

Eyes On Victory

MESSAGE FROM THE EVANGELISM

MINISTRY MODERATOR

DONOVAN J. DAVIS



The Storm is Passing Over

It has been over two years since we were last in our sanctuary and now, after what has been one of the most significant events in the history of mankind, the storm may be passing over. I have grappled with understanding what our time away from one another was meant to accomplish. For me, it has given me ample time to reflect on that which is important in life. Many of us have lost both family members and friends to Covid-19. And, for a great multitude of us, the lost of innocent life makes no sense. But, for the members of Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church, it has brought our congregation closer together. We have been forced to adapt to a new way of life utilizing technology and have found ways to communicate with one another and share love without physical contact. In our Sunday School lessons about Job, we were presented with a character who is asked to remain faithful to God despite the most horrendous of circumstances. What we learn from the story is that trouble does not last always and that God, at times, may present you with a test to see who will persevere in the faith and who will quit. Butler, we are currently making preparations to reenter our church. We are also in the final stages of selecting a new pastor to shepherd our flock. For those of us living during these times, we are privileged to be witnesses to a new age being born. Be thankful. Matthew 13:17 sums it up most appropriately: For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

The Wonder of Easter Year 2022

Elder Maxine Jackson

Easter is the most popular time of the year for Protestants, Catholics, and other religious groups. It is the oldest of the Christian festivals and is celebrated near the end of the first quarter of the calendar year.

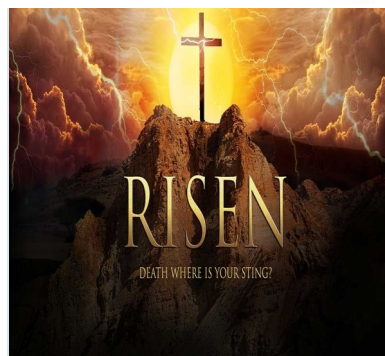
Easter, the scholars tell us, is the oldest feast in the history of Christianity but it only comes into focus as a distant celebration in the late second century. The Resurrection has been celebrated in the church every Sunday since the first week after the Jesus' actual death.

The most common services are Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning. Throughout the years, Easter festivities at Butler Church have been quite celebratory with family arriving from near and far. Friends and community members anticipate convening in the sanctuary to celebrate this time of year.

Butler Presbyterian Church honors and commemorates the resurrection of Jesus because it is our firm belief that Jesus died on the cross and arose from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. Perhaps, Year 2022 is when we can once again convene in the sanctuary to celebrate Easter and the wonder of it all.



**From the Last Supper to
Sunday Morning, Death
Could Not Hold Him**





IS THE PASTOR CALL JOURNEY ALMOST OVER?

Elder Johnye Gillans

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) journey so far has been exciting, tedious, joyful, spiritual, frustrating, inspiring, lengthy, and powerful (just to name a few). The destination has been certain: calling a pastor to serve our church based on the needs and desires presented in Butler's "Church Information Form."

The PNC journey involved the following steps:

- (1) We relied on the Presbytery Church Leadership Connection (CLC) located at the Church (USA) office, the Savannah Presbytery Committee On Ministry (COM), Presbyter, Rev. Alan Baroody, Butler's Session and Fiscal Affairs Ministry, and our Companion, Rev. Stephens Williams as resources to help in the discernment to Christ's Call.
- (2) We received, read, and screened numerous Personal Information Forms (candidate's application).
- (3) We contacted references.
- (4) We interviewed prospective pastors.
- (5) We are at the step of prayerfully extending the "Terms of Call" to the candidate chosen by the PNC to be our next pastor.
- (6) We will present the candidate, (if the "Terms of Call" are accepted), for the COM approval.
- (7) We look forward to presenting our selected candidate to Butler by May.



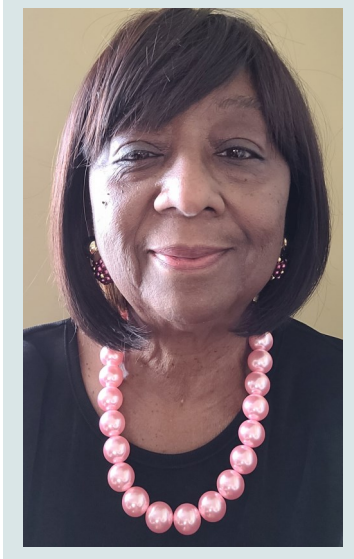
The PNC asks for your prayers and support to end this journey and be committed to working for the good of our church doing what will be pleasing to God's will.

APPROACHES TO EVANGELISM (Part II)

Elder Maxine Jackson

(1.) Open-air preaching of evangelism is an approach characterized by speaking in public places out in the open, generally to crowds of people at a time, using a message, sermon, or speech which spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus, himself, and many Old Testament prophets often preached about God in public places. It is one of the oldest approaches to evangelism. The infamous Evangelist Billy Graham used a combination of open-air preaching in the advent of televangelism to broadcast his sermons.

(2.) Trickle-down evangelism is an approach to evangelism primarily concerned with converting high-ranking members of a society, so that their influence can serve to help spread Christianity throughout the society. It was practiced especially during the Middle Ages throughout China. It was applied often in European areas during ancient times to the Pope to send teachers of science and religion to China.



ARE YOU READY? ARE YOU READY? ARE YOU READY?

WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!” Psalm 150:1-2.

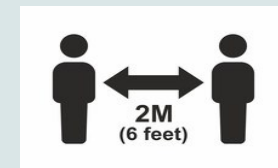
The Return to In-Person Worship Plan Committee, the Session, and other ministry and committee leaders, are excited and preparing for the Butler Memorial Presbyterian congregants to return to In-Person Worship Service on **Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022**. After Easter Sunday, it is our plan to have In-Person Worship service on Communion Sunday (the 2nd Sunday) of each month until further notice. The church will continue practicing CDC, Georgia Public Health, and Presbytery guidelines to help ensure the safety of our members and guests. We will continue to use teleconferencing for those of us who may not be ready to return to in-person service yet. Our focus is to move forward by increasing the church’s activities and functions at a rate that will continue to protect all who are taking part in our worship services and activities. All members and guests are asked to adhere to the following guidelines.

- **Masks** - All participants must wear a mask. Persons not vaccinated are urged to wear a mask and get vaccinated out of love for others. Masks will be supplied when needed.
- **Temperature Checks** will be performed prior to a worshiper entering the sanctuary. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4°F or greater and showing signs of a respiratory or COVID infection are asked to stay home. Individuals with a fever upon arrival will be asked to leave the building.
- **Attendance Sign-In Sheets** – Worshipers are asked to sign-in on the attendance sheet provided prior to entering the sanctuary. This list is being kept if contact tracing becomes necessary.
- **Social Distancing** will be practiced. The Ushers will give guidance and instructions for entering, exiting, and seating in the sanctuary. Members of the same family household may sit together. Worshipers are asked to allow a minimum of 6 feet of space between each other if they are not a part of the same family household.
- **Holy Communion** will be practiced. Worshipers are asked to pick-up their communion elements on the way into the Sanctuary.
- **Singing** by the congregation will not be allowed. Music and singing will be provided by the Music Ministry only to minimize possible exposure to the COVID virus.
- **Passing of the Peace and Greeting** will be done with gestures rather than hugs or handshakes.
- **Offerings & Tithes** – There will be an offering collection box placed near the entrance doors of the sanctuary where your offerings can be placed.
- **Sunday School Class** – will be held in the sanctuary prior to Worship service.
- **Sunday Fellowship Hour** will NOT be allowed in the Fellowship Hall during this period but will return soon.

Guidelines cont’d....



- **Entering & Exiting the Sanctuary** – Entering and exiting the Sanctuary will only be allowed through the Victory Drive double glass doors. This will enable the Ushers to keep required social distancing.



If help is needed to use this entrance because of a worshiper’s physical condition, please inform an Usher and it will be provided.

Worshippers are asked to leave the building per the Ushers’ instructions at the conclusion of services.



Return to Worship information submitted by Sheila Zeigler

**Presbyterian Women
Elder Eudora M. Allen
(Picture Courtesy of PW Moderator Sharon Singleton)**



On Saturday, February 26, 2022, seven ladies from Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church journeyed to Dublin, GA to attend the Annual Gathering of the Savannah Presbytery of Presbyterian Women which was held at Henry Memorial Presbyterian Church. The attendees were our PW Moderator, Sharon Singleton, Eudora Allen, Evelyn Curry, Johnye Gillans, Janice Purvis, Rosie Sanders, and Dandy Taylor.

After a brief continental breakfast, we were led to the adjacent sanctuary of the church and became immersed in the spirit of worship as the organ pealed with the Prelude and Chiming of the Hour. How great and marvelous it was to be in the presence God and His wonderful people! From the Call to Worship to singing "We Gather Together" to the speaker of the hour, there was reassurance that our faith had not been shattered during the pandemic.

The designated speaker, Rev. Dr. Cecil Belles, was unfortunately unable to be with us for she had contacted Covid. God, however, was in the mix because a ram in the bush was provided to deliver the message in the person of Rev. Dr. Ricky Porter of the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church who was already slated to bring The Affirmation of Faith and The Lord's Supper.

Dr. Porter used the scripture that had been chosen, Matthew 18:21, which reads: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." His message delved into conflict resolution and how any conflict can be "spiritually" resolved. If anyone offends you, go to him/her with the problem and state how you feel and why. If the offending party does not acknowledge his/her error or that he/she may have inflicted harm, do not be deterred, but go to the congregation and ask for their assistance in resolving the issue. If that does not work, then leave it there. As the offended party, you have done what God required you to do. Dr. Porter went on to relate that perhaps one of the seven deadly sins was indeed the culprit when the offense was committed! Elaborating in specific terms, he listed Greed, Lust, Envy, Sloth, Gluttony, and Pride; any one of these could create an atmosphere of distrust as well as distaste amongst a group or with an individual.

As women of faith involved with local or global concerns, reading and discussing the Bible, and communication is all too important. It encompasses a willingness of purpose, an opportunity to share the commitment to serve and listen to the concerns of others if we are to walk humbly and maintain our trust and faith in the Master. How good and perfect it is to serve our Lord!



Community News Article

By

Donovan J. Davis

“Another Young Life Gone Too Soon (Abbreviated) (Submitted to Savannah Morning News March 2, 2022)

I have been working in the public school system here in Savannah since 2006. I have taught in elementary, middle, high and alternative schools which has given me a glimpse into the windows of so many different lives of students. My parents sent me to private school for elementary and secondary school, so I did not receive my induction into what an inner city school was like until I began teaching. Even though it has been quite a challenge, I have learned so much from the students with whom I have worked. One of those major lessons confirms the cliché that you cannot judge a book by its cover.

This past Tuesday, I returned to work to find out that one of the students whom I had just seen the day prior had been fatally shot about an hour after leaving school. Most people may have heard the story on the news or read it in the paper and after realizing that it was just another bad day in a black neighborhood, moved on to their next order of business. But the entire city needs to know that the life lost on Monday was not just any other life.

The young man was a student in a mathematics class in which I have been given the assignment to co-teach. The first time I met him, I, like most people, noticed his appearance and the ankle monitor that was on his leg. But it was so much more to this young man that you needed to know to develop a true picture of the kind of “child” he could be. Yes, he was a child. But, most importantly, when the teacher gave this student his first assignment in class, he did not even need a calculator. He did the computations mentally and wrote them down on the paper. He had a beautiful mind. He was not troublesome to deal with in class and consistently showed mastery of the skills which his math teacher delved out. And then, just like that, on a fateful day, he was gone.

Now, I am going to say something boldly. Every adult who has a child should have felt something about this incident. Somewhere, all of us failed. We cannot simply be numb anymore because of the frequency of such occurrences. When you see a student come through a classroom, trying to learn, but dealing with the pressures of a troubled environment around him, we have to do something. We have to come out of our cocoons and understand that there are children whose lives are nothing like our own.

Every child comes into this world with a blank slate. They are the product of every thing that an adult or person of influence imparts to them. There is no reason that young man should not have walked through those school doors the next day and been able to ask math questions. If you had witnessed the type of numerical genius that he could have been, you would see why it is so important that a story like this cannot be skimmed over.

I know that as human beings we cannot solve all of the world’s problems. But there are some things that we can do to make life better for the next generation. Where should we start? How can we tackle such a gargantuan task? I think it starts one child at a time. If you are a teacher, you cannot make every child a wizard of all subject matter. As much as we would like to, there are those students who are going to require attention that you may not be able to give them, as well as focus on twenty plus other students in the class. But let us, as a nation, realize that together we can do so much.

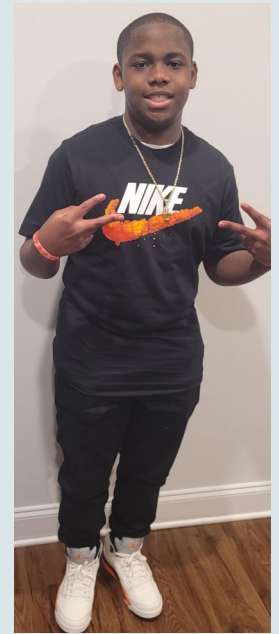


All of us have a part to play in the process of creating new possibilities for our young people. We must put down our weapons of war and extend our hands and hearts toward peace.

Youth Ministry

Deacon Laquisha Cokely-Milton

During Youth Week in November 2021, we asked our youth to write an essay on how their faith was tested during the pandemic. We received 3 essay submissions and each submission won a \$25 VISA card! We often overlook the thoughts, feelings, and ideas of our youth; for Youth Week, we wanted to give them a chance to share their thoughts on things. For this newsletter submission, we highlight our essay winners and share their essays with you:



The pandemic has tested my faith in many ways. During this tragic timeline, we've gotten news of thousands of people dying every day. This made me worry, but I wasn't going to lose faith in my father. No matter how scary it got. One of the ways the pandemic has tested my faith was worrying about my family and friends. Now, thanks to the pandemic, I pray every time I eat, drink, and/or snack on something because I know that I am lucky to still be alive today. No matter what it is, I will always pray for everyone's meal. The Lord has really blessed my family, my friends and I by not catching the virus. And if someone did, they survived. I was able to adjust to the pandemic's new normal because of the Grace of God and not going *too* insane. I did well in virtual school, and I'm doing better than what I was during middle school. The pandemic has taught me to be a little more responsible with my schoolwork and turning in assignments on time. So, those habits blended in with high school. When you hear, "Anything is Possible," believe it. When there is God, that statement will never go wrong. Cases could've spiked up again and taken away more lives but with God, that didn't happen to us. So, this is a building block in gaining trust and faith in God. We only have one life. So let's live in the moment.

- **Alannah Harris**

Living through the pandemic has been hard, especially with having to change how we do things. I couldn't see my friends, go to school, or go to church. My mom and dad made sure we had what we needed in the house so we didn't have to go anywhere. My dad still had to go to work but my mom's job let her work from home. It was an adjustment for everybody. Every night, I would say my prayers and hope that the virus would go away. I did not like wearing masks and I did not like staying in the house. My mom and dad would do things to make me smile and laugh in the house like playing games and watching music videos and dancing. Now, I have gotten used to living through the pandemic. I'm back in school and things are getting back to normal. I thank God for protecting me and my family and keeping us safe. Even though we still have to wear masks, I am grateful for my family sticking together through difficult times.

- **Quentin Milton**

My faith was tested very harshly. There was a lot I couldn't do or places I could not go; especially church. Church was one place I couldn't go but I felt like I needed to be there the most. My faith was challenged as well as my mental health. Not being able to leave my house and being trapped inside all day was exhausting. I prayed every day for things to go back to normal. I did everything I could to have fun in the house. I painted, danced, write, and tried to keep up with my school work. The pandemic rearranged my life but as time went on, I had to find myself. Discovery was my way back to God and that was the most difficult challenge of all. Guiding myself through prayer is what made me the person I am today so I thank God for the good and the bad.

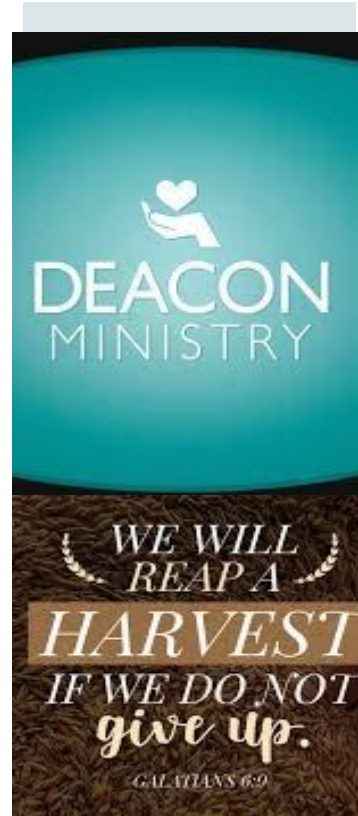
- **Jailyn Swinton**

As we prepare to return to church, we must acknowledge that our youth are growing physically and they are growing mentally and spiritually. Most of our youth are not babies anymore; they are now pre-teens and teenagers—full of ambition and are eager to share in the greatness that Butler is destined to experience. Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. As we move into a new season at Butler, returning to church and preparing to receive a new pastor, let us not forget about our youth—our future leaders of this church. (LCM)

Deacon Board

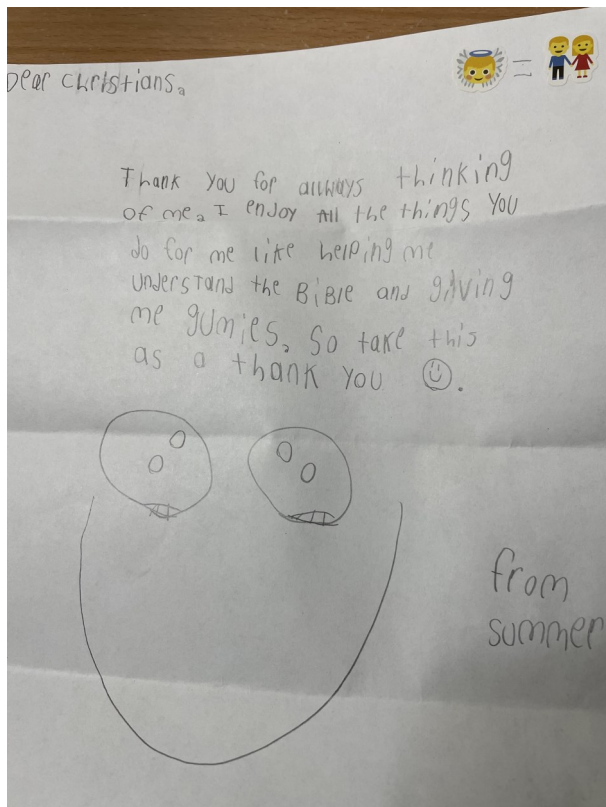
Deacon Laquisha Cokely-Milton

During the pandemic, church leaders were overwhelmed and some may have even experienced anxiety. As we prepare to return to church, let us remember that God is our rock and our refuge. However, we should obey the mandates set by state/local officials and those set by the Presbytery. We should believe that God has not forgotten us nor forsaken us because we were not in a building for worship. He continued to position us to believe, communicate, and exemplify His name as we gathered for conference line worship services or on Zoom. We, the Deacon Board, ask God to give our church all of the grace and mercy that it deserves. We also ask that God continue to move through us as we prepare to hopefully welcome new pastoral leadership. We feel that God is going to move in a mighty way in Butler and we are ready for the new, the change, and the triumph! As long as we hold fast to knowing that God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20), and we allow God to have his way, blessings will shower down on everything and everyone that is attached to Butler Presbyterian Church.



A Feel Good Message from the Moffitts' Granddaughter

Summer



A sincere thank you goes out to all who helped make this publication possible. Thank you for the usage of your time, treasure and talents. With each edition, we try to keep the congregation informed as to what is going on during our absence from the sanctuary.



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QUARTERLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to all members and friends celebrating anniversaries and birthdays this quarter. We apologize for any names that may have been omitted. Please notify Mrs. Eady if your name was left off.

First Quarter Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

January 01 *Jonathan Alexander	January 13	Edward Miller, Jr.
January 01 *Rayna Lovett	January 17	Gale Harmond
January 09 *Adolphus Allen, III	January 21	Ashley Dixon
January 10 *Jessyca Hill	January 22	Lola M. Dixon
January 13 Luetta C. Milledge	January 27	Johnnie Wilson
January 22 Layla Vaughn	January 29	Anthony Singleton

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

February 12	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Singleton (Sharon)
February 15	Mr. & Mrs. Herman Allen (Eudora)
February 18	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Shank (Mary)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

February 3	LaQuisha Milton	February 12	Jasmyn Vaughn
February 4	*Mignon McLemore	February 14	Ouida F. Thompson
February 5	*Elaine Lovett	February 21	Charles Gordon
February 6	A. J. McLemore	February 21	Alfred Mullice
February 9	Rosie Sanders	February 25	Christopher K. Lovett
February 9	Roberta Pringle	February 27	Ann Davis

MARCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

March 31 - Mr. & Mrs. Willie (Patricia) Mincey

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

March 1	Levi Moore	March 15	Devyn Patterson
March 3	*Maria Byers Bynes	March 16	April K. Ford
March 3	*Cherry Harmond Early	March 16	Abverna Moore
March 4	Cheryl Capers	March 21	*Leslie Lovett White
March 14	Doris D. Wood	March 26	Blanche Patterson

Easter Sunday April 17, 2022

“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah has Overcome!”

