleman-McGee is an internationally known recording artist, having toured several venues in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and having received the 2023 Celebrity Artist of the Year Award at the MultiFace France International Celebrity Awards in Paris, France and the 2023 Impact Honoree Music Award for the 9th Annual Antigua Barbuda Gospel Music Awards.

She is Mississippi's first multi-award-winning Christian Hip Hop | Gospel Rap Artist, the recipient of the Best of Mississippi Awards 2022 Female Entertainer of the Year Award, and a 3x Stellar Awards Nominee. In 2019, Miz Tiffany made history as the first-ever female solo rap artist to receive an official Stellar Gospel Music Award nomination for Rap / Hip Hop Gospel CD of the Year for her debut album entitled, "I Ain't Preaching to the Choir."

In May of 2023, The Stellar Gospel Music Awards announced Miz Tiffany as an official nominee for both Rap / Hip Hop Gospel Album of the Year and Rap / Hip Hop Song of the Year for her sophomore album and single entitled, "He's Been Good."

She is the first female Gospel Rap artist in history to perform on the legendary Dr. Bobby Jones Presents television showcase, and the first gospel rapper to be awarded and honored during the 40th Annual Mississippi Gospel Music Awards as "Mississippi Spotlight Artist of the Year" and a "Woman in Gospel, Making Things Happen."

In July 2023, under President Joe Biden's administration, Tiffany received the Presidential Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award, a prestigious national honor and presidential recognition for her volunteer work and community service. To date, she has been awarded over forty (40) times from various music and entertainment platforms and received dozens more nominations.

In the summer of 2023, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop, Miz Tiffany along with six Christian Hip Hop artists, partnered with Faith & Spice powered by Valido Foods to launch the first-ever Kingdom Hop Hop Spice Bundle, featuring her signature seasoning, "Miz Tiffany's All-Purpose Southern Rub." Additionally, Tiffany is a 3x-published author, model, and the host of "CHH Ladies Night w/Miz Tiffany" which airs on God's House of Hip Hop Radio (GH3 Radio), a Los Angeles-based radio station.

Connect with Miz Tiffany:
<https://linktr.ee/officialmiztiffany>
Social Media @officialmiztiffany



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ACLU
Mississippi

WE SHOW UP

**Defending the
civil rights of all
Mississippians
since 1969.**

The American Civil Liberties Union is freedom's watchdog, working daily in the courts, legislatures and communities to defend individual rights and personal freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Whether it's in a courtroom, the State Capitol, or a small town's Board of Aldermen meeting: we remain committed to working for a more inclusive, tolerant and just Mississippi.

JOIN US!

Help us protect and defend civil rights and liberties for all Mississippians!



CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

A portrait of Fannie Hargon-Sanders, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue blazer, standing with her arms crossed.

VOTE FOR FANNIE HARGON-SANDERS

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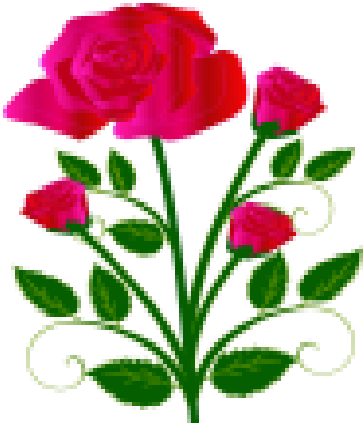
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Venue:	<i>Elder Sylvester Hamlin, Greater Faith Calvary Pentecostal Church</i>
Musical Director:	<i>Pastor John Woodard, Jr.</i>
Sound:	<i>Carl Fleming, Unique Assurance Sound Company</i>
House Band:	<i>Tony Reeves (Keyboard), Michael Smith (Lead Guitar),</i> <i>Greg Richards (Bass), Tony Richards (Drums)</i>
Background Vocals:	<i>The EnPsalmable</i>
Awards:	<i>Discount Trophy</i>
Photographer:	<i>Kevin Bradley</i>
Videographer:	<i>Pastor Edward Harden, Ministry Logistics</i>
Video Graphics:	<i>Elder Sylvester Hamlin</i>
Backstage Producer:	<i>Rev. James Sims</i>
Printing:	<i>Dallas Printing</i>
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Souvenir Book Layout/Design:	<i>Cynthia Goodloe Palmer</i>
Special Thanks:	<i>The Ark of Safety Ministry, Pastor John M. Woodard, Jr.</i>
Caterer:	<i>Bettina's</i>
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Thanks To All Program Participants!







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OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
CANTON GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
2004-2024**

